

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 17th

7:30 a.m. +Rose Marie Buchanan
[Mary Lou Masello]

Tuesday, December 18th

9:00 a.m. +Jeanne & Albert Necaster
[Renee Kocis & Family]

Wednesday, December 19th

7:30 a.m. +Mickey Bolt [Chuck & Marti Kohut]

Thursday, December 20th

9:00 a.m. +Mary Beal [Beal Family]
6:30 p.m. *Penance Service

Friday, December 21st

Saint Peter Canisius

9:00 a.m. +Mary Bernard [Family]

Saturday, December 22nd

9:00 a.m. +Carmen Trenga Sr.
[Maryann Zirafi & Helen Leno]

Sunday, December 23rd

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass +Dennis Sheehan [Peggy & Kelly]
8:15 a.m. +Alex Radkowski [De De]
11:00 a.m. *Mass for the People

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday, December 17th Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday, December 18th Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 19th Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Thursday, December 20th Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

Friday, December 21st Sng 2:8-14 or
Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

Saturday, December 22nd 1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

Sunday, December 23rd Mi 5:1-4a
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

*Peggy's Christmas
Stocking
Annual Toy Drive*



Reminder: **Unwrapped gifts must be returned to the church prior to December 18th.** Wrapping paper can be included along with the attached identifying stocking.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club monthly get together will **NOT** be held this month.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, 4:30 p.m. December 22 nd		
Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
M. Multari J. Pursel	K. Borsa M. Borsa S. Goclano M. Hornyak J. Miller E. Pierce K. Stephenson P. Thornburg	S. Multari A. Stephenson A. Volkay
Sunday, 8:15 a.m. December 23 rd		
Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
G. Leonard M. Gargano	R. Antos P. Clark A. Nicolls T. Pagliaroli C. Puleo J. Trenga *Volunteer Needed *Volunteer Needed	F. Cindric K. Gilliland N. Selby A. Zahniser
Sunday, 11 a.m. December 23 rd		
Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
A. Hohman C. St. John	B. Martz B. McVey A. Orndorff F. Pale F. Pale S. Puhl R. Supel O. Yoursh	C. Boren K. LaCamera E. Slezak M. Winslow

CHRISTMAS MASSES SIGN-UP

Soon we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus, which means there will be opportunities to serve at the upcoming Christmas Masses. If you are an Usher, Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister, or Lector be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheets located in the vestibule. **HURRY! DON'T WAIT!** Slots are filling-up quickly!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Monday 12/24
4:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m. (principal Mass of Christmas)

Christmas Day, Tuesday 12/25
9:00 a.m.

PARISH PENANCE SERVICES

Upcoming schedule for penance services in the area.

NOTRE DAME

Thursday, December 20th, 6:30 p.m.

Beloved Disciple, Grove City

Sunday, December 16th, 2:00 p.m.

St. Joseph, Sharon

Tuesday, December 18th, 7:00 p.m.

YEAR END GIFTS

As we approach the end of 2018 and prepare year end postings, gifts to be counted toward 2018 must be received on or before December 31st.

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year!

PRINCE OF PEACE CENTER

Next Sunday's "Pantry Shower" item is large garbage bags. Thank you for your care and concern for God's poor.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Judith Banas**. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Christmas Wafer (Oplatki):

A package of four wafers, used in many eastern European cultures at Christmas meal time will be available in the church foyer. An envelope with the four wafers costs \$1.25.

CHOOSE CHRIST

Rejoice in the Lord always, I say it again, Rejoice! (Phil 4:4) It is Gaudete Sunday, or "Rejoice!" (a plural Latin imperative) Sunday, where the Church bids us to take a break from being penitential, and be joyful! Basically, go celebrate! Long in joy, sing loudly in your car, do your happy dance! Why? Because *The Lord is near!* (Phil 4:5) The rose color tells us we should be "joyful" and "light" in spirit, as well as that we are half-way through Advent. He who baptizes with fire is coming. He is real people – Jesus can change your life in more ways than you ever thought possible.

The Old Testament people knew the power and majesty of God, so as a result we are shouting and rejoicing and singing and longing with hope today. How about you? Do you feel like your spirit is matched with the ones in the readings? If not, I invite you to consider the history of God's people; because it explains why they are so overjoyed and wanting to follow His Will above all things. Long story short, they sinned terribly, so God sent them into exile for purification. In exile, God speaks through His prophets to instill hope again. They are overjoyed, because they realize God IS A FAITHFUL FATHER, and that He is coming to rescue them. John's people (the Gospel) knew this, and so they groan in longing for God to free them!

When we realize who we are before God, sinful children that God wants to know intimately, save, and bring home, you better believe you'd be singing and shouting and rejoicing. If it's authentic, your gratitude and joy will just ooze. If you don't know Jesus, find a time this week for confession and give Him a chance to come to you in the sacrament. If you pour your heart out to Him, He will bring you JOY! He will bring you himself. As we rejoice this week with our brothers and sisters around the world, let us *REJOICE.... I SAY IT AGAIN, REJOICE!* Our Lady of Joy, pray for us!

*In Christ,
Seminarian Brandon Feikles*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION

One session for all grades [Pre-k – 11th]
9:20 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Use Grotto Entrance for arrival and dismissal.

December 16th — Class

December 23rd — Class

Closing Celebration 10:00 a.m.

Parents Invited

December 30th — NO Class

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

December 16th — Luminaria Making

Following 11:00 a.m. Mass

December 24th — Placing/Lighting

2:00 p.m. church campus

December 25th — Clean-up

2:00 p.m. church campus

THE 3^{1/2} STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the Christmas story are tied together for the first time. From the light of Creation to the manger in Bethlehem, from the origin of Saint Nicholas to the secret of *the Christmas Angel himself!*

Featuring Frank Runyeon

Notre Dame

Tuesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.

~GIFT OF GIVING~

Our Religious Education ministry is in need of a few benefactors to help defray some expenses for the ministry (guest speakers, technology equipment, educational needs, etc.). If you are in a financial position to give a contribution, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Please make your check payable to the Church of Notre Dame (memo: Religious Ed). All contributions are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Ranelli at 724-981-9447 / notredame-re@live.com. *May God bless you a hundredfold.*

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give necessities to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the point of Christmas.

If you would like to join our parish and become part of the Notre Dame Church family, please complete this form and return by mail or drop in the collection basket.

REQUEST FOR PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ST _____ ZIP _____