

**Saturday, December 1**

5:00 p.m. Mass

**Sunday, December 2**

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

**Monday, December 3: Francis Xavier, priest**

Is 4: 2-6, Mt 8: 5-11

No Mass Today

**Tuesday, December 4: Advent Weekday/John of Damascus, bp., doctor**

Is 11: 1-10, Lk 10: 21k-24

No Mass Today

**Wednesday, December 5: Advent Weekday**

Is 25: 6-10a, Mt 15: 29-37

8:30 a.m. Mass

**Thursday, December 6: Advent Weekday/ Nicholas, bishop**

Is 46: 1-6, Mt 7: 21, 24-27

8:30 a.m. Mass

**Friday, December 7: Ambrose, bishop, doctor**

Is 29: 17-24, Mt 9: 27-31

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

**Saturday, December 8: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day)**

9:00 a.m. Mass

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8**

Is 29: 17-24, Mt 9: 27-31

5:00 p.m. Service in Absence of Priest

**Sunday, December 2:**

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

**ADVENT BOOKS**

In order for us to prepare for the Coming of Christ during the Advent Season, the diocese has prepared a "little blue book" for all people to read, pray and meditate upon. Please take an Advent booklet home and spend some time with Jesus in prayer.

**K/C COOKIE WALK**

The K/C Auxiliary will be having their cookie walk Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm and Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Thank you for your help.

**RCIA**

Our Welcome/Acceptance for our R.C.I.A. Candidates will be this Sunday at our 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please remember to pray for them as they continue their journey to become part of our Catholic tradition.

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

Please note next weekend (Dec. 8/9) there will be an extra collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. We ask that you share in the care of our elderly religious by giving generously to this collection.

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

Christian Service will meet on Tuesday, December 11 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. A representative from the Diocese will be here to speak on stem cell research. All are invited.

**YOU'RE INVITED**

You're invited to enjoy a concert given by the Tom Thumb Singers on Saturday, Dec. 1 @ 7:00 pm and also Sunday, Dec. 2 @ 3:30 pm at the Cass City United Methodist Church.

**SATURDAY, & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 & 9****LECTORS:**

5:00 p.m. Ginny DeRoche

9:00 a.m. Norm Daniels

11:00 a.m. MariAnn Saenen

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:**

5:00 p.m. Dick Emery\*

9:00 a.m. Art Graff\*

Carolyn Graff, Ann Reinelt

Al &amp; Dale Rae

11:00 a.m. Mary Ann Szpunar\*

Chris Oakie, Maria Prescott

Rich &amp; Donna Hartman

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

5:00 p.m. Absence of Priest

9:00 a.m. Liz Schlaud, Evan Smith

11:00 a.m. Nick Bauerschmidt, Kim Oakie

**GREETERS:**

5:00 p.m. Cheree Szidik, Art Rollend Family, Pat Strozeski, Jill, Stephanie Brink

9:00 a.m. Joan Smith, Pat, Bob Chisholm, Bob, Janet DeLorenzo, Floyd, Maggie Echols

11:00 a.m. Doug, Don Prosser, Linda Krohn, Mary Ann Szpunar

**USHERS FOR DECEMBER:**

5:00 p.m. Kyle Nordstrom\*, John Merz

Dick &amp; Dolly Emery

9:00 a.m. Bob DeLorenzo\*, Robert Kamrad

Joe Greene, Mike Greene

11:00 a.m. Joe Fessler\*, John Kopko

Chris Taylor, Pete O'Brien

**DECEMBER 8-FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, SATURDAY, 9:00 A.M.****Lector:** Alma Moreno**Ministers of Eucharist:** Volunteers**Altar Servers:** Alex Rollend, Andrew Rollend**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

This Saturday, December 8, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma states that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from original sin from the first instant of her existence. It also holds that the Blessed Virgin Mary "was from the first moment of her conception, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin." It is a belief about her original **sinless ness** in union with God. Mass will be celebrated for his Holy Day of Obligation at 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

**HOLIDAY SWEET SALE & LUNCHEON**

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Caro, invites you to attend their annual Holiday Sweet Sale & Luncheon. It will be held at their Church Fellowship Hall on Friday, Dec. 7 from 10:00-3:00 pm. Soup and Sandwich Luncheon is served from 11:00-2:00. \$5.00.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE****Tuesday, Dec. 18 @ 12:00 noon-Communal Penance Service****Thursday, Dec. 20 @ 7:00 p.m.-Communal Penance Service****Saturday, Dec. 22 @ 5:00 p.m.-4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Mass****Sunday, Dec. 23 @ 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent****Monday, Dec. 24 @ 4:00 p.m. -Children's Mass****Monday, Dec. 24 @ 8:00 p.m.-Vigil of Christmas Mass****Tuesday, Dec. 25 @ 10:00 a.m.-Christmas Mass**

**PARISH SUPPORT**

Our Weekly Need.....\$5800.00  
 Last Weekend..... \$5681.78  
 482 Envelope Holders- 204 Envelopes Used Last Weekend

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

This weekend we begin the joyful season of Advent. This is the season when we are invited to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent has a 'two-fold' character: as the season to prepare for Christmas when we celebrate the "birth" of Christ-His First Coming to earth, and a time to prepare our lives for His Second Coming at the end of time-whenver this will be. It is a historical fact that Jesus came to earth in the form of a human babe some two thousand years ago. This First Coming was to herald God's love for His people and usher in a new kingdom here on earth. Christ's Second Coming is one that we await in anticipation. It is a time of waiting and preparing. We do not know when this "event" will occur. But Jesus in Scripture tells us, to "BE READY". We know that He has promised to return. Therefore, this time of waiting should not be a time of fear, anxiety, or worry, but a time of preparation. Why worry and fret about the end of time? Inevitably it will come!

After reflecting on this Sunday's Gospel, and as we witness the events of nature and human crisis transpiring in our world today, what do these events mean to us? Remember we must remain faithful to the "promises" of Jesus Christ. He will never abandon us. He will always be with us. He will see us through whatever happens. We must hold fast and be secure in our belief in Jesus Christ. We must "prepare" for His Coming at Christmas, but how? Is there any joyful yearning or anticipation or are we just too tired or too busy to ready ourselves? The season of Advent is also one of "longing". The Church music, advent wreath, and readings evoke images of hope, peace, joy, love, reconciliation and expectation. Do any of these ring true in your life? Are you willing to open your life, heart, and mind, and prepare for Christ's coming this year?

Yes, this is a busy time of year. There is shopping, decorating, entertaining and visiting which all needs to be accomplished in the next few weeks. It seems there just aren't enough days to get everything ready or enough energy to keep going. And then, added to this is the call to get ready "spiritually".

Our tasks will fall into place when we take one day at a time and 'slow down' enough to enjoy Advent and anticipate Christmas. This year try to make the season of Advent "a quiet time" in your life. Let it be a time to reflect on Scripture as we are invited to open our lives, minds, and hearts to the real reason we should be preparing for Christmas-the Coming of the Son of God. "Slow down and enjoy" and see if it makes a difference.

Keep in mind that "**Jesus is the reason for the season.**"

In Christ's Peace, Fr. Dennis

**CELEBRATE ADVENT**

**When:** Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> **Time:** After all Masses

**Where:** Sacred Heart Parish Center

**Who:** All are welcome. **What:** \*K/C Auxiliary Cookie Walk, \*Middle School Straw Draw \*Wreath Sales (to benefit Homeless Coalition-wreaths donated by Will's Greenhouse), \*Poinsettias, \*K/C Breakfast (Sunday only). Don't miss it!

**POINSETTIA SALE**

Poinsettias from the Christian Services Scholarship sale are ready to be picked up at the Parish Center after Mass today. There are a few poinsettias for sale if you did not order one. Thank you for your support of the Sacred Heart Senior Scholarships fundraiser.

**MARCH FOR LIFE- (TO WASHINGTON, D.C.)** You are most welcome to join our group from Sacred Heart Church who will be showing their support for **LIFE** in our nation's capitol on January 20-23, 2008. It is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders through adults. We will be going by charter bus. Cost is \$150.00 per participant. For more information call the Parish Center @ 673-2276.

**THE GIVING TREE**

During the weeks of Advent we will once again celebrate the GIVING TREE here at Sacred Heart. Each parish family is asked to take one ornament from the tree. You are asked to purchase what is requested (many not more than a few dollars) and to wrap it. Be sure to label the gift well regarding its contents, or attach the ornament from the giving tree. Place the gift under the Giving Tree by Wednesday, December 19. (Human Development needs time to distribute the gifts). During this time of gift giving we remember the WORD MADE FLESH, JESUS, is the most important gift of the season.

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**SPIRIT HOCKEY!** Our parish is inviting all parishioners to "Faith Night" @ a Saginaw Spirit Hockey game. During intermission time there will be a guest speaker and a popular Christian band. Don't miss out on the fun!

**When:** Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Game Time:** 7:11 pm **Where:** Dow Event Center

**Cost:** \$7.50 per person. Transportation will be your responsibility. Tickets will be purchased in advance, so our parish community will sit in the same section. Contact Karen to purchase tickets or information @ 673-2276.

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**YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE-**Please note the Youth Choir will meet for practice this Sunday, December 2 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and also Sunday December 9 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Church.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR  
PRACTICE FOR 4:00 MASS DEC. 24**

PRACTICE TIMES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

**Pre-Schoolers/Kindergarteners** on Dec. 8, 10-10:30; Dec. 15 & 22, 9:30-10:00.

**First/Second Grade** on Dec. 8, 10-10:30; Dec. 15 & 22, 9:45-10:15

**Third-Eighth Grade** with the Children's Choir on THURS. NOV. 29, 3:30-4:40, THURS. DEC. 6, 3:30-4:30, THURS. DEC. 13, 3:30-4:30 and/or SAT., DEC. 15, 10:00-11:00, SATURDAY, DEC. 22, 10:00-11:00. **Parents are needed to help with Pre-School through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.** Call Mary Gettel 673-8281 for info if you are able to help.

**†FAITH FORMATION NEWS†**

**Dec. 1 / 2** "Celebrate Advent" after all Masses

**Dec. 2-K** of C Breakfast

**Dec. 4-S.P.R.E.D.** Friends & Leaders meet 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 8-High School** shopping trip to Great Lakes Crossing

**Dec. 9-7/8<sup>th</sup> grade** shopping trip to Bay City Mall

**Dec. 15/16-** After Mass coffee & cookie social

**Dec. 18-S.P.R.E.D.** Christmas Party @ 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 19-**After school social 3:30-5:00 p.m.

**Dec. 23-Jan. 6-**No Faith Formation Classes

**Dec. 29-**Movie Night at the Rectory 6:30 p.m.

**Jan. 7-**Faith Formation classes resume

**Disciples in Action-**The Faith Formation disciples have been busy creating the beautiful ornaments that decorate the Giving Tree. Thank you to Kathy Hall and Marcy Tompkins for helping with this project!



**"CIRCLE OF STRENGTH"** is meeting on Monday's from 6:15-7:30 in the Parish Center. Join us as we read Sunday by Sunday and reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings and how they relate to our own lives. The cost is FREE, the learning and growth you will attain are priceless!