



ECHOING MARY'S DECISION The angel Gabriel today confronts Mary with a mystery. In a way, it is the ultimate "Whodunit?" that Mary expresses in her question "How can this be?" The mystery of salvation in

Christ is not a mystery that is solved, but a reality beyond our comprehension that we must choose to enter into. In the liturgy of the Eastern Church, everyone waits to see if Mary will enter into the mystery: God waits, Adam and Eve and all the souls of the dead who long for Paradise wait, angels wait for new heavenly companions. And there is much rejoicing when her decision is "yes." We have less dramatic choices offered to us, but the mystery of our salvation in Christ is by no means "solved." We may understand it a bit better due to Mary's "yes." We may be a bit closer to it through the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But ultimately, it still remains a reality beyond our comprehension, a mystery to which we all must give our own "yes." Soon we will be singing "O come, let us adore him." May our Advent prayer, our echo of Mary's "yes," continue then, so we may enter into the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ, God among us. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE God entered our world through a pregnant, unmarried teenage girl in a deserted stable. Today the Angel Gabriel cautions us to expect to find God in unexpected places. The Lord is with you among piles of laundry, sick children, cars that won't start and children whose needs may seem demanding.

ADVENT PENANCE CELEBRATIONS Advent is a time for new beginnings, so take time out of your busy schedule to attend one of the following Penance Celebrations: **Sunday, December 18th - St. Jude; Monday, December 19th - Our Lady of Peace and Tuesday, December 20th - Blessed Sacrament - all at 7pm.**

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: 5:15, 7:30 and Midnight

Christmas Day: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 [NO 7:30pm]

New Year Eve: 5:15

New Years Day: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 [NO 7:30pm]

PLEASE SIGN UP We are in need of the following:

Christmas Eve

5:15pm Mass - 2 Sacristans

Midnight Mass - 1 Lector and 1 Eucharistic Minister

Christmas Day

7:30am - 2 Servers

9:00am - 3 Eucharistic Ministers and 3 Servers

11:00am - 1 Sacristan, 2 Lectors, 4 Eucharistic Ministers and 2 Servers

New Years Eve 5:15pm - 1 Lector, 2 Servers

New Years Day

7:30am - 1 Sacristan, 3 Eucharistic Ministers, 1 Lector and 2 Servers

9:00am - 1 Sacristan, 4 Eucharistic Ministers, 1 Lector and 2 Servers

11:00am - 1 Sacristan, 1 Lector, 1 Eucharistic Minister and 1 Server

CHURCH DECORATORS are needed to help the Liturgy Committee decorate the Church for Christmas. If interested, join them on Wednesday 12/21 and Thursday 12/22 from 5-10pm in the Church.



GIVING TREE All gifts are due to the Parish Office today at Noon. Our Confirmation students will be meeting today to wrap all the presents so they are ready for delivery on Monday afternoon. If you can not bring your gifts in by Sunday afternoon, please drop them off at the Parish Office **no later than Noon on Monday already wrapped** with the gift tag taped to the outside of the box. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping to make this Christmas a little brighter for those in our Parish Food Bank and at Emmaus Soup Kitchen.

MEMORIAL Marianne and David Zimmerman presented a gold plated Flagon to be used at our Dish and Cup Masses which matches our new communion dishes and cups. By definition a Flagon is a large vessel usually of metal, with a handle and spout and often a lid used for holding wine. This memorial is in memory of their parents: Stanley and Palma Fronzaglia & Carl and Ethel Zimmerman.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES will resume on Sunday, January 8th. Enjoy your vacation!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD will not take place on Sunday, December 25th or Sunday, January 1st but will resume on Sunday, January 8th at the 9:00am Mass.

CONGRATULATIONS to Father William Calabrese on his appointment as Pastor of St. Bibiana in Galetton, PA and their Mission Parish of Sacred Heart in Shinglehouse, PA effective January 16th, 2006. Father Bill was ordained in September of 1999 and has been in residence here since that time. He is currently the Chaplain at St. Mary's at Asbury Ridge. We wish him good luck on this new chapter in his life.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE Reservations are now being accepted for the annual bus trip to Washington, D.C. for the March For Life on January 23rd. Participants will board the buses at 11:00pm on Sunday, January 22nd and return to Erie about 1:00am Tuesday morning, January 24th. Seats are \$38. People for Life are sponsoring their Annual Pro-Life Breakfast on Saturday, January 7th at the Avalon Hotel. The main speaker is Bobby Schindler, the brother of Terri Schiavo. Tickets are \$8.50. The Erie March & Motorcade for Life will take place on Saturday, January 7th beginning at 12:30pm. For more information contact People for Life at 882-1333 or pfl@peopleforlife.org.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th. ☺☺☺☺

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Today the Knights will host coffee and donuts after both the 9 & 11am Masses. Our Council #278 wishes to thank all who supported the Pennsylvania Knights Chance Of A Lifetime (C.O.A.L.) raffle. The drawing was on December 8th and a list of winners is posted on the Parish Office bulletin board and in the lobby of Church. The Knights will take responsibility for the outside nativity scene this year. The Knights have also volunteered to help with Church decorations and are reminded to report to the Church on December 21st and 22nd after 5:30pm. Our thanks to them for all their help this year.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for all of the sick and shut-in of our Parish Family.

Mass of Christian Burial was given to Dorothy Will.
The prayers and sympathy of the Parish Family were extended to her family. May she rest in peace.

31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday 12/19 Lew Sciamanda, Marilyn Konopka, Kevin Kujan
Tuesday 12/20 Joan Braeger, Kay Ingaldi, Millie Vanderhoof
Wednesday 12/21 Diane Fisher
Thursday 12/22 Gerry Fagan
Friday 12/23 Jim Zink, Viola Kuhn
Saturday 12/24 Mary Hoffman
Sunday 12/25 Donna Reusch

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Monday 12/19 Marge Wiertel, Jack & Shirley Kenehan, Helen Imler, Tammi Golen
Tuesday 12/20 Marie Elsesser, Mary Fiske, Susie D'Aurora, Bill Schriefer, Bonnie Abramczyk
Wednesday 12/21 Cindi Orlando, Ann Chido, Clarissa DeRooy, Mary Lou Schroeck
Thursday 12/22 Marianne Zimmerman, Lisa Kaveney, Linda Witchcoff, Lisa Jones
Friday 12/23 NO SCHOOL

“RAISE THE ROOF LOTTERY”

Tickets are \$5...get yours now!!

You can't win if you don't have a ticket!!

Our winners for this past week:

12/5 Esther White #708 \$50...Karen Reeves #709 \$10...Karen Reeves #707 \$10...**12/6** Dr. Dombrowski #704 \$50...unsold ticket #705...Mary Lou Mereghetti #703 \$10...**12/7** unsold ticket #091...unsold ticket #092...unsold ticket #093...**12/8** Dorothy Pasford #136 \$50 ...Joann Pamin #137 \$10...unsold ticket #135...**12/9** unsold ticket #066...unsold ticket #067...unsold ticket #065...**12/10** Msgr. Magraw #926 \$50...Carrie Sciamanda #927 \$10...unsold ticket #925...**12/11** Bob George #979 \$100...Mary Hoppe #980 \$10...Max #978 \$10.

Get your January tickets now...they make great stocking stuffers!!

30 MINUTES THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE Do you have *high cholesterol*? Is your *heart beat irregular*? Do you *eat fatty foods* often? If yes, you may want to consider being screened for *stroke risk*. Do you have *high blood pressure*? Are you more than *30 pounds over weight*? Do you *smoke*? If yes, you may want to consider being screened for *abdominal aortic aneurysm* risk. Do you have *diabetes*? Are your *legs sore after walking a short distance*? Are you *55 years of age*? If yes, you may want to be screened for *peripheral arterial disease (PAD)* risk. Blessed Sacrament is hosting screenings for all the above plus Osteoporosis screenings for men and women on Monday, January 16th. Pre-registration is required by calling 1-800-324-1851. Please refer to the flyer in today's bulletin for more details.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament in Memory of George & Margaret Lashinger from the Mark Chulick Family.



Monday, December 19 – Late Advent Weekday

7:00 +Annabell Reusch / Harry Hahn [anniversary]
8:00 +Ed Wiertel / Family [anniversary]

Tuesday, December 20 – Late Advent Weekday

7:00 +Rose Marie Hayes / Husband [birthday]
8:00 +Stephen Radack, Sr. / Son [birthday]

Wednesday, December 21 – St. Peter Canisius

7:00 +Paul Ginkel / Family [anniversary]
8:00 +Shirley Avril / Bill & Donna Rosenquest [birthday]

Thursday, December 22 – Late Advent Weekday

7:00 +Pearl Torelli / Angie, David & Debbie Sciamanda
8:00 +Helen & Alex Mikolajczyk / Cyterski Family

Friday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty

7:00 +Arthur M. Phillips / Dear Friend, Ellie
8:00 +Joseph Rosenthal / Thomas and Megan – Grandchildren

Saturday, December 24 – Vigil of Christmas

5:15 +People of the Parish
7:30 +People of the Parish
Midnight +People of the Parish

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas

7:30 +People of the Parish
9:00 +People of the Parish
11:00 +People of the Parish

SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT – DECEMBER 11, 2005

Weekly Need:	\$ 9,200.00
Adult Offering:	\$ 8,784.50
Loose Collection:	\$ 623.56
Youth:	\$ 81.76 52 envelopes (500)
Young Adults:	\$ 28.50 13 envelopes (192)
Total	\$ 9,518.32

SINCE JULY 1, 2005 (START OF FISCAL YEAR)

Offertory Budget YTD:	\$220,800.00
Offertory Received YTD:	\$202,457.54
Surplus/Deficit	\$ -18,342.46

2005 ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Assessment:	\$ 55,629.00
Total Pledged to Date:	\$ 65,769.00
Paid to Date:	\$ 62,835.00
# of Pledges:	454

Our Roof Goal:	\$100,000.00
Overage from CSA:	\$ 10,140.00
Gifts towards the Roof:	\$ 3,070.00
Gift from PTC	\$ 1,000.00
YTD Profit from	
“Raise the Roof” Lottery	\$ 10,600.00
Parish Capital Improvements (gold envelope)	\$ 7,799.50
Balance to reach goal:	\$ 67,390.50

CHILDREN'S CORNER

During the past week some of our children noted on their church envelopes some ways they shared their time and talents: “I gave money to the Salvation Army for the needy, I shoveled for my mom, I played with my cousin, I gave my sister a cookie and helped her get dressed, I helped baby-sit my cousin, I was extra nice to my sister, I will help my mom and dad by cleaning the house, I helped my mom wrap my brother's birthday presents, I helped grandma do her Christmas shopping.” We thank them for sharing their time, talent and treasures by using their church envelopes.

