

FROM OUR PASTORAL STAFF



St. Felicitas School A Light of Faith, Learning, and Love that Shines from the Hill.

It seems like one of the best things to be is prepared. In the field of education, teachers spend an enormous amount of time preparing effective instruction strategies and interesting lessons. We teach the students the importance of being prepared for class, tests, and quizzes. The media tells us to be prepared for the flu season by getting vaccinated. The weather reporters remind us that winter is just around the corner and we need to be prepared for the inevitable cold and snowy days ahead. A trip to the mall reminds us that Christmas is just weeks away. Lists are made of all the preparation needed to be ready for the holidays; cleaning and decorating the house, writing cards, shopping for and wrapping gifts, baking cookies, making special dinners, attending parties, and the list goes on and on.

The most historical and significant message of preparedness came from a voice in the wilderness over 2000 years ago. John the Baptist cried out "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." We are called to use these weeks of Advent as a time of preparation that is marked by prayer. The school community will meet each Friday morning to pray together in joyful anticipation. An Advent wreath will be displayed and candles lit. We will listen to scripture and reenact the very first Christmas story. All are welcome to join us.

Of course the topic of preparedness cannot be explored without thinking about scouts. Ask any of our scouts and they will tell you that their motto is "Be Prepared". In researching what this means, I learned that the Scout motto means that "you are always ready to do what is necessary to help others. It also means you are ready, willing, and able to do what is necessary in any situation that comes along. You are also being prepared to live a full and worthwhile life, being a physically fit, honorable citizen of strong character."www.boyscouttrail.com) I can't help but think that John the Baptist was the very first Boy Scout! May the joy and peace of being truly prepared for Christmas be with you and your family.

.....Mrs. Martha Dodd



Readings for the Week

- Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
- Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**DECEMBER 8TH HOLY DAY
OF OBLIGATION
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

MASS SCHEDULE

- Monday, Dec. 7th Vigil: 7:00pm**
- Tuesday, Dec. 8th:
8:15am and 12:00pm Noon**

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



We are currently updating our combined sick list from St. Felicitas and St. Paul. If you would like to have someone on the sick list, please call the Parish Office at 216-289-0770 and it will be posted in the bulletin once a month.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE: We will be forming a committee for Justice in the Parish of St. John of the Cross. If you feel called to be part of a group that will study the writings of the Church on Social Justice and help provide our Parish with a variety of opportunities to reach out to our neighbors and to larger civic and world communities; this is the place for you. One issue that needs our attention now is the Ozanam Center. **Please call Sister Gale at the Parish Office 216-289-0770 and get your name on the list.** We will gather on Wednesday, December 9th, at 7:00pm in the church to begin this great service.

PSR FAMILIES: The PSR children will meet for class at 6:30pm in the school on Monday, Dec. 7th. We will then take them over to 7:00pm Mass to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception (this is a holy day of obligation in the U.S.) We suggest you meet your child in church and sit with them or meet them after Mass, they will be with their teachers. We will not return to the school. Mass will end approximately 7:45pm.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalm — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading — May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel — John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).



ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PRAYER NETWORK HOTLINE 216-289-6456

Call and leave a short message regarding your request. Let us know when your request has been answered, we can offer prayers of thanksgiving.



PREPARE A PLACE FOR JESUS IN THE STABLE AND IN YOUR HEART

*For the Lord is a God of justice,
blessed are all those who wait for him.*

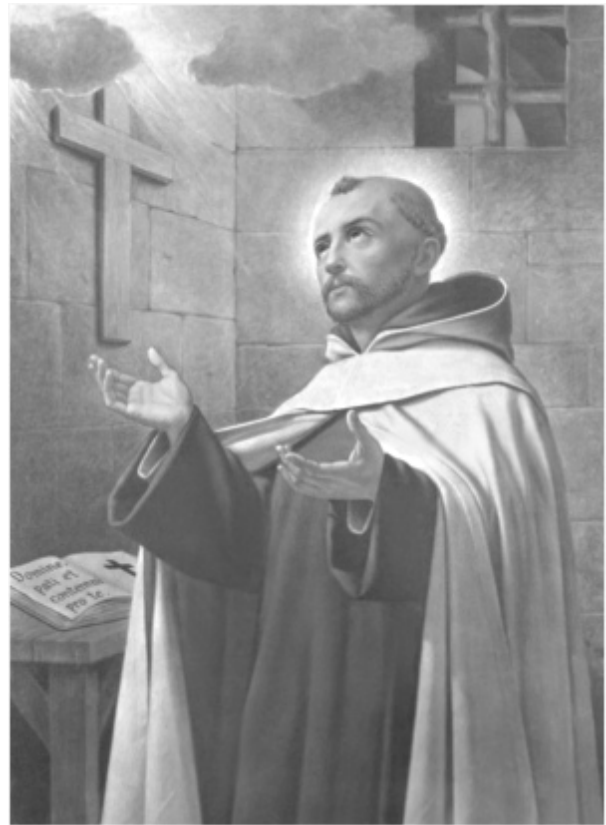
—Isaiah 30:18

Today we see that the manger and animals are in the stable. In our hearts let's reflect on St. Luke's interpretation of the manger. Luke describes the babe lying in a manger (an open box for livestock feed or fodder). Luke did this because he wanted us to think of Jesus as food for people. Jesus gives himself as nourishment in word and food. As a member of the Church (the Body of Christ) search your heart to find ways that your life can bring nourishment to others. (thoughts from The Greatest Gift of All by Mark G. Boyer and Prepare a Home by James E. Adams).



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- MONDAY** **Ambrose, bishop & doctor** **Dec. 7**
 7:00 p.m. Helen Campolieti
- TUESDAY** **Immaculate Conception** **Dec. 8**
 Of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 8:15 a.m. Jim Proctor
 12:00 p.m. Stephen Rico
- WEDNESDAY** **Advent Weekday** **Dec. 9**
- THURSDAY** **Advent Weekday** **Dec. 10**
 7:00 p.m. Mackenzie & Michaela Bretz
- FRIDAY** **Damasus I, pope** **Dec. 11**
 8:15 a.m. Mary Holaus
- SATURDAY** **Our Lady of Guadalupe** **Dec. 12**
 4:00 p.m. Stefi Arko
- SUNDAY** **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **Dec. 13**
 8:00 a.m. Florence Melega
 10:00 a.m. Burton Emig
 12:00 p.m. Jeanne & Bill Garry



ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS: There will be sign up sheets in the sacristy for Christmas and New Year Masses. If you can serve, please sign up, we would appreciate it. Thank you.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Richmond Hts. Hospital-Wed. Dec. 9.....VanGorder
 Grande Pointe-Sun. Dec. 13.....Jim & Darlene

COUNTERS

Counters for Sun. Dec. 13....."C" Team
 Counters for Mon. Dec. 14....."F" Team

MINISTERS SCHEDULE —DEC. 12-13, 2009

MASS	PRESIDER	HOSPITALITY	LECTOR 1	LECTOR 2	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	SERVERS
Sat. 4:00pm	Fr. Timothy	J. Chounet A. Molle	M. Freas	K. Sullivan	C. Barni, T. Burrello, T. Isabella, S. Lonchar, M. Malta, J. Melvin, J. Page, B. Pophal	J. Melvin J. Melvin
Sun. 8:00am	Fr. Sal	S. Glavic C. Otters	D. Drasler	L. Miller	S. Calderone, B. Dennis, R. Eppich, J. Kirchmeir, P. Mastrangelo, K. Ruggeri, S. Ruggeri, R. Tepley	A. Champa L. Rosace
Sun. 10:00am	Fr. Mehok	V. Kostelec A. Linek	T. Bluntzer	G. Haritonovich	D. Apanasewicz, S. Davisson, J. Dreyer, S. Dreyer, P. Gallagher, M. Haritonovich, J. Miozzi, C. Preto	C. Chambers C. Dreyer
Sun. 12:00pm	Fr. Sal	A. Molnar D. Thomas-Greaves	T. Gorenssek	T. Wetzel	J. Bretz, R. Jezeski, J. Konchan, K. Musarra, J. Radachy, J. Solpa, S. Thomas-Greaves, J. Vajda	P. Bozak N. Cavotta

GOOD NEWS "ON THE HILL"

KidStuff Coupon Books: Support the St. Felicitas School PTU by purchasing your KidStuff Coupon book for \$25.00. Enjoy great savings on clothing, shoes, toys, sporting goods, electronics, activities, food and more. Books are available at the Parish Office or School until December 20th. Thank you for your support.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PARISHIONERS

At the recent Awards Show held on November 26th, two of the six honorees who were inducted into the Trustees Honor Roll of the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame have ties to our parish. Mirk Yama, father of parishioner Paul Yama, was posthumously inducted for his many years performing with the polka legend Johnny Pecon. He played upright bass. At the same awards event, Parishioner Kathy Hlad was also inducted for her lifetime as an accomplished diatonic button box performer who is known across the country and in Europe, and for being a button box instructor.

CLOSING MASS FROM ST. FELICITAS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

The closing Mass was broadcast on WELW Radio on Thanksgiving morning, and has been placed on WELW.COM, where it can be accessed for listening at any time, for download to iPods, or to burning to CD. If you wish to listen to the Mass, including the homily delivered by Bishop Lennon, click on the "INSTANT DOWNLOAD ARCHIVED PROGRAMS" on the top right of the home page. Then click on the "COMMUNITY EVENTS" folder, which has Mass inside. Remember that you can also hear the Holy Rosary daily at 5:50am and the Holy Mass every Sunday at 9am.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS:

Inviting all children grades 1-8 to participate in the Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy Mass at 4:00pm. Please respond by Friday, Dec. 11th. The one and only practice will be Saturday, Dec. 19th at 9:30am. Please call Alice Barteld at 216-261-1574.



ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH BEREAVEMENT CORNER

Join us on Saturday December 12, 2009 from 9:00-11:00 am in the large meeting room in the back of the church, for "**A Holiday Time of Remembrance**", a memorial service to remember those who have died and to support those grieving through the holiday season.

Kathryn Harrison, Bereavement Coordinator from Hospice of the Western Reserve's Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Bereavement Center will be our featured speaker and will discuss and present techniques on coping with grief during the holidays.

Please RSVP to Lisa Radey at the parish office 216-289-0770 by Dec. 7th as a light breakfast will be served.

May God comfort your heart as you work through the loss of your loved one.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

December 24th, Christmas Eve:
4:00pm(Children's), 6:30pm, and
12:00Midnight

December 25th, Christmas Day:
8:00am and 10:00am

MARY MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE:

December 31st, Vigil for Holy Day
4:00pm

January 1st, Mary, Mother of God:
10:00 am

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS QUOTE

“Not every desire to give up our tried and treasured spiritual practices comes from God. It could be that the difficulties we encounter in prayer are not God prompting us to move on, but our own laziness prompting us to drag our feet.”



Were you part of
the first Church Directory for
St John of the Cross

**Don't forget to pickup
your pictures after all
masses this weekend**

**You can still get reprints
and Christmas cards
*just call***

Prelude
photography

(440) 266-1677

**Beginning December 7 pictures
can be picked up at the Parish
Office during business hours**

LESSONS AND CAROLS: On Friday Dec. 11th at 8:00pm we will gather for this year's Lessons and Carols Prayer service. The evening is comprised of the story of creation, and carols that can be sung by all, featuring the Music Ministry, Children's Choir, Candlelight, and reception. We will once again hold a food drive, which was wonderfully successful last year. We are asking you to bring 2 non-perishable food items to the Service to help those in need this holiday season. Let us gather and pray together as we begin our journey as the Parish of St. John of the Cross.

RAFFLE WINNER



Congratulations to Fr. Mehok, our winner of the **Week #9 PTU Weekly Raffle**. Fr. Mehok was also the seller winner.

COLLECTIONS

Nov. 22nd Regular Collection.....	\$9,454.00
Nov. 22nd Children's Collection.....	\$76.65
Nov. 29th Regular Collection.....	\$8,448.00
Nov. 29th Children's Collection.....	\$67.20


**Thank you for your generosity.
Your support is needed and greatly appreciated.**



St. John of the Cross Parish

December, 2009 (REVISED)

C-Church P-Parish Office
 S-School G-Gym
 MR1-Meeting Room #1
 MR2-Meeting Room #2
 MR3-Meeting Room #3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00-9:00pm Confirmation Formation (S) 7:00pm Legion of Mary(MR2)	2 3:00-4:00pm Children's Choir Practice(C) 6-7:30pm Girl Scout Mtg(MR1) 7:00pm Women's Group Meeting (MR2) 7:00pm Adult Music Group Practice (C)	3 6:45pm Bingo Team #3(G)	4	5 6:00pm Christmas Dinner (G)
6 10:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word(C) 9:00am-12:00pm Breakfast with Santa	7 6:30-7:30pm(S) PSR 7:00pm PTU Meeting(S) 7:00pm Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception	8 Holy Day <i>Immaculate Conception</i> 8:15am Mass 12:00pm Mass 7:00pm Legion of Mary(MR2) 7:00pm SFS Christmas Band Concert	9 3:00-4:00pm Children's Choir Practice(C) 7:00pm Social Justice (MR1) 7:00pm Adult Music Group Practice (C)	10 6:45pm Bingo Team #4(G) 7:00pm Rite of Enrollment-Gr.2	11 8:00pm Lessons and Carols (C)	12 7:00-8:30am Men's Prayer Group(S) 8:30-9:30am Market Day P/U 9:00-11:00am Hope for the Holidays(MR3) 6:45pm Bingo Team A(G)
13 10:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word(C)	14 6:30-7:30pm(S) PSR 7:00pm Euclid Cluster Communal Penance at St. William	15 6:30pm SFS Christmas Program (S) 7:00pm Legion of Mary(MR2)	16 3:00-4:00pm Children's Choir Practice(C) 6:00-7:30pm Girl Scout Meeting(MR1) 7:00pm Adult Music Group Practice (C) 7:00pm Boosters (S)	17 6:45pm Bingo Team #1(G)	18	19
20 10:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word(C)	21 SFS-Christmas Vacation-1/1/10 6:30-7:30pm(S) PSR	22 7:00pm Legion of Mary(MR2)	23 7:00pm Adult Music Group Practice (C)	24 Christmas Eve Mass Schedule: 4:00pm(Children's) 6:30pm and 12:00am Midnight	 25 Christmas Day Mass Schedule: 8:00am and 10:00am	26 7:00-8:30am Men's Prayer Group(S) 6:45pm Bingo Team B(G)
27 10:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word(C)	28	29 7:00pm Legion of Mary(MR2)	30	31 4:00pm Vigil for Mary Mother of God 6:45pm Bingo Team #2(G)	01/01/10 <i>Holy Day-Mary Mother of God</i> 10:00am Mass- only Mass for today	