

Mass Schedule

Monday	December 14
7:15 a.m.	Marian - Communion Service
Tuesday	December 15
6:00 p.m.	Marian - Marie Hess
Wednesday	December 16
7:15 a.m.	Marian - Betty Hare
9:00 a.m.	PC Chapel - Mille Abbott
Thursday	December 17
7:15 a.m.	Marian - Sr. Helen Borszich
Friday	December 18
11:00 a.m.	Highland Park - Melody Heitz
Saturday	December 19
5:00 p.m.	Church - Jessie Sanchez
7:00 p.m.	St. Bridget's - Virginia Campbell
Sunday	December 20
8:00 a.m.	Church - Jason Berglund
10:00 a.m.	Church - People of the Parish

ASSOCIATE PASTORS' NOTES

Third Sunday of Advent that commands, "Be Joyful!"

How can we not be joyful when we think about the coming of the Savior, the coming of the One who frees us from sin? We must be more joyful this year in that we begin the Year of Mercy, proclaimed by the Holy Father. What better time to rejoice in God's mercy that in receiving that Mercy in Reconciliation and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? We have the opportunity this year not only receive forgiveness of our own sins, but the effects of sin from those who have died. Enter the Holy Door, receive Mercy and forgiveness for yourself and loved ones, and rejoice! St. Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst. Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don't have to worry, for God's peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds. A medieval carol depicts Christmas as "my dancing day" and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merrymaking? Because "the Lord is near," as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MASS TIME ABOVE FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC 16, DUE TO CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.

The Knights of Columbus will again be selling the Crosses for Persecuted Christians after Masses this weekend.

RCIA sessions meet Thursday evenings at 7p.m. at the Parish Center Library, 1104 Cheyenne. (Please use the west entrance from the parking lot.) All are welcome!

RCIA 12/17/15 Confirmation; Presenter: Dan Kusek

RCIA 12/24/15 NO RCIA - CHRISTMAS BREAK

RCIA 12/31/15 NO RCIA - NEW YEARS BREAK

For more information contact Natalie at 762-7135 or e-mail dncollins@centurylink.net.

Fr. Roy requests that anyone who had previously scheduled an appointment with Fr. John for sacramental preparation or any other detail to **PLEASE** contact Fr. Roy at the parish center office 762-2009 or his cell phone 308-390-9796 to reschedule this appointment.

EXCITING NEWS! BE LOOKING FOR A CHANGE IN THE BULLETIN - We will have a new look to the bulletin in the next few weeks! AS OF THE NEW YEAR, ALL BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS WILL NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE PARISH CENTER OFFICE BY NOON ON MONDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKENDS' BULLETIN. Questions, contact Jenny at the Parish Center of- fice 762-2009.

St. Agnes Academy will have a late start of 9 a.m. On Monday December 14 due to teacher's meeting. The girls basketball team will be traveling to Hay Springs for the Panhandle Conference tournament. Good Luck!

Fr. John wishes to thank all who have sent him cards and remembered him in prayer. Please continue to keep him in your prayers. Thank You.

Christmas Pageant – The Kindergarten through fifth grades of the faith formation program will once again present the Christmas Pageant on Wednesday, Dec. 16th at 5:30pm in the church. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as the students act out the Nativity story. All are welcome!

Spanish Mass Volunteer: Many volunteers for all the different ministries are needed for the Spanish Language Mass that is held the second Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. Contact Barb Tolstedt at 762-5148.



THIS WEEK!!!**SUNDAY (TODAY)**

4:00 pm Mananitas - Church

5:00 pm Spanish Mass - Church

MONDAY

9:00 am Late Start for St. Agnes Academy - girls basketball in Hay Springs

9:30 am Bible study - PC Chapel/Library

5:30 pm ST. Agnes Foundation Meeting - PC Conf Room

WEDNESDAY

11:30-12:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation - Church

5:30 pm K-5 Faith Formation Christmas Pageant - Church

7:00 pm 6-12 Combined Youth Group - PC

THURSDAY

7:00 pm RCIA - PC Chapel/Library

FRIDAY

1:00 pm Sort food for Christmas Baskets - Lyceum

SATURDAY

10:00 am Christmas Basket delivery - Lyceum

3rd Sunday of Advent Reflection -

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Raffle - The Knights of Columbus have started their 2nd annual Work, Eat and Play Raffle. Tickets are \$25.00 a piece. 1st place is a \$2500 travel voucher to Global Dreams Travel, 2nd place is a \$500 Meat Certificate for Grocery Kart and 3rd place is a \$250 Gift certificate for Jerry's Western Wear or Redman's Shoes. Contact John Courtney, J.J. Smith, Mark Dykes or others Knights of Columbus for your tickets.

2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal**(Goal \$50,101.00)**

AMOUNT PLEDGED TO DATE \$24,980.00

AMOUNT RECEIVED TO DATE \$24,441.52

**COLLECTION OF DECEMBER 6, 2015**

ADULT	\$	11,377.00
YOUTH	\$	47.68
PLATE	\$	252.50
CANDLES	\$	40.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	\$	75.00
CHRISTMAS	\$	345.00
ST. BRIDGET'S	\$	2,035.00
FEAST OF ALL SAINTS	\$	15.00
SOLEMNITY OF MARY	\$	40.00
BUILDING	\$	1,054.00

TOTAL \$ 15,281.18

CAMP FOR HUMAN DEVELOP \$ 10.00

HAITI/MISSIONS \$ 340.00

RETIRED RELIGIOUS \$ 310.00

2014-2015 WEEKLY BUDGET \$ 12,684.00

AMOUNT NEEDED YTD \$ 291,732.00

ACTUAL AMOUNT RECEIVED YTD \$ 211,483.34