

Weekly Scripture Readings

Mon 12/21: Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45
Tue 12/22: 1 Sm 1: 24-28/Lk 1: 46-56
Wed 12/23: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1: 57-66
Thur 12/24: Vigil Is 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25
Fri 12/25: Is 52: 7-10; Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
Sat 12/26: Acts 6: 8-10, 7:54-59/ Mt 10:17-22
Sun 12/27: Sir 3: 2-7, 12-14; Col 3: 12-21/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24



Mass Schedule

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
Monday, December 21st
8:30 AM – Irene Maschak
Tuesday, December 22nd
8:30 AM – Cletus, Stella & Cletus Jr. Clancy
Wednesday, December 23rd
7:00 PM – For all Priests & Deacons
Thursday, December 24th
5:00 PM – Living & Deceased of the Kiczek Family
10:00 PM – For the People of the Parish
Friday, December 25th
10:00 AM – Evelyn Power
Saturday, December 26th
5:00 PM – Joe Yonkof
Sunday, December 27th
9:00 AM – Stanley Boryczka
11:15 AM – For the People of the Parish

Liturgical Minister Schedule

Saturday, December 26, 5:00 PM
Lector: Jane Cullin
Servers: R. Walker/C. Dunn
E.M.'s: Paul & Barb Chamberlin
Sunday, December 27, 9:00 AM
Lector: Annemarie Stupi
Servers: T. Ziebro/C. Mesko
E.M.'s: C. Stupi, W. Mole, R. Cooke, B. Hennessey
Sunday, December 27, 11:15 AM
Lector: Mary Mennell
Servers: N. Kusa/ Z. Burns
E.M.'s: Fred & Ginny del Guidice

Parish Events this Week

Sunday, December 20th
10:00am PSR
10:00am Adult Education
6:00pm Church Decorating
Monday, December 21st
7:00pm Liturgical Life Committee Meeting (Rectory)
7:00pm Boy Scouts/Webelos (Hall)
Tuesday, December 22nd
6:30pm Choir Practice (Church)
Wednesday, December 23rd
7:30am Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday, December 24th
5:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass
10:00pm Christmas Mass at Night
Friday, December 25th
10:00am Christmas Day Mass
Saturday, December 26th
8:00pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Deacon Joe Johnson

Is home and would like to thank everyone for all the prayers & cards, during his latest hospital stay.

Please pray for Jeff Keep who had heart surgery last week, and all our loved ones who need our prayers and support!

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 20, 2009



BLESSED ARE YOU
AMONG WOMEN
AND BLESSED IS
THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB



From the Pastor...

Everything seemed to go well with the procedure I had to blast my kidney stones this past Wednesday. As usual, I ran into some Catholic doctors & nurses who drilled me on where I am presently assigned. They asked the typical question of "Where exactly is West Salem?" To be honest, I had so much medication that I could not answer that question. I didn't even know where *I* was at that point! Anyway, I thank you for your prayers.

Let us continue to direct our prayers for the sick of our parish who need continued medical attention during the holidays. I am especially mindful of Jeff Keep who had some serious heart surgery this week and Dave Joecken's mother Claire who had a brain aneurysm and was operated on this past Wednesday. We also remember those undergoing chemotherapy treatments, Donald Roder, Kathy Hirsch, and Mary Grace Kenny. These and others need our prayerful attention and support.

This past week we hosted a meeting for the priests of our area and Cece Hartman prepared a very nice meal for us, including her delicious home-made soup. In Lorain, we had a parishioner who took care of our food pantry. We referred to her as the "Soup Nazi" since she was pretty strict with who gets how much food. (Seinfeld fans would understand).

I'd like to welcome Tom & Cathy Giaimo, the parents of parishioner Nancy Alto, who are retired & have become parishioners of St. Stephen. We also say hello to new parishioners Pat & Jenn Boyle, along with their three children. They

come to us from the now-closed Jesus our Savior church in Spencer, which was part of Our Lady Help of Christians parish in Litchfield. I know how difficult it is to see your parish church closed, and so we hope they soon feel at home with us at St. Stephen.

I will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week on 3 separate days & at 3 different times during the day so that you might be able to be better prepared for our Christmas celebration. So I will hear confessions this Monday, December 21st, from 9am until 10am, this Wednesday, December 23rd, from 7:30pm until 8:30pm, and this Thursday, December 24th, from 1:00pm until 2:00pm.

This Sunday, December 20th, we will be decorating the church for Christmas at 6pm. If you join us, you can share in our old-fashioned Christmas meal: pizza!

We have 3 large plants in the church meeting room which need some TLC. We are looking to provide them with a new home. If you've got a green thumb, you're welcome to take them...one or all. We also keep adding "new old books" to the book rack in the parish hall. Please help yourself to them.

The next parish bulletin you receive will have a brand-new look. We are working with Diocesan Publications who will be providing us with a larger, professional bulletin at no cost to the parish as it is ad-supported. I hear that the ad sales are going very well. Thank you for your support! This bulletin will also be available each week online.

I look forward to my first Christmas with you. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Father James Schmitz

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

**Merry Christmas, O Come Let Us Adore
Him, Our Eucharistic Savior!!!
December 25**

"From His entry into the world, even while still enclosed in Mary's womb as in a living ciborium, Jesus singled out Mary and Joseph to be His adorers.... And after the Child's birth at Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary adored Him uninterruptedly as He lay before their eyes. They represented all mankind at the feet of Christ" (St. Peter Julian Eymard).

Last weeks offertory collection was \$2680.49. Feast of the Immaculate Conception was \$651.00. Retirement Fund for Religious took in \$758.87. SVDP received \$173.02. God bless your generosity!

West Salem Outreach

They are in need of cash donations to purchase hams for the Christmas dinner program.

Church Bulletin

As of December 25th, St. Stephen will have a "new Look". The new service will give an added dimension to our Parish communication tool. **Jeff Thomas** representing **Diocesan Publications** (our Bulletin Publisher) can be reached at 800-282-5106 x36 to discuss time, sizes, prices, copy and billing if you are interested in advertising space. 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.

Holy Martyrs Social Justice Committee

will host a book discussion on Jan. 6, 13, and 20 from 7:00 - 8:00pm. The book, 'No Room at the Table', looks at homelessness, poverty, hunger, and sexual exploitation of our children from New Orleans to Sudan. The author, Fr. Dunson, may even join in. Please call Ron Maitland, 330-722-3373, to register.

2010 Offering Envelopes are available in the Gathering Room. Pick up yours and a 2010 St. Stephen calendar.

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 per month. 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; for 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.

The St. Stephen's Epiphany Celebration

is fast approaching; it is Sunday January 3rd at 12:15 pm in Hackman Hall. As always, it's pot luck so please bring a covered dish and a side dish (veggie or dessert, etc.) You will also need to bring your own place settings.

We will be collecting items for *West Salem Outreach food pantry* to assist in replenishing their supplies after the holidays. Any non perishable food items are appreciated. We will have a labeled box near the entrance of the hall.

Don't forget about the St. Stephens Got Talent, talent show that will be held during the Celebration. This will be run like a 'real' talent show with judges and prizes will be awarded. 1st place will receive \$50 cash and runner up will receive \$25 cash, so let's get practicing. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Room for those wishing to participate. There will be a rehearsal night soon, please see sign up sheet for details. Remember it is open to people of all ages and talents, so don't be shy.

We look forward to seeing you as we gather as a parish to rejoice in Christ's birth.

Merry Christmas everyone from the staff!