

JANUARY

SATURDAY, January 3, 2009 The Most Holy Name of Jesus
 8:00 AM ☩Souls in Purgatory req by Mary Yando
 4:00 PM ☩Pauline Mei req by M/M Allard

SUNDAY, January 4, 2009 The Epiphany of the Lord
 8:00 AM ☩Edward Lofland 2nd ann req by the family
 10:30 AM ☩Our Lady of the Angels SFO

MONDAY, January 5, 2009
 8:00 AM ☩Father Vern's intentions req by Rita Gallagher

TUESDAY, January 6, 2009
 8:00 AM ☩Roger LaBarre req by the Christ family

WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2009
 8:00 AM ☩Rita Larder req by the Christ family

THURSDAY, January 8, 2009
 8:00 AM ☩Morning Prayer

FRIDAY, January 9, 2009
 8:00 AM ☩Morning Prayer

SATURDAY, January 10, 2009 VIGIL: Baptism of the Lord
 4:00 PM ☩People of the Parish

SUNDAY, January 11, 2009 The Baptism of the Lord
 8:00 AM ☩Jackie Benham req by her sister
 10:30 AM ☩Rev John J. Ayers



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
 - Mt 2:10-11

Readings for January 10-11, 2009
Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10: 34:-38/Mk 1:7-11

Religious Vocations Corner – The Son of God is manifested to the world first through the visit of the Magi. Today, God's Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His Church. If you think God is calling you to a church vocation, call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or E-Mail: g.dailey@diospringfield.org.

Holyoke Catholic High School – will host an **Open House** for prospective students, transfer students and their families on **Wednesday, January 21st** from 6-8 PM at the school on 134 Springfield Street in Chicopee. We invite you to come and meet our dedicated faculty, our talented and successful students and to learn about our admissions process for September 2009 enrollment. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the Admissions office at 413-331-2480 ext 1132 by January 16th.

The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is in need of canned meats: tuna, ham, & chicken. Thank you for remembering those in need.

The Pastor's Thoughts...

-This Tuesday is the 6th of January, the traditional date for the feast of Epiphany and next Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and hence the official end of the Christmas Season. I do hope this very special time of the year brought with it joy and happiness and provided many memories that you will treasure well into the future. Again I thank everyone who contributed to all the wonderful celebrations here at St. Francis and to our "ushers" whom I forgot to mention last weekend in my list of "thank you!"

-I hope you noted that our local Council of the K of C will be hosting a very special dinner on Saturday evening, January 10th. The menu includes roast loin of pork, roasted potatoes, green beans, salad, dessert, etc. To attend, you must have purchased your ticket this weekend or call Franco Dell'Olio at 323-0239 by this Sunday evening. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children; under 5 years is free. Don't miss this wonderful and creative dinner!

-A reminder that next weekend is the annual collection for the support of our College of Our Lady of the Elms in Chicopee. Donations from this collection provide financial assistance to students through Deanery Scholarships and I am pleased to say that several from our parish have benefited from these scholarships. If there are any High School Seniors that are planning to attend the Elms, please contact me so that we can send in a nomination form for the "Deanery Scholarship" for you.

-On behalf of our Finance Commission I wish to thank all our membership who so generously responded to our Fuel Drive as well as to the increase giving which is being reflected in our weekly collections. We are so grateful for all this help in keeping our parish financially sound during these very challenging times. In a similar way your most generous gifts to the parish through the Christmas collection will be of great help as we seek to balance our budget and expenses.

-A word of "thanks" to Bruce Wallace of the parish for his gift of new lighting to our gathering space. Two banks of spot lights have been added to illuminate the display space over the entry doors which features the statues of the four evangelists and, at this time, our Christmas display. I hope you have noted how beautiful this area is and how well it is lighted; I call it the "New Macy's Windows!" Thanks Bruce for all you do to keep us in the light here at St. Francis!

-A reminder that our parish Pastoral Council will not be meeting this coming Tuesday evening as we take a "winter break!" Note that our minutes and those of the various commissions may be found on our parish web site for your information and comment.

-We are deeply grateful to a family in the parish who made a very generous Christmas gift to our Building Fund of over \$13,000; how blessed we are in the incredible generosity of our members! We thank them and so many of our community for all they do above and beyond to help and assist us all in seeing our new buildings come into reality.

-Finally, I have received the corrected slate window and major donor plaques from the supplier and they will be installed shortly. I am still waiting for a few brass plaques for our Founders Tree to bring that memorial up to date. I will let you know when these projects are completed, as well as our "Book of Bricks".

God bless you this week and in all ways! Fr. Vern

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

*In Gratitude to God for His many gifts,
the members of this parish have returned
the following resources in support of the parish
and its ministries...*

The Sunday Collection for December 27-28.....	\$5,512.90
Weekly Sunday Average.....	6,265.59
Weekly Sunday Goal.....	6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for Dec 6-28	6,757.00
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal.....	6,000.00
Mortgage & Expansion December Overage.....	757.00
Christmas Collection.....	10,996.63

Eucharistic Adoration and Visitation - The Adoration Info Line number is 323-6272 Extension 6. Please, always call just before coming in for your hour to see if Adoration has been closed due to extreme cold or bad weather. The Adoration Chapel (entrance around the rear of the church) is open to all parishioners for a visit before the Blessed Sacrament. Hours of Adoration are 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If you would like to be a part of our Adoration program, either as an assigned adorer or substitute, please call Pam at 323-7416. **The following hours are in need of an Adorer: Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM.**

Liturgical Roles

Weekend of January 10-12, 2008

Lectors

4:00 PM Campbell
8:00 AM Fontaine
10:30 AM Abuselmi & Roux

Ministers of the Eucharist

4:00 PM Pat A., Racine, Amy, John & Therese Rakouskas,
Buczko, Symanczyk
8:00 AM McGinnis, Miffitt, Ricardi, Tovet, Crosby, Fontaine,
Kielbasa
10:30 AM Fedora, Lattrell, Letendre, Rose, Adams, Desilets,
Groux

Altar Servers

4:00 PM, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM – No schedule available at press time.

The Family Life Commission would like to begin a widows and widowers social group where we could meet each other to develop new friendships with periodic outings. If interested please call Beth at 323-5910 or Pat a 323-4602.

The Family Life Commission would like to begin a cancer support group. We need cancer survivors who would be willing to help those presently going through cancer treatment or newly diagnosed with the disease. If interested please call Beth at 323-5910 or Pat at 323-4602.

Save The Date! St Joan of Arc-St. George School will host an Open House on Sunday, January 25, 2009 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Families interested in Pre-K to Grade 8 are invited to attend. Visit www.stjoan-stgeorge.org to learn more about the school or call 536-6038.



Brick Corner – We would like to thank the following parishioners who have “purchased a brick” for our new church, either in their name or in the name of a loved one: No bricks were purchased for this time period.

Thank you for your support and please remind your friends that they, also, can “buy a brick”. They are only \$10.00 each.

KofC Basketball Challenge – The KofC will be sponsoring a basketball challenge for boys & girls, aged 10 thru 14 inclusive, on Monday evening, January 19th at 5:30 PM at the Jabish Brook School. This competition is designed for players to demonstrate the most basic of basketball skills – the free throw! Each player will be allowed 25 shots at the free throw line. Each will be allowed 3 warm up shots. All participants receive certificates of participation, with winners receiving additional recognition. One does not have to be a great athlete to enjoy and do well in this event. Registration forms, requiring parental consent, are available in the back of the church or in the Town Rec Department office. Questions, please call 323-5822 or speak with any KofC member.

Italian Style Porchetta Dinner by St. Francis KofC, January 10th. The St Francis KofC will sponsor an Italian Style Porchetta dinner prepared by Chefs Dell’Olio and Gendreau in the Pine Room of the St Francis Social Center on Park Street. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM. Take out dinners will be available at 5:15 PM. All tickets must be obtained in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. They will be available after the masses on December 27th & 28th or January 3rd and 4th, or by contacting Stan Wyman at 323-4842 or Franco Dell’Olio at 323-0239. the menu is Roast Loin of Pork, Italian roast potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, tossed salad, frosted cake and a variety of hot or cold beverages. Donations are adults \$10.00, children 5 to 12 years \$7.00 and children under 5 eat free. Dining space is limited so get your tickets early, don’t procrastinate. The deadline for tickets is January 4th unless they are sold out sooner.

Flowers – We wish to thank all of you for your holiday flower donations in memory of your loved ones. Your kind generosity has made it possible to decorate our church during this very special time of year. Thank you!

In Memory of:

Michael Gallagher
M/M Tony Moccia
The Pula & Pietryka Families
Dean Clark
My Father
Bess & Howard Newman, Peg &
Paul Austin, Louise & Charles
Scherpa
Wendell McGinnis
Campeau & Desforges Families
Chester Przybylowicz
Pepin & Murray Families
Owen J. Marra
Tom Buczko
Marion Viglione

Donated By:

Rita Gallagher
Ms Carol Matott
M/M Stanley Pietryka
Mrs. Evelyn Clark
Ms Rosemary Austin
M/M Charles Scherpa
Mrs. Christine McGinnis
M/M Henry Campeau
Mrs Theresa Glanville
M/M Robert Murray
Eileen Marra
Beth Buczko
M/M Vincent Viglione

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From December 22 through December 29, 2008 the following intentions were added to our already long list of requests for prayers. Won't you please join us in praying for them all.

For Mary Yando, healing of a broken foot.

Special intention for Hilda Picard for healing.

Renewed intention for a man for complete healing after surgery.

God's blessing and healing for a good friend, diagnosed with cancer.

Special intention for Irene for healing of cancer.

A Safe flight to Florida for Michele 12/25.

Good test results for Sue.

Special intention for Donny G. for healing.

Very special intention for Shawn B.

A safe trip home to Chicago for a family.

Very special intention for a young man with esophageal cancer who is in critical condition.

Successful pregnancy and safe delivery for Lisa.

Thanksgiving for the lives of Paul Vadnais, Henry Archambault and Gertrude Sheerman. Please pray for the repose of their souls, and for their families and friends in their bereavement.

Thanksgiving for all God's Graces and His answers to the requests of the prayer line. If you would like to have the prayer line members pray for you or a loved one, please call Chris McGinnis, 323-6622, Louise Groux, 323-4046 or Marion Masse, 323-7169.

Bereavement Group – If you have lost a spouse, family member or someone close to you, the Bereavement Group at St. Francis is a place of quiet confidential discussion among others who have suffered loss. Come tell us, share your loss or just sit and listen. There are no requirements or dues. Everyone is welcome. It is a special, non-judgmental place where people listen and care. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7PM in the Tovet Room at the church.

Flowers Continued

In Memory of:

Deceased Members of the Silva &

Tyler Families

Lofland & Mabbs Families

Deceased Family Members

Eugene LaPalme

Drozowski & Genero Families

Edmund Wallace

Rose & John Sirube

Mr C.G. Roberts

M/M David T. Adams

My son, Michael

Culliton & Hill Families

Henry & Eva Kwiatkowski

Theodore Jenkins

James & Jennie Wykowski, Anna

& Leon Antonovitch

Loftus & Socha Families

Roland Geoffroy

Reggie Fleury

Fredenburgh & Robbins Families,

Marilyn Lawrence

Donated By:

M/M John Tyler

Mrs Martha Lofland

M/M Albert J. Brighenti

Mrs. Rita LaPalme

Mrs Ann Genero

Mrs. Leonie Wallace

M/M Bernard Price

Mrs. Louise Roberts

Mr. David Adams

M/M Rene Desroches

M/M John Holdsworth

Mrs. Paul Kwiatkowski

M/M Scott Dubey

M/M Stanley Antonovitch

M/M Norman Loftus

M/M Paul Geoffroy

Rita & Anita Fleury

M/M David Fredenburgh