

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR
SCHEDULE 2009**

Christmas Eve Mass - December 24

4pm 6pm 12 Midnight

Christmas Day Mass - December 25

10am

December 31

5pm Vigil ~ Mother of God

Mary, Mother of God ~ HOLY DAY

January 1: 10:00am

The parish office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, & New Year's Day with a ½ day on New Year's Eve.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES 2009

Last Scheduled Service In Livingston County
December 21st at 7:30pm: St. Mary Magdalen, Brighton

Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas! While I know this bulletin is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the reality is that this is Christmas week. Many of you will travel. Many "new members" will be among us. I truly pray that whatever you have gone through this past year, you may find peace. That does not mean that Christmas will be "perfect." Most of us live "schizophrenic" lives. I mean that seriously. Who we are doesn't always match what we want to be. Life changes at a frantic pace. Quite often life is crazy.

If you think it was better 2,000 years ago, you are wrong. We have "meds" today. That is a blessing. So... I say to you: Christ is always among us. December 25th is a special, but arbitrary day. Enjoy it as you can, but remember there are 364 other days of the year to recognize Christ is truly present among us.

On behalf of myself and our entire staff, thank you so much for your kindness, love, support, and caring this past year. As a pastor, I am grateful for all of you, and for my dedicated staff. Enjoy the simplicity of this special day. Find light in the midst of darkness, and believe that better days are coming.

I will offer my masses for you and your loved ones.

Peace and true prayers,

Fr. Bill Wegher



Thank you for your support and generosity for the Annual Giving Tree. Thank you to the many St. Mary Families that volunteered this year! The Christian Service team is so thankful. May God bless you and your family!



The youth would like to thank everyone who supported us in the recent wreath sale. We hope you enjoy your purchases and thank you for helping us!

CHRISTMAS ADORATION SCHEDULE

Repose: Wednesday, December 23rd at 5pm

Resume: Sunday, December 27th at 12:30pm

NEW YEAR - Regular schedule no interruptions!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!



I pray all of you will have a Christmas filled with hope and love. The incarnation of our great Savior in such a vulnerable form, a baby, reminds me that God asks us to greet him in our vulnerabilities and not only in the joyful times in our life. The loving and trusting relationship God calls us to is evident in the trust God had in

humankind to send his only Son as a newborn baby. Not as an earthly king in lavish, but humbly in a barn! There is hope! Christmas Blessings to all of you and your families! Love, Rebecca

HOLIDAY BLUES?

Are the holidays getting you down? Have you lost a special loved one during the past year, and just don't feel like celebrating? Have you lost your job and don't know what the future holds? Life's stresses come at us from all directions! Maybe a Befriender could help. Sometimes just having an impartial, non-judgemental listening ear makes all the difference. There's no pretending to be cheerful when inside you feel like screaming! For more information on this listening ministry call the parish office at 734-878-3161.



RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Do you know someone who may be interested
in becoming Catholic?

Have you ever invited another to explore
the Catholic Faith?

Please join us for our upcoming meetings:

December 20: Christmas Celebration 12:45-1:45pm
* Next Class January 10, 2010 *

*These meetings will be held at St. Mary Catholic Parish
in Conference Room B.

For more details about this process,
Please call the office at 734-878-2217, ext.218.

Faith Formation Kindergarten - Confirmation

Religious Education K-8

12/20 10:15-11:20pm Class (K-8)
12/27-01/03 No Class
01/10 10:15-11:20pm Class (K-8)

1st Reconciliation

12/20 10:15-11:20pm Class
12/27-01/03 No Class
01/10 10:15-11:20pm Class and Parent Meeting
(Parent meetings are for all religious ed and school families)

Confirmation

Next Session: 01/10/10 Formation Session

SCHOOL NEWS

Help St. Mary School raise much needed money to go towards the operating expenses and the cost of keeping tuition rates down. We are looking for Volunteers to work a few hours at the Shark Club in Howell in January. There are 2 shifts per night and we need 2 people to cover each shift. Shifts go from 4:45-9pm and 8:50pm-2am. It is a great way to have fun with a friend or your spouse while still raising much needed funds for the school. The duties include "selling" the initial buy-in chips, counting and recording the house take every so often, and recording the final numbers on state forms. The dates and times needed are:

January 5th: 4:45 – 1 Person

8:50 – 1 Person

January 6th: 4:45 – 2 People

January 7th: All Positions Open

January 8th: 4:45 – 1 Person

January 17th: 8:50 – 2 People

January 18th: 8:50 – 2 People

January 19th: All Positions Open

January 20th: 4:45 – 1 Person

8:50 – 1 Person

Please consider helping for this much needed fundraiser. If you are able to help, please contact Amy Salowitz at rwsalowitz@yahoo.com or call the school office at 734-878-5616. Sincerely, Veronica Kinsey

YEAR END GIVING 2009

As you prayerfully weigh your many opportunities for charitable giving during the final weeks of 2009, please consider contributing to the ongoing ministry and work of St. Mary Catholic Parish. Consider the gifts that God has bestowed upon you not only this year but throughout your life. Year end giving is a spiritual opportunity to make a return to God for His many blessings. Make an investment in your parish. The Building Fund and St. Mary Catholic Parish invite you to remember us in your gift giving this year. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Year End Gift List Ideas:

Cash gifts can be sent anytime, in the form of a check or money order.

Stocks, bonds, and shares in mutual funds can be the best gifts to make whether they have appreciated or depreciated in value.

Cash value in current or paid up life insurance policies can benefit St. Mary Catholic Parish by naming it as a beneficiary.

Memorials and Honorariums are cash gifts that pay tribute to someone while also benefiting St. Mary Catholic Parish. You may make such a gift at any time, for any person. An appropriate acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt of your gift.

Matching Gifts Programs Many employers offer Matching Gifts or Grant programs to employees. It is businesses way of giving back to the community and supporting their employees desire to enrich the community they live in. Employers who offer these programs will many times match as much as 2 or 3 to 1 an employee's donation to a non-profit or educational institution.

As in all legal matters, always consult your accountant, attorney or other financial professional.

Donations must be received or postmarked by December 31st to be eligible for your 2009 taxes. Please note that the parish office will close at noon on December 31st.

ATTENTION:

Due to inclement weather

School Closing & Parish Office Closing

The offices will observe the following hours during school closings:

- School Office, Day Care, & Latchkey: Closed
- Parish Office: Open at 12 noon (if possible)
- The morning Mass/Communion Service will be cancelled.
- The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed. However, the chapel will remain open.
- The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed the following morning after Mass.
- Evening Events: If weather conditions persist all evening events will be cancelled.

Merry Christmas



Save the Date!
Family Life Night
Tuesday
January 19, 2010

NOW RECRUITING!

A rewarding opportunity to help nourish God's People!

FLN is looking for help!

Positions include food prep, set up, and clean up, shopping, inventory, gym supervisor and spiritual team positions as well as formation planning.

Contact Rebecca today for more details!

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

HOMELESS NIGHT

The Christian Service team is looking for help again this year to feed and chaperone the homeless through the REACH program. The host church is Community Congregational Church in Pinckney. We need dinner and breakfast meals as well as MANY people to chaperone for the overnight hours. The dates are 1/18, 1/24, 1/28 and 1/30. Please contact Marti Willacker if you are interested in helping with this ministry 734-498-2435 or mlwillacker@yahoo.com

**RINGING & SINGING
 IN THE NEW YEAR**

On January 3rd, 2010 the Men's Club is sponsoring a "Ringing and Singing in the New Year" Country Style Breakfast in the multi-purpose room. Breakfast is served 8:30am until 11am and is a free-will donation. Proceeds are to help support the Music Ministry at the parish. We have the best menu in the area which includes: fried or scrambled eggs, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, French toast, pancakes, quiche, ham, pork sausage, and of course our renowned "waffle station." Musical guests and raffles add to the festivities. Everyone is welcome! For further information call the parish office 734-878-3161.

KANS FOR KIDS

Collections are way down and Kans for Kids is running a negative balance. Please make an effort to bring your bottles and cans on the 3rd weekend of every month. Our kids are counting on all of you. Or if you can, please make a small donation at the box on the trailer. If you have a donation & forget the weekend or can't make Mass, contact Kevin Schang @734-878-6902 for a special pick-up.

MASS INTENTIONS

Are you having trouble choosing a gift for that someone special? You could consider having a Mass Intention in their honor. We also offer Mass Intentions for those loved ones who are deceased. There is no better way to show our love for someone than to offer our prayers for them. Please give our parish office a call at 734-878-3161 if interested in this unique gift.

RAFFLE

We pull the first winner for the 2010 raffle in just two weeks! Return your raffle ticket stubs and money ASAP to the raffle ticket box in the hallway, the collection basket, or drop off at the parish office. We have extra tickets available to sell, if interested contact the parish office. They make great presents; stocking stuffers, birthdays, anniversaries, etc... Ticket sellers must be 18 years of age or older. Anyone 18 or older may purchase a raffle ticket for someone under 18. The person under 18 will receive the prize money.

Congratulations to the following raffle ticket winners for Sunday, December 13, 2009:

\$25 winners-

Sarah Salvatori

Catherine Meldrum

Bob & Cathryn Phipps

George Dudek

Bridget Carano

Justin Stahl

Maggie Andrus

**ACCOMMODATING YOUR NEEDS
 AT MASS**

As we strive to live out our stewardship prayer to be a welcoming parish and fill the pews, we recognize that what seems to work for the crowd is not always the best for the individual with physical disabilities. We don't want to let the distance, a crush of people, or some other factor we haven't even recognized keep you from receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Let us be of service to you--please speak with the deacon or priest at least 15 minutes prior to Mass. Any greeter or usher will be pleased to help you make that contact.

**St. Mary
 Euchre Party**

Please join us for the first Euchre Party of the New Year!
Saturday, January 16th
7:00pm

\$10 per person

Remember to bring a dish to share, drinks are provided.

No advance ticket sales,

pay at the door. Questions: Julie Kukalis 810-231-0623



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Livingston County Catholic Social Services (LCCSS) would like to THANK everyone for their support throughout the year, whether it is prayers, time, treasures or talents. We feel so blessed to have you all join us in our mission of serving those in need. You truly DO make a difference in the lives of those hurting! Please accept our prayers for all of you for a very Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Youth Ministry

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

Meetings and youth group nights will be held in the youth room. Please use back door by the playground for drop off and pick up.

High School Youth Group!

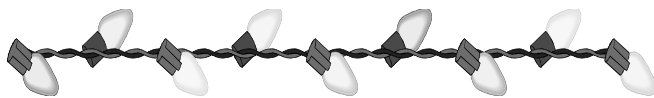
| | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Date: | Time: | Event: |
| 12/23-12/30 | | No Youth Group |
| 01/06/10 | 7:00pm-9:00pm | Youth Group |
| 01/08 | 7:00pm-10:00pm | Youth Friday Night Party |

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

Middle School Youth Group!

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Date: | Time: | Event: |
| 12/22-12/29 | | No Youth Group |
| 01/05/10 | 7:00pm-8:30pm | Youth Group |
| 01/08 | 7:00pm-10:00pm | Youth Friday Night Party |

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



LIGHTS FOR LACASA

Decorating for Christmas? Light strings don't work?
DON'T THROW THEM OUT –
BRING THEM TO CHURCH!

Deposit your old, worn out, unwanted Christmas lights in the GREEN BOX labeled:

“SANTA’S LIGHT CREW DONATIONS”

In the church gathering space from now until January 31st.
The materials will be recycled and all funds raised will be used to support LACASA’S efforts to end domestic violence.

Sponsored by St. Mary’s RCIA - Questions please call 734-878-2217, ext. 218

HAVE YOU SEEN ‘THE JACKET’?

WHAT: St. Mary 2010 Traveling Jacket. One of a kind embroidered Columbia fleece jacket.

WHERE: On display and seeking donations at St. Mary School & Parish events.

WHEN: Now thru Auction Night (April 17, 2010)

WHY: To create an item for the Live Auction and to provide the winning bidder with cash!

HOW TO DONATE: Stuff ‘the jacket’ with cash donations (dollars, \$10, \$20, \$100, or any bill amount) whenever you see it on display.

HOW TO WIN: Bid on ‘the jacket’ and unknown amount of cash stuffed into the jacket at the Live Auction. Winning bidder receives jacket and the unknown amount of cash!

Fleece Full of Funds!

Are you drowning in debt? Living paycheck to paycheck? Facing today's economy with a spirit of fear? Then Financial Peace University is for you! FPU is a Biblically-based small group study with videos featuring Christian financial counselor Dave Ramsey. Christ the King Catholic Church in Ann Arbor is once more offering this popular 13-week seminar beginning Monday, Jan. 18, 7-9 p.m., with an optional free preview on Monday, Jan. 4, 7-8 p.m. in the Parish Center. It's great for young adults, singles, engaged and married couples--anyone looking for help managing their money in these difficult times. The lifetime membership allows you to repeat part or all of the class at any location offering FPU at any time! One class membership covers a single person, or an engaged or married couple; a married couple may bring teens still living at home. Cost, including all materials, is \$100 when obtained through Christ the King. Space is limited. To reserve your seat for the class, register by clicking on the link for FPU at the Christ the King Web site, www.ctkcc.net. Questions? Contact Theresa (734-665-5040 or thofer@ctkcc.net) or Tom and Maria (734-922-3691 or maria.herbel@gmail.com).

Report for December 14, 2009

Parishioner Donations -Giving Back To The Lord

| | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Year To Date</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | | 07/01/09 –12/14/09 |
| Offertory | \$ 12,012.38 | \$ 334,163.71 |
| Operating Budget Reqmnt | <u>\$ 13,349.04</u> | <u>\$ 320,376.96</u> |
| Variance | \$ (1,336.66) | \$ 13,786.75 |
| Debt Reduction/FaithQuest Collected | \$ 1,428.00 | \$ 25,760.16 |
| Mortgage Payment Requirement | | \$ 225,090.00 |
| Mortgage Amount Paid | | <u>\$ 60,000.00</u> |
| Shortfall | | \$ (165,090.00) |

Thank you for your generous donations!



Please pray for those who are serving in the Armed Forces, especially:

William V. Backlund III, Tim Begley, Christopher Bullion, Gabe Campbell, Kymberly deBeauclair, Jason (Hennigan) Cecchetti, Fred Dehn, Matt Ducummon, Jeff Gabel, Michael Ganzak, Erik Hennigan, Cody Floyd, Kevin Martin, Michael McInerney, Sean Rooker, Anthony Sparks, Jonathon Stepp, Kenneth & Sherri Streu, Jesse Sutton, Kurt Whitlow, Steven Whoolery

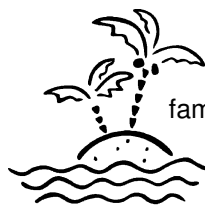


PHOTO TIME

The auction team is looking for St. Mary parishioners to submit their family beach photos. They can submit them either by hard copy through the church office or electronically to onthe8th@charter.net. We will be using them as decorations on our St. Mary Beach Bums wall at the auction on April 17th!

MASS INTENTIONS – Dec. 20 - 27

Sunday, December 20 –4th Sunday of Advent

9:00am: For Our Parish

11:30am: In Memory of Rose Ciesliga by Family

Monday, December 21 – St. Peter Canisius

9:00am: Communion Service

Tuesday, December 22

9:00am: Communion Service

5:00pm: In Memory of deceased members of the Ferenc Family by Family

Wednesday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty

9:00 am: In Memory of all the deceased residence of the Sacred Heart Care Home of 2009

Thursday, December 24 – Vigil of Christmas

***4:00pm:** In Honor of Joshua Torres by Domen Family

***6:00pm:** For Our Parish

***Midnight:** In Memory of Jim Landau
By Glenn & Fran Kinsey

Friday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

(Christmas)

***10:00am:**In Memory of Leonard Walton by Delores Walton

Saturday, December 26 – St. Stephen

8:30am: No Mass

5:00pm: In Memory of Douglas Paul by Family

Sunday, December 27 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

9:00am: In Memory of Laurie Wizgird by Family

11:30am: For Our Parish

COMMUNION SERVICE LEADERS

December 21-22: B. Rea, D. Hall

December 28-29: J. Wilson, T. Burke

WEEKLY READINGS – Dec 20 - 26

Sunday: Mt. 5:1-4a/Ps 80/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Sg 2:8-14/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Ps (1 Sm 2)/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Mt Acts 13:16-17/22-25/
Mt 1:1-25

Friday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98 /Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/ Ps 31/ Mt 10:17-22

OUR PRAYER LIST

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

Ida Bulszewicz, Rachel Campbell, Ed Cheesman, Dolores Denome, Donald Dudek, Sr. Gretchen Elliott, Marilyn Friske, Martha Holley, Kris Koveleski, Cecelia Kurdziel, Linda Landau, Justin Meats, Paula Nedela, Joan Tinlin

Due to the printer deadline for the holiday bulletins articles were due December 15. Please submit your upcoming articles and if space/time permits they may be published. January 10th bulletin will resume with normal deadline of January 5th at 12noon.

LAY MINISTERS – December 26 - 27

ATTN: Eucharistic Ministers

You will NOW be **SELF SCHEDULING** when you want to serve our St. Mary's Parish Community as an Eucharistic Minister. Don't forget to check in Meeting Room A as you come to Mass each week to see if you are needed to serve at the Mass that is about to start. Thank you for your willingness to serve and for trying this new system.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00pm: Please sign up if you can serve.

9:00am: Please sign up if you can serve.

11:30am: Please sign up if you can serve.

Proclaimers of the Word

5:00pm: Please sign up if you can serve.

9:00am: Please sign up if you can serve.

11:30am: Please sign up if you can serve.

Ushers

5:00pm: Please sign up if you can serve.

9:00am: Please sign up if you can serve.

11:30am: Please sign up if you can serve.

Greeters

5:00pm: Please sign up if you can serve.

9:00am: Please sign up if you can serve.

11:30am: Please sign up if you can serve.

Altar Servers

5:00pm: Please sign up if you can serve.

9:00am: Please sign up if you can serve.

11:30am: Please sign up if you can serve.

Offertory Gifts

5:00pm: Barba Family & Czubaj Family

9:00am: Please sign up.

11:30am: Please sign up.

Home Chalice Program

Tedrick Family

Linens – December: F. Kinsey, L. Lavey

January: A. Salowitz, K. Leonard

Cleaning the Altar – Dec: J. Helmboldt

Collection Counters

December 21: A. Martin, M. Ulman, S. Walton, G. Aten

December 28: H. Menosky, R. Miller, J. Darrow,
B. Zielinski

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

4th Sunday of Advent

Today's first reading gives us such hope in the face of the darkness of today's world. "He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, His God, and they shall remain, for now His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: He shall be peace." Let us remember that God is in charge. He is the authority and true ruler of our world and everything is in His hands. Our Lord shall shepherd His flock and His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth. Let us proclaim this truth and praise our Lord for all to see and hear.