

DECEMBER 21, 2008

Stepping Stones to Stewardship

This month Social Action Ministry (SAM) is featured on the Stewardship Board. The ministries that serve under the SAM meet at various times during the year - bi-monthly, monthly, yearly and seasonal and fill the needs of many people. Come and take a look at our ministries at St. Rita's parish in Social Action Ministry. If you have further interest in any of these ministries please call the office at 671-1100.

Stewardship Live It!

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

ST. RITA COOKBOOKS

We still have copies of our 50th Anniversary Parish Cookbooks on sale for only \$5.00. These make great Christmas gifts. They are available at the parish office Monday-Friday from 9-4:30 or Saturday from 10-2.

2009 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ON SALE

It is filled with great discounts on all types of restaurants and entertainment. Cost is \$25.00 and may be purchased at the parish office or call Mary Jo at 671-1100 x18. All proceeds are used toward youth programs and retreats!

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**Third Sunday in Advent
The Kings Candle is lit**

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope (love) fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The wise men traveled far to see the child born in a manger under the star of Bethlehem. They brought their earthly gifts, but left, returning home by another route, having knelt before the Prince of Peace. May the gift of Christ bring hope, love, joy, and peace into our lives and throughout the world.

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Thank You . . .

Sincere thanks for the 1,000 plus gifts and 500 plus knitted items donated for our **Angel Gift Project**. Through your generosity you have put smiles on many faces this Christmas season. Thank you also to those who sorted and delivered the gifts. God Bless you all!

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BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK NEWS!

The Parish Health Ministry team will not be offering blood pressure checks in December. If you have a need to have you blood pressure checked you may call Felice at 671-5177 or Jane at 671-3759.

FIRST EUCHARIST KICK OFF MEETING

**Thursday, January 15, 2009
at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.**

If you are planning to have your child receive this Sacrament and have not yet registered please send in your form as soon as possible. Registration forms are available in the Faith Formation Office, Parish Office and on our website at www.saintrita.org. Questions may be directed to Anita Wagner at 671-2079.

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2009 CHURCH CALENDARS – Now Available!

2009 Church Calendars are available in the back of church. We thank our Stewardship Committee who has worked hard on continuing the theme of Stewardship – “An Every Day Way of Life”. Thank you also to Profeta Funeral Chapel for covering the cost of our calendars again this year. Please help yourself to a calendar.

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**From the desk of Mary Jo DiNoto, Youth Minister
671-1100 ext. 18 or mdinoto@dor.org**



All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome in getting together with other youth who share their faith and beliefs and want to have fun together. **Check our website at www.saintrita.org** for more information and events.

Sunday, December 21 from 12:00-1:00pm

Jr. High Youth Group will meet at the Youth Center. Anyone in grades 6-8 is most welcome!

Sunday, December 21 from 6:30-8:00pm

Sr. High Youth Group will meet at the Youth Center. Anyone in grades 9-12 is most welcome!

**Make a Friend! ~ Be a Friend
Bring a Friend to Jesus!**

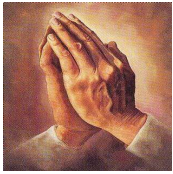
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Did You Know? Our bulletin is available each week on-line at www.saintrita.org – check it out!

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ST. RITA'S ~ PRAYER LINE

Did you know that we have a very active Prayer Line here at St. Rita Parish? Your request of any kind can be passed along to over 100 people who will remember your need in their daily prayer. If you would like to have a special intention remembered in prayer through our Prayer Line, please call either Eleanor Hanley at 671-3247 or Patty Hamingson at 671-8517. We thank Patti and Eleanor for coordinating this compassionate ministry.



EUCCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2008

9:15AM MARY VITO – Mary & John

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2008

7:00AM WALTER BEISHEIM – Wife, Jean

9:15AM LOURICE ENGEL – Norm & Betty Mitcheltree

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2008

4:00pm (Church)
ANDREW & NATALIE NEARY – Family
4:00pm (Gym) THE PEOPLE OF ST. RITA PARISH
6:00pm MARGARET LA PRE – The Bieck Family
10:30pm CELEBRANT'S INTENTIONS

CHRISTMAS DAY ~ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2008

9:00am FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. RITA PARISH
10:30am GENEVIEVE KOLASSA – Family

Children are invited to bring a new toy to the 9:00 and 10:30 Mass to be blessed.

Note ~ Both the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass and the 10:30am Christmas Day Mass tend to be less crowded.

Additional parking is available across the street at the Armory.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2008

9:15AM MARY MAHANY – The St. Rita Society

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2008

5:00PM SAMUEL ZARCONE – Marie Zarcone

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2008

7:30AM STANLEY POSLUSNY – Wife & Children

9:00AM DOMINIC CAPEZZUTO – Family

10:30AM ST. RITA SCHOOL FAMILIES & VOLUNTEERS – St. Rita School Faculty & Staff

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This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in loving memory of Dewey Jackson

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The Parish Offices will be closed from Wednesday afternoon December 24 through Friday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday

From the Desk of Fr. Hoan . . .

Dear All,

For the last three weeks, we have explored Isaiah, the book of hope and consolation. As we enter the fourth week of Advent, we look into some important models of faith, including John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph.

John the Baptist reminds us of the voice in the wilderness that echoes throughout villages, "Prepare the way of the Lord." John's unusual life style, ascetic life, invites people to repent and receive baptism at the Jordan River.

Mary plays a significant role in our Advent journey. One commentator views Advent in terms of "Expectant Months", which speak well of the months when Mary prepares for the birth of Jesus. Instead of concerning herself with the many important details for the birth of her child, Mary sets out and visits Elizabeth in the land of Judah, "a place where one might be forgotten".

Joseph appears as someone quiet in the background of the infancy narrative in Luke's Gospel. Yet, Joseph is the great example for our meditation in Advent. He listens to the Word of God and acts upon it. Next, while struggling to understand the virginal conception of Jesus, Joseph accepts it with an open heart welcoming "Emmanuel" by loving and raising him. Finally, during his life with Mary and Jesus in Nazareth, Joseph walks with God as a family man, one who prays and works hard as a loving husband and father.

Certainly, we are now busy writing cards, shopping, wrapping gifts, and preparing special menus for the Christmas celebration. May we also spend some time in solitude and prayer so that we can listen to God speaking to us via John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph, and take in the many things happening around us. In looking backward and looking forward in our spiritual life, may we recognize areas we need to trim and prepare for new shoots to grow. Whatever we do and wherever we travel during this season, externally and internally, may we open our hearts to listen to God's gentle whisper of hope.

Have a Blessed and Joyful Season

Your travel agent,
Fr. Hoan

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COMPANIONS IN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, January 13
7:30pm in Room 1

All who have experienced the loss of a loved one through death are invited to attend. All are welcome!

PLANS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 21, 2008

SUNDAY 12/21

8:30-11:00am Breakfast Club – Gym
 5:30-7:00pm Jr/Sr High Youth Group – Gym

TUESDAY 12/23

9:00am MOMS Group – Rm 3
 1:00pm Recovery – Rm 3

PARISH SUPPORT
For Last Weekend December 13 & 14

Last Week	Weekly Goal for Dec. 2008	Variance
\$16,589	\$17,700	- \$1,111
Year to Date	Year to Date Goal	Variance
\$361,400	\$374,100	- \$12,700

(Our fiscal year is 7/1/08 – 6/30/09)

Monthly Parish Center Mortgage Payment - \$2,725
 Mortgage Balance as of December 1, 2008 - \$192,198

Catholic Ministries Appeal Goal \$105,051
 Pledges Received to Date \$92,465

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ACT Now ~ Automatic Contribution Transfer

It is easy to make your financial contribution to Saint Rita Church by automatic withdrawal directly from your bank account. There is no charge for this service. Sign-up cards are available in the back of Church or for more information call the parish office at 671-1100 x 12.

NO BREAKFAST CLUB NEXT WEEKEND

**All of our volunteer workers wish you
 A Very Merry Christmas.
 Join us again on January 4th !**

DAILY MASS PARTICIPANTS

**Phone 671-1100 x 22 – anytime for the
 most up to date daily Mass schedule!**

Call the parish office ask for extension 22 or if the recording comes on you can press 22.

Because funerals are scheduled in our 9:15am daily Mass slot ~ there are times we need to change the Mass schedule and the intention for that Mass - or due to the unavailability of a priest. We will make every effort to contact the person offering the Mass to have that rescheduled. Our parish community is encouraged to celebrate the life of fellow parishioners, so in the event of a funeral, you are always welcome to attend.

ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS ~ If you are heading south this winter and wish to have parish mailings and/or your envelopes put "on hold" please call the parish office at 671-1100 and let us know when you will be away.

BIBLE READINGS:

- 21 Sun **Fourth Sunday of Advent 2** Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Ps 89:2-5,27,29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38
- 22 Mon 1 Sm 1:24-28 1 Sm 2:1,4-8 Lk 1:46-56
- 23 Tue Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Ps 25:4-5,8-10,14 Lk 1:57-66
- 24 Wed 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Ps 89:2-5,27,29 Lk 1:67-79
- 25 Thu Christmas, The Nativity of the Lord Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3,11-13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14
- 26 Fri **St. Stephen** Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 Ps 31:3-4,6,8,16-17 Mt 10:17-22
- 27 Sat **St. John, Evangelist** 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 Jn 20:1a,2-8
- 28 Sun **The Holy Family** Sir 3:2-6,12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:22-40

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
Next Weekend ~ December 27 & 28

- Saturday, 5:00pm:**
 Neil LaVigne, Andrew Chmiel, Joseph DiRaimo
- Sunday, 7:30am:**
 Sandy Loeb, Susan Loeb, Olivia Zucaro
- Sunday, 9:00am:**
 Tim Bruno, Jack Meisenzahl, Alex Vernetti
- Sunday, 10:30am:**
 Abby Geen, Jenny Geen, Jamie Farris

SACRISTAN:

Week of December 21 Agnes Kopin

LINENS:

Week of December 28 Ellie Salvage

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS ~ Are you home from college and notice that your spiritual life might need a little pick-up? In January, Notre Dame Retreat House invites all young adults to take part in a special retreat just for your age group. The retreat will begin at 8pm on Sunday, January 4, and conclude with Mass at 8pm on Monday, January 5. This overnight will give you a chance to step back from the hectic pace of life to reflect on who you are, who you are becoming, and how God fits into the picture. You can register for the retreat by emailing Dawn at dawnburdick@gmail.com, or calling Notre Dame Retreat House at 394-5700. Cost for the retreat is \$30.

Girl Scout Sunday will be held on Sunday March 8, 2009 at the 9:00am Mass. All Girl Scouts in the parish are invited to participate. Please contact Pat Vargas at 671-0434. Scouts who are working on their **religious recognitions** should have their signed booklets to the Diocese of Rochester, Office of Youth Ministry in January. The contact is Mary Greenblatt, 328-3210 ext. 1279.



FIESTA NEWS!

~ Our 2009 Platinum Sponsors ~
Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning, Q-Dental Group P.C
and Vision Automotive Group proudly present:

St. Rita Fiesta 2009 **SAVE THE DATES!**

Friday, May 29th and Saturday, May 30th

JOIN THE FUN !! For those of you who are interested in becoming part of the Fiesta Planning Committee please call Ed Ritzel at 787-1934 or Tom Cali at 671-0428. The time commitment is minimal and we can always use new ideas!

The Fiesta Committee would like to thank all of our Sponsors whose generosity helped make our 2008 Fiesta a great success. Please show your appreciation by supporting our sponsors.

2008 FIESTA SPONSORS

- Platinum Sponsor** Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning
- Gold Sponsors:** CCRG Marketing, Q-Dental Group P.C, RG&E, Taylor Rental, Titan Insurance
- Silver Sponsors:** Daniel Squilla, DDS, Esquier Family, Greater Rochester Orthopaedics, P.C., Hank's Ice Cream, Irondequoit Wellness Center, MSM Marketing, TAK Sales & Leasing, The Country Store, Wachovia Securities
- Bronze Sponsors:** Burns Family, Felluca Garage Doors, Flaherty Funding, Genesee Regional Bank, Guadagnino Family, Odenbach Family
- Copper Sponsors:** Connors-Haas, Inc., King Graphic, Maplewood Nursing Home, Merrill Lynch, Upstate Physical Therapy

RESERVE YOUR PEW FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MASS !!

The family that won the reserved pew and parking spot for the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass is unable to take advantage of their prize and have asked us to auction it off. That's right, if your bid is the highest you can show up at 3:55pm, park in your reserved spot and walk in to your reserved pew for 8 people in the Church!

- Three Ways to Bid!**
- 1) A Bid Sheet will be available in the greeting area during all Masses this weekend
 - 2) Fill out the form below and place it in next week's collection basket
 - 3) Call the Parish Office at 671-1100 and place your bid.

Remember the highest bid wins!



Reserved Pew Blind Auction

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Bid: \$ _____ (Minimum Bid of \$50)

(In the case of a tie we will pool the names and draw a winner)