

**Saturday, December 15:**

5:00 p.m. Mass

**Sunday, December 16**

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

**Monday, December 17: Late Advent Weekday**

Gn 49: 2, 8-10, Mt 1: 1-17

No Mass Today

**Tuesday, December 18: Late Advent Weekday**

Jer 23: 5-8, Mt 1: 18-25

**Wednesday, December 19: Late Advent Weekday**

Jdgs 13: 2-7, 24,-25a, Lk 1: 5-25

8:30 a.m. Mass

**Thursday, December 20: Late Advent Weekday**

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

8:30 a.m. Mass

**Friday, December 21: Late Advent Weekday**

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

8:30 a.m. Mass

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Is 7: 10-14, Rom 1:1-7, Mt 1: 18-24

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22:**

5:00 p.m. Mass

**Sunday, December 23:**

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. 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**

This weekend the baskets are once again at the entrances of the Church to receive your donations of non-perishable food for the needy of our area.

*Can I see another's woe and not be in sorrow too? Can I see another's grief and not seek for kind relief? (Wm. Blake)*

**GIVING TREE**

If you still wish to participate in our Giving Tree program by helping the needy in our area have a brighter Christmas, we ask that you please have the gift here (at Church or the Parish Center) by Wednesday, Dec. 19. May your Christmas also be brighter knowing you helped others.

**THANK YOU**

Ruth Jaster wishes to thank the parish family for their prayers, friendships, and visits during the two and a half months she was ill. She has made an almost full recovery. God bless you all.

**OUR SYMPATHY**

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Mary DeNoyelles who was buried from Sacred Heart recently. May she find eternal peace and joy with Jesus our Lord.

**TRANSPORTATION NEEDED**-a senior citizen couple from our parish is looking for someone to help them with transportation to stores, doctor visits, etc. If you are able to help please call them at 673-4083.

**SATURDAY, & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 & 23****LECTORS:**

5:00 p.m. Gerard Kolanowski

9:00 a.m. Helen Monkowski

11:00 a.m. Mary Ann Vandemark

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:**

5:00 p.m. Ginny DeRoche\*

Irv DeRoche, Paul Langlois

Art Rollend, Lilia Kolanowski

9:00 a.m. Pete Sayers\*

Norma Sayers, Andy Schlaud,

Rose Putnam, Brice Mellendorf

11:00 a.m. Irene Aymer\*

Char Bauerschmidt, Chris Creguer

Rita Papp, Dakotah Brissette

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

5:00 p.m. Theresa Burkey, Jared Burkey

9:00 a.m. Becky Learman, Amanda Perez

11:00 a.m. Blake Laethem, Justine Putnam

**GREETERS:**

5:00 p.m. Michele, Brittney, Nicole Quick, Dale, Patty Churchill, Sharon Allen, Jerry, Lil Guild

9:00 a.m. Joan Smith, Bill, Ann Sochocki, Vance, Lynn Smith, Vic, Maria Guzman

11:00 a.m. Lanny, LaDonna LaFave, Bernard Lenda, Mark, Mary Ann McKervery, Dick, Sue Ransford

**USHERS FOR DECEMBER:**5:00 p.m. Kyle Nordstrom\*, John Merz  
Dick & Dolly Emery9:00 a.m. Bob DeLorenzo\*, Robert Kamrad  
Joe Greene, Mike Greene11:00 a.m. Joe Fessler\*, John Kopko  
Chris Taylor, Pete O'Brien

## 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**

**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 @ 673-2276.

**K/C AUXILIARY REMINDER:** The K/C Auxiliary Christmas Party will be Thursday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. with appetizers and 7:00 p.m. dinner. There will be a \$10.00 gift exchange, and a \$5-\$10 raffle item (not white elephant) if you wish to participate in these.

Also, I would like to thank so much all those who made, baked, decorated, and purchased our cookies for our

Cookie Walk. Thanks to all of you-we had a very successful cookie walk. (Carol Papp, K/C Auxiliary Pres.)

**OUR PARISH SUPPORT**

Our Weekly Need.....	\$5800.00
Last Weekend.....	\$6461.00
482 Envelope Holders- 236 Envelopes Used Last Weekend	

**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 you 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. We will celebrate INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION and COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION on **Tuesday, Dec. 18 @ 12:00 noon** AND **Thursday, Dec. 20 @ 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 the 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 priests' retirement has worked well in many respects 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. The amount of this assessment is \$11,034.00. 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 the parish of Sacred Heart to pay its yearly Priests' Retirement Assessment. In Christ's Peace, Fr. Dennis



**Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. (Mt 2:14)**

**GOOD OLD JOSEPH-** (Well that's just an expression. People married young in that culture, and the likelihood is that he was perhaps 20 years old.) This is the second time Joseph is told what God wants him to do, and his response-time is the same as the first: He immediately got up and did it. Now and then the thought of some good thing I might do flits across my mind. Not something huge. Just a small kindness that would probably mean a lot to someone: A compliment, a phone call, a note, a small gift, a quick visit. We all get those inspirations. But they seem so small that they don't make it to our regular "To Do" list. Christmas is just around the corner. These days provide the perfect setting for some out-of-the-blue kindnesses toward

others. At Christmastime such things don't need an excuse, and they don't seem out of place.

Let Joseph be our inspiration: He got up and did it.

†**FAITH FORMATION NEWS**†

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:** Thank you to Mrs. Schlaud, and Mr. Babcock, who volunteered to help drive the 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade youth to the Bay City Mall last weekend. We all appreciate your stewardship!

**The Faith Formation disciples** have been busy decorating many Christmas cookies, so please **stop over after Mass** for a cup of coffee, a cookie and some fellowship.

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

PRACTICE TIMES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

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

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

**Third-Eighth Grade** with the Children's Choir on 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.

**"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!

**MOVIE NIGHT**-Join us in the rectory basement on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> to watch the movie "The Nativity Story". This film is rated PG. We will order pizza, watch the movie and allow time for discussion. All ages are welcome to attend. Please call the parish center (673-2276) to say you will attend!

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED**-St. Elizabeth Area Catholic School is looking for substitute teachers. They are trying to develop their own list to call from. If you are interested in being placed on their list, please call Gabbie Marguery, 989-868-4108.

**CHICKEN & FISH DINNER**-The Cass City Knights of Columbus invite you to their chicken & fish dinner this Friday, December 21 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Adults \$8.00, kids 10 and under free.

**LIGHT-ENING UP**

**...the daybreak from on high will visit us...**(Luke 1: 78)

As if calling us to celebrate the awesome mystery of the Incarnation, multitudes of lights are blinking all around us—on our Christmas trees, our houses, our lawns, on the streets, in the shopping malls. Lights everywhere proclaim the coming of the One Holy Light from on high.

Children are perhaps the most aware of the mystery and beauty of light. Four-year-old Leah was watching her mother read the Bible, and asked, "Mom, what are you reading?" "I am reading that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." The surprised little girl responded in a disappointed tone, "But, Mom, I wanted to be the light of the world." The consoling and quick-thinking mother answered, "How would it be if you be my light, and let Jesus be the light of the world?" With just a hint of regret, Leah agreed.

Christmas reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who came to share his light, hoping that we might pick up a spark and carry it forth. Imagine how the lights of justice, peace, love, and forgiveness would illuminate the whole

world if each of us, like Leah, would be a light of Christ right here and now. (From Living Faith)