

**Saturday, December 9:**

5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 10:

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

Monday, December 11: Advent Weekday, Damascus¹, pope,

No Mass Today Is. 35: 1-10, Lk 5: 17-26

Tuesday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2: 14-17, Lk 1: 26-38

1:30 p.m. Mass @ Medical Care

Wednesday, December 13: Lucy, virgin, martyr

Is 40: 25-31, Mt 11: 28-30

8:30 a.m. Mass

Thursday, December 14: John of the Cross, priest, doctor

Is 41: 13-20, Mt 11: 11-15

8:30 a.m. Mass

Friday, December 15: Advent Weekday

Is 48: 17-19, Mt 11: 16-19

8:30 a.m. Mass

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zep 3: 14-18a, Phil 4: 4-7, Lk 3: 10-18

Saturday, December 16:

5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 17:

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Dec 19 @ 12:00 noon-Communal Penance Service**Thursday, Dec 21 @ 7:00 pm-Communal Penance Service****Saturday, Dec. 23-Advent Mass @ 5:00 pm****Sunday, Dec. 24-4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 am- Mass****Sunday, Dec. 24- 4:00 pm-Children's Mass****Sunday, Dec. 24-8:00 pm-Vigil of Christmas****Monday, Dec. 25-10:00 am-Christmas Mass****FOOD FOR NEEDY**

Please be reminded the food baskets will once again be at the entrances of the Church next weekend to receive your donations of non-perishable food for the less fortunate of our Church and community. May God bless you for your concern of others.

PRAYING FOR THE LIGHT TO COME

...a voice shall sound in your ears: "This is the way; walk in it." (Isaiah 30: 21)

I often walk early in the morning while it is still dark. It takes a while for my eyes to adjust to the darkness, but gradually I am able to find my way on the road with no problem. It amazes me how eyes adjust to darkness, taking in whatever little bit of light there may be.

The human heart suffers from its own darkness, but it, too, is capable of discernment so as to see us through. We are able to walk with confidence toward the light of God's love. It is the light that can never be extinguished, light that can give hope to whatever darkness we suffer through.

During Advent we await the coming of the Light of the world. Isaiah's words burn with hope and expectation. They are words to take to heart as we walk in the darkness of this life, for we can walk with the light of faith. When the path is hard to find because of a particularly dark time, pray for the light to come. God will send it, and a seeking heart will find it. (From Living Faith)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 & SUNDAY DECEMBER 17**LECTORS:**

5:00 p.m. Ginny DeRoche

9:00 a.m. Ronnie Albin

11:00 a.m. Mary Ann Szpunar

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

5:00 p.m. Mary Knoll*

Lilia Kolanowski, Chris Taylor

Ben & Shirley Sizemore

9:00 a.m. Norm Daniels*

Jan Daniels, Angie Campbell

Bruce Mellendorf, Joan Smith

11:00 a.m. Char Bauerschmidt *

Irene Aymer, Joanne Lipar

Chris Oakie, Jenny Sabo

ALTAR SERVERS:

5:00 p.m. Andrew Rollend, Thomas Vacanti

9:00 a.m. Amanda Perez, Guy Sommerville

11:00 a.m. Steve Starling, Kaitlin Sherman

GREETERS:

5:00 p.m. Dennis Connell Family, Dorothy Faust

Tracie Giddings, Marilyn Gludovatz

9:00 a.m. Mary Terbush, Gloria Orban, Richard, Rita

Gruber, Bill, Ann Sochocki

11:00 a.m. Kolar Family, Sam Pistolessi, Mary Ann

Szpunar, Dale, Patty Churchill

USHERS FOR DECEMBER:

5:00 p.m. Dave Kolacz* Dave Lagos

Doug Lagos, Dave Luebbert

9:00 a.m. Richard Bertrand*, Kris Ball

Matt Perez, Aaron Perez

11:00 a.m. Vic Guzman*, Wm. Blaylock

Doug Prosser, Elgin Clinesmith

GIVING TREE

If you would still like to contribute to our "Giving Tree" there are request notes at the entrances of the church for you to choose from. Please have your gift here under the tree by December 18 to give Human Development time to collect and deliver these gifts. Thank you for making someone's Christmas brighter!

SNOW POLICY

Please be reminded in the case of inclement weather and the Caro schools are closed, we also do not celebrate weekday Mass. The roads and parking lot may not yet be cleared and we want to keep you safe.

CEMETERY LOTS

The parish of Sacred Heart is working in conjunction with Indianfields Township Cemetery to utilize the cemetery plots where the "old" mausoleum used to set.

As you know, our Sacred Heart Cemetery adjacent to Indianfields Township Cemetery, is slowly running out of burial plots. Therefore, in order to have additional plots, people may purchase plots in the "old" mausoleum area. Simply contact Indianfields Township Cemetery personnel and they will gladly assist you. Please note: the purchase, price, and title for the lot is through Indianfields Township Cemetery, and their established pricing per lot.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION IN OUR AREA

Tuesday, Dec. 12 @ 11:00 am St. Pancratius, Cass City

Thursday, Dec. 14 @ 7:00 pm Holy Family, Sebewaing

Saturday, Dec. 16 @ 10:00 am, St. Michael, Wilmot

Monday, Dec. 18 @ 7:00 pm, St. Pancratius, Cass City

Tuesday, Dec. 19 @ 12:00 noon, Sacred Heart Caro

Thursday, Dec. 21 @ 7:00 pm Sacred Heart Caro

YOU'RE INVITED

The Cass City K/C's are sponsoring a Fish Fry this Friday Dec. 15, from 4-7 pm at the K/C Hall, 6106 Beechwood Dr., Cass City. \$8.00 adults, students \$4.00 & 10 and under free. Enjoy!

PARISH SUPPORT

Our Weekly Need:	\$5800.00
Last Weekend:	\$7169.77
Envelopes Used Last Weekend:	258

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

HAPPY ADVENT-As we begin the second week of Advent I hope you are doing "something" to make this Advent Season a time of prayer, watching and waiting in preparation for the Coming of Jesus Christ.

To help us prepare "spiritually" we have received "Little Blue Books" from the diocese, which invites us to spend as little as **six minutes** a day in prayer. This is not a difficult task. All of us can pray for at least six minutes. Use the Little Blue Book-it is informative and reflective. The bishop and those on the committee that developed this booklet have spent a great deal of time and energy. It is a great "tool" to help our spirituality. For your information, the Little Blue Book is so "popular" that it is translated into a number of different languages and shipped around the world, to Japan, even Australia!! Way to go Bishop Ken, those on this committee and the diocese of Saginaw!

One of the leading figures of the Advent Season is John the Baptist. John was a cousin of Jesus and played an important role of introducing Jesus to the people of his time (and to us). He was a "voice in the desert calling people to prepare for the Coming of the Messiah".

John was a unique person. He did not follow the traditions and rules of his time. He marched to the beat of his own drum. He was not afraid to voice his concerns and opinions. As a matter of fact, many times his preaching was counter to the behavior, attitudes and actions of the people. He had the courage and conviction, as a messenger of God, "to lay it on the line and tell it as it is."

I admire John because he had a backbone and did not beat around the bush. He called things as he saw them. He did not mince words!! Thus, he incurred the wrath and displeasure of many. People became upset and angry with him because he called attention to their behavior and attitudes, which were "not godly". Many considered him strange and odd. Therefore, they either ignored or tuned him out and thus paid no attention to his message.

During this Advent season, John speaks to us too. His message is simply to prepare for the Coming of Jesus Christ. May we not ignore this message, but examine our lives, reflect upon our attitudes and behavior, to see what we have done or failed to do and prepare for the coming of Jesus.

IN GRATITUDE FOR THEIR WORK-This weekend there will be a "special" collection for Religious priests and sisters in our parish, diocese and across the nation. This popular once-a-year appeal annually raises around \$25 million and is designed to provide for the retirement of many elderly religious priests and sisters. For over 300 years men and women religious have spent their lives "building" the church in the United States. Priests, brothers and especially sisters, were important in assisting our immigrant parents, the education of children in parish schools and caring for the sick and dying. As a body, the religious have done their work for very little pay over the centuries. They relied upon the generosity of their Catholic community for sustenance. Today, many of these priests, brothers and sisters are elderly and many orders are "finding it hard" to support their sick and elderly members. In justice and in honest thanks for their years of generous, nurturing and powerful ministry we are asked to share our gifts with the religious brothers and sisters who have served so very well. During the Advent season, may we offer our financial assistance to those who have served our church and parishes.

In Christ's Peace, Fr. Dennis

CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 MASS-CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PRACTICE TIMES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Pre-schoolers/Kindergartners-Dec.16, Dec 23, 9:30-10:00

First/Second Grade on Dec. 16, and Dec. 23, 9:45-10:15 am

Third-Eighth Grade with the Children's Choir on

THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 3:30-4:30 and/or Saturday, December 16 10:00-11:00 am

SATURDAY, DEC. 23, 10:00-11:00 am

PARENTS ARE NEEDED to help. Info: Mary Gettel @ 673-8281

†FAITH FORMATION NEWS †

Dec. 9-High School shopping trip

Dec. 9/10-After Mass coffee and cookie social

Dec. 10-7th/8th grade shopping trip to Bay City

Dec. 12-S.P.R.E.D. Christmas Party @ 7:00 pm

Dec. 13-RCIA @ 7:00 pm.

Dec. 14-Catechist Advent Party

Dec. 17-No Sunday classes

Dec. 20-After school social 3:30-5:00 Rectory Basement

Jan. 7-Faith Formation classes resume

FAITH FORMATION FAMILIES AND/OR PARISHIONERS-Our Advent Service project this year is collecting kitchen utensils, bathroom accessories and cleaning supplies for the Mustard Seed Shelter. The shelter assists homeless women and children and the supplies we collect will help the women who are setting up their own apartment. As disciples we are called to be stewards, to share our time, talent, and treasure. Please help your child to make this a rewarding project for all. We will be collecting items through December 18th. Call 673-2276 if you have any questions. **Thank you,**

Sacred Heart Faith Formation Catechists

SACRED HEART CHRISTIAN SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

2006-2007 College Scholarship applications are available at the Parish Center. The scholarship is for any area high school seniors who are members of Sacred Heart Parish. The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize student parishioners who have demonstrated Christian Service during their high school years and to encourage them to continue service in their future lives.



Catholic Adult Formation & Education

Look for the new winter 2007 CAFE brochure soon!

SUNDAY BY SUNDAY-If you would like to better prepare yourself to receive the Word of God, why not participate in one of the Sunday by Sunday groups? The scripture sharing is offered on three different days at three locations, **Monday at Sacred Heart, from 6:15-7:30**, Wednesday @ 9:00 @ St. Elizabeth's Reese, and on Tuesday @ 6:30 @ St. Norbert's, Munger.

INTRODUCTION TO THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES is being offered at the Center for Ministry through Sienna Heights University. Please contact the Parish Center @ 673-2276 if you would like further information.

SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Volunteers are needed for all ministries at our Christmas Vigil Mass on December 24th @ 8:00 pm and also Christmas Day @ 10:00 am. Please sign up in the back of Church to serve.

THANK YOU

Carol Ellsworth would like to thank all those who prayed for her, sent cards or visited her while she was in St. Mary's Hospital recently. The power of prayer is certainly evident.

THE MOST AMAZING GIFT

The wrappings of Christmas are lovely, but the GIFT is even lovelier. It is a GIFT that never needs replacing, never wears out, and never becomes outdated. It is a most precious GIFT that cost God an enormous price. The GIFT is JESUS.