

Pastor's Notes

In order to protect the rectory garage roof from further damage, we had **4 trees cut down**. The trees have been cut into smaller pieces and the wood is available to anyone for free. It is stacked along the side of the garages ... first come first served.



This Monday, December 14th, we will have our annual **Advent Reconciliation Service**. The service will start at 7 pm and all are welcomed! If you know anyone in need of this healing sacrament please let them know they are most welcomed to join us for the service.

Our next listening session will be held on Tuesday, December 15th and will focus on **Youth Ministry**. As have done with the last 2 sessions, we will open the doors at 6:30 pm and begin our listening session at 7:00 pm. The night will be complete by 8:30 pm. No matter what age you are, all are welcomed to come and lend their voices as we build our futures together

For your information, our **Christmas Mass schedule** is:

Thursday, Dec 24th at 4, 7 pm and our Hispanic Mass at 10 pm
Friday, Dec 25th at 10 am

New Year's is the **Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**, a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule is:

Thursday, Dec 31st at 5 pm
Friday, Jan 1st at 10 am

Remember God loves you and so do I! Have a good week!

Father Lou

410-299-6731 (Cell)

December 13, 2009
3rd Sunday of Advent



4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4a
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45

Mass Intentions for the Week

12/14 Monday	8am	Bea Calo
12/15 Tuesday	8am	Lawrence R. Kueberth, Sr. & George Rammel
12/16 Wednesday	8am	Regina Hagert
12/17 Thursday	8am	Communion Service
12/18 Friday	8am	Julie Rybczynski (<i>living</i>)
12/19 Saturday	4pm	Steve Waters
12/20 Sunday	9am	Saint Clare Parishioners
	11am	Mr. & Mrs. August Mallon

Prayer List: One of the most important gifts we give one another as a Christian community is the gift of our prayers. We join in praying for one another's needs, especially for the sick: Joseph H. Bangert, Tillie Bell, Linda Bonolis, Marie Bray, Joseph Bucci, Michael Bucci, Lorraine Campbell, Jeanette Gleason, Donna Goetz, Ralph E. Greer Sr., William Grzech, James Harper Sr., Maryann Holcomb-Dziennik, Doris Jones, Raymond Jones, Margaret Kalinowski, Gabrella Loprespi, Paul Mosmiller, Shelly Mulkern, Sandra Nuth, Edward & Anna Oldewurtel, William C. Ogden, Matt Paruszewski, Paula Piechocki, Chuck Plansky, Julie Rybczynski, Jacqueline Seitz, Colleen Slifker, Pete Slifker, Charles Szmurlo, Jeff Vilkas, Cynthia Vollmer, Barbara Wancowicz, Louie Wancowicz, Peter Wancowicz, Sandy Wancowicz.

Prayer Line: If you or a loved one needs prayers for any situation, including terminal illness, critical surgery, loss of a loved one, severe emotional problems, loss of employment or any other intention, please call any of the following to have your intention added to the prayer line: Maryrose Scism 410-391-6337; Joanne Reiter 410-682-5126 or Betty Sinisi 410-686-9513.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

Thank you for your very generous contributions to our Parish.

12/6	Envelopes	\$ 8,460
	Loose Money	\$ 1,041
	Children's Coll.	\$ 20
	School Collection	\$ 988
	Maintenance	\$ 927
	Advent	\$ 506
	Christmas Flowers	\$ 100

Many Thanks...

- ❖ To the Home School Association and the many volunteers who organized the Lunch with Santa. Job well done!

For this and other random acts of stewardship, may GOD BLESS YOU!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Adults: How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

Children: Talk about the importance of keeping promises.

THE WEEK AHEAD

12/14 Monday	10:00am	Riverview Service
	7:00pm	Boy Scouts - H
	7:00pm	Penance Service - C
12/15 Tuesday	6:30pm	Cub Scouts - H
	6:30pm	Girl Scouts - PC
	7:00pm	Listening Session - H
	7:30pm	Living Water - MC
12/16 Wednesday	6:30pm	Religious Ed
	7:00pm	Holy Name & SodalityMass
	7:00pm	All are Welcome to Mass!
	7:00pm	Adult Conf. Info Mtg - PC
	7:00pm	Youth Group
	7:00pm	Legion Mary - MC
12/17 Thursday		
12/18 Friday	4:30pm	Hot Meal - H
12/19 Saturday	3:00pm	YM Caroling @ Nursing Home & Christmas Party
12/20 Sunday		

Upcoming Parish Events

.... Mark your calendar



Dec 14	Annual Advent Reconciliation Svc
Dec 15	Listening Session – Youth Ministry
Jan 8	Family Movie Night
Jan 16	Alumni Event
Jan 23	Vera Bradley Bingo
Jan 31	Catholic Schools Week Begins
Feb 12	Family Movie Night
Feb 20	Kids' Bingo
Mar 5	Family Movie Night
Mar 13	Annual School Auction
Mar 20	Bunny Lunch
Apr 4	Easter
Apr 9	Family Movie Night
Apr 17	Saint Clare Dance School Recital
Apr 24	First Communion
Apr 30	Spring Play
May 1	Spring Play
May 7	Family Movie Night
May 12-15	Annual Spring Carnival
May 23	Confirmation
June 11	Family Movie Night
June 12	Annual Flew Market
June 21-25	Vacation Bible School



This Week's Altar Flowers
Are sponsored by Riverview
Rehabilitation & Health Center

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Every family experiences challenging times. Parish families are no different. We all know of Catholics separated from the church by some hurt they experienced. Advent is a time to prepare for and welcome the Prince of Peace, our time to be peacemakers.

Christmas Schedule:

December 23rd - No Class

Classes will resume January 6th.

Please remember in the event there is inclement weather we follow Baltimore County school policy. If schools close early we will not have Religious Education.

Listening Session

Topic – Youth Ministry

Tuesday, Dec. 15
Doors open at 6:30pm
7:00pm – 8:30pm Listening Session



All Are Welcome to Join Our Parish Community

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please Check One:

- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Want Envelopes Mailed
- Moving Out of Area

Please cut out and drop in the Collection Box
or mail to the Parish Center.

Response to Child Abuse

Physical and/or sexual child abuse by anyone, especially those in a position of trust within our Church, is never to be tolerated. Please know that as a Church family, our Faith Community stands by you. If you have ever been abused at any time, please confide that in a person you trust – a doctor, counselor, social worker, priest, deacon, or staff member, etc. Please allow us to help you. If you hear of any such abuse, please remember that the law requires that you report it, and that you will be guaranteed anonymity. Call the Baltimore County Department of Social Services, 410-853-3000; the Baltimore-based Catholic Church Hotline, 410-547-5589; or any local city or county police.

**Bringing the abuse to light is the first,
courageous step in a long journey toward
healing. Your Faith Community supports you in
that journey, and holds you in our prayers.**

Have a Blessed Weekend!



Sodality

On Wednesday, December 16th our meeting will be held in the Hall after the 7PM Mass. We will be celebrating the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ with a wonderful Christmas party with the Holy Name men. The list of things you are bringing is in your newsletter. Please try to attend; we miss you when you aren't there. If you are interested in joining our Sodality, please give me at call at 410-391-6360 or email me at kjoyness@yahoo.com.



School News

"We are a community shining with Christ's light"

Thank you to Mrs. Merritt and all the students who participated in the Christmas program, Shine Jesus Shine, on Thursday evening. It was a wonderful program and reminded us about the real reason for this wonderful season.

Mark your calendars for the Annual School Auction which is scheduled for March 13, 2010. The success of the wonderful event is largely dependent on the donations that are received. As you are doing your holiday shopping, please consider making a purchase to donate to the auction, which is tax deductible. Some popular donation items are: tools, electronics, jewelry, gift cards, sports memorabilia/items, small appliances, event tickets, personal services, home décor, and themed gift baskets. Thank you in advance for your support of this event. Tickets will go on sale in January. We are grateful for the continued generosity of the entire Saint Clare community.

Each Wednesday, the school will have an Open House for prospective families from 9-11 a.m. If you know a family that is looking for a wonderful school that is shining with Christ's light, please tell them about Saint Clare. For information regarding enrollment and tuition assistance, please attend an Open House or call the school office, 410-687-7787.

SCHOOL BOARD NEEDS YOU

Love Technology? Want to help our School? We are looking for a Tech savvy individual interested in working with the Technology Committee. One evening a month commitment. Please contact Joe DiCara for further information @ dicara.assoc@comcast.net



Tentative Calendar

December

- 13th- Confirmation Class #2, 9am-11:30am (Mass and Class)
- 16th- Youth Room 7-8:30pm
- 19th- Caroling at a Nursing Home/ Christmas Party 3-5pm?
- 25th- Merry Christmas

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just a couple short weeks away. But I guess it's true that when you are having fun time flies. And that is exactly what I, the young people and numerous adults have been having. Before I go any further I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped make our Youth Ministry such a success already.

Over the past couple months the Youth Ministry here at St. Clare has taken off in ways that have left many of us in awe. It is my hope that this momentum will continue after the New Year. We have many wonderful plans in the mix and just as many wonderful ideas. Watch here for further information regarding upcoming events for the New Year.

Next Tuesday, December 15th, Fr. Lou and I will have the opportunity to hear from you regarding our young people of St. Clare. I encourage everyone to come, share and listen so we can all work together to build a parish community that encourages and builds up our Catholic Christian faith in all its members.

In Christ, Mr. Carlo Stebbings

Living Will & Testament



The future of St. Clare Church depends on YOU! Please remember your Church in your will. Our legal title is St. Clare's Roman Catholic Congregation, Inc., 714 Myrth Avenue, Essex, Maryland 21221

Help Needed!

St Clare Church staffs three English-speaking masses each week: 4:00PM Saturdays, 9:00AM and 11:00AM Sundays. Currently a number of parishioners have volunteered to fill 6 positions for Eucharistic Minister (2 for distributing Hosts and 4 for distributing the Precious Blood) and 2 positions for Lectors, at each mass. Over the many months, for numerous reasons, the census of volunteers has suffered from attrition; we need some more volunteers, especially for the 11:00AM Sunday masses – in all 3 positions. I would like to ensure that no one is assigned more than twice each month.

I invite anyone who *may* be interested in helping to call me or send an e-mail. Tell me how you think you would like to serve (remember, if your child is a mass server, you might serve at the same mass), and whether you have a mass preference.

Those who volunteer will be trained how to discharge the duties; I will train Lector volunteers. Please help St. Clare Church.

Frank Kernan (410)686-8658/c(410)800-5221
frank.kernan@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you.

Church Leadership Institute

Are you active in a parish ministry such as liturgy committee, finance committee, religious education or youth ministry? Would you like to develop your ministry and leadership skills?

If the answer to either of these questions is yes, then the Church Leadership Institute (CLI) is for you!

CLI is the Archdiocesan formation program for those active in parish ministry. CLI offers theological and leadership courses for adults throughout the Archdiocese. These courses prepare individuals for leadership in the Church through development of theological understanding, personal and spiritual formation and ministerial leadership skills. The winter session begins the week of January 11.

Registrations for the winter session will be accepted through December 21st. CLI offers two tracks: CORE and Ministry Track.

For registration forms, information about course schedules, locations, please contact the Church Leadership Institute at 410-547-5470 or at our website, www.archbalt.org/cli.

Saint Clare is hosting CLI this winter, starting January 14. The session is level 1: Spirituality for Ministry. It will meet weekly for 8 weeks from 7om-8:30pm.

Adult Confirmation Information Meeting

**Wednesday
December 16**
7pm
Parish Center

If you are an adult and have not been confirmed, then please join us for an opportunity to learn about our adult confirmation program on Dec. 16.

The program will be 5 classes starting Wednesday, January 6 from 7 – 8pm through February 3. A second class will be offered February 24 through March 24.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Carla in the parish center on 410-687-6011, ext. 117 or cberkenkemper@saintclare.org.

Annual Penance Service

Monday, Dec. 14
7pm in the Church

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24
4pm, 7pm & 10pm (Spanish)
December 25
10am

Did you know?

We celebrate two great feasts of Mary during Advent. On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (last Tuesday, Dec. 8), we celebrate the truth that Mary was conceived without sin. (This feast does not celebrate the conception of Jesus, as many mistakenly believe.) On December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we celebrate Mary's appearance to the poor Indian peasant St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531.

CHRISTMAS - FAMILIES THAT NEED ADOPTING

This year our Christmas collection was approximately \$1200. The need for help exceeds the amount collected. If you decide to adopt a family with small children, we have plenty of toys from Christmas in July. All the families are asking for clothes. We have more families that have called us that are not on this list. If you can assist us by adopting a family, please call Brenda Ward at 410-256-1907. Thank you.

1. 3 children - 17 yr old GIRL, 2 yr old BOY, 8 yr old GIRL
2. 1 child - 8 yrs old BOY
3. 2 children - 8 & 17 years old
4. 1 baby - 5 months BOY SIZE: 6-9 months
5. 2 children - 1 teenager; 1 - child 4 yrs old - GIRL SIZE: 4T
6. 2 children - 1 child BOY; 1 teenager
7. 1 child - BOY 5 yrs old
8. 2 children - BOY - 2 months, BOY - 14 months
9. 2 children - 1 17 years old GIRL ; 1 - 12 yrs old GIRL
10. 2 girls - 1 yr and 4 yr
11. 2 sons – 15 & 16 years old
12. 4 children - 2 teenagers and 2 (BOYS) - ages 10 and 1
13. 3 children - 1 teen (GIRL) , 18 month, 9 month - baby girl
14. 4 children - 2 teens, 2 children (BOYS) - AGES: 13 & 9
15. 3 children - 1 teen , 10 yr old BOY
16. 3 children - 1 teen, BOY - 4, GIRL - 6
17. 4 children - BOY - 16, GIRL 18, BOY - 4, BOY - 7
18. 3 children - 1 teen, 2 - 1 year old BOYS
19. 2 children - 9 yr old GIRL, 4 yr old GIRL
20. 2 children - 16 & 17
21. 3 children - GIRL - 14, BOY - 12, GIRL - 10
22. 2 children - BOY 7 months, BOY 5
23. 1 child - 1 BOY - Age 5
24. 3 children - GIRL - 14, GIRL 17, BOY 18
25. 2 children - BOYS - 13 & 9
26. 1 child - Boy 6
27. 2 children - 1 teen - GIRL , BOY 10
28. 3 children - GIRLS - 13, 10, 4
29. 2 children - BOY - 11, BOY - 2
30. 2 children - GIRLS 17, 12