

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 12-13, 2009 (XXV-18)**



PARISH RETREAT THIS WEEK

We warmly welcome Monsignor Dan Sullivan to our Church of the Assumption. Father Dan will be the guest homilist at all Masses this weekend. He will be encouraging all of us to attend our Parish Retreat which begins on Monday night (December 14) at 7:00 pm. The theme for our Parish Retreat will be "The Faces of Jesus." Each of the three nights will last about an hour and within that hour all of us will be touched by the Lord, feel forgiven, be blessed and healed and become a better person in the eyes of the Lord. Please plan to attend our three-night Parish Retreat and bring your family and friends with you.

MEMORIAL PLANTS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you wish to donate a Christmas plant for the altar in memory of a deceased loved one, please put \$15.00 in your "Christmas Flower" envelope (or in a plain envelope) along with your name and the name of the person to be remembered no later than Sunday, December 20, and place it in the regular Offertory Collection. A list will be published at Christmas.

SWINE FLU PRECAUTIONS

Because of the Swine Flu, Archbishop Mansell is requesting everyone please to abide by the following liturgical guidelines:

- 1..The Sign of Peace should be shared without physical contact;
2. Communion should be received in the hand rather than on the tongue;
3. Hands should not be held during the Lord's Prayer.

PARISH CENSUS

Forms for a Parish Census have been included with the bulletin for the last several weeks. If you have not already returned your form, please do so as soon as possible. If you have returned your form, thank you. Please note that even if you are registered, you should fill out a form as an update. All registered and unregistered parishioners should fill out the new census form and return it. Forms are available in the back of the church.

Please pray for the deceased members of the following parish families: Kukta, Kularski, Kulka, Kulpowich, Kuntz, Kuskowski, Kutash, Kuzia, Kwiatkowski, Labowsky, LaChance, LaFrance, Lane, Laneville, Lanoue, LaRiviere, Larkin, LaRocca, LaRovera.

COME, LORD JESUS

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Congress is presently debating Health care reform legislation. The Catholic bishops of the United States strongly support genuine health care reform that protects the life and dignity of all, from the moment of conception until natural death. However, all current bills are seriously deficient on abortion and conscience rights, and do not yet provide for adequate access to health care for immigrants and the poor.

In a recent bulletin, there was a special insert from the U. S. Bishops' Conference, asking you please to contact your Representatives and Senators, and urge them to fix these bills with pro-life amendments. The insert includes a web address that allows you to send an e-mail message to Congress with the click of a button. Additional bulletin inserts can be found at the back of the church. The bishops have asked for our swift action and the commitment of our prayers for this critical effort. Thank you for your help. We can help make sure that health care reform will be about saving lives, not destroying them.

PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday (December 13)

- 9:15 am-CCD Classes Grades 1-6-School
- 10:45 am Mass-Kids' Liturgy
- 4:00 pm-Adult Scripture Group-Rectory.

Monday (December 14)

- 7:00 pm-Parish Retreat-Church
- 7:00 pm-Bereavement Group-Rectory
- 7:00 pm-CCD Classes Grades 7-9-School

Tuesday (December 15) No Novena this week

- 7:00 pm-Parish Retreat-Church

Wednesday (December 16)

- 7:00 pm-Parish Retreat-Church

Friday (December 18)

- 6:45 pm-Bingo-Hall

Saturday (December 19)

- 7:00-10:00 pm-School Dance-Hall

UP-COMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday (December 21)

- 10:00 am -School's Christmas Pageant - Church
- 7:00 pm-Confessions-Church
- 7:00 pm-Bereavement Group-Rectory

Tuesday (December 22)

- 7:00 pm-Miraculous Medal Novena-Rectory

Wednesday (December 23) Early School Dismissal

- 5:30 pm-Shelter Meal-Spooner House-Shelton
- 7:00 pm-Confessions-Church

Thursday (December 24) No School

- 11:00 am-Confessions-Church

Friday (December 25) Christmas Day-No Bingo

SEE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE FOR TIMES OF MASSES

COLLECTIONS

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Offertory	\$7,102.70	\$7,038.44

As of last weekend, the cumulative Offertory Collection is **\$15,499.23** less than last year.

The **Second Collection** next weekend will be for **Retired Religious.**

CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

We wish to thank the family and friends of **Robert Gallant** for an additional \$50.00 donated to Assumption Church in his memory.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Masses
Vigil Masses (Thursday, December 24)
 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:00 pm

Christmas Day (Friday, December 25)
 8:15 am, 10:45 am

Confessions
Monday, December 21 – 7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 23 – 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 24 – 11:00 am

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE
(Solemnity of Mary)

Masses at 8:15 am and 10:45 am

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK

If the members of the family for whom a Mass is being celebrated would like to bring up the Offertory gifts, please notify one of the ushers before Mass. Thank you.

- Saturday (December 12)** Vigil Third Sunday of Advent (V)
4:00 pm-HM-Denise Simpson (Family)
- Sunday (December 13)** Third Sunday of Advent (V)
8:15 am-HM-Robert Marcucio (K of C Council #23)
10:45 am-HM-Michael & Mary Egan (Family)
- Monday (December 14)** John of the Cross, priest & doctor (W)
8:00 am-LM-Ann Marie Glenn (Family)
- Tuesday (December 15)** Advent Weekday (V)
8:00 am-LM-Eleanor Collins (Friend)
- Wednesday (December 16)** Advent Weekday (V)
8:00 am-LM-The Malloy & Pawlak Families (Family)
- Thursday (December 17)**
- Friday (December 18)**
- Saturday (December 19)** Vigil Fourth Sunday of Advent (V)
4:00 pm-HM-John, Gaetana & Antonio Boanno (Lucy & Justina)
- Sunday (December 20)** Fourth Sunday of Advent (V)
8:15 am-HM-William & Sophie Clayton (Daughter Karen)
10:45 am-HM-Mary DiPiro-Third Anniversary (Family)

HELPING HANDS

The Helping Hands Project is a vital help to the support of the school. We wish to thank the many parishioners who have so faithfully supported this project, and we ask that you please continue to do so. Thank you again.

GIVING TREE – DEADLINE THIS WEEKEND

All gifts for the "Giving Tree" must be wrapped and under the tree this weekend (December 12-13), for distribution by the 16th. We thank you all very much for your generosity this Christmas Season towards those less fortunate.

SCHOOL 100th ANNIVERSARY ITEMS CAN STILL BE PURCHASED

The Assumption School Photo History Book (\$25.00), the Assumption blanket (\$25.00), and towel (\$30.00), can still be purchased, and they make wonderful Christmas gifts for any alumnus or friend of Assumption. Books ordered before December 6th (or ordered that day at the "Breakfast with Santa") may be picked up in the school office. New sales will be available following all Masses in the back of the church.

BAPTISMS

We wish to welcome I to our parish family **Ethan Louis Jankauskas, Madison Elizabeth Jankauskas, and Evan Jason Poma**, all of whom were Baptized last weekend at Assumption Church.

THE POLAR EXPRESS

The Home/School Association will be sponsoring the movie "**The Polar Express**" (G) on Sunday, December 20, in the Church Hall. Doors open at 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. The cost is \$3.00 (including treats), and parents are requested to stay with the children.

SOUND TIGERS

Assumption Family Fun Night with the Sound Tigers is Saturday, January 9, at 7:00 pm at the Arena at Harboryard. The Hockey game features the Tigers versus the Springfield Falcons. Tickets are \$17.50 each (regular price is \$29.00!) For more information or to obtain tickets, please contact Maureen at 203-734-1092 by December 21.

ADULT SCRIPTURE GROUP

This Sunday, December 13, is the last meeting of the Adult Scripture Group for 2009. The group has been studying the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. Meetings are held in the Downstairs Meeting Room of the Rectory from 4:00-5:30 pm. New members are most welcome, and prior attendance is not required.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Bereavement Group here at the Assumption meets each Monday from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Downstairs Meeting Room of the Rectory. For more information, please call Barbara O'Grodnick (734-5096) or Marcia Burkitt (723-5295). Thank you.

"I AM BAPTIZING YOU WITH WATER, BUT ONE MIGHTIER THAN I IS COMING. I AM NOT WORTHY TO LOOSEN HIS SANDALS. HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH FIRE."

WORDS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

(IN TODAY'S GOSPEL)