**Saturday, December 16:**

5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 17:

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

Monday, December 18: Late Advent Weekday

No Mass today Jer 23: 5-8, Mt 1: 18-25

Tuesday, December 19: Late Advent Weekday

No Mass today Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a, Lk 1: 5-25

Wednesday, December 20: Late Advent Weekday

Is 7: 10-14, Lk 1: 26-38

8:30 a.m. Mass

Thursday, December 21: Late Advent Weekday

Sg 2: 8-14, Lk 1: 39-45

8:30 a.m. Mass

Friday, December 22: Late Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1: 24-28, Lk 1: 46-56

8:30 a.m. Mass

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mic 5: 1-4a, Heb 10: 5-10, Lk 1: 39-45

Saturday, December 23:

5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 24:

9:30 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****PRIVATE CONFESSIONS**

Please note if anyone wishes to receive the sacrament of Penance privately, they are most welcome to come to the Rectory at any time or call Fr. Dennis (673-2346). He will be most happy to see you and celebrate this sacrament.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

The baskets are once again at the entrances of the Church to receive your donations of non-perishable food for the needy. Thank you so much for your concern of the poor.

IN APPRECIATION

With our most sincere gratitude, we would like to thank the entire Sacred Heart Parish community for their love and support during this most difficult time of loss for us. Thank you to Fr. Dennis for his comfort and guidance, the choir and accompanist, those who assisted in serving lunch to our friends and family, the Knights of Columbus members who led the evening rosary and those who extended an extra hand. All of your prayers, kind words and thoughtful deeds continue to be a comfort to us. We feel truly blessed.

Norbert Jankowski & Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 & SUNDAY DECEMBER 24**LECTORS:**

5:00 p.m. Gerard Kolanowski

9:30 a.m. Joanne Richardson

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:5:00 p.m. Ginny DeRoche*
Irv DeRoche, Karen Cody
Dave & Donna Klebba9:30 a.m. Al Rae*
Dale Rae, Ronnie Albin
Art & Carolyn Graff**ALTAR SERVERS:**

5:00 p.m. Mallori Adams, Volunteer

9:30 a.m. Daniella Babcock, Amanda Rushlo

GREETERS:5:00 p.m. Brad Hartel Family, Art Rollend Family, Phil,
Kathy Kozar Family, Pat Strozeski9:30 a.m. Jerry, Sandy Noeker, Joan Smith, Mandy
Knox, Ronnie, Deb, Paula Albin**USHERS FOR DECEMBER:**5:00 p.m. Dave Kolacz* Dave Lagos
Doug Lagos, Dave Luebbert9:00 a.m. Richard Bertrand*, Kris Ball
Matt Perez, Aaron Perez11:00 a.m. Vic Guzman*, Wm. Blaylock
Doug Prosser, Elgin Clinesmith**THANK YOU FROM OUR BISHOP**

Bishop Carlson wishes to thank all those who remembered him with kind words and prayerful support during his recent surgery. It was deeply appreciated. Be assured his prayers are with you.

K OF C SENIORS

Our Christmas party will be Monday, December 18 @ noon at the K/C Hall. Reservations were necessary, and a \$10.00 gift to pass is optional. There will be no meetings/luncheon in January or February due to probable inclement weather. Have a Merry Christmas.

K OF C AUXILIARY


Our Christmas party will be Thursday, December 21 @ 6:00 at the K/C Hall. Reservations can still be made. Call Treasurer Janet Bertrand @ 673-2566. Please bring a \$10.00 gift to pass if you wish, and raffle items if you'd like to donate. We wish a Merry Christmas to all!

Sharon Vandenbossche, treasurer

♪ SPECIAL MUSIC ♪

The Sacred Heart Men's Choir is not in the habit of seeking a great deal of publicity for itself, but the members would like you to know they have been busy for weeks preparing a special program for Christmas Eve. That program begins @ 7:30 pm on Sunday evening, Dec. 24, right here at Sacred Heart, and leads on into the 8:00 pm Mass. The program and the Mass music provided by the Men's Choir has a couple of surprises, and should help everyone get into the mood to welcome the newborn Savior. The guys in the choir hope you are able to join them for this very special occasion.

THE SHEPHERDS

 The birth of Jesus is announced first to shepherds, who were looked upon as "low class". In Scripture, Luke who has a special eye for the outcasts, wants us to know that such were the people who received an "engraved announcement" of the birth of Jesus. From *heavenly messengers, no less!* Most of us don't feel like the elite of the elite. For a variety of reason, we feel more like the lowly. "This one's for you."

DECEMBER 17, 2006

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas is my feast. It was for me, especially for me,
that He came. (From the Little Blue
Book)

PARISH SUPPORT

Our Weekly Need:	\$5800.00
Last Weekend:	\$5689.00
Envelopes Used Last Weekend: 245	

Retirement Assessment.
Fr. Dennis

In Christ's Peace,

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

HAPPY ADVENT-We are beginning the third week of Advent and once again I hope you are doing "something special" to make this Advent Season a time of prayerful watching and waiting for the Coming of the Lord at Christmas and His Second Coming. I also hope the "little blue books" are giving you an opportunity to pray at least six minutes a day. Throughout the four weeks of Advent we are invited to "prepare" the way for the Lord. Our preparations may be accomplished in many ways. One way in which we prepare for the Lord is to reflect upon our lives, behavior, values, motives and relationships with one another. We may also celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation to celebrate INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION and Communal Reconciliation on **Tuesday, Dec. 19 @ 12:00 noon, AND Thursday, Dec. 21 @ 7:00 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION-There has been the tradition over the years in our diocese, that the Christmas Collection was intended for the Diocese of Saginaw Priests' Retirement Fund. Each year you have been very generous in your contributions to this collection. On behalf of all the priests of the diocese I thank you for your support and generosity. Over the past couple of years the diocese has changed its practice concerning this Christmas collection. This change was spelled out in a directive which states: "The practice of using the Christmas collection as the source of funding for the priest' retirement plan has worked well in many respects for the past twenty years. However, there have also been continuing questions regarding time, fairness among parishes and stewardship from following this practice. Therefore, the Diocesan Finance Council asked the Clergy Benefit Society to study the issue of funding and consider possible alternatives for funding the retirement fund. After seeking the input of priests and with their support the following change was approved:

1. The Christmas collection will remain in the parish.
2. Each parish served by a diocesan priest as pastor will be billed for retirement funds based upon: a) the needed contribution to the fund as determined by our annual actuarial study, and b.) the number of envelope holders in each parish.

All this means is the Christmas collection will remain in the parish. The parish has been billed its yearly assessment. This assessment will be paid in two equal payments taken from our parish general fund. For your information, half of the assessment was paid in July and the remaining balance will be paid in January. Our Parish assessment for the Priests' Retirement Fund is \$10,137.00. In the coming years more and more priests will become dependent upon these retirement benefits as they retire from ministry (including myself). Thus, your ongoing support and generosity is important and necessary. As you give to the Christmas collection, your support will help our parish of Sacred Heart to pay its yearly Priests'

CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 MASS-CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PRACTICE TIMES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Pre-schoolers/Kindergarteners-December 23, 9:30-10:00 am**First/Second Grade** on Dec. 23, 9:45-10:15 am**Third-Eighth Grade** with the Children's Choir on

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

PARENTS ARE NEEDED to help. Info: Mary Gettel @ 673-8281**†FAITH FORMATION NEWS †**

Dec. 17-No Sunday classes

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

Dec. 27-R.C.I.A. @ 7:00 pm

Jan. 7-Faith Formation classes resume

Jan. 10-R.C.I.A. @ 7:00 pm

Jan. 14-Confirmation Inscription Service @ 9:00 am

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. Please help your child 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, from 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.



Look for the new winter 2007 CAFÉ 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. For more info call the Parish Center @ 673-2276.

HANDBELL POINSETTIA SALE

Thank you to everyone who supported the Handbell Choir Poinsettia Sale. The proceeds from the Poinsettia Sale help to finance handbell equipment, music, and the Handbell Choir members' attendance at handbell festivals. The Sacred Heart Handbell Choir is open to 7th graders on up, through any interested **ADULTS** who have some experience in reading music. The Handbell Choir rehearses on Monday evenings, 7:00-8:30, and participates at one of our weekend Masses once a month. Info: Jessica Dudek 693-6785, Mary Gettel 673-8281.

YOUTH CHOIR

Just a reminder that the Youth Choir will meet this Sunday, December 17 from 6:00-7:00 pm in Church.

STRAW DRAW

Many thanks go to all those who helped during our recent Straw Draw-donating items, setting up, working during the straw draw. The money received from the Straw Draw was given to the youth to purchase items for the Mustard Seed program which helps homeless women and children get back on their feet. The youth did an excellent job of purchasing these items during our recent "shopping trip". God bless all of you!