

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 5-6, 2009 (XXV-17)**



PARISH RETREAT

Monsignor Dan Sullivan will preach at all of our Masses next weekend (December 12-13). His preaching will be a powerful invitation to all of us to attend our Parish Retreat. The Retreat will be on Monday (December 14), Tuesday (December 15), and conclude on Wednesday (December 16). Each of the three evenings will begin at 7:00 pm and last about an hour. Father Dan Sullivan is a gifted and powerful preacher who blends spirituality with everyday experiences. We will all be motivated and feel blessed throughout his three-night Retreat in our Parish. Please plan to attend these three nights of grace, blessings, joy, healing and forgiveness. Feel free to invite your neighbors and friends since all are welcome to attend.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THIS WEEK

This Tuesday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holyday of obligation for all Catholics. Masses in this church will be at 12:10 and 7:00 pm, both Masses in the church. There will be **no 8:00 am Mass** that day.

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: Kingston, Kish, Klabonski, Klapcik, Klein, Klesyk, Klimas, Klubek, Knapp, Knecht, Knott, Kohler, Kolakowski, Kosar, Kosko, Kovatch, Kozak, Krajovic, Krivda, Kruk, Krutoholow, Kryvanis, Kudrikoff.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION

Congress is preparing to debate 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 6)

- 8:00 am-1:00 pm-"Breakfast with Santa" - Hall
- 9:15 am-CCD Classes Grades 1-6-School
- 1:00-4:00 pm-Adoration-Rectory Chapel

Monday (December 7)

- 7:00 pm-CCD Classes Grades 7-9-School
- 7:00 pm-CCD Grade 10 (Confirmation Class)-Hall
- 7:00 pm-Bereavement Group-Rectory

Tuesday (December 8) Holyday of Obligation-Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Masses at 12:10 and 7:00 pm (both Masses in the church)-No Novena this week

- 7:30 pm-K of C meeting-Rectory

Wednesday (December 9)

- 7:00 pm-Social Justice Committee-Rectory

Friday (December 11)

- 6:45 pm-Bingo-Hall
- 7:30-8:30 pm-Holy Hour for Vocations-Rectory

Saturday (December 12)

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

UP-COMING PARISH ACTIVITIES

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

Friday (December 18)

- 6:45 pm-Bingo-Hall

Saturday (December 19)

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

COLLECTIONS

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Offertory	\$6,571.50	\$7,579.75

As of last weekend, the cumulative Offertory Collection is **\$15,563.49** less than last year.

Second Collection this weekend : Monthly Collection for December

THIS SUNDAY- BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Join us this Sunday, December 6, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Church Hall for "Breakfast with Santa", our gourmet hot and cold buffet, sponsored by the Home/School Association. Admission is free, and the cost of the breakfast is \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Children under 3 eat free. This annual event is for children of all ages, and it includes our specialty "baskets with Class" raffle, Chinese auction, tag sale table, baked goods, religious items and much more. Grocery gift cards and 100th Anniversary items will also be for sale. The "Kids' Corner" will feature photos with Santa, crafts, treats and face painting.

We are now looking for gently used items (excellent condition only) for the tag sale table, which can be brought to the school or hall anytime. We also need BRAND NEW items for the Chinese auction. Please bring these directly to the school. Perhaps you have something new that can be re-gifted. We would be most grateful. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Blood Pressures will be taken in the Church Hall during the "Breakfast with Santa" celebration – not next weekend (December 12-13), which would ordinarily be the weekend for blood pressures.

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.

SCHOOL PHOTO HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Assumption School Photo History Books will be available for pick-up beginning this Sunday in the Church Hall at the "Breakfast with Santa" celebration. Prepaid orders will be there as well as a stock of new books. The cost is \$25.00. Also available will be the Assumption blanket (25.00) and towel (30.00). These are wonderful presents for any alumnus or friend of Assumption. After December 6, preordered books may be picked up in the School Office, or new sales will be available at Masses.

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.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

We would like to thank the following members for their help during November: Jim Petronchak, Harold Andrew, Bert Geiss, Mike Ranno, Rich Lauer, Bill Kehlenbeck, Jessie Prajer and Rich Zdrowski. The committee is asked to watch the bulletin for the next meeting.

SHELTER MEAL

The Shelter Meal Committee would like to thank Margaret Mary Comerford's team for providing the Thanksgiving eve meal to the valley's homeless. This time of year is especially difficult for our needy friends—however, they had much to be thankful for on this night. Margaret Mary said there was great response from her team members, veterans and new, as well as the Confirmation class volunteers. There was plenty of help, plenty of luscious food, and plenty of leftovers, which was greatly appreciated by all. Great job! **Thank you to all that helped out.**

Rich Zdrowski's team will host December's meal on the 23rd at the shelter.

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 5) Vigil Second Sunday of Advent
4:00 pm-HM-Paul White (Family)

Sunday (December 6) Second Sunday of Advent (V)
8:15 am-HM-Robert Gallant (Carol & Paul Marciniak)
10:45 am-HM-Tom & Peg Durling (Tom & Mickey Hanburg)

Monday (December 7) Ambrose, bishop & doctor (W)
8:00 am-LM-Deceased Members of the Rev. Mulcahy Family

Tuesday (December 8) Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (W)

NO 8:00 AM MASS

12:10 pm-HM-Ruth Brady (Tom Missett)
7:00 pm-HM-Roland Morneau (Family)

Wednesday (December 9)

Thursday (December 10)

Friday (December 11)

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)

GIVING TREE

The "Giving Tree" is now in place on the altar. On each angel is written the description of a particular gift (with sizes, etc.) for someone less fortunate. The gifts must be wrapped and back under the tree by next weekend (December 12-13), for distribution by the 16th. We thank you all in advance for your generosity.

ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Assumption Rosary Society will hold its Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 8, at Lanzi's Restaurant on East Main Street in Ansonia. Everyone will order individually from the menu.

It is necessary to make a reservation, so please call Rose Tyszka at 203-735-2140.

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.

ADULT SCRIPTURE GROUP

The one remaining meeting date for 2009 for the Adult Scripture Group is Sunday, December 13. The group is continuing the study of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Meetings are held in the Downstairs Meeting Room of the Rectory from 4:00-5:30 pm. All new members are welcome and prior attendance is not required.