

DECEMBER 14, 2008 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday, December 15

6:30 AM Elizabeth Dieter
8:00 AM Josephine & Matthew Kasprinski

Tuesday, December 16

6:30 AM James Schmaldestin
8:00 AM Harry Hofelich, Jr.

Wednesday, December 17

6:30 AM Thomas Carroll
8:00 AM Emma R. Wolfer

Thursday, December 18

6:30 AM Calvin West
8:00 AM Joseph Linnon, Sr.

Friday, December 19

6:30 AM Anna Anthony
8:00 AM James Gibbons

Saturday, December 20

9:00 AM Josephine & Louis Damweber

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 PM Harry J. Parker

Sunday, December 21

7:30 AM Rev. Frederick Winkler
9:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of
our Parish Family
10:30 AM James E. Bucklin, Sr.
12:00 PM Jordan Fekete

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please remember to ask God's blessing and gift of good health for members of our parish family and friends who are in nursing homes, or in the hospital. Also, those confined to their homes with an illness or disability, sick or in the hospital: Joan Arner, Wilfred Bair, Dominic Bellucci, Sr., Rudolph Brem, Joann Castle, Lorraine Corso, Ryan Glose, Andrew Hein, Elizabeth Holubowsky, Carol Reed, Luke Ronco, Cecelia Stengel and Timothy Yankow.

CONFIRMATION 2009

Our 8th grade children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on March 10. If you would like to be a prayer partner for one of these young people, please call Carol O'Connor (610-266-0695). All this entails is praying for the person during their time of preparation.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Please make special note of this confession schedule. We encourage you to make a good confession before Christmas and prepare spiritually for the coming of our Savior:

Monday, December 15 at 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00 PM ****

Friday, December 19 at 7:00PM

Saturday, December 20 from 3:00 – 4:15 PM

**** **Additional priests** will be on hand to help hear confessions. There will not be a service before confessions.

GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS

The 2009 Entertainment Books are available in the Parish Office, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM. The books can be used immediately through November 1, 2009. The price of the book is only \$20.

ST. ELIZABETH REGIONAL SCHOOL

▪ Bob's Flower Shop in Northampton is supporting Saint Elizabeth Regional School by donating \$5 for each purchase made of \$40 and up. Please call Bob's Flower Shop @ 610-262-3501 and mention St. Elizabeth Regional School in order for us to benefit from this fundraiser.

▪ Don't forget to visit our website at www.sercc.org/school to view current school events, pictures, calendars, newsletter, etc. Please let us know what you think!!

▪ Congratulations to Patricia Kantz, Helen Ernst and JoAnn Matsko who were \$100 winners in the Vacation Sweepstakes Lottery for the 1st week of December. Thanks for your support.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

An enormous "Thank You!" to all who supported our Winter Carnival last weekend. It would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers, nor would it have been quite as exciting without the very generous donations by our parish families and friends. And, of course, thank you to all those who attended the festivities. We hope to see everyone there again next year!

PEACE ON EARTH, SILENT NIGHT, AND GIVING

Don't let the frenzy of the season take away from what is really important about Christmas. Use Shopping Certificates for your entire gift giving needs. Giant, Weis and Redner cards make great gift ideas for hard to buy for people. Grandma, the mailman and newspaper carrier will appreciate the gesture. You can also use the Shopping Certificates to buy other gift cards for national chain department/ specialty stores and restaurants. Want to do your shopping on line? Use Giant, Weis and Redner's cards to buy Amazon gift cards. Shopping Certificates for grocery stores also make excellent gifts for charities. Each time you purchase shopping certificates, you provide financial support to our school. So give St. Elizabeth Regional School a special Christmas Gift, use Shopping Certificates for all of your holiday needs. Simplify your shopping, support our school and spend your time enjoying the magnificence of this Holy Season. Thank you for your continued support and God Bless you.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI)

Christmas wafers are available at the Parish Office, 8 AM- 4 PM for \$2.00 per pack. If this is part of your family tradition, we encourage you to continue it. For those who are not familiar with the custom and wish to start this tradition in your own home, there is an explanation of the custom on the packet.

BREAKFAST BUFFET

We will serve our monthly Breakfast Buffet this Sun, Dec. 14, after the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 Masses. Bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, pancakes, French toast sticks, Danish, juice & coffee – all for only \$5.50/adult, \$2.50/children, children 3 and under are free. You are getting a good meal, and helping your Parish! This month's sponsor is *Gilbert Funeral Home*.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Eighth grade parishioners attending Catholic, public or private elementary or middle schools are invited to apply for a one-year \$1,000 scholarship to attend one of the eight Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Allentown. Scholarships will be rewarded on the basis of academic achievement; involvement in extracurricular activities; service to school, parish and community; and pastor, principal and teacher recommendations. Application forms are available at the parish or school office. Completed applications must be submitted to the student's school by January 5, 2009.

PARISH NURSING NEWS

Christmas Carolers: More than 70 fellow parishioners & neighbors at Whitehall Manor enjoyed and expressed their sincerest gratitude to the following volunteer carolers who shared their time and talents: Gary Stokes (Director of Music); duets by: Father Mullins & Father Stan, Maureen & Bob Calder, Kristen Lake & Erin Puskar, Santa & Mrs. Claus (Bob & Mary Ann Kulhamer); solos by Ann Marie Christ, Joan Glover and choral group – Nicollette Amico, Mike Baran, James Boccardi, Blaine Christ, Mary Katherine Calder, Mary Fran Kaminski, Mary Ann Lake, Bernadette Marushak, Nancy Perusso, Anne Pherigo, Diane Sweeney and the residents and their family members. Please stop by the Parish Nursing bulletin board – “a picture is worth a thousand words”!

Next Blood Drive: Please circle Sunday, Feb. 1st (8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.)

ADVENT GIVING TREE

The “Giving Tree” is an opportunity to celebrate the Birth of Jesus by giving gifts of baby items to the babies who will be born this coming year. Please choose a gift tag from the tree in the vestibule, purchase the needed item and bring the **UNWRAPPED** gift to Church by December 22.

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following child into our family of faith. Congratulations to parents, godparents, family members and friends.

Jaclyn Marie Ortiz
Royce Rockwell Winger

LECTOR WORKBOOKS

Lectors please pick up your 2009 workbooks in the sacristy after Mass. Please take the workbook with your name on it so we are able to see who did not receive their book.

VESPER SERVICE

Our Advent Vesper Service will take place Sun. Dec 14th at 5 p.m. It offers the opportunity to step back from the distractions of this busy time into the peace of some beautiful music and prayer intended to help us be truly prepared for Christmas. Please come.

ST. ELIZABETH REGIONAL SCHOOL

Kindergarten through 8th grade will be having a Christmas Show on Wednesday, December 17th at 7 pm in the social hall. All are invited.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

In honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception Church, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and Pro-Life, 501 Ridge Avenue, Allentown on Sunday, December 14 at 2:30 PM. The Mass will include the Blessing of Flowers for the Sick and a Solemn Procession of the Flower-filled Tilma. Pilgrims will be invited to carry these flowers home to their loved ones who are sick. The schedule is as follows: 11 AM – 2 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel, 1 – 2 PM Confessions, 2 – 2:15 PM Rosary and 2:30 – 4 PM Holy Mass.

ALTAR SERVERS-CANTOR-LECTORS-EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please check your calendars for **January and February** and call the parish office by **December 15**, for the dates you will be unavailable to serve. If you do not notify the office before Dec. 15, and you are shown on the schedule, remember it is your responsibility to find someone to substitute for you.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we express our gratitude for your November donation of 33 bags of food. Because of your caring and sharing, hungry people of our area are being fed.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Hickory Grove
Greenhouses, Inc.

Where Plants Are Always In Season!
Retail, Wholesale, Donations

1086 Milton Street
N. Catasauqua, PA 18032
610-264-2131

www.hickorygrovegreenhouses.com

Please keep **Hickory Grove Greenhouses** and all those who advertise on our bulletin in mind when you are in need of their services.