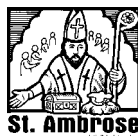


# Mass Schedule

## MASSES FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- SATURDAY:** December 2  
4:00 P.M. +Mary Pesci Ranieri  
(Kay and John Lewis)
- SUNDAY:** December 3  
8:30 A.M. +Bina Noble (Barbara and Family)  
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY:** December 4 - *John of Damascus, Priest, Doctor*  
8:00 A.M. +Mary E. Ralston (Patty & Ken Hughes)
- TUESDAY:** December 5  
8:00 A.M. +Jim and Romey Trettel & Family (Flora)
- WEDNESDAY:** December 6 - *Nicholas, Bishop*  
8:00 A.M. +Nicholas Canterna  
(Elizabeth & Louise Pilati and  
Rebecca & Tony Hancock)
- THURSDAY:** December 7 - *Ambrose, Bishop,  
Doctor of the Church*  
8:00 A.M. +Catherine Callahan  
(Bob & Theresa Phillips)  
7:00 P.M. +Flossi Rizzo (Dorothy Pofi)
- FRIDAY:** December 8 - *The Immaculate  
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
8:00 A.M. +Leonard Palyszeski  
(Rose and Dave Check)  
7:00 P.M. St. Mary Parishioners
- SATURDAY:** December 9 - *Juan Diego, Hermit*  
8:00 A.M. Nurses & Health Care Workers  
(Lauretta Rutkoski)



## MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- SATURDAY:** December 9  
4:00 P.M. +Gemma Wesolosky (Loretta Golembiesky)
- SUNDAY:** December 10  
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners  
11:00 A.M. +Leonard Stanoski [Birthday] (His Wife)



**Today's Readings:** Jeremiah 33:14-16  
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2  
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

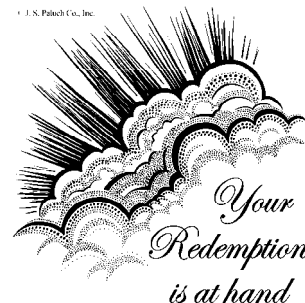
**Next Sunday's Readings:** Baruch 5:1-9  
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11  
Luke 3:1-6

**Christian Mothers' Cleaning Assignments -  
Betty Canterna and Janice Meola**

# Liturgical Roles\*

December 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th, 2006

- Altar Servers:**  
Thurs., 7:00 P.M. J. Zadnik, G. Carson, V. Jones  
Fri., 7:00 P.M. N. & D. Policicchio, A. Romanchak  
Sat., 4:00 P.M. B., G. & K. Huth  
Sun., 8:30 A.M. S. & E. Posney, J. Nigra  
Sun., 11:00 A.M. L. Kriger, A. Brestensky, N. McCrea
- Eucharistic Ministers:**  
Thurs., 7:00 P.M. F. Grolemond, D. Showers, A. Volek  
Fri., 7:00 P.M. S. Aul, G. Pernazza  
Sat., 4:00 P.M. A. Camerlo, P. Hughes, J. Bergstrom  
Sun., 8:30 A.M. R. Check, G. Cooper, G. Wilson  
Sun., 11:00 A.M. P. Hafera, B. Cogley
- Lectors:**  
Thurs., 7:00 P.M. Diane Zadnik  
Fri., 7:00 P.M. Bill Girardi  
Sat., 4:00 P.M. Judy Hallman  
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Geno Pernazza  
Sun., 11:00 A.M. CCD
- Cantors:**  
Thurs., 7:00 P.M. Jamie Phillips  
Fri., 7:00 P.M. Choir  
Sat., 4:00 P.M. Alex Smith  
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Tom Koharchik  
Sun., 11:00 A.M. Choir
- Organists:**  
Thurs., 7:00 P.M. Sue Myford  
Fri., 7:00 P.M. Dave Wesolosky  
Sat., 4:00 P.M. Tom Misutka  
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Tom Koharchik  
Sun., 11:00 A.M. Dave Wesolosky



**1st Sunday of Advent** - Today is the first Sunday of Advent and marks the beginning of another liturgical year. Advent is a time for us to repent and believe. Knowing that Jesus was born to forgive our sins, we repent and believe that we are forgiven because of Jesus.

**Friday, December 8th,** is *The Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.* Vigil Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday, December 7th,** at 7:00 P.M. On **Friday,** masses will be said at 8:00 A.M. and at 7:00 P.M.

**Penance Services** have been scheduled in our area to make it possible for each one of us to prepare for a holy Christmas with a good sacramental confession. In addition to the regular confession schedule, penance services for our area will be as follows:

- Monday, December 11th - St. Mary, Yatesboro - 7:00 P.M.
- Thursday, December 14th - St. Patrick, Brady's Bend - 7:00 P.M.
- Sunday, December 17th - St. Mary, Kittanning - 2:00 P.M.
- Monday, December 18th - St. Mary, Freeport - 7:00 P.M.
- Tues., Dec. 19th - Christ, Prince of Peace, Ford City - 7:00 P.M.

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve - 4:00 P.M. and Midnight  
Christmas Day - 10:00 A.M.

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



**The 3rd Grade** CCD Class will assist at the 11:00 A.M. Mass next Sunday, December 10th.

**Anyone** that has not sent in their tuition money is asked to do so as soon as possible. Thank you!



**Reconciliation**

December 6th, at 7:00 P.M., our First Holy Communion Class will make their First Confession at a Penance Service where their parents and sponsors are also encouraged to receive this sacrament. Please remember to keep these children in your prayers.



**A "Mini-Advent Retreat"** for the parents of the children of our parish will be held in our Church Hall on Sunday, December 10th, 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. (same time as CCD). The purpose for this retreat? To rejuvenate

you in the most important work that you do—parenting. Coffee and refreshments will be served.



**"Mittens For Christmas"** - The teen ministry is holding their eighth annual "Mittens For Christmas" drive to benefit the Hope Center. Donations of new women's and children's mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks are being requested. Please hang all donations on the tree that is located in the church. **This tree will be taken down on Saturday, December 9th, following the 4:00 P.M. Mass.** The teens appreciate your support of this worthwhile project!



**Poinsettias** - The Teen Ministry is selling poinsettias, wreaths and swags. Order forms are located at all of the church entrances. **Deadline for orders is Monday, December 4th.** Completed forms and money (checks are to be made payable to **St. Mary Youth Group**) may be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the parish office Monday morning. Pick-up dates are December 9th-10th, after mass.



**The Teen Ministry** would like to thank all of the parishioners who donated money and gifts to their "Adopt A Family" project. Total money collected was **\$1,045.53. GREAT JOB!** What a wonderful example for the youth of our parish. God bless all of you!



**Legion of Mary** - You are welcome to attend the next meeting scheduled Wednesday, December 6th, 8:45 A.M. There is no obligation to join if you attend a meeting.



**Choir Practice** will be held on Wednesday, December 6th, at 7:00 P.M. New members are always welcome! *Remember, when you sing, you are praying, twice!*



**Christian Mothers** next meeting will be held on Monday, December 4th, at 7:00 P.M. Members are asked to plan on attending. If you have any questions about the Christian Mothers or need a ride, please contact Debbie Baustert (724-295-2256).

**The 50th Anniversary Mass** will be celebrated on Sunday, December 10th, at 2:00 P.M. Parishioners are invited to attend mass.

**Christian Mothers** - Holiday Kolachi Sale - Order forms may be found at the Church entrances. **Deadline to place your order is Monday, December 4th.** Pick-up date - weekend of December 16th-17th after masses.



**Thank you** to all the food donors from St. Mary's for our annual "Blessing Bag Campaign". Over 200 filled bags of groceries were received and taken to our Freeport Food Bank. **Thank you, also, to Giant Eagle for their support by donating the brown paper bags.**

**Collections**

**Following is the Offertory Collection for November 19th, 2006**

- No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 627
- No. of Envelopes Received: 268
- Sunday Collection: Offertory - \$5,734.00
- CRS/CCHD Appeal - \$326.00

**Following is the Offertory Collection for November 26th, 2006**

- No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 627
- No. of Envelopes Received: 215
- Sunday Collection: Offertory - \$4,485.00
- Thanksgiving Day Collection - \$153.00

**THANK YOU!**



**St. Mary's Annual Holiday Christmas Concert** will be held on Sunday, December 17th, at 7:00 P.M. in the Church. There will be solos by Jamie Phillips and Thomas Koharchik and special musical arrangements by the choir, followed by the traditional sing-a-long. Immediately following the concert, there will be a gathering of fellowship and refreshments in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend!



**Christmas Memorial Flowers** may be placed in the regular collection until Sunday, December 17th. Please write the names of those you wish to honor on the envelope. We will publish the names of those you so wish to honor with a donation.



**St. Joseph High School** Concert Choir and Instrumental Ensemble will present "**The Sounds of the Season**" on Tuesday, December 5th, 7:00 P.M. at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church, Natrona Heights.

**Natural Family Planning** - CM-BBT is a medically based, highly effective method that can be used to postpone or plan pregnancy. The next CM-BBT Method of Family Planning Session is scheduled for Monday, December 4th, at 6:00 P.M., at the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. Participants are required to attend only ONE session. The instruction, continued support and follow-up are provided by a medically certified CM-BBT Professional. PRE registration is required. Contact Mary Ann Newhouse, Catholic Charities, at 724-837-1840, ext. 658, for additional information or to register for this class.



**Flu Shots** - Trinity Lutheran Church, 323 5th Street, Freeport—Saturday, December 9th, 5:30-6:30 P.M.; Sunday, December 10th, 10:45 A.M. till 12 Noon. Cost - \$30.00 (Medicare B, Security Blue, and Freedom Blue accepted). \$5.00 discount for self pay. Questions - 724-282-6806.

**Knights of Columbus**, Natrona Council, is selling the 2007 Entertainment Book. The 2007 edition includes money-saving coupons for dinners, lunches, fast food, movies, recreation, golf, and more. All of this for only \$25.00. This book would make a great birthday or Christmas gift. To purchase one of these books, please call Dick Bertino - 724-295-3632. Proceeds will help three organizations that work with mentally challenged children and adults—McGuire Home in New Brighton; St. Anthony's Satellite Schools for Exceptional Children; the PA Association for Retarded Citizens—ARC.



**Scholarship/Placement testing** for current eighth grade students planning to attend St. Joseph High School in the 2007-2008 school year will take place Saturday, December 9th, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M., in Patterson Hall at the high school - 800 Montana Avenue, Natrona Heights. Please call St. Joseph High School at 724-224-5552 to register for the test or to request more information.

**DECEMBER 3, 2006**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

As this new liturgical year unfolds, today's readings are most appropriate, for they root us in what it means to live authentically as Christians. The Gospel, with its frightening predictions of the end times, invites the hearer to "be vigilant at all times" (Luke 21:36). This kind of vigilance is not at all passive for the Christian. Instead, it is a kind of active waiting. And what should we be doing while we are waiting for the coming of the Lord? The second reading gives us the answer: "abound in love for one another and for all" (1 Thessalonians 3:12). Today is all about promises made and fulfilled. May this Advent season root us all firmly in a stance of active waiting for the Lord, who brings justice and peace.

**WAITING IS NOT EASY**

Waiting is not an easy thing. In our lives marked by instant communications, meals that can be instantly prepared, and instant responses to Internet queries, we have become patterned to expect immediate answers to our questions, our hungers, and our requests. Of course, anyone who has ever sat at the bedside of a sick child waiting for a fever to abate or in the presence of a loved one whose life is nearing an end knows that there is seldom an instant outcome. Instead we wait, often for days or weeks, for the eventual outcome. The Advent season is a kind of path that leads us to the celebration of the incarnation of the Lord at Christmas. And this path is a path that the Church often describes as one marked by "waiting in joyful hope."

**Today's Readings: Jer 33:14–16; Ps 25:4–5, 8–10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2; Lk 21:25–28, 34–36**