



Dear Parishioners,

Once again, "Merry Christmas," was we wind down these twelve blessed days. This weekend, we hear Matthew's account of "Magi from the East" who come to worship the infant Jesus. This story of the star (all creation pays homage to its creator) and the homage of the magi (the gentiles who welcome him first) is one that captures our hearts and imaginations.

One of the customs of Germany and many Eastern European countries is to take the blessing of the magi's visit to each particular home in a parish. This weekend, as you leave Church, take a copy of the house blessing and a piece of chalk, if you do not have any at home, to mark the lintel of your door as a place where Christ is worshiped.

This is a good time to make some fine new year resolutions: pray more often, be more forgiving, get more involved in Church. By doing so, you will find that it is Christ who brings his blessings and gifts to you instead. May 2009 be filled with health, happiness, and holiness for us all.

In his name,
Fr. Bill Wegher

ST. PAUL: HIS LIFE & HIS LEGACY

No person was more influential in the beginnings of Christianity than Paul of Tarsus. From Antioch to Rome, Paul proclaimed and explained the good news of Jesus to any who would listen. This year marks the 2,000th anniversary of Paul's birth and is a special time to reflect on the good news he proclaimed.

You are invited to spend an evening with St. Paul on Sunday, January 25. In the context of Evening Prayer led by our regional choir, Fr. Douglas Osborn will inspire his listeners with the heart of Paul's Gospel and mission.

Fr. Osborn was a pastor and founding director of Deacon Formation for our diocese. Now retired, he has devoted himself to inspiring others through retreats, parish missions and evenings of prayer and reflection.

St. Paul: HIS LIFE & HIS LEGACY will take place January 25th from 7-9 pm at St. John Catholic Church at M 59 and Hacker Rd.

Beginning Thursday, January 8th the Thursday Mass schedule will be at 5pm, due to Fr. Bill's teaching schedule. We will resume Mass at 9am in April.

THANK YOU

The Men's Club would like to thank all of our generous donors this year for our Annual Christmas Baskets! Also many heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who assisted in preparing the baskets and in the delivery of baskets. Many area families were truly blessed by your kindness!

God Bless, St. Mary Men's Club



Family Life Night

January 21st at 5:30 pm

Entrée: Baked Spaghetti

Please join the Parish Family for a night of food for the body and soul as well as fellowship. Youth Group grades 6-12, crafts, meetings, resume' help, rosary making and open gym are planned. There will also be the community board available. Mark your calendars for the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Questions or to volunteer contact: Rebecca at 734-878-2217, ext 203 or email rkeiser@stmarypinckney.org

REMINDER:

The Rosary Altar Society will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 8th at 7pm in Conference Room A!

Livingston County Community Connect

A free one-day event to help people in need find assistance and information
January 31, 2009, from 9am-3pm
St. Patrick Church, Brighton,
Parish Life Center

Free on-site child care available!

Connecting Individuals with:
Housing Information, Food Assistance, Legal Consultation, Clothing, Haircuts, Benefits Information, Lunch, Books for kids, Giveaways, Live Entertainment, & more!!!

CHILI SOCIAL

Warm up a long winter night. The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Chili Social on Wednesday night, January 7, from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm. Different varieties of chili, including venison will be on hand to sample. Cost is a free will donation. If anyone would like to donate a pot of chili or for more information, contact Kevin Schang @734-878-6902.

FREE THROW CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Free Throw Contest, on Saturday, January 10, from 10:00am to noon, in the gym. This event is open to all boys & girls in the Pinckney area, from ages 9 to 14. Contestants will shoot free throws and the winner of each age group will advance to the district finals on February 7. For more details, contact Kevin Schang @734-878-6902.



SAVE THE DATE

for

Hooray for Hollywood

Saturday, April 25, 2009~6pm

Silent & Live Auctions!

school.stmarypinckney.org



RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Please keep our Candidates in your daily prayers as they continue to journey in the RCIA process. For more details about this process, please call Angela - 734.878.2217 ext 218 or email at agarcia@stmarypinckney.org

RCIA Session

January 4 th	Dismissal	11:30am Mass
Class #10	<i>Pathways of Prayer</i>	12:45-1:45pm
January 10 th	Dismissal	5:00pm Mass
Class #11	<i>The Sacraments</i>	6:15pm – 7:15pm
January 18 th	Dismissal	9:00am Mass
Class #12	<i>Prayers/Tradition</i>	10:15-11:15am
January 25 th	Dismissal	11:30am Mass
Class #13	<i>The Eucharist</i>	12:45-1:45pm

*Class Sessions will be held in the educational wing classroom 152.

Faith Formation Information

Religious Education

- + Classes Resume this Sunday 1/4/08 for Sunday Session (K-8), Sacramental Preparation (1st Reconciliation and Confirmation)
- + Reminder: 1st Reconciliation Parent Meeting on Sunday, January 18th from 10:15-11:20am in the multi-use room. It is very important that at least one parent attend this meeting if they have a child in the 1st Reconciliation Preparation Program.

Meet Mystics from our Catholic Tradition

CAFÉ Wednesdays in January

January 7, 14, 21, 28

7pm – 8:30pm

You are invited to all CAFÉ Wednesdays in January to meet some mystics from our Catholic tradition, that lived in past and present centuries. These men and women have been touched by God in an extraordinary way and in some cases have written of their inner journey. Their sharing is the story of an individual's encounter with God. Each of us can find inspiration and motivation to seek, with the same single-minded perseverance, to be open to God's voice. You are guaranteed that at least one of the mystics you will be introduced to will strike a chord in your heart. These mystics are examples of men and women who sincerely strove to live the Gospel and to truly know God. All that is required for these sessions are open minds, open hearts and willingness to strive closer and deeper in a relationship with God. Please consider to attend CAFÉ Wednesdays in January at 7pm. To register for these sessions and/or to get further information please contact Angela in the Faith Formation Office; 734-878-2217 ext 218 or agarcia@stmarypinckney.org.

Prayer for Family

O God, bless our family and all its members and friends; bind us together by your love. Give us kindness and patience to support each other; and wisdom in all we do. Let the gift of your peace come into our hearts, and remain with us. May we rejoice in your blessings for all our days.
Amen.

Prayer for the New Year

The new year, like our New Born King – Jesus, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God's blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind.

Bless us. O Lord; and bless the time and seasons yet to come. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. And fill this new year with your kindness, that we may be glad and rejoice all the days of our life.



The financial status in our state has left many families in difficult situations. Loss of jobs, homes, health insurance, etc...can be devastating. If you need someone to share your difficulties by lending a listening ear, please know that BeFriender Ministry is available to all in need.

Contact the parish office at 734-878-3161 for a confidential referral to this ministry!



MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Happy NewYear!

When we wish each other "Happy New Year" as Christians, as members of the Body of Christ participating in Christ's dying and rising mystery, we are really wishing each other a grace-filled year of responding to God's revelation and a year of contemplating what we have seen and heard so that we can come to understand with more depth and insight. The challenge of this day, then, is that our "Happy New Year" be more than a passing greeting. It must also be a pledge to, like the shepherds and Mary, embrace in joy and peace God's presence to us and in us. (From *Living Liturgy*)

FURNITURE MINISTRY

Is your Men's Group looking for a way to be the hands and feet of Christ? Sons and Fathers: Looking for a way to leave Christ's imprint on someone in need? Youth Group: Are you looking for some physical work to uplift a family less fortunate than you? Love In the Name of Christ, Love INC Furniture Ministry is in need of volunteers to work on Saturdays delivering and picking up furniture. The Furniture Ministry is Love INC's largest ministry, and gave over 1,000 pieces of furniture away last year. Is God calling you to join this rewarding ministry? Phone Tina @ 810-571-1627.

Youth Ministry

Website: <http://youth.stmarypinckney.org/>

As we begin the new calendar year, I would like to extend the open invitation to all the high school youth at St. Mary and the greater community to come and check out or revisit Wednesday Night Youth Group. This month our "theme" is **Spiritual, Mental and Physical Health**. We are even hoping to have someone show us some Yoga techniques and have some guests coming in to discuss taking care of ourselves! Your presence is missed and desired so come hangout and feel free to bring a friend!

Also, on Family Life Night Wednesdays Middle School aged youth are invited to regular High School Youth Group! Please pray for Middle School Ministry as we really begin to work diligently to provide more opportunities for our middle aged youth to grow spiritually, socially and in community!

Peace,
Rebecca Keiser

Confirmation Schedule

Date:	Time:	Event:
01/04	10-11:15am	Formation Session
01/11	10-11:15am	Formation Session
01/18		NO Formation Session
01/25	10-11:15am	Formation Session
01/31	9am-12pm	Midway Retreat
02/01	10-11:15am	Formation Session

Youth Group Schedule

Date:	Time:	Event:
01/07	6-6:50pm	Leadership Team Meeting
01/07	7-9pm	Youth Group ~Health~ (HS)
01/14	7-9pm	Youth Group ~Health~ (HS)
01/21	6:45-9pm	Youth Group ~Health~ (MS & HS)
01/23	6-9pm	MOVIE NIGHT (Exams over!) (HS)
01/27	6-8pm	Pinckney Youth PhotoVoice Exhibit
01/28	7-9pm	Youth Group ~Health~ (HS)
01/31-02/01	After Masses	Souper Bowl of Giving Collection

(Note: MS=Middle School Event and HS=High School Event)

If you have an questions please call Rebecca at 734-878-2217 ext. 203 or email rkeiser@stmarypinckney.org



To Serve & Protect: Please pray for those who are serving in the Armed Forces, especially:

William V. Backlund III, Tim Begley, Christopher Bullion, Gabe Campbell, Jason (Hennigan) Cecchetti, Kym deBeauclair, Fred Dehn, Matt Ducummon, Jeff Gabel, Michael Ganzak, Erik Hennigan, Pete Petrick, Kevin Martin, Michael McInerney, Sean Rooker, Jonathon Stepp, Kenneth & Sherri Streu, Jesse Sutton, Jordon Styrk, Kurt Whitlow

ST. MARY BUILDING FUND

On the Epiphany of the Lord, we are reminded of the three wise men that followed a glorious star to the place where the Christ child was born. St. Matthew states in his gospel: "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11). Please consider sharing your treasure with the Lord by adoring Him with a gift to St. Mary's FaithQuest Capital Campaign. If you have not already done so please make a great sacrifice and lay your treasure before the Christ Child!

<u>Report for</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
<u>December 29, 2008</u>		<u>07/01/08 – 12/29/2008</u>
Offertory	\$ 12,179.16	\$ 374,164.55
Christmas	\$ 15,730.26	
FaithScape/FaithQuest	<u>\$ 9,672.00</u>	<u>\$ 82,369.15</u>
	\$ 37,581.42	\$ 456,533.70
Operating Budget Reqmnt	\$ 15,273.41	\$ 381,835.25
Mortgage Pymt Reqmnt	<u>\$ 8,657.31</u>	<u>\$ 216,432.75</u>
Variance	\$ 13,650.70	\$ (141,734.30)

Thank you for your generous donations!

THANK YOU

Livingston County Catholic Social Services and its clients wish to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of you for your prayers and support, whether it's your time, treasures and talent. Your support this year has been incredible in light of the tough times we are all facing. Thank you for stepping up and caring so much for our friends and neighbors in need. With all of you by our side, together we all CAN make a difference!

We would also like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

- Do you Love Giving a Hand Up?
- Do you Love Numbers and Budgeting?
- If You Do: Love INC has a Place for You!
- Money Management Class 5-6 Weeks
- New Class to begin Tuesday, January 20, from 7 pm-9 pm.
- Cornerstone EPC, Hilton Road, Brighton
- Love INC is in need of a facilitator for the class and coaches.
- Love INC provides the Training Manual, with easy to follow instructions.
- Is God calling you to this ministry?
- Please phone the Love INC office at 517-586-4014

WISH LIST

St. Mary Catholic School Christmas Wish List!

Season's Greetings!

St. Mary Catholic School is an outstanding example of faith and community in action. Through the generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure from all corners of St. Mary Parish and our friends and supporters, we are able to provide a quality Catholic education to our students that will be of enormous benefit to them throughout their lives.

Please find below some **Wish List** items that will help us maintain our quality spiritual and educational school program. We encourage you to consider selecting an item from the list and making a donation toward the item, or perhaps, you may want to make a donation for one complete item. Either way, please know that a donation in *any* amount will be greatly appreciated. You may drop off your donation at the parish office. If you have any questions about our **Wish List**, please do not hesitate to give me a call @ 734 878-5616!

5 Classroom Book Sets – 30 copies

- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London - \$56.10
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls - \$129.60
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - \$92.40
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain - \$92.40
- *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller - \$92.40

Book Sets Total: **\$462.90**

10 Scan Converters

The AVERKEY iMicro Scan Converter works with our Discovery Education streaming video license that provides extraordinary educational resources through concept-level video clips, interactives, images, teacher resources, and more! 10 Scan Converters...\$83.25 each X 10**\$832.50**

1 Photo Scanner

HP Scanjet G3110 Photo Scanner.....**\$80.51**

1 Multimedia Projector

Epson PowerLite 78 Multimedia Projector.....**\$599.00**

1 DVD Recorder/VCR Combo

Toshiba D-VR650 DVD Recorder/VCR Combo.....**\$239.00**

Super Wish List!

Through the generosity of the St. Mary Parish community and its friends and supporters, nearly \$5,500 was raised last year at the St. Mary Catholic School Auction, *That's Amore*, An Evening in Italy, for concert and performance risers. At the time, our goal was to raise \$12,500 in order to purchase a foundation set of risers and components. We can build upon the foundation set toward a riser and stage combination that would further benefit the school and the parish in a myriad of uses for programs and performances.

The \$12,500 figure was the goal because that amount would allow us to place an order for the foundation set of riser components that would serve the needs of various school and parish programs. Every dollar of the \$5,500 raised at the Auction has been saved toward the original goal of raising \$12,500. While we could have purchased some pieces of the

complete set we need, there are a couple of good reasons we have chosen to work toward our original goal.

Firstly, we are in the process of investigating the possibility of obtaining grant money for risers, from a number of grant sources, that require that we have already raised money toward the risers. Secondly, the \$12,500 amount would give us a sufficient number of riser sections to work with our existing wooden stage for school and parish performances.

Here are just some of the uses and benefits to having our foundation set of risers. They can be used for:

- All school programs and performances – Christmas Concert, Spring Musical, Talent Show
- All school Morning Prayer – Used daily
- The St. Mary Catholic School Auction
- The Instrumental Band Program
- Parent programs and PTC meetings
- Adult and School Cantor Programs
- Middle School Living Stations Program
- Special Masses and programs – Christmas, Holy Week, First Communion
- School-wide special programs and presentations
- Parish Talent Show
- Adult and Youth Choirs practices and performances
- Parish Picnic..... And many, many more uses!!!

You have already come through with a donation in the amazing amount of \$5,500, very nearly half the amount of our original goal! With just a little more than half of what has been donated to date, we can place our order in the beginning months of the new year. Please help us raise the additional **\$7000** needed to reach our \$12,500 goal!!!

Versalite Performance Risers

Riser foundation set and components.....**\$7000**

Thank you for all of the support you give to St. Mary Catholic School throughout the year! May the love, hope, joy, and peace of the Christmas and New Year seasons be with you and yours.

John Gilboe, Principal - St. Mary Catholic School

A PARISH SANTA WISHLIST

In the spirit of Christmas, with generous hearts and with the end of the tax year in sight, a few parishioners have asked for a list of items that the church might like to have or need. Some of the items that would be very useful are:

- Digital postage weight scale to weigh letters and small packages
- Bed, Bath & Beyond gift card to purchase new bedding for Fr. Bill's house
- 4' x 8' white board for meeting room
- New computer monitor
- As always, any contribution toward debt reduction

You can be assured of the parish's gratitude, Christ's blessings and having your name on the "nice list"! If you would like to make a contribution toward any of these items, you can place an envelope in the collection marked "Parish Wishlist" or drop it off at the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS – January 4-11

Sunday, January 4 - The Epiphany of the Lord

9:00am: In Honor of Bob Wild, Jr. by Stockbridge High School Class of 1988

11:30am: For Our Parish

Monday, January 5 – St. John Neumann

9:00am: Communion Service

Tuesday, January 6 – Bl. Andre' Bessette

9:00am: Communion Service

5:00pm: In Memory of Lorraine Minkiewicz
By Salowitz Family

Wednesday, January 7 – St. Raymond of Penafort

9:00am: In Honor of Jackie Bona by Redpath Family

Thursday, January 8

5:00pm: In Memory of Bernard J. Ray by Kolnitys Family

Friday, January 9

9:00am: In Honor of Mrs. Maryanne Wick
By Mrs. Joan Weber

Saturday, January 10

8:30am: In Honor of Bob & Marcy Kelly by Kolnitys Family

5:00pm: In Memory of Eugene Maurice by Salowitz Family

Sunday, January 11 – Baptism of the Lord

9:00am: For Our Parish

11:30am: In Honor of Zachary Anderson by Mick Family

COMMUNION SERVICE LEADERS

January 5-6: B. Rea, J. Wilson

January 12-13: D. Denome, B. Rea

WEEKLY READINGS – January 4 - 10

Sunday: Is 60: 1-6/Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2: 1-12/Ps 72

Monday: 1 Jn 3: 22—4: 6/Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25/Ps 2

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4: 7-10/Mk 6: 34-44/Ps 72

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4: 11-18/Mk 6: 45-52/Ps 72

Thursday: 1 Jn 4: 19—5: 4/Lk 4: 14-22a/Ps 72

Friday: 1 Jn 5: 5-13/Lk 5: 12-16/Ps 147

Saturday: 1 Jn 5: 14-21/Jn 3: 22-30/Ps 149

OUR PRAYER LIST

May God's healing hand reach out and hold you:

Gerald Barba, Joshua Bentley, Ron Bozek, Marlene Casey,
George Dudek, Richard Henry, Jordan Keen, Christine
Osmialowski, Tracy Schultz, Gloria Sdao, Margaret Shripka,
Matthew Sweet, Jane Vermeesch, Helen Zwiernikowski

Bulletin articles are due Tuesday's at 12 noon.

May you have a Blessed New Year!

LAY MINISTERS – January 10-11

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00pm: J. Pepper, M. Bergeron, P. Miller, M. Andrus,
D. Harris, J. Harris, R. Miller, R. Peterson

9:00am: A. Nagy, M. Kuczajda, G. Wizgird, R. Stevens,
D. Cieciek, M. Woods, R. Bartkovich, C. D'Angelo, I. Dudek
11:30am: R. Bartek, B. Bauer, M. Bauer, C. Bozek, K. Bozek,
B. Miller, A. Gilligan, P. Kalis, J. Lichwala

Proclaimers of the Word

5:00pm: S. Jasinski, P. Hohll

9:00am: A. Shmina, S. Kuschel

11:30am: J. Bartek, Z. Jones

Ushers

5:00pm: P. Carney, D. Pepper, T. Kenny, W. Peltier,
P. Mielak, B. Outwater

9:00am: J. Polich, R. Kuczajda, P. Gabli, N. Rickelmann,
J. Frost, T. Wilson

11:30am: J. Streu, B. Tinlin, M. Charboneau, B. Sabo,
M. Corwin

Greeters

5:00pm: J. Carney

9:00am: W. Stevens

11:30am: W. Brown

Altar Servers

5:00pm: J. Jasinski (Cross), A. Jasinski, L. Jasinski

9:00am: M. LeVasseur (Cross), C. LeVasseur, T. LeVasseur

11:30am: L. Yahr (Cross), L. Bauer, J. Mable

Offertory Gifts

5:00pm: Please sign up.

9:00am: Please sign up.

11:30am: Battle Family

Home Chalice Program

Please sign up.

Linens – January: R. Miller, M. Sheehan

Cleaning the Altar - January: J. Helmboldt

Collection Counters

January 5: A. Martin, M. Ulman, H. Menosky

January 12: J. King, E. Cheesman, C. Cheesman, R. Miller,
J. Darrow

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Epiphany of the Lord

The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to his celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

Do we glorify and praise the Lord in our daily life? The shepherds were in awe and responded with wonder and praise at the opportunity of seeing the baby Jesus. We have also seen our Lord, through our faith, and are called to live in great joy so that others see, in us, something that they want; a relationship with our Lord. May we truly live with praise and thanksgiving, openly, so that Christ's light is shining through us!