



MASSES FOR THE WEEK December 8 - 14, 2008

Monday	8:00a	The People of St. Mary Parish
	7:00p	The People of St. Mary Parish
Tuesday	8:00a	Ken Lux (St. Mary CCW)
Wednesday	8:00a	Lottie & George Piazza (Family)
Thursday	8:00a	Ken Lux (Pat Schanaberger)
Friday	8:00a	Corinne Kotesa (Family)
Saturday	4:15p	Rudolph Komp (Marita Komp)
Sunday	9:00a	Esther & George Frepan (Family)
	11:00a	Louis Marconi (Family)

SUNDAY READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2008

In our house, Christmas comes gradually. On the First Sunday of Advent we pull out all the Christmas decorations. The Advent candles go on the table; the wreath on the door; the Christmas mobile is hung in the kitchen, and the Advent Calendar placed in the kitchen where we open one door each day. On the Second Sunday, all the Christmas books take their place and the lights are put up outside. And gradually throughout this all-too-short season, appear the angels, the nutcrackers, the stockings, and, of course, the tree—always a real one that we cut down ourselves. It's about tradition. Somehow we feel a bit more secure when we can count on some things not changing—at least not too much. We even have the same "discussions." The sons arguing for colored lights. ("When you grow up you can have colored lights on YOUR tree.") Or—*shudder*—flashing lights. ("When you grow up AND I'm not visiting, you can have flashing lights on YOUR tree.")

The poorest to the richest, folks of every nation, race, and religion decorate their homes to make a day more special. It's about honoring and remembering. Each year I remember my friend Jean who gave me the angel ornament with 1975 printed on it. I think about my mom who sends each of us handcrafted ornaments every year. I remember my son Daniel's first Christmas with us. He was ten when we adopted him and he said in his broken English, "In Guatemala, Santa just sleeps and sleeps." I remember Phil and Nate as tiny babies as I hang the ornaments that say "child's first Christmas."



My first baby, Phil, is married now and he and his wife Krystle (who also prefers little white, non-flashing lights) have presented us with our first grand-child. How delightful it is to welcome a new life into our family.

And that is also why we decorate. It's about hospitality—welcoming folks. To all who pass by and see the wreath and the lights and the Christmas tree in-side, we say, "Welcome friend and stranger: Christmas is observed here."

*Paige Byrne Shortal
sundaybulletins@liguori.org*

STEWARDSHIP

November 30, 2003

\$3,609.00

School Support—Partners

\$925.00

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

**THANK YOU
for supporting our Parish!**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 13/14, 2008**

	4:15 PM SAT	9:00 AM SUN	11:00 AM SUN
EM	Rob Falcioni Frank Carra Debbie Marconi ©	Jean Dinnocenzo Gert Lipka Carol Bartels ©	Caryl Russell Jackie Smith Mary Gorman ©
LEC	Joan Carra	Ed Szymanski	Joe Smith
SER	Carlo Falcioni Alice Sweet	Jessica Giffey Andrew Pegram	Michelle Wegrzyn Elyse Terrazas

ST. MARY SCHOOL—PENNIES

St. Mary School has the Sept-Oct-Nov totals from our Penny Collection. We collected **\$1,381.22**. The Parish portion of this total is **\$214.63**. Thanks to everyone who helped with this collection. Please continue to drop your pennies off in the vestibule of Church.



**ST. MARY
50TH ANNIVERSARY
ORNAMENTS**

The **50th Anniversary Ornaments & Sun catchers** would be a great Christmas Gift for St. Mary's Graduates. They are still available—ask at the Fundability Table.



**SOMETHING
TO THINK ABOUT**

Writing in "Open Door" in the Catholic Digest, Dennis Alessi tells about being in downtown Baltimore. At an intersection stood an elderly black man calling out to the passers-by. "Turn from your sins! Turn back to God!" His pulpit was a clean metal trash can. Dennis wrote: "His pleas were dignified and sincere.. I had no idea whether that man calling into the crowd was heard by one or by a hundred others. But he reached something in me." Result: Dennis returned to the Church from which he'd been absent for years.

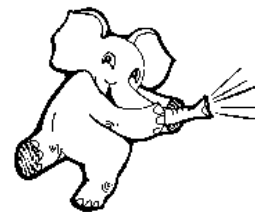
How do I explain the impact this man's message had on Dennis?

*Turn away from your sins.
(See Luke 3:3.)*

SUPPORT FUNDABILITY—BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS CARDS AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL! - Table now located in the vestibule of Church.

CCW NEWS

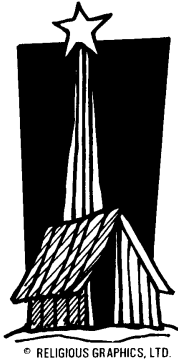
Our **Holiday Bake Sale, White Elephant Sale & Raffle** is next weekend, *Dec. 13 & 14*. Please bring white elephant donations to the lobby outside the after care room. We also need baked goodies for the Bake Sale. Stop after Mass in Ryan Hall next weekend. Thank You.



TODAY—Sunday, Dec. 7th, is Donut Sunday. Join us in Ryan Hall after Mass.

Plan on joining us on **Tuesday, December 16th** for our annual **Christmas Potluck Dinner** at 6:30 PM. Bring a dish to share and enjoy. We'll play Bingo after dinner.

CHRISTMAS MASSES



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**Christmas Eve,
Wed., December 24**

4:15 PM Christmas
Eve Mass

10:00 PM Christmas
Eve Mass

**Christmas Day, Thur.,
December 25**

10:00 AM

**SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION
CONFESSIONS/CHURCH**

**Saturday, Dec. 13,
3:30 to 4:00 PM**

**Saturday, Dec. 20,
3:30 to 4:00 PM**

**Confessions are heard in the room on the
right side of the front sanctuary.**



O Come O Come Emmanuel !

The favorite Advent carol, **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** was originally written in Latin text in the 12th Century. The author of the words and the composer to the music to O Come, O Come Emmanuel remains unknown. It is, however, believed the melody is of French origin and added to the text a century later. The Latin lyrics were translated into English by John Mason Neale in 1851.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION**

Monday, December 8, 2008

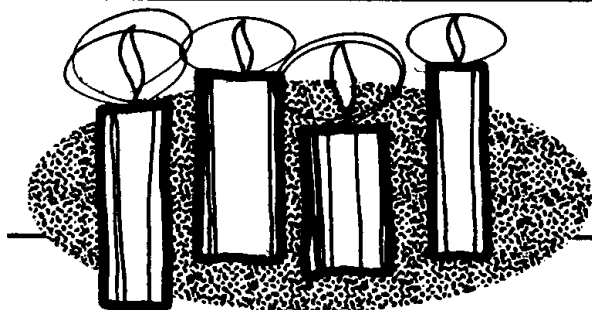
Masses at St. Mary will be held:

**Monday, Dec. 8th
8:00 AM
7:00 PM**

In this celebration, we affirm that the Blessed Virgin Mary was filled with God's grace at the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Ann. Let us praise God, who kept her sinless from the first moment of her life.



SPIRITUAL READING: In preparing for the birth of Jesus, it's quite helpful to think about the role and spiritual qualities of John the Baptist. We know John was passionate about God. We know he was not caught up with surface appearances. We know he was deeply spiritual and always sought God's peace. **Sometimes Enough Is Enough** (*HarperCollins, 2000*) by Marsha Sinetar is a book that will help readers think about and cultivate their own spiritual qualities. The author proposes some practical steps for cultivating a life of contemplation and spiritual depth. *Sometimes Enough Is Enough* is worth-while reading for Advent, a season for finding spiritual direction in a material world. This book is available through your local bookstores or on the Internet.



**O Come
EMMANUEL!**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BISHOP

RETIRED RELIGIOUS LETTER

Dear Brother Priests,

Please join with me in enthusiastic support of the upcoming appeal December 13-14 for the Retirement Fund for Religious and all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, present and past, who have dedicated their lives to prayer, ministry, and service.

As pastors, you know that ministry in any era is challenging; but the indomitable spirit of religious enabled them to build schools, hospitals, and much of the social service infrastructure of this country. Religious helped establish the institutions that enabled missions of Catholics to engage in the mainstream of our country's industry and economy.

When their numbers were vast and their majority young, religious institutes invested not in pension plans but in ministry, in people, and in the future of the Church they served.

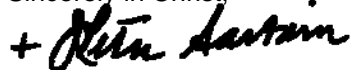
Today, the majority of women and men religious are past age 60; a significant number are past age 80. Many institutes simply do not have the resources to meet the dramatically escalating costs of care for their growing populations of elderly.

Nevertheless, religious institutes do not assertively seek our help. Their traditions of service to others are deeply rooted and ongoing; so I ask that you advocate on their behalf. During the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious, please recall the role of religious in your life; the ways that they have nourished your faith and defined and strengthened your values.

Our witness, our compassion, and our advocacy are the best that we can offer to this appeal and to parishioners who, through their past generosity, have demonstrated their gracious willingness to give what they can.

With every best wish and prayer, I am

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain
Bishop of Joliet

P.S. This second collection at the offertory will be taken up next weekend 12/13-14. Envelopes are provided in the bi-monthly mailing.

READINGS THIS WEEK

December 8 - Monday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:26-38

December 9 - Tuesday: St. Juan Diego, Memorial • Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

December 10 - Wednesday: Advent Weekday • Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

December 11 - Thursday: Advent Weekday • Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

December 12 - Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast - Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab/Lk 1:26-38

December 13 - Saturday: St. Lucy, Memorial • Sir 48:1-4,9-11/Mt 17:10-13

December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8; 19-28

MASS TIMES

Free ministry to traveling Catholics. For nationwide Mass times and locations: **Call 1-800-Mass Times (1-800-627-7846)** or Internet **www.Masstimes.org**. The Mission is to provide traveling Catholics with information on the times of worship services, as well as church location, telephone, and handicapped accessibility.

PRAYER

Let us rejoice and be glad for Christ has
come to show us the path for our life.

Come Lord Jesus!

Bring your light into the darkest
recesses of the world through us,
your Body on earth today.

Shed the light of your justice where systems
oppress the imprisoned, impoverish
the destitute, violate the young and
helpless.

Radiate the light of your love where people
feel abandoned, live in violence,
encounter hatred.

Grace us, as your people, to be a light in
the world, in this time and place.

Amen.

