



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 21 - St. Peter
Canisius

8:00 Michael Kelly *by Rick and
Rosemary Smith*

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 Dorothy Miller *by Walt and
Janet Nottleman*

Wednesday, December 23 - St.
John of Kanty

5:30 Stella Mattioli *by family*

Thursday, December 24 - Vigil of
Christmas

4:30 Henry and Michael
Raykowski *by family*

7:30 Virginia Kuna *by Kuna and
Colling Families*

Friday, December 25 - The
Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

8:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's

10:15 Albert, Helen and Joseph
Konieczny *by family*

Saturday, December 26 - St.
Stephen

9:00 Parishioners of St. Teresa's

4:30 Bill and Joanne Jaroni *by
Sylvia and Christine*

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

8:00 Sarah and Sally Shimmel
by family

10:15 Ted Kowalik *by family*



Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday - Song of Songs 2:8-
14; Luke 1:39-45; **Tuesday** -
1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56;

Wednesday - Malachi 3:1-4, 23-
24; Luke 1:57-66; **Thursday** -

Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-
25; Matthew 1:1-25; **Friday** -

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6;
John 1:1-18; **Saturday** - Acts 6:8-
10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22;

Next Sunday - 1 Samuel 1:20-22,
24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke
2:41-52

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



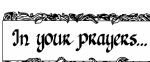
PASTORAL SHARINGS

For the weekend before Christmas, our Scripture readings are especially appropriate because they remind us of the power of the simplicities of Christmas, those simple but powerful truths that are the real spiritual fuel of this wonderful season.

Our first reading is from the Old Testament prophet Micah. When a sinful people ask how many tons of sacrifices and gallons of oil are needed to appease a God justly angry over their sin, Micah is the prophet who gives the simple but demanding reply that the Lord requires only that "we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God." Until now, the prophets we have heard spoke about the Messiah in terms of a restored glory to the Temple and city of Jerusalem. But Micah looks away from Jerusalem to the small town of Bethlehem. He says that the Messiah will be born not in the glitter and majesty of Jerusalem but in Bethlehem.

His words remind us that the Lord is found in ordinary places. Over a century ago, a man called Phillips Brooks was in Jerusalem for Christmas. Later he spent some time on the hillside looking out toward Bethlehem, which is about five miles south of Jerusalem. He realized that Christ is present not just in the grand liturgies but wherever Christians gather. He composed the familiar carol, "O little town of Bethlehem . . . in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light." Our homes and families are like Bethlehem. There is no place too small, too dark and no life too troubled where the Lord cannot come. That is one simple but powerful truth of Christmas.

Our Special Prayer Request for the Week: That those who find themselves in Church on Christmas will find a way to stay close in the days and months ahead; we pray to the Lord...



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

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS VIGIL -

Thursday, December 24th

4:30 pm, 7:30 pm

(featuring Christmas music by St. Teresa's choir,
directed by Laurie Bordonaro Mozee')

CHRISTMAS DAY - Friday, December 25th

8:00 am, 10:15 am

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.

Lessons and Carols - The Choir of St. Louis Church, under the direction of Frank Scinta, will present a Festival Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 pm in St. Louis Church, 35 Edward Street at Main, Buffalo. Featured will be carols and anthems of Willan, Ord, Posten, Willcocks, Waters, Yon and others.

Catholic Social Teaching—Action: During the busy season, ponder and be aware of how you are building relationships of “gratuitousness, mercy and communion” in order to “build the earthly city according to love and justice”. On the one hand, charity demands justice: recognition and respect for the legitimate rights of individuals and peoples. It strives to build the earthly city according to law and justice. The earthly city is promoted not merely by relationships of rights and duties, but to an even greater and more fundamental extent by relationships of gratuitousness, mercy and communion.

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, 2009

Spiritual Uplift Packet - Feeling sad, down, discouraged “blue”? Looking for healthy wholesome alternatives to cope? Reach out NOW. Inner healing and hope are a phone call or email away. Please contact your Office of Family Life Ministries for your FREE packet of practical easy to use resources to provide you with tried and true antidotes! For more information or a free packet, contact your Office of Family Life Ministries at 716-847-2210 or go to familylife@buffalodiocese.org.



A Christmas Prayer

Dear Lord, Bless all families this Christmas. Help us all to remember this season that you chose to be part of a family yourself and came, not to be served, but to serve and one day die for love of those who hated, deserted, and killed you. On this Christmas day, may we always remember amid the joys, family and presents, the reason we have this season: That you, the Eternal Son of God came to live among us as one of us and as a member of our human family. Amen.



Charlie knew that Christmas was coming and he wanted to get something nice for his girlfriend. He couldn't think of anything to buy her, so she said, “Just take me somewhere expensive.” So he dropped her off at the gas station.

**Additional Time for Confession:
Thursday, December 24th - 11:30 am - 12:00 pm**



- * **Sunday, December 20 - Religious Education Classes - 9:00 - 10:00 am, 11:15 am - 12:15 pm**
- * **Wednesday, December 23 - No Religious Education Classes - Christmas Vacation!**
- * **Sunday, December 27 - No Religious Education Classes - Christmas Vacation!**



Prayer For Priests and Religious

Lord Jesus, Son of Mary, You called the apostles to become “fishers of men.” We pray that many faith-filled and courageous young men and women will follow Your call to religious life. Inspire them to dedicate their lives to building up Your kingdom on earth.

Lord, we pray as well for all priests and religious. Help them to be joyful in service to Your people, and eager to bear witness to the power of Your love in the world.

Lord, help them to remain steadfast in their commitment to You and Your people. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and understanding, and reward them with lasting peace and joy. Grant that they may work without ceasing in obedience to Your will and Your greater honor and glory. Amen.



BOTTOM LINE:

**“When a family is weakened,
it is inevitably children
who suffer.”
Pope Benedict XVI**