

THE WEEK AHEAD**TUESDAY – DECEMBER 9**

Rosary for the unborn – 11:30 a.m. – church
 Card Party – 1:00-4:00 p.m. – ed. building
 Adult Choir – 6:00 p.m. – Church
 Maintenance – 6:30 - rectory
 Faith Formation Commission – 7:00 p.m. – office

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 10

Religious Education – 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY – DECEMBER 11

RCIC – 5:30 p.m. – office
 RCIA – 7:00 p.m. – Ed. Bldg.

PRAYER REQUESTS**Please pray for the sick and suffering and their families of our parish and community:**

Betty Behlmer, Ron Blanford, Marie Craig, Linda Creamer, Dave Denny, Mary Dickman, Dick Froehling, Mike Green, Matthew Heath, infant, Paul Huber, Patty Huser, Liz Johnston, Susie Loyd, Aaron McCrary, Ralph Meer, Betty Melton, Ray & Sandy Niese, Tom Ogden, Jeremy Phillips, Anita Powers, Gish Ray, Dick Russell, Don & Anna Marie Schwering, Thomas Shazer, Cortney Snyder, Jeff & Phyllis Turner.

Please pray for all of our armed forces serving both abroad and in the U.S.

especially for: Stephen AmRhein, Ben Brancamp, Ben Buening, Joe Davis, Mike Eggleston, Chris Gauck, Jonathan Gibson, Paul Hellmich, Adam Herbert, Kipper Hull, Edward Hurt, Jeff McNeal, Joe McCullough, Steve Redmon, Kevin Rohr, Victor Tumilty, Brent Wright, & Francis Young.

If you have a friend or loved one that you would like to add to our prayer list, please call the parish office @ 663-8427. They will remain on our list for 4 weeks.

**WEBSITE**

www.stmarysgreensburg.com

BULLETIN DEADLINE

All bulletin articles will need to be in the office (e-mailed or written) no later than 11:00 a.m. on Monday.

ddavis@stmarysgreensburg.com

Advent 2008

“God became what we are, so we could become what God is.”

This will be our Advent meditation as we prepare to celebrate Jesus first coming and await his Second Coming at the end of time. Through our prayer each week, we will ask God to “Open Our Eyes” to SEE God’s face, to HEAR God’s voice, and to LOVE like God loves. And, then with God’s grace we will pray to find ourselves becoming... WHAT GOD IS!

Family Prayer—Advent booklets “**Tidings of Comfort and Joy**” have been given to all families.—Also, all families with children in the Religious Education program and in St. Mary’s School will receive an Advent calendar “Preparing for Jesus.” The Jr. High and High School Youth are receiving Advent Key Tags for their key chains.

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony – We invite all families of St. Mary’s to take part in the candle lighting ceremony at all weekend masses. Please call the office if your family would like to participate and the mass time you prefer.

Advent Charity – We will reach out to those in need through our Parish family “Sharing Tree” and also to our sister parish in New Mexico.—Cards will be placed on the “Sharing Tree.” If you wish to give a monetary gift containers will be at the doorways marked ADVENT CHARITY.—Gift cards are once again suggested for our Navajo friends.—WALGREENS, K-MART, TARGET, WALMART, FAMILY DOLLAR, or BIG LOTS. A special container marked “New Mexico Friends” will be near the Sharing Tree for your gift cards or cash donation.

Advent Evening Prayer – We will celebrating Evening Prayer every Sunday evening as a special way of preparing for the celebration of Christmas. Please join us as we pray together Advent Evening prayer beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Prayers of the Assembly – Our special book of petitions will be displayed each weekend during the Advent season. Please write your special intentions you wish us to pray for.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – December 8th

Because it is the patronal feast of the United States, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is always a holy day of obligation. This year December 8th falls on Monday. Masses will be celebrated at 7:00, 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be no Vigil Mass on Sunday evening.

Our Communal Penance Service will take place Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

**Early Bulletin Deadline for the
 December 27/28 Bulletin**

All information by e-mail or in writing **must** be in the parish office no later than December 17 at 11:00 a.m.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS...for many, many years St. Mary's has been blessed with the overwhelming generosity of the beautiful Johnston flowers (Liz and Ross) at Christmas, Easter and many other occasions throughout the church year. They have worked for years giving us the benefits of their hard labor, but, they have now made the decision to close the greenhouse.—So, we are asking for your help to provide flowers for our Christmas decorating. Envelopes will be placed at the doorways of Church for any assistance you can provide. A space will be added to the envelope to allow you to give flowers "in memory of a deceased loved one", if you wish to do so. These names will be published in the bulletin, so, together we can give thanks and remember these special people

"Shepherding a Child's Heart" is a book written by Dr. Tedd Tripp for parents with children of any age and gives perspectives and procedures for shepherding your child's heart into the paths of life.

The Adult Catechetical Team will offer **a program using this resource to begin on January 7**. Mark the date on your calendar! The program will run from 6:45 – 7:45 p.m. for several consecutive Wednesday evenings. More information about content, place, and dates will be released soon.

United Catholic Appeal 2008-2009

As you all are aware the United Catholic Appeal 2008-2009 is going on now.

Our goal is \$73,680

As of 12/1/2008 we have received 259 pledge cards with total pledges of **\$34,827**

Please return your pledge cards, along with your stewardship pledges of time, talent, and treasure so we can reach our goal.

Thank you, Stewardship Committee

The **Greensburg Knights of St. John** will have their Santa Breakfast at the Knights of St. John Hall on S. Wilder St. on Sunday December 7th. They will serve whole hog sausage, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, eggs, pastries, coffee, juice and from 7:00-11:00 a.m. Free will offering will be taken. Carry-outs available. Santa will be there 9:00-11:00. Everyone is welcome.

Knights of Columbus will have an appreciation dinner for all committee workers at 6:30 on December 11 at the hall.

Needing a Christmas gift for someone special?? We still have a few turquoise rosaries available. These were made by our Navajo friend in New Mexico. Please call Joan if you are interested.

Catechism of the Catholic Church - \$5.00 at parish office – while supplies last.

New St. Joseph Missals available at the parish office for \$5.00.



Dear Community,

A Prayer to Make a Difference: O Lord, help me know your will for me. Let your light shine in the depth of my heart that I may know what you want me to do with my life. Help me believe that you have a special plan for me. Lord, I pass through this life only once; help me decide how you want me to make a difference. Like Your Blessed Mother, give me the wisdom to hear your voice and the courage to answer your call. Above all give me peace of mind and heart. I offer this prayer in Your name. Amen.

The above prayer was written by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., in the book, *Praying With the Benedictines*. This book is in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

"From mountain tops and jogged peaks,
The snow doth melt and down it creeps
It grooves its way thru rock and slate
So as its freedom to create."

I wrote this poem for English class as a high school senior at St. Meinred. It was the only poem I ever wrote in my life and Fr. Eric Leis, O.S.B., gave me an "A" for it. It can be sung to the tune of "Te lucis ante terminum," a Latin hymn.

The National Religious Retirement Collection is this weekend. The Youth Choir Mass is this Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

I will not be here for the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. this weekend. I will be in Fort Wayne baptizing a nephew.

Our parish penance service will be this Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. There will be five priests hearing confessions: Fr. Lucas, Fr. Dennis Duvelius, Fr. Berny, Fr. George Joseph and myself.

Victor Hugo was the 19th-century French author of *Les Miserables*. His book resulted in the subsequent theatrical production about the French Revolution and the many people who dared to start it. Hugo once observed: "An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come."

In today's Gospel, Jesus' time has come. He steps forth in full ministry, and there can be no turning back.

In last Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist said that he only baptized with water. He foretold that one was coming who would baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit. This week, John's message becomes more urgent. Jesus is at hand, and John commands us: "Make straight the way of the Lord."

Keep smiling, Msgr. Knueven

✠ MASS INTENTIONS**MONDAY – DEC. 8 – Immaculate Concep.****7:00 a.m.** Leonard Fry**8:30 a.m.** Edna Zobel**7:00 p.m.** Vera Hooten**TUESDAY – DECEMBER 9****7:15 a.m.** Clara Stagge

Albin Wenning

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 10**7:15 a.m.** David Miller**8:30 a.m.** Paul H. Olinger**THURSDAY – DECEMBER 11****7:15 a.m.** Franklin Corya**2:30 p.m.** Clarence Fisse

(Heritage House Nursing Home Mass)

FRIDAY – DECEMBER 12**7:15 a.m.** Lawrence Schoettmer

Heather Fisse

SATURDAY/SUNDAY – DEC. 13/14**4:30 p.m.** Don Hellmich**7:00 a.m.** Neil O'Brien**9:00 a.m.** Charles Hellmich**11:00 a.m.** For all people**✠ SERVERS****WEEKDAY/DEC. 9-12 (Tuesday-Friday)****7:15 a.m.** Molly Oesterling

Nick Oesterling

MONDAY – DEC. 8 – Immaculate Concep.**7:00 a.m.** Molly & Nick Oesterling**8:30 a.m.** Children's Liturgy**7:00 p.m.** Katherine Teague

Claire Welage

SATURDAY/SUNDAY – DEC. 13/14**4:30 p.m.** Bryant Himes – David Navarra**7:00 a.m.** Taylor Reed – Tommy Colson**9:00 a.m.** Megan Blankman

Jessica Hensley

11:00 a.m. Lillie Wolter–Haley Vanderbur**✠ EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS****MONDAY – DEC. 8 – Immaculate Concep.****7:00 a.m.** Denny Doerflinger

Sheila Kirchhoff – Sr. Pat O'Bryan

Mary Ann Luken – Paulette Duerstock

Mary Ellen Menkedick

8:30 a.m. School Mass**7:00 p.m.** Anita Navarra – Barb Noah

Mike & Diane Novak

Tony Owens – Taryn Owens

SATURDAY/SUNDAY – DEC. 13/14**4:30 p.m.** Barb & Becky Brown

Johanne Davis – Kathy Davis

Ed & Brenda Dwenger

7:00 a.m. Sally Koors – Linda Luber

Helen Froehling – Kathy Nobbe

Carol Ann Nobbe – Diann Reisman

9:00 a.m. Mary Preble – Shirley Ryle

Bob Scheidler – Barb Schasney

Linda Simons – Karen Conley

11:00 a.m. Ernie & Patty Stephens

Glenn & Laura Jo Tebbe

Lynne AmRhein – Darlene Banks

✠ LECTORS**MONDAY – DEC. 8 – Immaculate Concep.****7:00 a.m.** Peg Polanski**8:30 a.m.** School Mass**7:00 p.m.** Dick Glaser**SATURDAY/SUNDAY – DEC. 13/14****4:30 p.m.** Brian Wenning**7:00 a.m.** Linda Greiwe**9:00 a.m.** Donna Swinford**11:00 a.m.** Youth Mass**Annual Live Nativity at St. Maurice**

St. Maurice Church in Decatur County will have its Live Nativity on Sunday, December 14th from 4:30-6:30pm. This event is sponsored by St. Anne, St. John and St. Maurice. Come see the children represent the birth of Jesus. There will be live animals, free refreshments and beautiful music by area choirs. This is a great way to remember what Christmas is all about! Take New Point exit #143 off I-74, go north on County Road 850E to St. Maurice.

Prayer Basket

Don't forget to put your prayer requests in the basket in the back of church. Prayer group will pray for each one at each meeting.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House has a wonderful selection of books and gift items in our gift shop! Please stop by when you are out Christmas shopping--you are sure to find a perfect gift! Open most days from 8 am until 4 pm with some extended hours evenings and weekends. Call (317) 545-7681 for our specific hours. We are located at 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis, IN

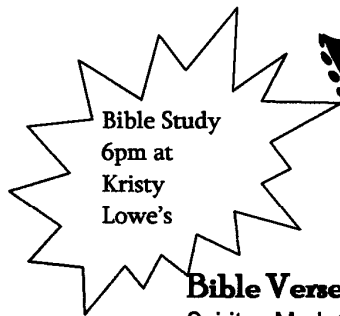
Pilgrimage for Life - Help St. Nicholas parish fill their 3rd bus going to Washington DC for a pro-life pilgrimage this January. See brochure on line at www.voiceoftheinnocents.org
Cost: \$110.00 - Call Liz at 812-623-8007

Thank You

The family of Andrew Sturwold would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, food, cards, Mass intentions, gave a contribution to the St. Mary's Building Fund, and offered prayers and condolences during the sad time of his death. A special thank you to the staff at Morning Breeze and the Decatur County Memorial Hospital for their excellent care, Porter's Funeral Home, Msgr. Knueven and the staff of St. Mary's for a beautiful liturgy, and the Funeral Meal Committee for a delicious luncheon. May God bless all of you. Florence Sturwold

Leon & Carole Ann Nobbe & family

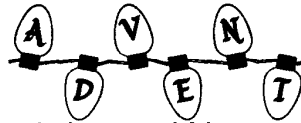
Carl & Glenda Nieman & family



Youth News

Andi's email: andmackee44@yahoo.com

Bible Verse of the Week: I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. ~ Mark 1:8 (today's gospel)



The word ADVENT comes from the Latin word *Adventus* meaning arrival or coming. Advent is a time of quiet, joyful preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth and also a time to remember that we wait for Christ to come again at the end of time. It is a season to enjoy the hope that Christ's Resurrection points to. The first Sunday of Advent is also a time of new beginnings – it is the official start of the Church's calendar. Advent starts the 4th Sunday before Christmas.

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pinecones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

~Excerpt from <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0132.html>

BIRTHDAYS

Dec 7th – 13th

Sun: Jesse Elsner

Mon: Greg Beagle

Tues:

Wed: Rebecca Horan

Thurs: Laura Welage

Fri:

Sat:

Fresh/Soph Retreat

Freshmen/Sophomore Retreat will be held Saturday, January 3rd thru Sunday, January 4th here at St. Mary's. Start the New Year off with a retreat!! Register by Friday, December 19th.

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

Missed the 1st sign up? Still want to go? Bring your \$75 deposit to the office by Friday, December 19th for your chance at the cheapest price \$305 after the 1st of the year it goes up to \$320. Camp dates are June 28th-July 3rd. Open to anyone currently in High School up to age 20 (during that week).

Ready for the ride of your life?



You know God has called you to live a life of purpose, so what are you waiting for? Today is **your** day to start making a difference for the Kingdom of God. It's going to be a wild ride; but one filled with blessing!

The Pregnancy Care Center is a life-affirming ministry that provides peer counseling, spiritual direction, and practical help to hurting men and women facing issues related to unplanned pregnancy and/or their sexual health. PCC is currently in need of women **and** men to serve in the following areas:

- Peer Counselors/Men's Ministry Volunteers
- Receptionists
- 24-Hour Phone Line Volunteers
- Medical Volunteers
- Material Resource Volunteer

If you have a desire to share God's love, truth and hope and are ready to start making a difference in the lives of countless individuals, call the Pregnancy Care Center today toll free, at 1-866-510-5067!

For more information about Pregnancy Care Center, what we do, what we believe and other volunteer opportunities, check out our website:

www.affirminglifeonline.org



THANK YOU: This bulletin is furnished to the parish without charge. The advertisements that appear completely defray all publishing costs with which the church would otherwise be burdened. Please patronize these sponsors as a thank you for their kind generosity.