

DECEMBER 18, 2005: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

THE CALENDAR:

Monday, December 19: Advent weekday

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

8:00 a.m. Mass (D): Mary Ann Oehrtman

3:15-4:15 p.m. CCD (D) Grades 1-6

7:30 p.m. R.C.I.A. (D)

Tuesday, December 20: Advent weekday

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

8:00 a.m. Mass (D): Grilliot/Schmitz Family

7:30 p.m. PENANCE SERVICE

7:00-8:30 Grief support group

Wednesday, December 21: Advent weekday

Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45

8:00 a.m. Mass (D): Erick Grow

6:50 p.m. CCD (D): Grades 7-12

6:30-7:00, after 8:00: Sacrament of Penance (HF)

7:00-8:00 p.m. CCD (HF): Grades 1-12

Thursday, December 22: Advent weekday

1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

8:00 a.m. Mass (D): Gigandet/Shappie Families

Exposition after Mass until Benediction (8:30 p.m.)

3:00-4:00; 7:00-8:00 Sacrament of Penance

Friday, December 23: Advent weekday

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

6:30 a.m. No Communion Service (D)

8:00 a.m. Mass (D): Paul Schmitz

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79

3:45 – 4:45 No Sacrament of Penance

5:00 p.m. Mass (D): R & D Martino (Music at 4:15; Live Nativity)

10:30 p.m. Mass (D): Jim Niekamp (Cantata at 9:45; Live Nativity)

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

8:00 a.m. Mass (D): Parishioners (Live Nativity)

9:30 a.m. Mass (HF): Parishioners (Live Nativity)

11:00 a.m. Mass (D): Parishioners (Live Nativity)

Sunday: See the insert for a commentary on the readings.

WEDDINGS AND MARRIAGES

Marriage Encounter, the weekend of **January 27-29**, can enhance your marriage. Please call 1-800-547-1251 Code 00. **Retrouvaille** (French for Rediscovery) can help you save your marriage. Please call 1-800-470-2230 for more information.

PROJECT RACHEL, AFTER ABORTION

The Archdiocese sponsors Project Rachel for healing after abortion. Call 937-492-4449 for more information.

BAPTISMS

Parents should attend a baptismal program before they arrange for baptism. We have scheduled the next program for January 15.

THANKS AND AN ADDRESS

We welcome and thank Mark Pax's brother, Father Raymond Pax of the Comboni Missionaries. He has come home for some rest and relaxation and has let us put him to work. He will take all the Masses this weekend.

Father Leo Hoying would appreciate hearing from you. You can contact him at 6A Greenhills Dr., Minster, OH 45865, 419-628-2078.

LITURGICAL APPOINTMENTS December 24 & 25, 2005

5:00 p.m. Mass (D): Christmas Eve

Ushers: Group 2; *Lector:* John Harman

Eucharist: Diane Martino, Brittany McMaken, Ryan McMaken, Sharon Kramer (*P*) Bryant Ahrens, Leroy Cordonnier, Meghann Heft, Eric Batty, Betty Jutte, Peggy Borgerding, Cody Bruns, Krista Harman, Ben Dapore, Phyllis Guillozet (*C*)

Servers: Michael Heft, Brian Kramer, Stephanie McMaken, Joe Gehret

Gifts: Dave & Cheryl Huelskamp Family

10:30 p.m. Mass (D):

Ushers: Group 3; *Lector:* Randy Gump

Eucharist: Brittany Drees, Jerry Elsas, Diane Elsas (*P*) John Fischer, Curt Goubeaux, Doris Goubeaux, Brian Schwieterman, Jean Grieshop, Mary Ann Gump, Janice Schwieterman (*C*)

Servers: Matthew Heaton, Michael Heaton, Matthew Stover

Gifts: Robert Goubeaux Family

8:00 a.m. Mass (D): Christmas Day

Ushers: Group 6; *Lector:* Elaine Bergman

Eucharist: Ron Stauffer, Jerry Wilker, Katie Mestemaker (*P*) Lauren Subler, Cyndi Bey, Lil Borchers, Orville Borchers, Ryan Borchers, Michael Liette, Mike McClurg, Dale Meier (*C*)

Servers: Ann Borchers, Tom Borchers, Joshua Borchers

Gifts: Paul and Mary Jean Meyer

9:30 a.m. Mass (HF):

Ushers: Pat Bergman and Craig Bergman

Lector: Joyce Kremer *Eucharist:* Bill Schuette (*P*) Connie Schuette and Deacon Jack (*C*)

Servers: Mindy Heitkamp and Luke Kremer and Justin May

Gifts: Gary and Denise Heitkamp Family

11:00 a.m. Mass (D):

Ushers: Group 13 & 14; *Lector:* John Davis

Eucharist: Janet Turner, Eric Wood, Joe Gigandet (*P*) Kathy Wood, Russ Beisner, Amanda Borchers, Jennifer Francis, Peggy Bernholt, Elaine Bohman, Aaron Condon (*C*)

Servers: Joshua Paulus, Casey Rismiller, Katie Schrader

Gifts: Ron and Mary Gehret Family

VOCATION VIEWS

God chose Mary for a particular task in life. For what special and particular task has he chosen you?

WELLNESS TIPS

Body: Treat yourself to shoes that fit well and support you in exercising. **Mind:** Learn to let go of things you cannot control. **Spirit:** Open yourself to the grace of God.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

The fourth week of Advent presents us people known for their belief and disbelief in God. Zechariah has to learn to believe. The Virgin Mary and Elizabeth show us how to believe. The Sacred Scriptures call us to believe in God's working in our lives.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

See the insert for the usual schedule for the Sacrament of Penance. This week we have the sacrament scheduled for Tuesday at 7:30 (Penance Service with several priests giving absolution), Wednesday from 6:30-7:00 and from 8:00 to whenever (at Holy Family) and from 3:00-4:00 and 7:00 to 8:00 on Thursday. Other than these times we have the sacrament only by appointment.

FATHER DAVE

Some have asked questions about the special collections we have, specifically why I had all the loose money assigned to the Campaign for Human Development. The Archbishop has ordered us priests to send the entire collections we take on Mission Sunday, for the Bishops' Overseas Collection, for the Pope (Peter's Pence) and for the Campaign for Human Development. He has said this for years. I decided we should obey him as the one appointed by God through the Church to care for our spiritual needs. I exempted from the collection only envelopes clearly marked for the parish.

From the other collections we take, such as the Retired Religious collection we just took up, he wants only what you designate for the collection.

Some ask why we do not pass the basket twice on these collections. I do not like to pass the basket twice. I think that what you give you should give voluntarily from the generosity of your heart. I look upon passing the baskets more than once as forcing a generosity. I do encourage all of you to use the envelopes we give you. It helps the money counters and it helps our bank account.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2005

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30
AT 9:30 A.M.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

We, the parishioners of Holy Family Parish, invite all of you to join us in our celebration of our patronal feast. It comes on a Friday this year, not a Sunday. We shall celebrate with Mass on Friday, December 30, at 9:30 a.m. We shall have refreshments afterwards, compliments of the St Ann Sodality.
We invite all our friends from St Denis to come.

LITURGICAL NOTES

The Penitential Rite has three forms. The "I confess: and the short verse and response end with the "Lord have mercy". The third form incorporates the "Lord have mercy". The "Lord have mercy" praises and glorifies Christ who has had mercy, has mercy now, and will always have mercy. This third form never should take the form of an examination of conscience. Like the "Lord, I am not worthy" before communion, it expresses trust in Christ who has mercy.

CCD NEWS

Living the Christian Life: An Introduction to Morality. St Henry Church offers this course January 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Father Larry Wyen will serve as the instructor. Catechist will receive credit on their requirements for certification. Call 937-498-1192 to register.

HOLY FAMILY CEMETERY: SEXTON NEEDED

Anyone who would like to serve as sexton for the Holy Family Cemetery should contact the office at 526-4945. The sexton arranges for opening and closing graves, and brokers lots for burial.

FORGIVENESS

We all need forgiveness. Others have hurt us and we, at times, have hurt others. Sometimes we find it hard to forgive because someone has hurt us deeply. I have asked Jean to offer a series on forgiveness. She will do this on the four Thursdays of January from 10:00 to 11:30 in the morning.

If someone has hurt you or if you find yourself angry over hurts that you have suffered, you may have to face the question of whether or not to forgive. This series will look at the meaning of forgiveness and the possibility of forgiveness. Please call the office for more information.



COLLECTIONS Dec. 8 & 11, 2005

Holy Family:

Sunday: \$ 863.50
Holy Day: \$ 310.00
Rel. Retire.: \$ 606.00

St Denis:

Sunday: \$ 3733.00
Holy Day: \$ 984.10
Rel. Retire.: \$ 2465.41

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Steubenville Youth Conference: It is already time to start collecting down payment money for the Steubenville Youth conference. This year we will be going on July 14-16. All students who are going to be freshmen next year and older are welcome to attend. The total conference cost is \$160.00 per student, which includes T-shirt. A \$30.00 down payment should be turned into Mike by Wednesday, January 4.

Versailles Area Giving Tree: Final gifts should be coming in today. Thanks to all who participated!

Youth Choir: The youth choir will practice for Christmas on Friday, December 23 from noon to 3:00 p.m. All singing at the Christmas Eve Mass should attend the practice. We will lead the singing at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Live Nativity: This year we will have a Live Nativity that will greet parishioners at all the Christmas Masses. Each nativity will consist of parishioners in biblical costumes to make up the entire manger scene as people come to Mass. This is one more way that we hope to bring Christ into the lives of everyone this Christmas season.

Winter Pancake Breakfast: The youth ministry pancake breakfast will be on Sunday, January 15, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Please come down for a great breakfast and support the youth ministry.

Kentucky Christmas Trip: The group is in Kentucky this weekend bearing the donated gifts, food, and used clothing! They will return today.

St. Vincent DePaul: The next trip to St. Vincent DePaul is on New Year's Day, January 1. We need an adult volunteer and 5 youth to go down to Dayton and serve the evening meal to the homeless. This is a wonderful experience! Please contact Mike if interested.

Don't Stop: The next Don't Stop Steubenville follow up is Sunday, January 8, 6:00 p.m., Russia High School. All high school students are invited.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANTATA

The choir will present a Christmas Eve Cantata, "Behold the Glory" telling the musical story of the birth of Jesus. The program will begin at 9:45 p.m. Christmas Eve. We hope you will come and enjoy it with us.

JEAN'S CORNER

Prayer Chain: Respecting your privacy is important to us, so please give us only the information you wish to have released. Thanks.

Flu Shots: We thank Cindy Bey for giving of her time and energy to provide flu shots last Sunday. About 40 people made use of the opportunity.

Trials: When trials and temptations come, rejoice because God has given you opportunities to grow and mature. Pray for strength and wisdom and God will stay with you in times of trial.

Kleenex: Please note we have placed boxes of Kleenex through the church for your convenience.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

MASS OF THE VIGIL (5:00):

Matthew 1, 1-25: We trace the ancestry of Jesus to Abraham in a list that some call the Lectors' revenge on gospel readers because of the many names in the list.

Isaiah 62, 1-5: Isaiah celebrates God's wedding to the human race.

Psalms 89: We sing of how God keeps his covenant with David.

Acts 13, 16-17, 22-25: Jesus, the Christ, has human ancestors that go back, through King David, to our beginnings.

MASS AT NIGHT (10:30):

Luke 2, 1-14: Angels announce the good news to people in fields, not in palaces.

Isaiah 9, 1-7: The birth of a Prince brings light to darkened eyes, and promises peace anew.

Psalms 96: Earth and heaven rejoice in the birth of the Savior.

Titus 2, 11-14: God's reveals his grace, always at work in the world, in Jesus Christ.

MASS AT DAWN (8:00):

Luke 2, 15-20: Those who recognize the Child find joy as they praise and glorify God.

Isaiah 62, 11-12: God now calls his people The Redeemed.

Psalms 97: Let all the earth celebrate the birth of the Lord.

Titus 3, 4-7: God's kindness, always present, we find manifest in the Christ, the Savior of the world.

MASS DURING DAY (9:30 and 11:00):

John 1, 1-18: Some consider this the true gospel for Christmas: The Word of God has taken on human nature.

Isaiah 52, 7-10: We proclaim from the mountains the coming of peace.

Psalms 98: God's saving power reaches to the ends of the earth.

Hebrews 1, 1-6: The author teaches that Jesus comes to us as the living Word of God, the definitive revelation of God's goodness.

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LIVE NATIVITY

The senior high youth group of both parishes will present the annual Live Nativity both before and after the five Masses of Christmas. The youth in costume will welcome you before Mass and present you with a gift after Mass.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Thursdays, from 3:00 to 4:00, and from 7:00 to 8:00.

December 20 (Tuesday): Penance Service with several priests giving absolution.

During the CCD year:

On the first and fourth Wednesdays: St Denis, 8:00 p.m.

On the third Wednesdays: Holy Family 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the hall; 8:00 p.m. in the church itself.

We have our last scheduled celebration of the Sacrament Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00. After that we celebrate it only by appointment.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday, December 24:

5:00 p.m. Vigil (D)

10:30 Mass (At Night) (D)

Sunday, Christmas Day:

8:00: Mass at Dawn (D)

9:30: Mass at Day (HF)

11:00: Mass at Day (D)

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JANUARY 1: DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

Once again we make the eve of New Years a time of prayer for peace. Please join us in the rosary for peace at 4:00, followed by Evening Prayer of the Church, at St Denis Church on Saturday evening, December 31. The rosary and Evening Prayer will take approximately forty-five minutes.

New Year's schedule:

December 31:

4:00 Rosary for Peace and Evening Prayer (D)

5:00 Mass of Mary, Mother of God

January 1:

7:30 – 7:45 a.m. Rosary (Glorious Mysteries)

8:00 Mass of Epiphany (D)

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Rosary (Glorious Mysteries)

9:30 Mass of Mary, Mother of God (HF)

10:30-10:45 a.m. Rosary (Glorious Mysteries)

11:00 a.m. Mass of Mary, Mother of God (D)

THANK YOU

The Holy Family and St Denis Youth Ministry thanks everyone who donated items and time so that we could bring gifts, food and other items to Kentucky. We appreciate your generosity. May God continue to bless everyone with this spirit of Christ.

The Versailles Council of Churches also thanks you for your generous response to the local needs for gifts and food this season.

Toys for Tots also sends thanks to you for supporting our local FFA.

Christmas Programs start 45 minutes before Masses on Christmas Eve.

The Silent Mass

Norms call for singing and for silence at all Sunday Masses

By J. MICHAEL McMAHON

While making the rounds of the Sunday Masses during his first weekend on the job, the new liturgy coordinator at a local parish was greeted by one couple who laid down a simple demand: Don't try to change the silent Mass!

They obviously did not mean that the liturgy should actually be *silent* - no speaking, noisy movement or even crying babies. No, they wanted the new coordinator to know that they should be able to come to a Sunday liturgy without being subjected to music.

The "silent Mass" (sometimes known as the "quiet Mass") seems to be a holdover from the low Masses celebrated on Sundays before the Second Vatican Council. In most parishes, only one Mass - the high Mass - was sung. The other Sunday liturgies were low Masses, celebrated without singing.

While singing is now regarded as commonplace at Sunday Masses, some parishes set aside one liturgy (often the earliest morning Mass) to be celebrated without music. Some music directors, faced with the prospect of leading music at multiple celebrations, were actually relieved.

With the publication of the most recent edition of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM) in 2002, many communities have taken a second look at the "silent Mass." The GIRM directs that because singing is such an important element of the liturgy, "every care should be taken that singing by the ministers and the people is not absent in celebrations that occur on Sundays and on holy days of obligation" (GIRM, no. 40).

This norm is based on two important principles articulated at the Second Vatican Council in its *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* (CSL). First, music is not to be regarded as



Music is not to be regarded as a decorative element that is "added on;" rather, music is integral to the celebration because it is so closely linked to the texts and actions of the liturgy (see CSL, no. 112). ... the liturgical action calls for the full, conscious and active participation of the entire assembly of the faithful, and one of the primary modes of this participation is singing.

a decorative element that is "added on"; rather, music is *integral* to the celebration because it is so closely linked to the texts and actions of the liturgy (see CSL, no. 112).

Second, the liturgical action calls for the full, conscious and active participation of the entire assembly of the faithful, and one of the primary modes of this participation is singing. In the council's listing of nine concrete ways that people should take an active part in the liturgy, the first five involve singing: "To promote active participa-

tion, the people should be encouraged to take part by means of *acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs* [italics added], as well as by actions, gestures, and bearing. And at the proper times all should observe a reverent silence" (CSL, no. 30).

How can parishes sensitively begin to introduce music to celebrations where people have been unaccustomed to sing? Start with the acclamations (Alleluia, Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, Amen), some of the simple dialogues between priest and people, then gradually add some other Mass parts, such as the Kyrie, Gloria, Our Father and Agnus Dei.

Stick with the same musical setting of these texts for a long time. People already know the words, and before long the melodies will become second nature.

The next step might be to introduce simple settings of the responsorial psalm and then simple songs appropriate for the entrance and Communion processions.

Introducing music to a scheduled Mass where singing has largely been absent is a wonderful opportunity to reflect at the same time on the importance of silence at all Sunday Masses. Perhaps the desire for a quieter celebration comes from the lack of any real significant silent time during Sunday Mass.

Be sure that your parish is taking full advantage of norms in the GIRM calling for silence after the readings and homily and following Communion (see GIRM, no. 45).

Leading people to a fuller role in singing the Mass need not and should not preclude periods for basking together in silent wonder at God's presence in our midst!

J. Michael McMahon is music editor of *Celebration* and president of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Contact him at npmpres@npm.org. Reprinted with permission.