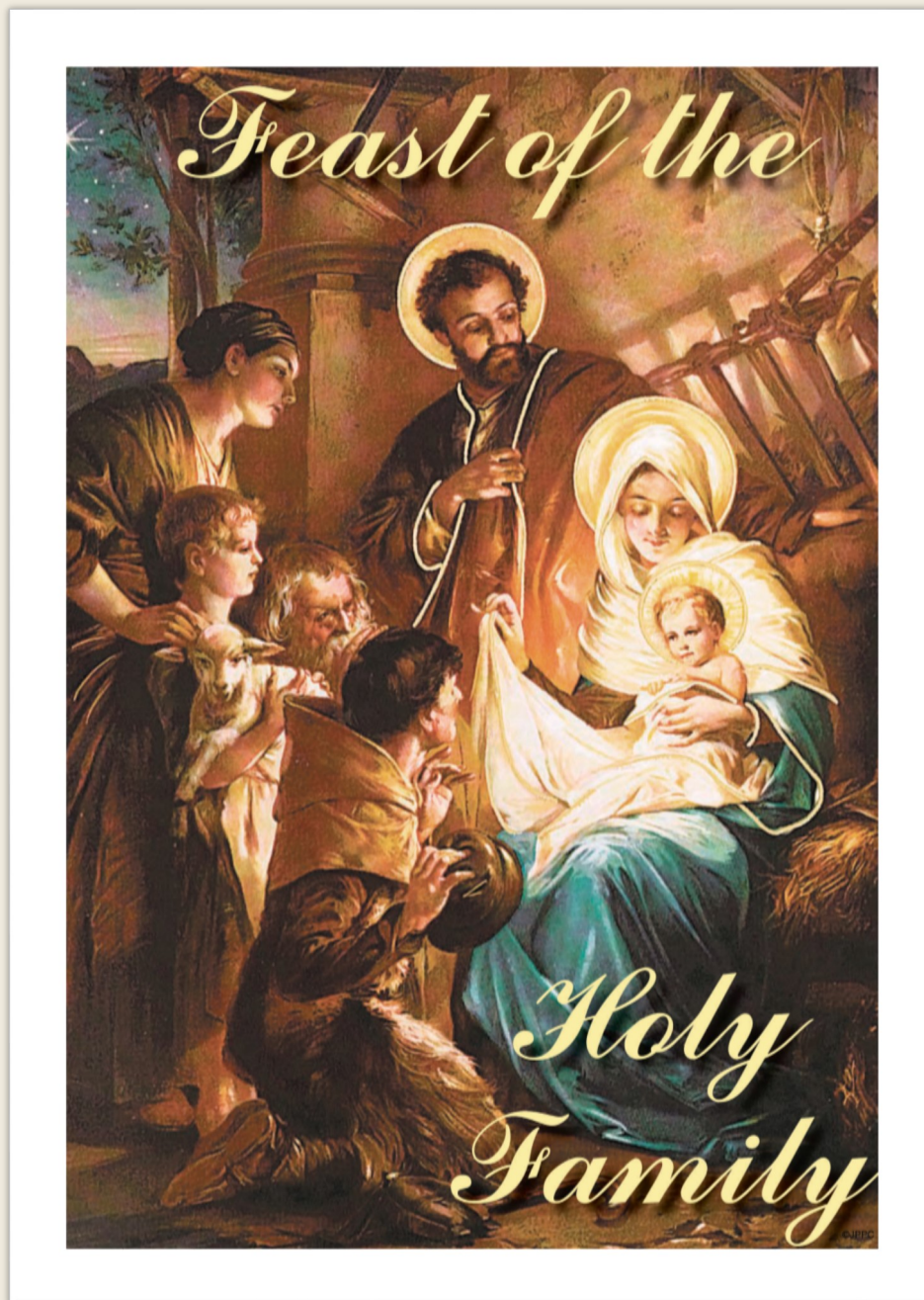


Feast of the Holy Family

December 27, 2015

# SS. SIMON AND JUDE

A Stewardship Parish + 8 Cavanaugh Court + West Chester, PA + [www.simonandjude.org](http://www.simonandjude.org)



**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm  
Weekday: 6:45 and 9:00 a.m.  
Divine Mercy prayed after 9:00 a.m. Mass  
Sat. Morning: 9:00 a.m.  
Holy Days: 7:00 Vigil, 6:45 & 9:00 a.m. & 7:00p.m.

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays: 8:00-9:00 a.m. & 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday 8:30 am - 8:00 pm  
Saturday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm Sunday: 10:00 am-2:00 pm

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Visit our Chapel day or night to spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Exposition 7:30 am to 10:00 pm. Chapel is open 24/7. Call Kathy Bond at 610-296-2526 or Jackie Geary 610-436-5399 for more information.

**ROSARY**

Weekdays: after 6:45 a.m. and before 9:00 a.m. Mass (Wednesdays-Liturgy of the Hours is prayed instead of Rosary).

**REGISTRATION FOR NEW FAMILIES**

New families should call or visit the Rectory Office (610-696-3624) to make an appointment with a priest to register in the Parish. Members of the parish who reach the age of 18 should register separately as adults. If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out of your parents home or graduated from college, you need to re-register. If you move, we would also appreciate a call to the Parish Office so that our records will be in order. Thank you.

**BAPTISMS**

Baptisms will be celebrated the first three Sundays of the month. Parents are asked to register their child for Baptism by calling the Parish Office. If this is your first child, it is required that you attend a Pre-Jordan Seminar. These are held on the fourth Sunday of the month (except December and July) at 10:00 a.m. in the SS. Simon and Jude Room in the Meehan Center.

**WEDDINGS**

We need at least six months to assist engaged couples to prepare for marriage. Please call the Parish Office for an appointment with a priest.

**AGED, SHUT-IN & HOSPITALIZED**

Notify the Parish Office when a neighbor, friend or relative is aged, sick or hospitalized. The sacraments of Penance, Eucharist or Anointing are our joy and privilege to administer.

**PARISH CLERGY & RELIGIOUS STAFF**

Rev. Michael J. Gerlach, Pastor  
Rt. Rev. Ronald J. Rossi, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. James R. DeGrassa, Parochial Vicar  
Sister Elizabeth Bailey, IHM, Superior  
Sister Mary Beth Coyle, IHM, Evangelization /Adult Faith Formation  
Deacon James Lyon  
Deacon James Owens  
Deacon Joseph Ruggiero  
Deacon William Shearer

**PARISH OFFICE**

Ronald B. Avellino, Business Manager  
Ellie Berry, Music Ministry Coordinator  
Angelo Golato, Maintenance Supervisor  
Marty Harris, Parish Services Director  
Melanie Hart, Receptionist  
Mary-Kay Lack, Financial Secretary  
Bernadette Moncrief, Candice (Candy) Savarese, Secretaries  
Address: 8 Cavanaugh Court, West Chester, PA 19382  
Phone: 610-696-3624 Fax: 610-696-3971  
e-mail: rectory@simonandjude.org  
Web Site: www.simonandjude.org

**SCHOOL OFFICE**

Sister Jeannine Norton, IHM, Principal  
Jennifer Appaneal, Advancement Director  
Susan D'Amore, School Secretary  
Address: 6 Cavanaugh Court, West Chester, PA 19382  
Phone: 610-696-5249 Fax: 610-696-4682

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE**

Sister Barbara Jude Gentry IHM, DRE  
Mary Conway, Secretary  
Address: 6 Cavanaugh Court, West Chester, PA 19382  
Phone: 610-692-3118

**MEEHAN CENTER**

Marty Harris, Phone: 610-235-4020  
Web Site: www.meehancenter.org

**HOME AND SCHOOL BOARD**

Co-Presidents.....Maureen Steinetz and Theresa Hagman  
Treasurer.....Lisa Baumann  
Recording Secretary.....Molly Kelly  
Corresponding Secretary.....Megan DelFra

**PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Fr. Gerlach Sr. Jeannine Norton  
Mark Cellini Theresa Hagman Dan Moran  
Sr. Mary Beth Coyle Gordon Jefferes Mark Reber  
Michael Dacko Sr. Barbara Jude Gentry Maureen Steinetz  
Karen Galese John Mattiola Sue Surrichio

**FINANCE COUNCIL**

Fr. Gerlach Sr. Jeannine Norton  
Michael Bray Kathy Breslin Suzanne Burke Ralph Celidonio  
Gene Cleary Annette Glauzel Ray Mazza

**“All happy families are alike;  
Each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way”**



These words begin Leo Tolstoy’s novel Anna Karenina. It would be challenging for a family to reflect on and then dialogue about its reasons for happiness and unhappiness.

Are all happy families alike? If so, what are the ingredients that make a family “happy”? If a family is “unhappy”, what makes for its unhappiness? It’s been said that almost nothing gives more joy than family and almost nothing hurts worse than things gone wrong within one’s family.

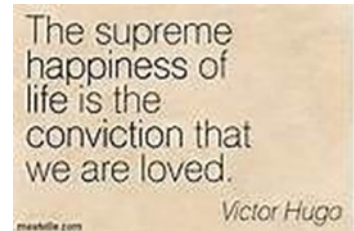

The shape of families has changed over the years. There are all sorts and kinds of families: two-parent families, single-parent families, adopted families, merged and foster families, gay and lesbian parented families.

In this Year of Mercy, we are to remember that no one is excluded from God’s Mercy and compassion. Each and every family can use help, support and prayers to be or become a happy family and to be healed of the causes for unhappiness.

On this Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
may our prayer be that the Church and our parish  
be a merciful presence for all families.

May God’s Mercy and love be an important part  
in the life of all our families.


Fr. Rossi

**Rectory Office  
Holiday Hours**  
The Rectory Office will be closed  
December 31 and January 1 and will  
reopen January 2, 2014 at 9:00 AM



**New Year’s Schedule 2016**  
**New Year’s Eve Mass**  
Vigil Mass 5:00 P.M.  
**New Year’s Day Mass**  
Friday, January 1, 2015  
9:00 A.M., and 12:00 Noon



**Adoration Schedule for  
New Year’s**  
Adoration will resume Monday, January 4  
after 6:45 Mass  
The Chapel will remain open for those  
who wish to make a visit.



**Welcome to Our Parish**  
SS. Simon and Jude welcomes  
all visitors and guests this  
weekend. We are blessed by  
your choosing to worship with  
us. If you would like information on activities in  
the Parish or would like to register as a new  
member, call the Rectory Office 610-696-3624,  
email [rectory@simonandjude.org](mailto:rectory@simonandjude.org) or visit our parish  
web site at [www.simonandjude.org](http://www.simonandjude.org). We wish you a  
Happy New Year!

**The Gift of Prayer**

Consider giving the gift of prayer. There are “Special Gift” cards in the Sacred Heart Chapel that you can send noting a special Holy Hour of prayer that you commit to making before the Blessed Sacrament. And there is no cost, except for your time!



**Stewardship**

**This Year—Dec. 13, 2015—\$35,933**  
**Last Year—Dec. 14, 2014— \$29,933**  
 Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

**Christ Be At Home**

Christ be at home in your family,  
 May he listen to what you say.  
 May he sit down to eat at your table,  
 And kneel with you nightly to pray.

May His peace and His kindness  
 Be with you, and His presence in every room;  
 For when Christ is at home in a family  
 Then a family is truly at home.



**December Weddings**

Ryan Michael Sheridan to  
 Victoria Elizabeth Carlson

**December Baptisms**

Joseph Francis Collinsgru  
 Lola Jayne Miller  
 James Mutschler  
 Nicholas Gregory Sevag  
 Madelyn Kellearne Smith



**Amigos de Jesus**

“Join the Amigos de Jesus family and Fr. Dennis O’Donnell this Ash Wednesday for Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Lenten Soup and Salad. Call Amigos de Jesus at 610-644-8237 or email [amigos@amigosdejesus.org](mailto:amigos@amigosdejesus.org) for more information. Please RSVP by February 3.”

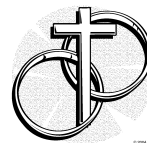
**Take a minute and check out a variety of CD’s from the bookrack at the entrance of church. Go to [simonandjude.org](http://simonandjude.org) for more information and additional links.**

**Bereavement:**

Bereavement: Those who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend are invited to join us for sharing and support on Wednesday evening, January 27th, 7 pm, in the Welcome Center.



RCIA: Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic is invited to contact Sr. Mary Beth at [mcoyle@simonandjude.org](mailto:mcoyle@simonandjude.org) or use our new parish app. A new group will be forming on 13th, 7 pm, in the Welcome Center in Church. Bring your questions and any Catholic friends for an interesting evening.



**Wedding Music Workshop**

The Liturgical Ministry of our parish can help you plan the liturgy for your Wedding. All prospective brides, grooms and guests are invited to a Wedding Preparation Workshop on January 20, 2016, at 7:30 pm in Church. The workshop is a chance to explore musical and liturgical options in a straightforward format. Non-parishioners are also welcome. Email Ellie Berry to register at [ellie429@gmail.com](mailto:ellie429@gmail.com)

**Calling all High School Teens !!!**



Join us every Sunday at 7:00 pm In The Meehan Center.  
**It includes Dinner, Fun and Discussion.**

**Giving Tree Thanks**

*Thank you for your amazing generosity for the Advent Giving Tree. You have helped so many in need and who are less fortunate than ourselves. Hundreds of people received your gifts of love. A special thank you to those who helped to organize this wonderful outreach. May God Bless our parishioners for their exceptional charity.*

**PREP**

The boys and girls wore crazy hats back on December 1 and 2. They contributed \$1.00 to help those children in need (Catholic Social Services). To date, we have collected \$395.26 which exceeds last year's collection of \$293. Congratulations to the students who remembered to bring in money to help those who are less fortunate.



**Pre Schoolers:** Classes will resume on Sunday morning, January 10, 2016. We look forward to hearing their stories of their Christmas holidays.

**Elementary Levels:** Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 5 and Wednesday, January 6. Parents are invited to attend the Masses on January 5 and 6 which are included in the Church's Christmas season. Dismissal is from school.

**ALL CATECHISTS/AIDES AND STAFF ARE INVITED TO**  
Sunday Brunch in the Meehan Center at 1:00 pm on January 3, 2016.

**7th and 8th grade Youth Group:** We will gather on Sunday, January 3 at 7:00 pm. The students will celebrate the great feast of Epiphany with an Epiphany party



**First Penance:** We are looking forward to celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with our students on Saturday, January 30th. Time is 10:00 am and 12:00 Noon. We appreciate the time and efforts made in helping these boys and girls receive the Lord's mercy especially during this special Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Have a Blessed New Year  
Sr. Barbara Jude Gentry, Director

**Come and Pray With Us!**

On December 28 which is the Feast of the Holy Innocents. We remember the helpless who have had their lives taken from them through abortion. We will have a brief prayer at our Holy Innocents Shrine just outside our chapel after the 9:00 am Mass on Monday, December 28. We will process directly from church to recite several brief prayers. Please join us.

**Mass Intentions for 2017**

The Mass book for 2017 will be open Monday, January 4, 2016 at 9:00 am. We ask you to fill out a form to schedule an intention for a Mass. For your convenience, these forms will be on the tables in the Narthex this weekend and December 20 and 27. Please complete the form and bring it with a self-addressed envelope with you when you come to the Welcome Center to schedule Masses on January 4. We request no more than 6 Masses per person. No forms will be accepted before that date. This process is to help alleviate the waiting. The forms will be numbered January 4, as you drop them off in the Welcome Center. A copy will be returned to you with the date and time(s) we were able to schedule. Thank you.

**March for Life in Washington, DC**



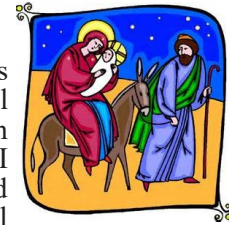
Once again we will have a bus leaving SS. Simon and Jude at 7:00 am on January 22 for a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. to mourn the 57 million lives lost through abortion since 1973 as a result of the Roe vs. Wade decision of our Supreme Court.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for more information contact Bill Wohlgemuth at (610) 647-2208 or email at pbwohl@verizon.net

**Society of St. Vincent DePaul**

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul exists to assist those in need. If you or a friend or family member is in need of temporary assistance, please call our confidential phone number 610-787-1721.

**School News**



As you read this the celebration of Christmas is behind us. But leading into a joyous Christmas with prayers and hopes for a peace-filled New Year, the school community had a wonderful three days this week. On Monday each kindergarten class - after much practice- presented their own dearest 10 minute Nativity play. I am sure the Lord, Mary, Joseph and all the angels as well as every parent and attendee counts this as the highlight of the week! On Tuesday our wonderful homeroom parents provided an afternoon of class parties with food and fun! And with great solemnity, the 8th grade led the school in a prayerful and beautiful pageant as our closing exercise on Wednesday. We are most grateful to them and their teachers for the hours of practice and preparation the pageant represents. Special thanks to The Brittingham family who shared little Emiliana to be Baby Jesus.

*May the New Year of 2016 be "sweet 16" with many graces!*

**Upcoming Schedule:**

Monday, January 4, 2016: Classes resume

For information about the school, visit our school website at: [www.simonandjude.org](http://www.simonandjude.org) or call 610-696-5249 during office school office hours 8:00-4:00. Do NOT let finances hold you back from giving your child the gift of Catholic Education. Our donors are extremely generous enabling us to distribute \$125,000 in tuition assistance for the 15-16 school years. A link for BLOCS application and for our own SSJ Catholic Education Fund is available on the school website or can be obtained in the office.

Sister Jeannine Norton, Principal

**Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse?**

Time away to reconnect on a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Rediscover the romance in your marriage as you improve communication and get to know each other at a deeper level. What you learn on the Weekend offers positive and lasting benefits for your family. *The next Weekend in this area is February 12-14 at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown.* Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [www.wwme-philly.org](http://www.wwme-philly.org). You can also contact Al & Mary Liz Heumann at [Applications@wwme-philly.org](mailto:Applications@wwme-philly.org) or call [610-449-1859](tel:610-449-1859).



**Adult Social Club**

Thursday,

December 31, 2015

“New Years Eve at Noon” with comedian Chris Monty.

**Doolan’s in Spring Lake, N J**

“New Years Eve at Noon”

with comedian Chris Monty.

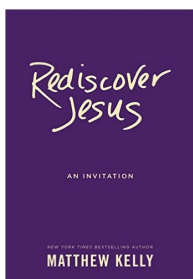
Depart SSJ at 9:30 am and arrive at 11:30 am.

Join us for a delicious luncheon with your choice of entrée. Coffee, tea, wine and soda will be available during lunch. One hour open bar. Mike Byrne Old Lang Show Band will entertain us. Balloon drop and daytime midnight madness to ring in 2016. \$105 Members \$110 Non-member. Contact Ruth Ayres 610-692-3891 for information.



**Do you have the SS. Simon and Jude Parish APP?**

Find out more scan here: Or go to [www.MyParishApp.com](http://www.MyParishApp.com).



At our Christmas Masses families received the “Rediscover Jesus” book written by Matthew Kelly. As a follow up, you will be invited to participate in a book discussion.

Look for more information in future bulletins or on our parish app.

094simju

**Bethesda Project**

Casseroles will be collected the third Sunday of the month from 8:15 to 11:00 am Please drop off your FROZEN casseroles in the kitchen in Monihan Hall. If you would like to make a casserole for the homeless, stop by the Rectory and pick up recipes and a container.

Are you overwhelmed and need some peace in your life?  
 Consider joining others who have found a means to peace through



**Discovering CHRIST**  
**INFORMATION NIGHT**  
**JANUARY 25 at 7:00 pm**

**Ask, Seek, Knock**  
**and Discover**  
**What gives meaning,**  
**or purpose?**  
**Why does it matter?**  
**How Can I Begin?**

**What is it?** This 7-week experience where people enjoy a meal together, view a teaching video that responds to some of the basic questions we all ask.

After dessert there's a chance for small group discussions to talk about what we just heard.

**When does it start?** February 1, 2016 for seven Mondays (6:30-8:40 PM) The series includes a powerful one-day retreat on Saturday, March 5.

**Where can you get more information?**  
 Contact Marty at 610-696-3624  
 or [email@simonandjude.org](mailto:email@simonandjude.org).  
 Or view a short YouTube video at:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-QPh2\\_3n2k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-QPh2_3n2k)

**Eucharistic Adoration** **Are You Looking for a Way to Strengthen Your Faith?**



Eucharistic Adoration is an effective way to do that. The Sacred Heart Chapel is open to all everyday for Adoration. However, additional assigned adorers are needed. If you would like to commit to an hour a week, or split that time with a friend, please contact Jackie Geary at 610-436-5399. It may be the best gift you give yourself.



**Knights' Korner**  
 Knights of Columbus  
 SS. Simon & Jude Council

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

*On behalf of our sister parish, St. Veronica's, the SSJ Knights of Columbus wish to thank all our parishioners for their generous donation of coats on Sunday Nov. 29th. A special thanks to Rosemary Castillo who has spearheaded the Warm Coat Program for many years. We delivered 350 coats to St. Veronica's on Dec. 4 as part of the National K of C annual "Coats for Kids" program. Thanks again for your "warm" hearts and continued generosity.*

Visit the Knight's website...SSJ Council: [www.ssjknights.org](http://www.ssjknights.org)  
 E-mail: [knights11564@yahoo.com](mailto:knights11564@yahoo.com)

**2015 Annual Contribution Statements**

We will e-mail a 2015 Statement for Weekly Collections and BBCII to all parishioners who have provided us with an e-mail address. Statements will be emailed mid January. If you have changed your e-mail within the past year, please send your current address to [rectory@simonandjude.org](mailto:rectory@simonandjude.org). If you do not have e-mail and would like to have either statement, please drop a note in the collection basket, mail your request to the Rectory, or call the Office at (610-696-3624). Thank you.

**Adult Social Club**

All are welcome

**Sunday, January 17th 2pm Meehan Center**

Edward Hanco, retired FBI head agent in Philadelphia will speak with us today on subjects such as cyber crime, counterterrorism, and public corruption probes.

Some notable investigations of Mr. Hanco's career are those that led to the conviction of State Treasurer Rob McCord on extortion charges and the dismantling of top leadership of a Philadelphia Ironworkers local. Join us for some informative and helpful tips on ways to protect us in today's world.

Coffee, tea and refreshments will be served.  
 Donation \$3.00





**MASS INTENTIONS****Saturday, December 26**

5:00 pm Clementine Kimler

**Sunday, December 27 Feast of the Holy Family**

7:30 am Living and Deceased of the Parish

9:00 am Martin C. &amp; Ann L. Kilty

10:30 am Bill &amp; Dot Robinson Family

12:00 pm Francis McCloskey and  
Mary M. Devens

6:00 pm Intention of the Priest Celebrant

**Monday, December 28**

6:45 am Rev. John Baptist Nguyen

9:00 am Regina Levy

**Tuesday, December 29**

6:45 am Philomena &amp; Donald Bailey

9:00 am Margaret W. Barrett 33rd Anniversary

**Wednesday, December 30**

6:45 am Margaret Mary Fox

9:00 am Dick Goettel

**Thursday, December 31**

6:45 am Margaret Mary Fox

9:00 am Joan Avellino

5:00 pm Michele Ginnis

**Friday, January 1, 2016**

6:45 am Living &amp; Deceased of the Parish

9:00 am Living and Deceased of the Parish

**Saturday, January 2**

9:00 am Karen Wolfe

5:00 pm John &amp; Eleanor Warga

**Sunday, January 3**

7:30 am Living &amp; Deceased of Parish

9:00 am Hennelly Family

10:30 am Frank McCarry

12:00 pm Patricia A. Pazdalski

6:00 pm Intentions of the Priest Celebrant

**WEEKLY EVENTS****Sunday, December 27**

7:00 pm Yth. Led Mnstry (Meehan Parish Center)

7:00 pm AA (East)

**Monday, December 28**

9:45 pm Prayer Group (Welcome Center)

4:30 pm Children's Choir (St. Cecilia Room)

7:00 pm Respect Life Holy Hour (Chapel)

**Tuesday, December 29**

7:15 am Men's Bible Study II (Welcome Center)

7:00 pm RCIA (IHM &amp; St. Joseph Rooms)

**Wednesday, December 30**

9:30 pm Legion of Mary (Welcome Center)

**Thursday, December 31**

2:00 pm Rosary at Pembroke Nursing Home

6:30 pm Flame of Love Holy Hour (Chapel)

9:00 pm Yth. Led Ministry (Lock in) Meehan Cntr.

**Friday, January 1—Happy New Year**

9:00 am Church Cleaners (Church and Chapel)

7:30 pm NA (East Hall)

**Saturday, January 2**

6:00 pm Altar Servers Party (Cav. &amp; East Hall)

**Sunday, January 3**

8:30 am No Pre-School or 7th &amp; 8th Grd. PREP

7:00 pm YLM & 7th/8th Yth. Grp. Epiphany  
Party (Meehan Center)

7:00 pm AA (East Hall)



Baby Carolyn, Baby Everly Irwin, Baby Samantha Levey, Vincent Musumeci, Baby Charlie Garmon, Baby Christian Porpora, Baby Lily Rose Sonon, Baby Oscar David Sprague, Baby Michael Yarnall, Baby Benjamin Zikas, Jonathan Lukas, Kelsey Hull, Kiera McMahon, Elizabeth Travaglini, Katie Vanarnam, Gloria Albert, Robert Francis

Bartley, Sr. Frederick Bauman, Kevin Branin, Janice Buck, John Buoni, Bonnie W. Burns, Scott Butler, Kerry Butler, Jim Byrne, Mary Byrne Brophy, James Callaghan, Peggy Chapman, Carol Chipps, Maria Piedad Coy, Jill Daly, Rose D'Antonio, Colin DeHaven, Bud Devlin, Margaret Dillin, Frank DiPasquale, Samantha DiTonno, Mary Ann Docherty, Rosemarie Duane, Irene Dudasik, Ginny Dunn, Kirk Ebbs, William F. Etter, Olivia Sarah Fledderman, Monica Fickenscher, Jean Flanagan, Andy Foss, Fred Giuffrida, James Goodnetter, Adele Gray, Ann Guba, Bill Haley, Dean Harris, Dolores Hassler, Doris Haynie, Kitty Heller, John Francis Holmes, Mya Hostutler, Ernie Iovannone, Frank Janssen, Sr. Honora Johnston IHM, Pat Kahl, Collette Kazanjian, Jack Kirsch, Taylor Kulp, Ron Lafferty, Faustina Laird, Noah Lamar, Gerry Langton, Marie Levin, Allan Leibowitz, William Lloyd, Rev. James Lyons, Badolato Mariano, Leo MacEntee III, Michael McDonald, Paul McDyre, Jennifer McGlone, Dolores McGovern, Leonard McLain Jr., Albert Medoro, Lynn Meehan, Jeri Mellonger, Michael Minogue, Katherine Naficy, Jack O'Neill Family, Helen A. Palmer, Marta Panaccio, Gene Pertchack, Mary Ann Popma, Ruth Rogers, Dorothy Roser, Gloria Ryan, Barbara Savini, Daniel Simpson, Alexander Sera, Donald Sharples, Judy Sherlock, Stephen Sinclair, Mary Sivek, Jo Ann Slifer, Kathy Smith, Clara Sollecito, Danielle Stechel, Howard Steel, Daniel Stevens, Kay Stevens, Gerry Streetie, Marcia Tarra, Ernest Towne, Dan Trasatti, Ben Volbe Mary Walsh, Marie Welge, Cathy Wood.