

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY DECEMBER 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:45 AM Dorothy R. Culler - Oravets Family

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13 - St. Lucy

8:15 AM Jack Rudo - Wife

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14 - St. John of the Cross**

6:45 AM Eileen A. Ponstingle - St. Mel Ladies Guild

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

5:45 PM George J. Foldi - Paul & Rita Filippi

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 16**

8:15 AM Patricia McBride - Gonzalez Family

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17**- Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent**4:30 PM Deceased Members of the Karbowski Family
- Family**SUNDAY DECEMBER 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

7:00 AM St. Mel Parishioners

9:30 AM Lee & Larry Masterson - Rudolph Family

11:30 AM Marcia Marrie - Family



Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:16

PLEASE PRAY for our parishioners who are in the hospital: Regina Doszstal, John Fitzgerald.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER Mary Reading who died on November 30, 2005. *May God grant peace and comfort to her family and friends.*

NEW PARISHIONERS Our parish community extends a warm welcome to Anna Roche.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 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
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION can pick up the 2006 schedule on December 17/18 after all Masses in the sacristy.

**LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION**

2005:	Regular	\$4498
	Monthly	\$680
	Capital Improvement	\$491
2004:	Regular	\$5050
	Monthly	\$581
	Capital Improvement	\$794

In December 868 packets of envelopes were mailed out. Last week, 246 (21%) of the envelopes were returned. Thank you.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all who donated to the Giving Tree this year! There was a great response! We were able to pack seven large boxes for the Westside Catholic Center. We are extremely thankful to all. *The Giving Tree Teens*

ST. MEL CHURCH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Confession: Saturday, December 17th 3:00-4:00 PM
Thursday, December 22nd 5:00-5:30 PM

Christmas Masses:

December 24th 4:30 PM Children's Choir
December 24th 10:00 PM Adult Choir
December 25th 8:30 AM Adult Choir
11:00 AM

SERVERS THIS WEEK

6:45 AM Monday December 12

Bret Bruening, Matthew Rodriguez, Emily Armstrong

8:15 AM Tuesday December 13

Martin Lewis, Christina Luccio, Tommy Holian

6:45 AM Wednesday December 14

Rachael Jenkins, Margie Kulina, Lori Hardony

5:45 PM Thursday December 15

Patrick Goe, Matthew Workman

8:15 AM Friday December 16 - Ashley McMicheaux,
Anthony Blankenship, Maggie Mertus

4:30 PM Saturday December 17

Julie & Megan Seman, Paul Kuzma

7:00 AM Sunday December 18 - Rebecca Gooding,
Mykael Telles-McGinty, Daniel McGinty

9:30 AM Sunday December 18

Michael Mausser, Michael Stanton, Ronan Forrestal

11:30 AM Sunday December 18

Gianinno Russo, Aaron Thompson, Jr., Nicholas Barber

PARISH CALENDAR

MON. 12 SERVERS' PIZZA LUNCHEON: 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM in the church hall.
JR. HIGH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE 1:30-3:00 PM in the church hall.
MARKET DAY PICK-UP: 3:30-4:30 PM.
JR. CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:00-7:15 PM.
ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE: 7:30 PM.
BAPTISM CLASS: 7:00 PM in the rectory meeting room. All parents expecting their first child must attend a Baptism Class prior to having their child baptized. It is suggested that you attend this class during the second trimester of pregnancy. You must register prior to attending. Call the rectory during business hours (M-F 9:00 AM-Noon & 1:00-4:00 PM).



TUES. 13 ROSARY: 11:00 AM in the church.
PSR CLASSES: 6:30-7:30 PM in the school.
SKATING PARTY: 6:30-8:30 PM at Brookpark Skateland.

THURS. 15 PIZZA LUNCH: For the school children.
CONFESSIONS: 5:00-5:30 PM.

FRI. 16 SCHOOL MASS: At 8:15 AM for grades 1-8.
EARLY SCHOOL DISMISSAL: 1:15 PM.

SAT. 17 CONFESSIONS: 3:00-4:00 PM.

SUN. 18 COFFEE & DONUT SHOP: Between the 9:30 and 11:30 AM Masses.
ST. MEL FOOD COLLECTION: Place non-perishable food, soaps, paper goods, money and grocery store gift cards in the containers found in the gathering area.
RCIA: 12:00-2:00 PM.
CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: 7:30 PM in the church hall. *See page 3.*



SENIOR CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 19, 2005

Special luncheon. Optional Gift Exchange (\$5 range).
 New Members Welcome. Yuletide Carols, acappella.

Bingo. Ho! Ho! Ho! Seniors Let's Go.

Leo 216-671-2457

Dorothy 216-941-8389

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

POMPEII'S PLUMBING & HEATING

The parish staff extends a special "Thank You" to all the merchants who use our bulletin to advertise.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROL?



"THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS"

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Presented by the St. Mel Adult and Junior Choirs
Sunday, December 18 at 7:30 PM in the church hall.

Refreshments will be Served. Admission is Free.

Our program will present many traditional Christmas carols, combined with the Christmas story as told in the Bible.

Come and share the birth of Jesus in the familiar Christmas carols.

Bring your family and friends.

ST. MEL PSR NEWS

The PSR classes are studying the season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. PSR classes take place on Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 PM. If you are interested in enrolling your child for these classes, please contact Christine Oravets at 216-941-4313.

ST. MEL RCIA NEWS

We continue our study of the Catholic faith as our spiritual journey takes us through the Advent season. This week we will focus on the Annunciation: Gabriel's message to Mary. If you are interested in joining RCIA or would just like to participate in the meetings, we meet on Sundays 12:00 - 2:00 PM in the rectory meeting room. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Oravets at 216-41-4313.

DIVORCE RECOVERY FOR CATHOLICS

The Catholic parishes of the Diocesan Suburban West District sponsor a 10-week series of support group meetings designed to assist Catholics who are recently separated or divorced. Divorce is never easy and leaves individuals feeling alone, hurt and confused.

The "Divorce and Beyond" Program will help you to:

- Gain a perspective on your divorce
- Cope with the stresses and strains associated with divorce
- Understand some of you emotional responses
- Find ways of coping that will lead to growth and the restructuring of you life

The "Divorce and Beyond" Program will be offered at various locations throughout the district. To obtain a registration form and brochure, call Gayle Cilimborg at 440-331-4255.



Growing in **FAITH**

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith

GOD IS LOVE

We call God “Creator,” “Savior,” “Father,” yet when we really want to understand who he is, one word is enough. God is love.

“Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:8). Love is the very nature and essence of God himself. He doesn’t just love, he *is* love. In fact, that’s why he created us, so we can have a share in that love.

We are not simply swept up in the good will God has toward all his creations. He loves each of us as individuals and that love is never-ending and unconditional. *“Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name”* (Isaiah 49:15-16). This is not necessarily because we are good; we can’t possibly earn the vast love he has for us. But the good news is we can’t lose it either.

Because he loves us so much, he denies us nothing that will draw us closer to him and to life in Heaven. *“For God so loved the world,”* Jesus declared, *“that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

Q & A

How much of the Mass must I attend to fulfill the Sunday obligation?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass” (CCC, 2180). The expectation is that we will attend a complete Mass. “Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin” (CCC, 2181). This excludes those who cannot attend for unavoidable reasons.

What part of Mass can you afford to miss? While an emergency may demand that a person leave before the end of Mass or come late, one who misses the consecration and Communion can hardly be said to have attended Mass.

More to the point, attending Mass is not just something we have to do, it is something we get to do. At Mass, each faithful Catholic is fed with abundant graces. We know that our Lord is truly present in the Eucharist, and we receive his body and blood in this Sacrament. The Mass is a precious gift to us. Try not to miss a minute of it.

FEASTS & CELEBRATIONS

December 13 - St. Lucy (304). In the midst of pagan Sicily, St. Lucy vowed to remain chaste for Jesus. A disappointed suitor turned her in for being a Christian and she was executed as a result. *“Those whose hearts are pure are the temples of the Holy Spirit.”* St. Lucy