

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, January 17, 2009 VIGIL: 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
 4:00 PM † Doris Ryan req by Terry & Ray Couture
 SUNDAY, January 18, 2009 Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
 8:00 AM † Patrick Lund 2nd ann req by his wife Loretta
 † Joan Mann 1st ann
 10:30 AM † Florence 7th ann & Judy Drewniak req by Dan & Linda Drewniak & family
 † Richard Morin req by Daryn Kelly
 MONDAY, January 19, 2009
 8:00 AM † Walter Steinberg req by Robert J. Rossi
 TUESDAY, January 20, 2009
 8:00 AM † People of the Parish
 WEDNESDAY, January 21, 2009
 8:00 AM † Eileen Schneeloch req by a friend
 THURSDAY, January 22, 2009
 8:00 AM † People of the Parish
 FRIDAY, January 23, 2009
 8:00 AM † Morning Prayer
 SATURDAY, January 24, 2009 VIGIL: Third Sunday of Ordinary Time
 4:00 PM † Henrietta Buczko Birthday Remembrance req by Buczko Family
 SUNDAY, January 25, 2009 Third Sunday In Ordinary Time
 8:00 AM † Stanley Supczak 36th ann req by Diane & Anthony Ricchiazzi
 † Luke Rivers req by M/M Miffitt
 10:30 AM † Eddy Lepine 40th ann req by Tom & Eileen & family
 † Doris Silva 2nd ann req by the family



John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. - Jn 1:35-37

Readings for January 24-25, 2009

Acts 22:3-16/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 16:15-18

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:

Keith O'Connor, James & Pauline
 Rioux, Michael & Shirley
 O'Connor
 Marcianna Rumpal
 Norman, Charlotte & Mary Marlowe
 Members of the Joyal & Swanson
 Families
 Edward C. Reed
 Vanessa Kotowski
 Deceased Family Members
 Raymond Dionne
 Eddy & Emily Lepine, Henry &
 Irene Boisvere
 Our Parents
 Peter J. Kowal

Donated By:

M/M Michael O'Connor
 M/M William Muise
 Mrs Rita Campbell
 M/M Samuel Joyal
 Ms Bonnie Messier
 M/M Gerald Renaud
 Mrs Virgil Bushey
 M/M Robert Lewis
 M/M Thomas Boisvere
 M/M George Opalenik
 Mrs Agnes Kowal

The Pastor's Thoughts...

-By all reports, our K of C Italian Pork Dinner was a great success. Everyone enjoyed not only the meal but the company as well. How blessed we are to have our own Council of Knights who do so much for the spirit of this parish. I hear they are planning a special "Lasagna Night" in the spring!

-This week will be a week of great change for our Country as our new president and Congress take up leadership. We are obviously greatly concerned regarding the challenges that face this administration and our prayers are with them.

A Prayer for our Nation

Gracious and loving God, we come to you in humble prayer for the United States of America.

Bless our President. Give him wisdom and strength to serve the American people and lead our country in ways that are pleasing to you.

Bless our Congress. Instill in them knowledge and understanding to enact laws that protect the sanctity of life – from the unborn to the elderly; and help them to promote the common good for all people.

Bless the people of the United States. Make us aware of our responsibility as citizens to uphold the principles of life, liberty, justice and equality. Send your Holy Spirit upon our beloved country. Make us people of faith in time of uncertainty. Make us people of hope in times of trouble. Make us people of compassion with those who are less fortunate. Make us people of peace in our homes, our communities, our country and our world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. **AMEN**

-Last Sunday evening we celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the members of this year's First Communion Class. Fr. Charlie and I were quite pleased with how our young children approached this sacrament and how well prepared they were. Special thanks to everyone who helped with this service and with bringing these children to this sacrament of God's great love and mercy.

-This past Wednesday I attended a meeting in Lenox regarding this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. 2009 marks the 50th year that this appeal has been conducted in our Diocese for the support of our various ministries, as well as for those who are most in need. This year and in the future, this appeal will be conducted during the Lenten Season, which traditionally is a time of charity and concern for the needy among us.

-Next weekend our special second offering will be for the Church in Latin America.

-This Tuesday I will be leaving for a week's stay in Florida visiting with friends. Next weekend, Msgr. Leo Leclerc, former pastor of St. Rose in Aldenville will be with you; the weekday Masses will be covered by Fr. Jack Sheaffer and Fr. Earl Hebert. I will be back for the weekend of January 31-February 1st.

God Bless you and our nation! Fr. Vern

Flowers (more next week)

Leo Viens
 My father John Stopper

Mrs Rose Viens
 M/M Salvatore Amato

*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 January 10-11 was.....	\$5,511.49
Weekly Sunday Average	6,305.61
Weekly Sunday Goal.....	6,500.00
Mortgage & Expansion Collection for Jan 4-11.....	5,646.50
Monthly Mortgage & Expansion Goal	6,000.00
Mortgage & Expansion January Shortfall	353.50
Elms College	673.05

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 12 Noon – 1:00 PM and Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM.**

Liturgical Roles

Weekend of January 24-25, 2009

Lectors

- 4:00 PM Phaneuf
- 8:00 AM Viglione & Rumanowski
- 10:30 AM Hume

Ministers of the Eucharist

- 4:00 PM Pat A., Buczko, Racine, Amy, John & Therese Rakouskas, Symanczyk
- 8:00 AM Ricardi, Tovet, Crosby, Fontaine, Kielbasa, Moran, Waniewski
- 10:30 AM Letendre, Rose, Adams, Desilets, Groux, Lawrence, Tyler

Altar Servers

- 4:00 PM T. & R. Lewis, M. & H. Sugrue
- 8:00 AM B. Dubois, F. Muraczewski
- 10:30 AM R. Racicot, L. & S. LeBlanc, A. Maggi

Adult Confirmation Classes – A series of 4 sessions for adult Catholics who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation will be offered at St. Mary's High School, Westfield, on Thursdays, Feb 26th, March 12th & 26th, April 2nd all from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. The program will end with a retreat on a Saturday morning to be determined. These classes are intended for adults who are practicing their faith and never completed their Christian Initiation. Registration forms, which require a pastor's signature, are available from the Rel Ed office. Call 323-6272 x 2 for details or contact the Diocese at j.Dougherty@diospringfield.org.

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.



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 during 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.

Executive Summary of the December 2nd Pastoral Council Meeting

This meeting was held in the Pine Room after festivities, hosted by the KofC, following the lighting of the Christmas crèche. There was no major news from the commissions. The question of pastoral council structure and method of conducting council elections was again discussed. More discussion will occur at the next meeting in February. Religious education coordinator, Judy Trickey, brought up a proposal made by Father Gary Dailey, the Diocesan Vocations Director, to have St. Francis sponsor Diocesan Vocation Day. Council members brought up problems relating to cost, logistics, and the dates suggested (March and April). The Vocations Commission will take over discussions with the Diocese on the matter. The council also voted to approve a donation from the St. Francis Food Pantry to the Ecumenical Fuel Assistance Fund. Father Vern also reported that so far, parish households have donated \$5,000 toward the parish's fuel expenses.

To Love and Serve – A Social Justice Workshop – See the bulletin insert this week for details about the upcoming Lenten experience sponsored by the Faith Development Commission. This will be held for 7 weekly 2-hour, Friday night sessions starting Feb 13th and continue to Feb 27th, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3. Meetings will be in the Pine Room from 7-9 PM. The workshop is appropriate for 9th grade or above and adults.

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 Belchertown High 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.

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.

Baptism

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome into our parish family:

**Kalleigh Anne Samson
Cody Michael Samson**

May their parents and godparents, by word and example, bring them up to know, love and serve God in this life, so they may be happy with Him forever in the life to come.

The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is in need of shampoo, soap, toothpaste and shaving cream. Your response to our needs is greatly appreciated.

Michael Sweeney Prayer Line

From January 5th through January 12th, 2009 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.

A special intention for Rev. Stephen Ptaszynski

Prayers are requested for a safe delivery of Beth's unborn twins

Healing for Theresa's leg

Thanksgiving for a safe trip home for a family

Healing of Stanley's back and relief of pain

For a safe and enjoyable cruise for a group of friends

For healing of cancer for Alice Edger

Healing after a stroke for Lois Owen

Healing and relief of pain for a four year old girl with severe burns

For a speedy recovery for Angelo

Thanksgiving for a successful procedure for Stu

Continued prayers are requested for Matthew Bergstrom and Gloria Slate

For Peter, safe surgery and a good recovery

A special intention for Elaine

For a good medical report for a young man Jan 9th and prayers are requested that he not be overcome by depression

A special intention for healing for Chet J

A special intention for healing for Rita K

Prayers are requested for Cyril, that God's will be done

For a couple to resolve their marital problems

For Richard John Newhaus, who is ill

For healing and comfort for Arlene Goodrow

For Manny, emotional health

For good test results for Sharon

A very special intention for C.T.

For a safe and enjoyable trip to Florida and California for a couple 1/13 – 1/19

For a young father to find suitable employment and prayers for his family

Thanksgiving for prayers answered for Peter who has had a quadruple bypass

For successful ear surgery for Kathy Kehoe 1/27

For successful surgery for Cindy

Renewed intention for Denise, that God will open a door in a very important matter

Renewed prayers are requested for Bob F.

For Denise, healing of a severe wound

For Lacie and Brian Weaster, for his safety as he deploys to Afghanistan and support for Lacie

Thanksgiving for the lives of David Kusek and George Constantine Franghakis. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their family 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.

St Francis of Assisi will be hosting a Life Line Screening event in the Pine Room on Thursday, February 6th. Life Line Screening will perform 5 health screenings using Doppler color flow ultrasound. *Stroke/Carotid Artery screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening, Ankle Brachial Index (ABI), and Atrial Fibrillation screening.* You must pre-register by calling 1-800-324-1851 or Janet at 860-242-1746. These screenings are painless, non-invasive and each test requires 10 minutes or less to complete. The all four package is \$139 or all five for \$149. *Bone Density screening \$35 or \$10 when added to a package.* Most strokes can be prevented. Life Line screening is now offering blood testing. Two simple, finger-stick blood tests to identify risk factors for heart disease and diabetes. These screenings include a complete lipid panel (\$45) and a glucose (blood sugar) (\$25). The cost is \$70 for both or \$50 when added to a package. You will get results in 10 min