

Weekly Scripture Readings

Mon 12/14: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/
Mt 21:23-27
Tue 12/15: Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13/
Mt 21: 28-32
Wed 12/16: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25/
Lk 7: 18b-23
Thur 12/17: Gn 49: 2, 8-10/ Mt 1:1-17
Fri 12/18: Jer 23: 5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Sat 12/19: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a/
Lk 1:5-25
Sun12/20: Mi 5: 1-4a, Heb 10: 5-10/
Lk 1:39-45



Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 12th
5:00 PM – John & Therese Yanke
Sunday, December 13th
9:00 AM – For the People of the Parish
11:15 AM – Bill Vizer
Monday, December 14th
8:30 AM – For EM's/Ushers/Servers/Staff
Tuesday, December 15th
8:30 AM – NO MASS
Wednesday, December 16th
7:00 PM – NO MASS
Thursday, December 17th
8:30 AM – NO MASS
Friday, December 18th
8:30 AM – Dorothy Yunker
Saturday, December 19th
5:00 PM – Helena Trainer
Sunday, December 20th
9:00 AM – Living & Deceased of the
Skaggs Family
11:15 AM – For the People of the Parish

Liturgical Minister Schedule

Saturday, December 19, 5:00 PM
Lector: Margaret Comstock
Servers: Max & John McLain
E.M.'s: George Wood/Ray Hirsch
Sunday, December 20, 9:00 AM
Lector: Seth Reaves
Servers: Leah & Tom McKee
E.M.'s: T. DeRodes, A. Froelich, J. Jack, W. Mole
Sunday, December 20, 11:15 AM
Lector: Carole Zumack
Server: F. del Guidice Jr./ J. Burns
E.M.'s: Roy Beebe, Mike Piazza

Parish Events this Week

Sunday, December 13th
10:00am PSR
10:00am Adult Education
12:00pm Advent Bible Study
Monday, December 14th
7:30pm Advent Communal Penance
Service (St. Ed's, Ashland)
7:00pm Boy Scouts/Webelos (Hall)
Tuesday, December 15th
7:00pm Choir Practice (Church)
Wednesday, December 16th
7:30am Eucharistic Adoration
7:30pm Holy Name Mtg. (Church)
Thursday, December 17th
7:00pm RCIA (Church)
Friday, December 18th
7:00pm Disciples of Joy Prayer
Group (Church)
Saturday, December 19th
8:45am Men's Prayer Group
(Church)
8:00pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Meals & More has been suspended until further notice.

SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH

44 Britton Street
West Salem, OH 44287-9318
Phone 419-853-4946
Fax 419-853-7037
Website www.ststephenws.org
E-mail info@ststephen.ws

Fr. James P. Schmitz, Pastor
Fr. Carl A. Uhler, Pastor Emeritus
Peter J. Foradori, Deacon

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:15 AM

Confessions

Saturday 4:00 to 4:30 PM

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Rick Adamson Margaret Comstock Joe Dempsey
Terry DeRodes Kay Kelling-Owen
Bryan Landrum, V. Chr. Ray Hirsch Kathy Landrum
Joyce Smith, Sec. Claudia Stupi, Chr.

Parish Finance Council Members

Bob Haberman Mary Mennell
Bill Roberts Tom Stupi Denise Kandola

December 13, 2009



From the Pastor...

Well I saw the urologist & he decided that I needed a procedure called Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy which sends shock waves through the body tissues directly to the kidney stone so that it shatters the stone into smaller particles. Of course I already knew what that was given my vast medical knowledge. The nurse told me that for several days afterward, it will feel like someone beat me up bad. But I can take it like a man. No fears here. Just stay away from me or I may beat you up bad. I have this procedure next Wednesday at 7am & the pre-admission testing on Tuesday (again at 7am...don't these people ever work in the afternoon?). So there will be no Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday next week. Deacon Pete will do a Word & Communion Service on those days. I'll still be wearing purple but it will be on my skin instead of on my vestments.

I will miss celebrating Mass with you this Saturday as I will be joining my family to celebrate my stepmother's 90th birthday. For those of you who saw her at my Installation Mass, she doesn't look or act 90 at all. That really surprises me since I would think she'd look like she's well over 100 after living with my dad. Anyway, Deacon Pete will be baptizing Joshua, the adopted son of Todd & Wendy McKee, during this Mass. I wish I could be part of that celebration, but I thank them both for welcoming one of God's children into their family.

You've probably noticed the tree in the Gathering Room. It looks like there's a bunch of underwear hanging from it (I'm

told they're called "one-zees" but what do I know about that?). Anyway, the items are going to the three pregnancy care centers in the community so thank you for your donations. You will also find a teeny-tiny Christmas tree in the Gathering Room, displaying some beautiful ornaments which are for sale & which help the pro-life cause. I know I'll be buying some & hope you will too.

The bulletin insert you received last Sunday is a summary of a document that many Christian Clergymen as well as other prominent Christian leaders signed stating that they will stand together in defending the moral values we all share: the sanctity of human life, marriage as God created it, and religious freedom. You can find out more about this important document and sign it if you so choose. The website is manhattandeclaration.org

There is some oplatki available in the Gathering Room for those of you who are Polish or Polish wannabes. There is also a booklet called "The Word Among Us" which offers daily reflections.

Someone from Holy Family Bookstore will be displaying religious books & items in the Gathering Room after all the Masses this weekend. These also make great gifts (except for priests who tend to be on religious item overload).

Finally, don't forget about our Advent Communal Penance Service which will be this Monday at 7:30pm at St. Edward in Ashland. Since this is a cluster event, Father Cassidy, Father Hawk & I will be there to hear individual confessions during the service. If you can't make it, I will also be hearing confessions here in our church before Christmas. More on that next week.

Father James Schmitz

Eucharistic Adoration Wednesday 7:30 am - 7:00 pm

**St. John of the Cross, Priest, Carmelite Reformer, Spain (1542-1591)
December 14**

This Doctor of the Church wrote: "The loftier were the words of the Son of God, the more tasteless they were to the impure, as happened when He preached the sovereign and loving doctrine of the Holy Eucharist; for many turned away" [Jn. 6:60-61, 67]

-Living Flame of Love.

St. Stephen's Got Talent

It's time to start preparing for your performance in the talent show at the Epiphany Celebration on Sunday January 3rd at 12:15 pm after Mass. Whether you plan to sing, play an instrument or perform a comedy skit. The show is open to all ages and talents so get ready.

Last weeks offertory collection was \$3742.46. SVDP received \$437.11. God bless your generosity!

West Salem Outreach has received a large donation of food from the Northwestern High School students, so the shelves are full for the time being. They are in need of cash donations to purchase hams for the Christmas dinner program.

Ladies Guild Christmas Party

You're invited to the Ladies Guild annual Christmas meeting on Monday December 14th at 7 pm. We will have a short meeting and then a little Christmas party. Bring a dish to pass and a \$5 wrapped gift for the gift exchange. Hope you can join us this year.

Church Bulletin

As of December 25th, St. Stephen will have a "new Look" to its Sunday Bulletin. The new service will give an added dimension to our Parish communication tool. **Jeff Thomas** representing **Diocesan Publications** (our Bulletin Publisher) will be at the parish December 14th - 18th seeking advertisements. At this time, sizes, prices, copy and billing can be discussed. If interested, please call the parish office. We feel this is an excellent service and that the sponsors get good coverage with their ads. THANKS TO YOU and DIOCESAN PUBLICATIONS, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

Advent Tree

We are collecting items to give to the three Pregnancy Care Centers in our community. Donations of clothing for newborns through age two, baby blankets, crib sheets, diapers, wipes, formula, bath items are needed. Gently used clean clothing can also be donated. Please put your gifts under or on the Tree in the Gathering Room.

Manhattan Declaration

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Offering Envelopes for 2010 are available in the Gathering Room. Look for yours!

Wayne-Holmes Right to Life, Inc.

This is a group that was formed in 1973, the year in which the infamous decision by the Supreme Court, Roe v Wade was made. WHRTL has several special projects they would like to implement, but financial support is needed to make them a reality. One method is to sell ornaments and the other is our yearly signature ad.

1) Placing monthly pro-life ads in the College of Wooster Voice. These ads are from the Elliot Institute and are very effective. Cost \$110/ad

2) Purchasing a "TruthBooth" DVD and portable DVD player to use at the fair, churches and other public places. Cost \$200(once)

3) Providing information and resource packets to churches in Wayne and Holmes counties. Cost: approx. \$10/packet; more than 100 churches. In the Gathering Room is a small Christmas tree on which there are 5 ornaments which we are selling to help us reach our goal. Each ornament has an appropriate message on the back. A donation of \$8.00 is requested. A stocking stuffer? A small gift for someone? We appreciate your support.

Bethlehem Alive

- is a free dramatic Christmas journey for the entire family. It is hosted by the Church of the Savior (Rt. 30 and Fry Rd.) Dec. 12 and 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. with tours every 15 minutes. It is an outdoor interactive drama of the Christmas story with live animals, where guests are guided on a pulled wagon story for a 20 minute journey. This will occur at Church of the Savior parking lot. For more info. call 330-264-5233.