

Dear Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament:

The first Christmas was a simple one, but mighty in its implications for all mankind until the end of time. In its true significance Christmas embraced all that man had to do to become Christ-like, and, by imitating the God Child, man could assuredly echo and re-echo the words of the Angels, "Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to men of good will."

Thank you for all your kindness and generosity this past year. We look forward to your help and prayers for the year that lies ahead. In a word, let us continue in a spirit of common Sonship, imploring the babe of Christmas to pour down His blessing on our parish and on our homes, with Peace reigning in our hearts.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all ~

Monsignor Magraw, Father Mike,
Monsignor Hagerty and Father Rouch

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE The birth of Jesus reminds us we have a choice. We can choose to "not know Him" or to see Jesus as the "true light which enlightens everyone." Make this a "Merry Christmas" and choose well; your decision has eternal consequences.

NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

New Years Eve – 5:15pm
New Years Day – 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00am
NO 7:30pm Mass
No children's Liturgy at the 9:00am Mass.

GIVING TREE WRAP UP
PERHAPS...

- You took a tag and purchased a gift or two or three...
- Your whole class or organization adopted a family from the tree...
- You helped wrap all the gifts...
- You helped carry the gifts to the temporary storage place...
- You helped sort the gifts into proper piles and bagged them for delivery...

Then please know that you are appreciated and thanked for your generosity. You have recognized the face of God in the need of others and you are BLESSED! Thank you to all who once again made the "Giving Tree" a tremendous success!!!

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.



THE BELLS OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

About six weeks ago I was approached by George and Columbia Vlahos who read about the blessing we had for the new communion dishes and chalices. They told me that they would like to do a memorial to Blessed Sacrament Parish. I discussed a few options with them and they decided they would like to purchase the "Singing Tower Classic" – a carillon system of bells, hymns and songs. As history states, the first use of bells in the 8th century was to announce the time of Church Services on Sundays and Holy Days. Later, they were used during the Mass being rung at the elevation of the Host during the Consecration so that those not in church could stop their work or play and briefly turn toward the Church in adoration. Today, through the use of bells the faithful are reminded of Christ's presence and His Church in this world. All tolls and peals of the church bells no matter what the occasion or time of day are a summons to prayer whether for the souls of the faithful departed, the recitation of the Angelus, or the call to worship through participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

On this Christmas 2005, we ring these bells for the first time and may the sound of these magnificent bells and hymns continue to make joyful sounds in our community for years to come.

On behalf of the Blessed Sacrament Family I would like to thank Columbia and George for this wonderful gift in honor of their four children. It was their goal to educate their children at Blessed Sacrament and they achieved that through hard work, sacrifices and the help of God. They feel that the wonderful education that they received while here at Blessed Sacrament School contributed to their success later in life. A plaque is in the vestibule to commemorate this special gift of Christmas 2005.



The Giving Tree



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the Priests and Staff
of Blessed Sacrament Parish!

PARISH OFFICE is closed on Monday, December 26th and will re-open on Tuesday, December 27th at 8:00am.

A WARM WELCOME to everyone visiting with us at Blessed Sacrament Parish. At this time of the year we welcome back family members from out of town, college students home on break and people new to our parish family. If you are new to the area or have been attending Mass here but are not a registered parishioner and are thinking about joining, we would love to have you, please call the Parish Office to register.

PRE-BAPTISMAL CLASS will be held on Saturday, January 21st at 9:30am in the Basement Meeting Room. All first time parents, new parishioners at Blessed Sacrament and if it has been over 5 years since you took a class are required to attend before your child can be baptized. Call the Parish Office to register.



Nativity of Our Lord

OUR PARISH FAMILY

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

Baptized into the Christian Community
through the waters of Baptism:

MARTIN THOMAS SENGER, JR.

Son of Martin and Latisha [Monioz] Senger

LUKE ADAM TROCKI

Son of Marc and Melinda [Barczynski] Trocki

2006 CALENDARS are still available in the lobby of Church. Please take one for yourself and if you know of any shut-ins who might enjoy one, please take one for them too!

31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday 12/26 Shirley Kiehlmeier, Kevin Kunik
Tuesday 12/27 Mary Maloney, Mary Zbach, Jim Zink, Barb Pronko, Martha Lata
Wednesday 12/28 Monsignor Magraw
Thursday 12/29 Helen Felice, Julia Parana
Friday 12/30 Gerry Ward
Saturday 12/31 Joan Shea
Sunday 1/1 Marilyn Balliett, Mary Jo Fulton, Diane Hopkins

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

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:

12/12 Helen Pappas #123 \$50...Andrew Johnson #124 \$10...unsold ticket #122 ...**12/13** Elizabeth Keiser #274 \$50...unsold ticket #275...Bill Schriefer #273 \$10...**12/14** unsold ticket #188...unsold ticket #189...unsold ticket #187...**12/15** unsold ticket #178...unsold ticket #179...unsold ticket #177...**12/16** Brian Edwards #737 \$50...Elizabeth Keiser #738 \$10...unsold ticket #736...**12/17** Kathy Harrington #442 \$50...unsold ticket #443...unsold ticket #441...**12/18** unsold ticket #047...unsold ticket #048...Elizabeth Keiser #046 \$10...

Get your January tickets now...

LIFELINE SCREENING Blessed Sacrament is hosting screenings for the following tests: Stroke Screening/Carotid Artery; Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm; Peripheral Arterial Disease plus Osteoporosis screenings for men and women on Monday, January 16th. Pre-registration is required by calling 1-800-324-1851.

ST. JOHN'S NEW YEARS EVE OLDIES DANCE Doors open at 7:30pm, Music by DJ Joe 9pm-1am, Couples \$25 Singles \$15 includes beer, pop and finger foods. St John's Parish Center 1001 Main E, Girard. For more information or for tickets call 774-4526.

IN SEARCH OF OLCS ALUMNI Did you or your children attend Our Lady's Christian School? The Alumni Society is growing and planning a cocktail party on August 19th, 2006. For more information call Jennie Hagerty at 838-0908.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament in Memory of Cheryl Ann Matz from Mom, Dad, Amber and Dylan.



Monday, December 26 – St. Stephen

7:00 +John R. Weber / Bob & Peggy Miniger

8:00 +James Spaeder / Marie Senger

Tuesday, December 27 – St. John

7:00 +Anna Makowski / Bernadette M. Carroll

8:00 +Mary Jane Letizo / Letizo Family [birthday]

Wednesday, December 28 – Holy Innocents

7:00 +Fr. Raymond Geiger / People of the Parish

8:00 +Lou Ingaldi / Kathleen & Denise Myers [anniversary]

Thursday, December 29 – Fifth Day in Octave of Christmas

7:00 +Cyterski Family Intentions / Cyterski Family

8:00 +Evelyn Michaels / Daughter & Family

Friday, December 30 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:00 +Henry L. Sokolowski / Family [wedding anniversary]

8:00 +Cheryl Ann Matz / Mom, Dad, Amber & Dylan [anniversary]

Saturday, December 31 – Vigil: Mary, Mother of God

5:15 +Anna Makowski / David & Kristal Hornaman [wedding anniver]

Sunday, January 1 – Mary, Mother of God

7:30 +Joseph Vavreck / Rita & Larry Firch

9:00 +Anthony Amatangelo / Adele & Jim Cripe

11:00 +Patrick Reinsel / Joe & Helen Bury

NO 7:30pm

SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT – DECEMBER 18, 2005

Weekly Need:	\$ 9,200.00	
Adult Offering:	\$ 7,926.50	
Loose Collection:	\$ 849.13	
Youth:	\$ 37.24	48 envelopes (500)
Young Adults:	\$ 20.00	15 envelopes (192)
Total	\$ 8,832.87	

SINCE JULY 1, 2005 (START OF FISCAL YEAR)

Offertory Budget YTD:	\$230,000.00
Offertory Received YTD:	\$211,290.41
Surplus/Deficit	\$ -18,709.59

2005 ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Assessment:	\$ 55,629.00
Total Pledged to Date:	\$ 65,779.00
Paid to Date:	\$ 63,364.00
# of Pledges:	455

Our Roof Goal:	\$100,000.00
Overage from CSA:	\$ 10,150.00
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	\$ 7,908.50
(gold envelope)	
Balance to reach goal:	\$ 67,271.50

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 helped my mom put up Christmas decorations, I drew a picture for Leah, my sister, I cleaned up my toys, I was nice to my brothers, I invited my cousins over to watch a movie, I helped my parents around the house and brought in firewood, I helped wrap presents, I helped bake cookies, I brought cookies and milk to my grandma when she was sick to help her feel better, I helped mom bake cookies.” We thank them for sharing their time, talent and treasures by using their church envelopes.