

Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of December 23, 2007

Sunday, December 23 – 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 am – Gary Hillyer (Steven Hillyer)

11:00 am – Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm – Evelyn Seabright (Karen Hottinger)

11:30 pm – Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

10:00 am – Ricky Stull (Steven Hillyer)

Wednesday, December 26

NO MASS

Thursday, December 27

NO MASS

Friday, December 28

6:00 pm – Joseph Bracaloni (Jeannette Bracaloni)

Saturday, December 29

NO MASS

Sunday, December 30

9:00 am – Ernst Leo (Gloria Leo)

11:00 am – Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Ongoing Educational Opportunities

Baptism Workshop *Meeting time/place:* 3rd Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm, in the parish hall. **Contact:** Sue Cruickshank at 614.273.0069, or Julia Phillips at 614.882.4420.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) *Meeting time/place:* Wednesday evenings, 7 pm – 9pm, in the parish hall. **Contact:** Kathleen Dancey at 614.421.7652.

Catholic Bible Study and Faith Sharing *Meeting time/place:* Thursday afternoons at 1:30 pm, in the 7th floor lounge at Westminster Thurber Community. **Contact:** Jay Jackson at 614.443-6739.

Note: No Bible Study on Dec 13 or Dec 27. Group will meet once more in December, on Dec 20, and then resume in new year.

Bible Study *Meeting time/place:* Thursday evenings from 7 pm – 8 pm in the church hall. **Contact:** Dennis Ring at 614.523.2822

KRIC (Kids Rooted In Christ) *Meeting time/place:* Sessions are for kids age 9+ and are held at 9:30 am on the **first and third Sundays** of every month, unless otherwise indicated. Drop-off and pick-up will be in front of neighboring Westminster Thurber campus, to ensure each session begins promptly. Breakfast is provided. **Contact:** Sarah or Carlos del Rio at stfrancis.kric@gmail.com, or 614.595.8984.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd ... Level I for children ages 3 – 6 meets on Sundays at during the 11:00 am Mass, in the Atrium located in the rectory basement during the school year. **Contact:** Therese Terndrup at 614.853.0322

The parish office will close at 12 noon on Christmas Eve.

It will be closed on December 25, 26, and 27, and reopen on Friday, December 28. Thank you for your understanding!

This Week at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

This Sunday, December 23

- Cleaning and decorating, after 11 am Mass

Monday, Christmas Eve, December 24

- Parish Office Closes at Noon / Reopens on Dec 28

Tuesday, December 25

- Christmas Day / Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

- Christmas Holiday / Parish Office Closed

Thursday, December 27

- Christmas Holiday / Parish Office Closed
- NO Bible Study / Faith Sharing at W. Thurber
- Bible Study, 7 pm, church hall

LOOKING AHEAD ...

Next Sunday, December 30

- Caroling, meet at church at 5:45 pm
- Food and Fellowship, after Caroling, in church hall

Monday, New Year's Eve, December 31

- Parish Office Closes at Noon / Reopens on Jan 2

Schedule of Liturgical Ministries

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

Dec 23 – 9 am – Katherine Kriedermann, Susan Kyanko

11 am – Jeanette Dobrich, Tom Main

Dec 30 – 9 am – Bill Keller, Frank Conway

11 am – Joe Hanosek, Maryellen O'Shaughnessy

Servers

Dec 23 – 9 am – Steven Hillyer; 11 am – Joe Blasko

Dec 30 – 9 am – Linda Wolfe; 11 am – Volunteer

Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

Dec 23 – 9 am – Nancy Booth; 11 am – Jim Gremling

Dec 30 – 9 am – Butch Goffos; 11 am – Julie Byrne

Lectors

Dec 23 – 9 am – Sue Cruickshank, Barb Finan

11 am – Ben Gibbons, Jean Cotting

Dec 30 – 9 am – Carolyn Jurkowitz, Dan Kerscher

11 am – Diane Meves, Rose Hamilton

Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 23 – 9 am – Katherine Kriederman, Rick Miller, Chris Paisley; 11 am – Jaime Capestany, Pat Cassidy, Julie Byrne

Dec 30 – 9 am – Terry Laurila, Michael Wheeler, Jan Rosenfield; 11 am – Noelle Gremling, Sue Cruickshank,

Mark Coleman

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve – Monday, Dec 24 – 5 pm and Midnight
with carols starting at 11:30 pm

Christmas Day – Dec 25 – one Mass only at 10 am

**There will be no 6 pm weekday Mass
on Wednesday, Dec 26 and Thursday, Dec 27.**

Pastoral Reflections ~ for week of December 23, 2007

Our small, humble church is, during the next few holy days, a shelter. Many who will come into this old and holy place will be seeking a warmth and a quiet security that God offers to those who huddle together on these holy days. Among those in this huddle will be those who are weary of questions and doubts; next to them will be those anchored in an intimacy with God but carrying a heavy sadness; in front of them will be children and lovers and new parents and proud grandparents filled with excitement. Some will have stepped into this safe place in order to be alone and thereby less lonely. In this shelter as it was in the shelter in Bethlehem, Emmanuel is born. God-with-us. ~ *Fr. Ron*

Parish News and Information

Important News About A Liturgical Ministry Retreat ...

There will be a MANDATORY Ministry Retreat on **Sunday, January 20, from noon - 1:30 pm** to review changes and train everyone who serves as Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Greeter, Server, and Crucifer. **This training is for all existing and new volunteers.** This will be a time of reflection and realizing how important these ministries are to the Mass. We will be meeting in the church. If you are not currently signed up or wish to become a liturgical minister, please watch the Sunday bulletin starting on December 30th for a bulletin insert.

Christmas Caroling! Mark your calendars now for a special night of Christmas caroling, on **Sunday, December 30.** We will meet at the church at 5:45 pm, and then walk and sing our way to Westminster Thurber and Heartland Victorian Village. Afterwards, we'll meet in the church hall for warm beverages and holiday snacks. (The parish will provide the beverages; we ask you to please bring a snack or appetizer to share.) Come one, come all!

Visitors and Friends who are not yet members of St. Francis, please let us know who you are by filling out the brief questionnaire on the back of one of the cards in the pew, and return the card in the offering or through the mail. Members may give one of the cards to a friend who is interested in joining us.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the way for those who are not Catholic to inquire into what the Catholic Church is about and how the Catholic faith can help them understand and respond to those puzzling and complex questions in their lives. At St. Francis of Assisi parish, we offer RCIA so that non-Catholics can ask questions, discuss issues, and find new meaning in their lives. The RCIA format consists of weekly meetings, small group discussions, shared prayer, socializing, and informative lectures on the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic church. If you are someone who would like to learn more, or if you are a parishioner looking for a way to help bring new members into the church – call the rectory (614.299.5781) or RCIA Coordinator Kathleen Dancey (614.421.7652) and give us your name; someone will contact you and explain the process in greater detail.

Merry Christmas!

B.C. : A.D. by U.A. Fanthrope

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

More Parish News and Information

Offering envelope boxes are now available in the back of church. They are labeled with names of those who are currently receiving envelopes, or those who requested them on the recent Tapestry forms. If you are currently receiving envelopes and don't see your name, please call the parish office. If you would like to receive envelopes, please fill out one of the forms available on the envelope table, and we will prepare an offering box for you, and leave it in church. (Please note: due to the bulk of the envelope boxes and the additional postage required, we do not mail envelope boxes.)

Also – if you receive and use envelopes, we (the parish office and collection counters) **respectfully ask that you place your name on the outside of the envelope if you contribute cash.** Although envelope numbers are assigned to parishioners, often times, the corners of the envelopes get torn or smudged, and we can't always cross-reference an envelope number to a name, and consequently are unable to accurately report your financial contributions to the parish. So it is very helpful for you to include your name on the outside of the envelope. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation.

Many Thanks to those who have made contributions for Christmas Flowers. We thank you for your generosity, and we will print the Memorial List after Christmas!

**Mass for the Solemnity of Mary on January 1
10 am ONLY**

Due to the holidays, information in this bulletin was submitted to our printer on Dec 19. Information for the December 30 bulletin was submitted on Dec 21. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding. Happy Holidays!