

DECEMBER 7, 2008 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday, December 8/Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 AM Anthony Cappellini
9:00 AM Stephen Grabarits
12:15 PM Frank SchmalEinst
6:00 PM Albert Hottinger

Tuesday, December 9/Juan Diego, hermit

6:30 AM Lila Smith
8:00 AM Ruth Calhoun

Wednesday, December 10

6:30 AM Leonard J. Rucci
8:00 AM Gloria Makovsky

Thursday, December 11/Damascus I, pope

6:30 AM Helen Pavlinsky
8:00 AM Peter Fox

Friday, December 12/Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30 AM Thomas Buckley, Sr.
8:00 AM Anna & Paul Pramick

Saturday, December 13/Lucy, virgin, martyr

9:00 AM Regina Beidler

Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 PM Charles F. Bush

Sunday, December 14

7:30 AM Living & Deceased Members of
our Parish Family
9:00 AM Hettie & Raymond H. Boyce
10:30 AM Stanley & Mary Mizgerd
12:00 PM Kathryn Trescak

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., Joann Castle, Lorraine Corso, John Elnitsky, Diane Fogel, Ryan Glose, Andrew Hein, Elizabeth Holubowsky, Marilyn Lessel, Margaret Martin, Carol Reed, Luke Ronco and Timothy Yankowy.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

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

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

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!!

SACRIFICIAL GIVING PROGRAM

We wish to thank all of our parishioners who made a commitment to our parish offertory. If you have not yet turned in your stewardship commitment, please do so this week. Through stewardship, we have an opportunity to express our own faith in God in a way more meaningful than words. Through our offerings, we help ourselves as well as our brothers and sisters in the mission of the church, thus doing the Lord's will.

CONFIRMATION 2008

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.

BREAKFAST BUFFET

We will serve our monthly Breakfast Buffet 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**.

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.

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 caroling –Sunday, Dec. 7th at 1 p.m., St. Elizabeth Adult Choir, with Gary Stokes, Director of Music, will be caroling today at Whitehall Manor. Any parishioner is invited to join them for this celebration in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. You may meet in the vestibule of church after the 12 noon Mass or go directly to Whitehall Manor, Lower Level.

St. Elizabeth Regional School children – Grades 2nd, 6th & 7th will also Christmas Carol on Friday, Dec. 12th, at 10:00 a.m. at Whitehall Manor and then proceed to Strawberry Patch for 11 a.m. to spread the Love and Joy of the true meaning of Christmas. Santa and Mrs. Claus will join the fun.

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) – Who is eligible: For the 2008-2009 program year, homeowners & renters who are either on low or fixed income and whose yearly income before taxes is at or less than \$23,110 to \$64,200 depending on household size (1-10+). Season runs from 11/3/08 through 3/31/09. More information and applications on parish nursing table in vestibule, online at www.compass.state.pa.us or in rectory office.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to our parish priests and fellow parishioners (adults and children) for the beautiful handmade and original Christmas cards and “presents”. With much gratitude, all our “homebound parishioners” expressed the Joy and Christmas Spirit they experienced.

Caregiver Ministry Support Group – will meet Thursday, December 11th, 7:30 – 9:00 PM in the parish center. Topic to be discussed will be “Caregiver Emotional Support.” If this topic interests you, please join your fellow parishioners. Steve Hawkes MSW, LSW will facilitate this discussion.

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.

APPRECIATION DINNER

St. Elizabeth's Parish is blessed with dozens of volunteers who generously contribute their time and talent toward the enrichment of the life of our Parish. If you belong to any of the following groups: *Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Cantor, Usher, Choir, School Volunteer, Collection Counters, Altar Guild, Bulletin Folder, Office Receptionist, Liturgy of the Word for Children, Hand Bell Choir, Decorating the Church, CCD Teachers, RCIA Team, Pro-Life, Baptismal Hospitality Team, Bereavement Group, Breakfast Club, Parish Nurse Program* or if you render any other similar volunteer service to the Parish, we would like to show our appreciation by inviting you to a dinner on Sunday, Dec. 14 after Vespers. **Call the Parish Office by Dec. 9 to reserve a place. We will not be able to accept reservations after Dec. 9.**

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.

ADVENT PRAYER BOOKS

Advent Prayer Books were distributed after the Masses last weekend. If you did not receive one, or if you know someone who would like one, there are books available at all the exits of the church.

BAPTISMS

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

Anthony Jacob Wilson

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 12 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.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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