



**Sunday, December 13, 2009**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

- 8 a.m. - Robert Clark and Joan Ryan - Elaine Clark
- 10 a.m. - Ann Marie Bowler (Birthday Remembrance)  
- Mom and Dad

**Monday, December 14**

**St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

- 2 p.m. - **Briarwood Mass**  
- All Souls' Day Intentions
- 5:30 p.m. - Deceased Members of the Albanese and  
Bridwell Families - Jack Bridwell

**Tuesday, December 15 - Advent Weekday**

- 9 a.m. - Helen Harrison - Annie Augustine

**Wednesday, December 16 - Advent Weekday**

- 9 a.m. - Msgr. Walter Kern - Estate

**Thursday, December 17 - Advent Weekday**

**No Mass Today**

**Friday, December 18 - Advent Weekday**

- 9 a.m. - John States (Birthday Remembrance)  
- Mom

**Saturday, December 19 - Advent Weekday**

- 4:30 p.m. - Members of the Trudnowski, Pratt,  
Krawczyk, and Chilcott Families  
- Martha and Family

**Sunday, December 20**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 8 a.m. - Robert Stoll - Wife, Betty
- 10 a.m. - Carleton and Ethel Sparks  
- The Sparks Family

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The pink rose on the altar is given in loving memory of Robert Clark, husband, and Joan Ryan, sister, requested by Elaine Clark.

The red rose is given in loving memory of Ann Marie Bowler (Birthday Remembrance), requested by her mother and father.

Dear Parish Family,

*We bless you, God, our Father! In your Son Jesus, even before the creation of the world, you chose the Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, to be holy and Immaculate in your sight, and you filled her with your love and your beauty. On this day of her feast, and in her name, we want to bless you and thank you through Jesus Christ, her Child.*

*In her words of prophesy Mary spoke, "From now on all generations will call me blessed!" Today we want to fulfill those words. We honor Mary, our Parish Patron and model of trust, even in the midst of uncertainty. We embrace each moment as a gift of divine grace, just as she did. We celebrate each second of these 150 years during which our beloved parish community of faith has gathered in the name of Jesus, Mary's Son. We honor and remember all of those who have preceded us and bequeath the same hope to all those who will come after us.*

*Happy Anniversary!*

*Next Sunday, St. John's will begin its 175th anniversary celebration. As the oldest parish in Lockport, it has had a unique role in ministering the Catholic faith and ministering in Word and Sacrament to thousands of people. We join with our friends at St. John's in wishing them God's blessings so that they may continue to make the Light of Christ shine in our midst.*

*Love and Prayers,*

*Fr. Gary*

<u>Christmas/New Year Mass Schedule</u>	
<b>Monday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.: Vicariate Penance Service at St. John the Baptist Church</b>	
<b>Thursday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Masses:</b>	
	4:30 p.m.
	11:30 p.m.: Choral Concert followed by Mass
<b>Friday, Dec. 25: 10 a.m. Mass</b>	
<b>Thursday, Dec. 31: 7 p.m. - New Year's Eve Mass</b>	
<b>Friday, Jan. 1: 10 a.m. - New Year's Day Mass</b>	

<u>Collection for December 5-6, 2009</u>		
Regular Collection	\$6,007.30	
Bldg. & Maintenance	621.00	
Fuel	100.00	
	<u>\$6,728.30</u>	Total

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S**

- Monday - Noon** - Altar and Rosary Christmas Party  
**7-8 p.m.** -Religious Education (Grades 6-10)
- Tuesday - 3-7 p.m.** - Eucharistic Adoration  
**7 p.m.** - Stewardship Meeting
- Wednesday - 7 p.m.** - Choir
- Thursday - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** - Girl Scouts  
**7 p.m.** - Folk Choir
- Saturday - 10 - 11:30 a.m.** - Religious Education  
(Grades K-5)

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**Upcoming Events at St. Mary's**

- Sunday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m.** - Villa Maria Chorale Concert in Church
- Monday, Dec. 14, Noon** - Altar and Rosary Christmas Party in the Parish Center. All women of St. Mary's are invited. Potluck luncheon.

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**IRA Charitable Contributions:** IRA owners who are 70 ½ years of age and have a required IRA minimum distribution are permitted under current IRS regulations to transfer all or part of their distribution to a qualifying charity such as St. Mary's. Distributions are transferred directly to the charity, do not have to be taken as income on your personal income tax return, and may qualify as a charitable contribution. If you are interested, contact your investment and tax advisors for the details. Please keep in mind this special IRS provision for charitable contributions will expire on 12/31/09.

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**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

According to the Internal Revenue Service Code, we need to receive donations before year end if you wish to take the tax credit for this year. Please have your 2009 contributions in to the rectory by **Thursday, December 31, 2009.**

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**Christmas Decorating!** We've put up lights, trimmed the tree, and hung the stockings in our homes. Now we need to decorate our "parish home!" Please plan to spend a little time adding your personal touch to our church decorations. We will gather after the 10 a.m. Mass on **Sunday, December 20**, to create a fitting environment to celebrate Jesus' birth. A light luncheon will be served.

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**With gratitude** we recognize the receipt of a very generous donation from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo given through the generosity of the David and Kathleen Greenfield Fund. At this very critical time of financial challenge, join in prayerfully remembering all of our benefactors.

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**Two parishioners have new addresses:**

- Kay Hammond**, 10 Round Hill Road, Cheshire, CT 06410
  - Betty Shaver**, Brompton Heights, 275 Brompton Road, Williamsville, NY 14221
- They would love to hear from their friends!



Katherine DiProffio, Joanne Gajewski, Kay Hammond, Jason Pawlowski, Katherine Limardi, Tricia Denhoff, Connie Andrews, Kathleen Anderson, Connie McCracken, John Gagliari III, Doris Stump, Ellen Gardner, Mildred Delwardt, Voola Bartholomew, Jackie McLaughlin, Zackie Berger, Cecelia Reger, Isabella Serrienne, Mary Reitz, Jeffrey Gailor, Nathan Gailor, Jim McCullough, Barbara Kress, Christina Bugl, Brandon Nemece, Leslie Degnan, Donna and Robert Spencer Sr., June Groff, Jim Fiegel, Jean LaRocca, and pray for our Armed Forces here and abroad.

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**Weekend of December 19-20, 2009**

**Lectors' Schedule**

- Saturday, December 19:  
**4:30 p.m.** Heidi Sutt, Valerie Steltzer
- Sunday, December 20:  
**8 a.m.** Pierson Bell  
**10 a.m.** Gary and Judy Rodriguez

**Extraordinary Ministers' Schedule**

- Saturday, December 19:  
**4:30 p.m.** Mary Jo Seedorf
- Sunday, December 20:  
**8 a.m.** Ken Carter  
**10 a.m.** Cathy Bowler, Choir Member

**Altar Servers' Schedule**

- Saturday, December 19:  
**4:30 p.m.** Normand Provost, Megan and Paige Currie, Nina Pica
- Sunday, December 20:  
**10 a.m.** Cory Beightol, Breanne and Lacey Beightol, Julianna Bonnette

**Greeters' Schedule**

- Saturday, December 19:  
**4:30 p.m.** Ann Bruski, Janet Schiffert
- Sunday, December 20:  
**8 a.m.** Florence Claude, Barbara Buczkowski  
**10 a.m.** Chris and Kathy Prucha

**NURSERY SCHEDULE**

**Mary's Little Lambs Nursery**

- Saturday, December 19:  
**4:30 p.m.** Mary Umera, Laura Tschaep
- Sunday, December 20:  
**10 a.m.** - Sherry Allen, Kelly Hinchy

**"Scrip" Volunteers**

- Saturday, December 19:  
**4:30 p.m.** Esther Owens, Mary Lou Flanders
- Sunday, December 20:  
**8 a.m.** Wende Nicosia  
**10 a.m.** Bernie and Sheila Winter

**If you are unable to meet your commitment, please arrange for a substitute.**

## REFLECTIONS ON GOD'S WORD

**Zephaniah 3:14-18a** The book of the prophet Zephaniah is only three chapters long and most of it contains oracles of warning and judgment concerning Israel's worship of pagan deities. The verses cry out that God is going to sweep away all living things from the face of the earth. Here, however, we find Zephaniah's message of hope for Israel. The very same God of troubling vengeance has remained faithful and actually is in "her" midst. While Zion is exhorted to shout for joy, the one who actually does the rejoicing in this passage is the Lord. The reason for this rejoicing is Jerusalem's restoration and the defeat of her enemies. Once more, God's presence in Zion brings about a transformation: enemies, misfortune, and discouragement are all banished; in their place the King of Israel, the mighty savior, brings joy, exultation, and love.

**Philippians 4:4-7** "Rejoice" opens this Scripture passage and echoes the joy in the first reading. This third Sunday of Advent is given a special name - Gaudate, Latin for "rejoice," and fittingly describes the joyful anticipation associated with this season. As we progress through our Advent journey, Paul offers us opportunities for reflection. We are summoned to be a prayerful people, placing our lives and its problems in God's hands, avoiding anxiety and allowing God's peace to fill our beings.

**Luke 3:10-18** One of the major themes of Luke's gospel is the universality of God's promise for salvation. Here we hear about despised tax collectors and Roman soldiers seeking baptism by John. "The people were filled with expectation" awaiting the Anointed One who they believed might be John the Baptist. John makes clear his secondary position to Jesus who will purify and refine through his baptizing. The fire of Jesus' baptism is not the fate of the lost, but the refining of the blessed. We all have our chaff and it is the fire of Christ that will burn it away. The burdens we carry do not make us unfit for Advent's message; they qualify us as prime candidates.

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### Readings for the week of December 13, 2009

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18  
**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27  
**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32  
**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23  
**Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17  
**Friday:** Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
**Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
**Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

**PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Gary R. Kibler, Pastor  
Carol Costello, Pastoral Associate and D.R.E.  
Eleanor Wascovich, Parish Secretary  
Mickey Pils, Business Administrator  
Bessie Provenzano, Housekeeper  
Robin Ritz, Maintenance/Custodian

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS**

Altar & Rosary .....Fran Staszak 434-1461  
Altar Servers..... Paula Provost 438-0943  
Catholic Charities .....Brenda and Mike Ulrich 433-6467  
Fred Wascovich 434-3451  
Christian Formation..... Sharon Roussie 439-0228  
Christian Services .....Chris Halvorson 625-9420  
DeSales Catholic School School Office..... 433-6422  
Evangelization Committee.....Bernie Winter 433-4071  
Extraordinary Ministers.....M/M Chris Prucha 439-0722  
Finance & Administration ..... Jim Smigelski 433-0849  
Greeters .....Mary Alice Stroehlein 433-6106  
Knights of Columbus.....Phil Chamot 434-7688  
Martha-Mary Church Care.....Sheila Winter 433-4071  
Ministers of Hospitality  
8 a.m.....Mary Lewis 531-0319  
4:30 p.m.....Ed Forness 433-8242  
10 a.m..... Gerry Dembrowicz 692-8394  
Ministers of the Word..... Vickie Richardson 778-5668  
Ministry of Comfort .....Donna Santarsiero 433-3002  
Music Minister.....Melissa Coleman 778-9461  
R.C.I.A.....Marcia Seibel 688-0772  
Sacramental Arrangements..... Carol Costello 433-0340  
Sacristan .....Doris Stump 731-5230  
Small Faith Communities..... 434-6316  
Split Club.....Joe Santarsiero 433-3002  
St. Vincent de Paul.....Mike Ulrich 433-6467  
Chaplain.....Sr. Carissima Ogbu  
Worship/Liturgy Planning..... Marcia Seibel 688-0772

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Mariann Angelo - Chairperson.....434-5719  
Bernie Winter Co-Chairperson.....433-4071  
Burt Marshall- Secretary.....434-3899  
Judith Arlington.....434-3112  
June Berardi.....434-8828  
Mark Brounscheidel.....795-0059  
Jerry DeFlippo.....434-4609  
Kathy DiMillo..... 439-9104  
Berny Fischer.....433-2098  
Dick Galligan.....353-1472  
Bernie Mosher.....433-0565  
Joe Santarsiero.....433-3002  
Michael Sutt.....940-7170  
Carol Costello - Pastoral Associate; DRE.....433-0340  
Marcia Seibel - Trustee.....688-0772  
Mike Ulrich - Trustee.....433-6467