



MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 a.m. The Parish

10:00 a.m. Mark Sombat

12:00 noon Hammes & Scarso Families

6:00 p.m. Connie Flynn

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

Late Advent Weekday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25

6:30 a.m. Jeanne Evert

9:00 a.m. James Marra

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

Late Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

6:30 a.m. William & Frances Neville

9:00 a.m. Michael & Susan Stropki

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011

Peter Canisius

Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

6:30 a.m. Rose Waldegar

9:00 a.m. Josephine Fontana

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011

Late Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

6:30 a.m. Lyden Family

9:00 a.m. Lucille & Fred Friglet

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2011

John of Kanty

Is 56:1-3, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36

6:30 a.m. Eleanor Krajczynski

9:00 a.m. Ilona, Reneta, Rosa & Zigmund Kramer
& Clemente Grassi

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011

Vigil of Christmas

8:15 a.m. Maria & Michael Tuzziano

4:00 p.m. Lindsey Agresta

6:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

Christmas Day

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

12:00 noon

LIFE IS CHANGED, NOT ENDED.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD!

William Hornyak

Michael DeMore

Eucharistic Exposition

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, December 23rd, from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY**

WEEKEND COLLECTION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011

| | Period | Cum To Date |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Actual Collection | \$20,790 | |
| December Electronic Giving | \$ 3,587 | \$ 7,174 |
| Variance to Budget Plan | \$ 2,277 | \$ 1,316 |
| Reduction in Savings (variance to need) | (\$ 2,123) | (\$80,084) |

MEMORIAL ALTAR FUND IN MEMORY OF DONATED BY

MSGR. WILLIAM B. GALLAGHER EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Theresa Cancasci

Theresa Cancasci

Gerald Dottore

Anthony, Josephine &

Joseph Dottore

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Frank & Betty Dottore

Frank & Betty Dottore

Frank & Betty Dottore

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND IN MEMORY OF DONATED BY

PAUL FRANCIS SOFIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF

John Grdina

DONATED BY

Mike & Violet Retino



For 2011, the IRS has extended the provision that permits persons over 70 1/2 to make a tax-free, direct rollover distribution from their IRA to charitable institutions (such as your parish). This direct rollover must come from your IRA custodian with the organization's Federal Tax ID number available from the Parish Office. This type of distribution cannot be used as an itemized deduction on your Federal Tax Return. Please direct any questions to your Tax Advisor.



PARISH NOTES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

- 8:30 a.m. PANCAKE BREAKFAST/Gym
- 4:00 p.m. CYO/Gym
- 4:30 p.m. LifeTeen/CAF
- 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade PSR/CH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

- 8:40 a.m. Rosary/CH
- 7:00 p.m. Novena/CH
- 7:15 p.m. Confessions/CH
- 7:15 p.m. Rosary/CH (Behind Altar)
- 7:30 p.m. **NO** Prayer, Healing and Eucharistic Adoration/CH (Behind Altar)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

- 8:40 a.m. Rosary/CH
- 11:30 a.m. Confessions
- 6:30 p.m. PSR
- 8:00 p.m. Hillcrest Meeting/AR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011

- 8:40 a.m. Rosary/CH
- 12:30 p.m. Rosary/OMR
- 7:00 p.m. AA/CAF
- 7:00 p.m. RCIA/OMR
- 9:00 p.m. Men's Basketball/Gym

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011

- 8:40 a.m. Rosary/CH
- 7:00 p.m. Choir/CH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2011

- 8:40 a.m. Rosary/CH
- 12:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration/CH
- 12:00 p.m. Parish Offices Closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011

- 8:40 a.m. Rosary/CH
- 9:00 a.m. CYO/Gym
- 11:00 a.m. Confession

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011



AR – Activities Room, **OMR** – Office Meeting Room,
CH – Church, **CAF** – Cafeteria, **MR** – Music Room,
LIB – Library, **REC** – Rectory, **PC** – Parish Center,
CHAP – School Chapel

SERVERS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 24

- 4:00 p.m. To be announced
- 6:00 p.m.
- 10:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 25

- 8:00 a.m. To be announced
- 10:00 a.m.
- 12:00 noon

View from the Caddyshack II

The Season of Advent: There's good news and bad news. In today's readings, the prophet Isaiah declares the fifty-year exile in Babylon is over. He tells God's people to go home. Home? While they were glad to be set free, there wasn't much to go home to. Their homes in Israel had been leveled and their beloved temple had been destroyed. The prophet had a real job trying to convince God's people to rejoice in their return.

Mary had every reason to be anxious after the visit of the angel Gabriel. She was suddenly going to be a mother. Joseph was prepared to break off their engagement. Yet, we hear her rejoice when she visits her cousin Elizabeth. She puts aside her anxiety and rejoices in what God was about to do.

Saint Paul's job as a missionary was not an easy one. He tells us that he was beaten numerous times, put in jail, faced angry mobs, faced death, been shipwrecked three times, and suffered from cold, hunger and pain. What does he write to the Thessalonians? "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks." Why? Because it is God's will for us to be joyful. We can let self-pity control our lives or we can choose with God's help to rejoice because of the great things God has done for us and continues to do for us.

Even though life is sometimes burdensome and the economy is bad and there are threats all over the world, even though there are a lot of things to complain about and a lot of things that could be better, we have more reasons to rejoice than any people who have ever lived on this earth. We enjoy wonderful physical blessings and our freedom. We have the benefits of modern medicine and conveniences. Yet true joy in our hearts must go deeper than all the things we have around us for we must rejoice in what God is doing in our life. St. John the Baptist tells us "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." We have to live in faith and hope until God's plan is realized in us. So like the people we heard about in today's readings, we rejoice like they did – in faith.

Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope Update: Recent gifts have brought our total to \$2,059,728 (125% of our goal). Those who wish to make a pledge are invited to pick up a pledge card at the kiosk. Pledge cards may be returned in the collection basket at your convenience. Seventy percent of all new pledges will come back to the parish.

Vocation View: Mary received and responded to the Lord's will through the invitation of the angel. Who are God's messengers in your life? Listen to God speaking to you through them.

Some words to live by: "Christmas is the gentlest, loveliest festival of the revolving year – and yet, for all that, when it speaks its voice has strong authority.

(W. J. Cameron)

Some humor to survive by: The six-year-old little girl never stopped asking questions – lots of questions. Finally, one day, her mother had had it. "Have you ever heard that curiosity killed the cat?" her mom asked. "No," her daughter replied. "Well, there was a cat, and he was very inquisitive. And one day he looked into a big hole, fell in, and died." The little girl was intrigued. "What was in the hole?"

Fred was driving his grandson to church to make his first confession. He asked what he could expect. "Confession is where you tell the priest all the bad things you have done and he forgives you," replied the granddad. The little boy looked relieved. "Good, I haven't done anything bad to the priest."

Fr. Jim Caddy

Attention: Eucharistic Ministers who take Communion to our Homebound Parishioners

Part of my position at St. Francis of Assisi is to provide spiritual care for parishioners who are homebound. I am aware that many of you assist in this ministry, but I don't know you. I have been asked to update our listings of Eucharist Ministers who take Holy Communion to our parishioners. So if you are an Eucharist Minister, take Holy Communion or make a visitation to one, please call me (Joanne Sheldon) at 440-461-1494 or e-mail me at jsheldon@stfrancism.org, and tell me your name, phone number, who you visit, and how frequent you visit him/her. Also, if the occasion were to arise, would you be willing to visit another. Do you prefer homes, nursing facilities, or apartments? Please notify me by December 31st.

St. Anselm and St. Francis of Assisi sponsor Grief Support Meetings that start twice a year, meeting at alternate sites. As the holidays come closer, many of you who have suffered losses during this year may want someone to discuss your loss or fears with. Please call me (Joanne Sheldon) at 440-461-1494 or e-mail me at jsheldon@stfrancism.org and we'll set up a time to meet.

May this time of waiting in Advent be a true preparation for the birth of Christ and bring great peace to each of you and your families and friends.

Joanne Sheldon

Transportation Available

We have a Transportation Committee that is part of our Wellness Ministry and coordinated by parishioner Charlie Castle. If anyone needs a ride to a doctor or hospital appointment or a ride to Mass, please call Roberta (461-1494) and Charlie will make arrangements to assist you **if possible**.



Thank You

*The Art and Environment Committee
and our Parish Staff*

*would like to say "thank you" to the
Dodero Family*

*For their generous donation
of our Advent wreaths and
Christmas flowers
and decorations
donated*

in memory of

Sam J. Frankino

"who is always in our hearts."



THIS SUNDAY

**BREAKFAST
WITH
SANTA**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

In Parish Center Gym

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**



**FEATURING
SANTA CLAUS and MRS. CLAUS**

Photos with Santa ~ your camera or ours

Cost: Adults – \$8.00; Kids 6-10 – \$5.00

5 and under – FREE

Tickets at the door.

**DON'T FORGET THE HOSPITALITY
RAFFLE WITH SPECIAL PRIZES.**

Saint Francis of Assisi School

OPEN HOUSE DATES

- Monday, January 30th during the school day, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 30th in the evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 1st during the school day, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Or schedule a tour of the school any other time!

**OPEN REGISTRATION for the 2012-2013
school year begins on
JANUARY 18, 2012!!!**

Mrs. Adrienne Publicover, Principal
440-442-7450

www.stfrancism.org.

***Come and Discover the
St. Francis of Assisi School Tradition!***



McDonald's 2 for 1 Cards Are Back

You may obtain a McDonald's two for the price of one (sandwiches) for \$10.00 from the Parish Office. The cards may be used only at the Mayfield Heights restaurant. Proceeds benefit our school.

ADVENT SCHEDULE



Sacrament of Reconciliation

You may celebrate the Sacrament of Penance on this Monday, December 19th, from 7:15-7:45 p.m., Tuesday, December 20th, from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, and Saturday, December 24th, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Please note that there will be no Confessions on Saturday afternoon.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (**No evening Mass**)

NEW YEAR'S EVE

4:30 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (**No evening Mass**)

Christmas Eve Masses

Please note that the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve is extremely crowded. We added a 6:00 p.m. Mass several years ago to alleviate the overcrowding. You are guaranteed a seat at the 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Masses.

Celebrants for December 24-25, 2011

Saturday, December 24, 2011

4:00 p.m. Fr. Caddy (Children's Choir)
6:00 p.m. Fr. Dool (Life Teen Group)
10:00 p.m. Fr. Caddy (Adult Choir)

Sunday, December 25, 2011

8:00 a.m. Fr. Dool
10:00 a.m. Fr. Dool
12:00 a.m. Fr. Caddy



No evening Mass on Christmas Day.

RCIA –

Please continue to support and pray for our RCIA Catechumens and candidates as they prepare for the celebration of the Easter Sacraments. Their pictures are on the kiosk.

Prayers for the Sick

If you are ill or anticipating surgery or a hospital stay, please call Joanne at 461-1494 to have your name added to our prayer list.

Due to the New Year's Holiday, there is a change in the bulletin printing schedule. **For the January 1st bulletin, the deadline is 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 21st.**

The Changes in the Eucharistic Prayers Explained II

Last week, I began by explaining my basic “plan of attack” for going through the changes in the Eucharistic Prayers. I also gave a very brief summary of the Eucharistic Prayers and their use at Mass. This week, I will pick up from where I left off in Eucharistic Prayer III:

Old Translation:

And so, Father, we bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of Your Spirit, that they may become the Body + and Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate this Eucharist.

New Roman Missal:

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to You for consecration, that they may become the Body and + Blood of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

My Commentary:

In short, this part of the prayer is called the Epiclesis. Essentially, the priest asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon the gifts that are being offered by human hands so that they might become the Body and Blood of Christ. The Eastern Church believes that this is the point where the bread and wine become transformed into the body and blood of Christ. The Western Church looks to the words of institution (I will go over that next week). Part of the reason for this is because our tradition has not always had a clear epiclesis prayer. The present Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) still lacks a distinct epiclesis, for example.

The new translation of the missal tries to be more explicit in its request that God sends down the Spirit upon these “gifts we have brought to you...” This improves the previous translation which cast the line in the present tense. This section was initially designed to look back to the Preparation of the Gifts which *were already* brought forth. While this may seem trivial, it is important because the revised Missal makes a strong case that the part of the Mass formerly called the “offertory” is not the offering. That will come during the Eucharistic Prayer. The gifts were brought at that time by the people; and they will be offered to the Father after they are made holy by the Holy Spirit.

I hope you have been finding my short (and somewhat academic explanations) to be, at least, somewhat helpful or interesting. A blessed last week of Advent to you. Talk to you again next week...Fr. Franz C. Dool



LifeTeen
LifeNights

December 18 - Holiday Par-tay!!

SAVE THE DATE: January, 28, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.
For a VERY exciting evening at St. Francis.
Look for details in next week's bulletin.

Prayers for the Sick

Please keep the following members of our parish community in your prayers

Dorothy Shillman, James Monastra, Sean Barker, Maxwell Peppers, Michael Peppers, Frank Stanek, Ilona Paulin, Bette Anderson, Blanche Smyth, Rose Coletta Fraser, Lucille Gambatese and Joseph Tosto

One may request prayers for the ill (oneself or another) by calling the Parish Office and requesting the person's name be listed in the bulletin.

Please note that names will be published for two consecutive weeks. If you wish the name to be continued, you may call and renew the request. Please make certain that the ill person does not object to having his/her name placed in the bulletin.

Bridge for the Holidays – Mini-Support Group

Divorced or Separated? Struggling with the holidays? Join us for a special four-week mini-Support Group for those having difficulty facing the holidays as a result of separation and divorce. Terri Worthington will facilitate this special program intended to offer practical advice, support, and skills to move forward. Attend one session, all four, or anything in between. We will meet Tuesday evenings, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., beginning December 20, and concluding on January 10, 2012, at St. Noel Church, 35200 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills. To register or for more information, call Karen at 440-352-8282 or e-mail kjubek@st-gabriel.org.



Warm Hands from Warm Hearts



THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your generous donations of hats, gloves, scarves and coats. Your generosity will keep many people warm throughout the winter season!

Merry Christmas!
Sabrina Lahorra & Christine Longley

Football Frenzy Winners – Week 6

Ticket number 1481 was the first place winner this week winning \$250.00, as the teams scored a total of 111 points. Second and third was a tie at 110 points. They were numbers 850 and 1329. They each received \$90.00. Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth was a five-way tie at 108 points. They were ticket numbers 2731, 862, 648, 2847, and 115. Each received \$50.00. Low was number 651 with only 13 points receiving \$40.00. Second low was a tie at 17 points; they were ticket numbers 826 and 1197. They both were mailed \$15.00.

Year-end Giving

IRS regulations govern the deductibility and reporting of year-end contributions. To be included on your 2011 contribution statement, checks must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31, 2011. All checks not meeting these requirements will be included on your 2012 statement.



Are you a widow or a widower?

St. Francis of Assisi has a group for you! The group is called "Stepping Out."

Here are just a few of the activities we have planned;

- * Casino Trips
- * Dining Out
- * Theater
- * Baseball Games
- * Wine/Beer Tasting
- * Horse Racing
- * Walking Tours

Interested? Please contact Kay at 440-442-3479.

FOOD PICK-UP VOLUNTEERS



| | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| December 18 | Jack & Eileen Carney | St. Augustine |
| December 25 | Ed Hoenigman | Lutheran Church |



| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| January 1 | Rita Jenkins | St. Augustine |
| January 8 | Joan Allen | Bishop Cosgrove |
| January 15 | Frank & Linda Vigliucci | Bring Food |
| January 22 | Alyce & Craig Kasper | Lutheran Church |
| January 29 | Mike & Joanne Grace | St. Augustine |

Special Thanks

On behalf of Our Savior Lutheran Church Food Pantry #1479, we would like to thank you for your donations to the Food Pantry. With these generous donations, we were able to provide food and nonfood items to many households in need. We served 150 households in the month of November, for which I know they are grateful for everything they received. We are truly appreciative and blessed by the outpouring of kindness from your parishioners. Please let them know how much we appreciate their donations. Information about the Food Pantry is on our web site at <http://www.oursavior-church.org>. Again, we thank you for your generosity.

Food Bin

Only **nonperishable** food items should be placed in the food bin, such as canned or bottled goods, cereal, or any boxed food product. Perishable items such as meat, baked goods or fresh produce should **not** be left in the food bin. The food is taken to a Hunger Center once a week. Perishable items will spoil.