



Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
 8:30 – Parishioners of St. Jude
 10:30– Michael Janowicz
 12:00– Joseph & Mary Provoznik & Sons
Monday, December 22 – Late Advent Weekday
 7:00 – Max & Mary Pozun
Tuesday, December 23 – Late Advent Weekday
 8:30 – Tracey & Glowaski Families
Wednesday, December 24 – Vigil of Christmas
 7:00am – Communion Service
 4:30 – Mary DeFazio Szallay
 7:00 – Chester & Lucille Smith
 10:00 – Deceased of Machovina & Murawski Families
Thursday, December 25 – Nativity of the Lord
 10:00 – George Lichman
 12:00 – Stephen & Mary Gach
Friday, December 26 – St. Stephen
 8:30 – Communion Service
Saturday, December 27 – St. John
 4:30 – Leonard Reichlin & Parishioners of St. Jude
Sunday, December 28 – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 8:30 – Clara Pleban
 10:30– Tony & Helen Tomaric
 12:00– Deceased of Parish

Readings for December 28: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3;
 Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our faith community Kaden James Anderson, Cheyenne Ivadel Dull and Logan Marie Lieux who were baptized last week.

IN SYMPATHY

Please pray for Bert LaCrosse and Mark Stiles and for the consolation of their loved ones.



A CHRISTMAS WELCOME!

St. Jude Parish would like to welcome all those who are visiting us this Christmas Season. We are so glad you are here! For those who are with us only occasionally, we want you to stay a part of our family. Please join us to worship the Lord each week.

RECTORY OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Rectory Office will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26. We will be open on Saturday, December 27 from 9:00am until 5:00pm.



Sunday, December 21
 Food Collection – Gathering Area
 Cub Scout Meeting – Carrabine after 10:30 Mass
 AA – Carrabine at 7:30pm
Tuesday, December 23
 Church Decorating at 9:00am
Sunday, December 28
 AA – Carrabine at 7:30pm

FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

Question: What do you call a family that started with an unmarried teen, where a twelve year old ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal by the state? Answer: Holy. The lesson of today's gospel is: no matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." Let go and let God direct your family. Imitate Mary and "do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."



DECORATING

As Christmas time comes upon us, an annual St. Jude tradition also comes. Please join us on Tuesday, December 23 at **9:00am** in the Church to help decorate for Christmas. Any questions, please call Mary Anderson 365-5064 or Jeanne Frey at 365-6879.



During this Advent Season, please prayerfully consider a year-end gift to the St. Jude Building Fund or an additional gift to help our parish community continue with valued programs. It is with your support that we can continue to serve the members of this parish. Please note that your gift can help lower your tax liability this year if it is received before December 31st. Thank you for considering helping St. Jude Parish in this way. May the joy of this season of giving be in your hearts and with your family.

OPLATKI: Christmas Wafers are available in the Sacristy or Rectory. Donations \$2.00.

Each year we extend an invitation to the parish community to contribute to the Christmas Flowers. Special envelopes are included in your monthly packet or just use a plain envelope and mark it "Christmas Flowers".

A DEVICE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED is available in the Sacristy. Ask an usher or greeter for assistance.



St. Jude students practice stewardship... Junior High Spanish students put their knowledge of the Mexican tradition of Las Posadas to practice at a late December school mass. In Mexico, Las Posadas is a procession that continues for eight nights (the time it took Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem), ending on Christmas Eve. Friends and family participate in a procession to search for shelter each night, just like the Holy Family did on the night of Jesus' birth. The people divide into the travelers and the innkeepers, with the travelers asking for lodging, and the innkeepers always refusing them. That is, until the final innkeeper, who recognizes the holy couple and takes them in. Then the entire group gathers together and celebrates the birth of our Lord, after placing the baby Jesus in the manger scene. At our mass, the 8th grade Spanish students participated in the procession, with their journey lit by farolitos, also known as luminarias, made by the 7th seventh grade Spanish students. Both classes sang "Noche de Paz" or Silent Night. This procession inspired all of us to welcome Jesus into our hearts this Christmas season and throughout the year.

ST. JUDE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Need a last minute gift?..... Buy a certificate for Regal Cinema, Sears, Macy's JC Penney's, Old Navy or our many restaurants, grocery stores and gas stations. You can get them at our table in the Gathering Area or at the rectory this week on Monday or Tuesday.

Sales: At Church: Saturdays 4-6pm & Sunday 9:15-Noon. At the Rectory: Mon & Tues 8am-Noon and 1-3pm.

Religious Education Notes

PSR Classes will resume on **Monday, January 5, 2009**. Please note this is earlier than previous years. There will be no Sunday Preschool today, December 21 or December 28. Classes will resume on January 4, 2009.

Stewardship of Treasure Summary

Amount needed per week:		\$18,000
Regular Collection for Dec. 14:		<u>\$20,326</u>
Difference for the week:	+	\$ 2,326
Number of Envelopes:	592	
SVdP Collection for Dec. 7:	\$100.00	
SVdP Collection for Dec. 14:	\$129.73	

Year-To-Date Totals

Amount Budgeted		\$432,000
Total Sunday Offertory:		<u>\$393,991</u>
Difference:	-	38,009



Outstanding Mortgage Balance:	\$650,760
Building Fund Account Balance:	\$ 93,904
Monthly Mortgage Payment:	\$ 8,021

Thank you for your generosity!

From the Pastor's Desk

The readings at the various Advent and Christmas Masses contain many powerful images. Sometimes, because we've heard them so often, we need to come at them with fresh eyes. It can help to just read the passages aloud and stop when a particular image strikes you. Many of the readings at today's Masses use the image of light shining through the darkness to convey the importance of what this feast day is all about.

- Can I name one instance of where the light of God's presence is shining? How does the promise of Christmas significantly affect my own life?

As we come to the end of the year 2008, I take this opportunity to thank everyone for your generosity this past year. I am very proud of our quality St. Jude Catholic School and it continues to be a major commitment of this community for the future. Unfortunately, due to rising health care, utility costs, etc., we are projecting a deficit approaching \$50,000. We realize that our area faces a difficult economic environment, but we ask each parishioner to respond as generously as possible as 2008 draws to a close. We remain truly grateful for the parish offertory that has kept our school vibrant. May this Christmas Season bring peace, good health and joy to you and your families.



May the blessings of Christmas fill your hearts with true happiness and bring the peace of Christ to you and your loved ones throughout the New Year. This is the sincere wish of our lay staff, religious and clergy.



Holiday Schedule

Christmas Vigil – Wednesday, December 24

4:30 pm	Contemporary Choir
7:00 pm	Children's Choir
10:00 pm	Traditional and Bell Choirs

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25

10:00 am
12:00 Noon

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adults who have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation and wish to do so, will have the opportunity to be confirmed along with our high school candidates on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. (Remember, one must be fully initiated Catholic which includes being confirmed in order to be a sponsor or godparent in the Catholic Church.) In order to prepare for this Sacrament, we have scheduled a four-hour preparation session on Saturday morning, January 24 from 8:00am to Noon. Please call Susan Kuchenbecker at 366-5711 ext. 110 for information and to register.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

This is just a word of encouragement for those of the parish who have dedicated themselves to faithfully fulfilling their commitment to coming to the Chapel on Wednesdays. Keep up your visits and remember your presence is special. If you have to miss your "time slot", please try to get a substitute. There are times when there is no one there for extended periods of time and others have had to stay longer than their appointed time. Please call Deacon Frank at 366-5711 ext 104 with your scheduled time so that we may update our records. God is good and is blessing us indeed with those who share their time.

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK

The Outdoor Stations of the Cross just west of St. Jude Church have many more commemorative bricks available. These bricks are a great way to commemorate births, sacramental events and memorialize loved ones. Many people express their thanksgiving to God with a brick. New bricks are engraved several times a year and forms are available in the Gathering Area near the Pieta statue or at the rectory. Each brick has room for 3 lines with 12 letter/spaces on each line. Bricks are \$100 each. Please contact Kim at the rectory 366-5711 with any questions.

PARISH REGISTRATION

It is our policy and desire to serve the needs of St. Jude parishioners. We welcome you. Families and young adults (age 18 and over) should make an effort to become registered members of the parish. Even if you are not in a position to contribute regularly, it is important to be registered for us to take care of your pastoral needs (funerals, baptisms, weddings, etc.) To register, please call the rectory or drop a note in the collection basket and we will be happy to assist you.

TRAVELING ...MASS TIMES?

Ministry to traveling Catholics. For nationwide Mass times and locations call 1-410-676-6000 or visit their Internet site at www.Masstimes.org.

DID YOU KNOW for your convenience, you can have your offertory gift electronically transferred from your bank directly to St. Jude Church on a monthly basis? If you are interested please call the Rectory office and we will be happy to mail you the authorization form.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!!



PEACE ON EARTH  **GOOD-WILL TO ALL**
Feast of Mary, Mother of God
New Year's Vigil, Wednesday, December 31st
4:30pm
New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, 2009
10:00am & 12:00 Noon

ALTAR & ROSARY NEWS

The recent Altar & Rosary Bake Sale of Christmas Cookie Platters, Puff Pastries, Nut & Poppyseed Rolls, along with the Hot/Frozen Cabbage Roll Sale and the Candy Sale WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

Thanks to all who participated in so many ways to make it such a success: the ones who prepared and baked (here in the St. Jude's kitchen and at home), the ones who donated ingredients and monies for the baking. Truly, all is appreciated. Our volunteers worked hard (and they also had fun) and were like little elves in the kitchen! Thanks to all who gave their support and of course, thanks to all who purchased the goodies. We could not have done this without you! As a result, our treasury has increased by the amount of \$3,200!!

Sixty members and guests enjoyed a most delicious Altar & Rosary Christmas Dinner last week. Superb entertainment was "Songs of Christmas" by Debra Rose. Winners of the Annual Christmas Raffle were:

- Quilt (made by A & R quilters) Joan Reaser
- Cash Prizes Fran Schuster & Regina Schmitz
- Afghan (made by Beth Fritz) Rose Ann Austin
- Lg Basket of Groceries Mary Nice
- Sm Basket of Groceries Carol Roswell
- Christmas Decos Marianne Farmer & Ruby Larson

An in-house raffle was held with many happy winners with the proceeds going to Blessing House in care of Sr. Mary Berigan. The afternoon of friendship put everyone in merriment for the preparation for the Blessed Christmas Season.

REMEMBERING THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Please keep the health and safety of the members of our Armed Forces in your thoughts and prayers. God grant that they may return home safely and soon. **Eric Armitage, Sgt. Mark A. Baker, Airman Michael E Bobola, Maj. Monica Cater, Sgt. Ronald Combs, Lt. Col. Scott Connors, Pvt. Peter Crissman, Capt. Brian Dickenson, Lt. Sarah Dickenson, Daniel Engel; Sarah Forbush, L.Cpl. Michael Hetrick, Ensign William Hurd, Kenneth Justen, S. Sgt Charles R. Kalo, Audrey Keiffer, Pvt. 1st Class Jason Koenig, Capt. Brandon Leifer, Staff Sgt. Mat Mach, SPC Martin McCloud, Cpl. Cory Menges, Comdr. Leo Murphy, Sgt. Zachary Osborne, Lt Richard J. Pelesky, Maj. Rick Schilke, Pvt. Thomas Edward Sedor, Capt. Stephanie Sido, Nicholas Sine, Brian Speer, Staff Sgt. Tracey Tackling, Petty Officer Carl VanDyke, Cpt. Nathaniel Waggoner, Capt. Dean Wood.** Please feel free to submit names of service members by calling the rectory or dropping a note in the collection basket for inclusion here.

www.saintjudeparish.org
Your parish website...stop by and see what we have to offer.
Your online source for information about your parish!

