



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 14 - St.
John of the Cross

8:00 Irene Swift by Bernadette
Connolly

Tuesday, December 15

8:00 Daniel Fabio by Ron
Koniczny

Wednesday, December 16

5:30 Maria Degasperi by
Madonna Zittel

Thursday, December 17

8:00 Christine Hellenbach
and Family

Friday, December 18


8:00 Jerome Brandl, Sr. by
Mary Nanni


Saturday, December 19

9:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's
4:30 Michael Raykowski by
family

Sunday, December 20 - Fourth
Sunday of Advent

8:00 Dorothy Tinney by family
10:15 Pauline Zurlo by family

 Scripture Readings for
the Week

 Monday - Numbers 24:2-7,
Good News 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday - Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-
13; Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday - Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18,
21b-25; Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday - Genesis 49:2, 8-10;
Matthew 1:1-17

Friday - Jeremiah 23:5-8;
Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday - Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a;
Luke 1:5-25

Next Sunday - Micah 5:1-4a;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Advent Penance Service

this Tuesday - 7:00 pm

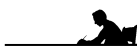
at Nativity of the Blessed

Virgin Mary Church,

Main Street at Harris Hill Rd.,

Williamsville.

Don't pass up this moment of
grace!



PASTORAL SHARINGS

The Nicene Creed proclaims our belief in the Trinity. Among its points is that Jesus is consubstantial and incarnate. Neither of these words is common in our vocabulary, but their appearance in the creed shows how difficult it is for us humans to explain the mystery of God.

"Consubstantial" basically means "one in being," but the word is more technical. It proclaims our belief that there is only one God, though the Godhead is manifest in more than one way. God has one nature, but three persons. Jesus existed with the Father before all ages - before He entered the world in time and place on the first Christmas Day in Bethlehem. He already existed, and He was always truly God - consubstantial with the Father.

This belief entered the creed after the Council of Nicaea in the fourth century because of a heresy spread by a man named Arius. He believed that Jesus had a beginning in time, and hence He could not share the same Godhead as the Father. This opinion did not fit with the evidence in the New Testament, so the early church condemned the thought of Arius and clarified mainstream Christian belief by proclaiming that Jesus had always shared the same nature with the Father - that He was consubstantial with the Father - before and after He was born.

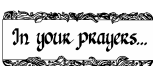
We also believe that Jesus became "incarnate," a word that means that Jesus as God took on the flesh of a human. He was actually born, though He lost nothing of the Godhead by doing so. If you had seen Jesus in the first century, you would have seen God in flesh and bone.

These two difficult words proclaim two sides of our belief. Jesus is God, and Jesus is human - He is consubstantial and incarnate.

Rev. Paul Turner

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Our Special Prayer Request for the Week: That caregivers might continue to reflect God's loving compassion and presence to those who are ill and dependent; we pray to the Lord...



Please pray for the sick of the parish and their family members particularly; Thomas Brennan, Irene Michalak, Alexis Bruno, Sara Milani, Julie Conschafter, Loretta Varo, Julie Carlo, Pamela Rodgers, Julie Robertson, Carmella Verdi, Rose Cvitanovich, Arlene Corbett, Mark Pearce and for the happy repose of the soul of Dennis Hanlon. Please also continue to pray for the troops who are serving our country in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.



Parishioners are invited to admire the Living Nativity next Sunday preceding the 10:15 am Mass. Shepherds, kings, angels and animals will gather around Jesus, Mary and Joseph with hearts full of wonder and awe.

The 2009 Church Calendars are here. Please take one on your way out today!

IT'S TIME TO REMEMBER the nuns who taught you in religion, the religious brothers and sisters who nursed you in your illness, the religious who taught in our high schools, colleges and parishes. It's time to remember them with affection and a generous donation to assist in their retirement years. **The second collection this weekend will give you a chance to say "Thank you".**

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) are available this weekend and next weekend. The wafers are on the altar rail and a donation of \$1.00/ envelope is suggested. Sharing Oplatki is a Central European Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian and Italian families during Wigilia (Christmas Eve Vigil). On the eve of Christmas, those gathered at the table watch for the evening star. Family and friends offer the wafer to each other expressing wishes for happiness and the peace of the newborn child.

Coping with Holidays - Anniversaries, Special Occasions and other Seasons of Loss? Grieving the loss of a loved one; hurting from the pain of separation or divorce or experiencing loneliness, depression or just the blues? Please contact us for your FREE packet of ideas, reflections and insights designed specifically with you in mind. Just call your Office of Family Life Ministries at 716-847-2210 or e-mail familylife@buffalodiocese.org. We care!

Eighth Annual Catholic Men's Conference - Saturday March 20th, 2010 - The Conference site will again be at Cardinal O'Hara High School in Tonawanda, right off the I-290. Space will be limited, so register early by using our online registration system which can be found at www.spiritiscalling.org. Men who register by February 15 will also receive a discount on their registration fee. Don't miss this inspiring annual event!

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with humanizing the birth of Jesus with his construction of the first manger scene to illustrate the humble beginnings of Jesus, Messiah and Lord. Francis's love and concern for the poor was quickly transferred into the public workshop of the church. But it wasn't until the next generation that the new Franciscan theology of Christmas was given poetic expression. Jacopone da Todi, a thirteenth-century poet, wrote the following addressed to Mary,

"O Mary, what did you feel when you first saw Him? Did love nearly destroy you? As you gazed upon Him, how could you sustain such love? When you gave Him suck, how could you bear such excess joy? When He turned to you and called you Mother, How could you bear being called the Mother of God?"

😊 A man in Florida called his son in New York two days before Thanksgiving. "I hate to tell you this, Joe, but your mother and I are getting a divorce. I want to live my life in peace." Joe immediately called his sister in New Jersey, who offered to arrange flights to Florida for both their families. Then Jane called her parents. "Dad, don't do anything until we get there," she said. "We'll be home later tonight." Her father hung up and hollered to his wife, "OK, honey, they're coming home for Thanksgiving. Now we'll have to come up with a way to get them home for Christmas."



- * Sunday, December 13 - Religious Education Classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am, 11:15 am - 12:15 pm
- * Wednesday, December 16 - Religious Education Classes - 4:00 - 5:00 pm
- * Thursday, December 17 - Parish Council Monthly Meeting - 7:15 pm in the Rectory Meeting Room
- * Weekend of December 19-20 - Blood Pressure Screenings after each Mass in the Library of the Church; Akron/Newstead Food Pantry Collection Barrels will be out in the back of Church - soap and cereal are needed!
- * Sunday, December 20 - Religious Education Classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am, 11:15 am - 12:30 pm



A Prayer for Priests and Priestly Vocations

Heavenly Father, please grant to Your faithful servants, the grace and strength to carry out Your mission for the church each day. Keep our priests close to You and continue to inspire them to serve others in Your holy name. Please help to inspire men who are called to a priestly vocation to answer Your call and participate in the fullness that You have planned for them. Amen.

BOTTOM LINE:

Any fool can criticize. It takes character and self-control to be understanding.
Dale Carnegie