Sick Calls – Please call the rectory to arrange for Father Jasany to bring the Sacraments when a member of your family is hospitalized.

Weddings – Parishioners are asked to call the rectory office at least 6 months in advance of the wedding to schedule an appointment with Father Jasany.

Baptisms – The 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00 pm. Parents are required to attend Pre-Baptism Class. Arrangements must be made a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the date of baptism. Before parents baptize their child, Diocesan and parish policy requires you to complete a Baptism Preparation Class. The next class will be on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at St. Stanislaus Parish at 7 pm. Reservations are needed; please call 216-341-9091 to make your reservation.

Godparent and Sponsor Certificate – Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must be registered and practicing members of the Church, attending weekly and Holy Day Masses for a minimum of 3 months prior to the celebration of the Sacraments for which they have requested the certificate. Please note individuals 18 years of age and older, no longer in school, need to register.

Pre-Cana Program for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at the Jesuit Retreat House- Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 12:30 pm. This program satisfies the requirement for marriage preparation as stipulated by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Register at 440-884-9300 or www.jrhcleve@att.net
Dear Parishioners,

Advent invites us to “Prepare the Way of the Lord.” Our next Advent event that may help us to enter more deeply into the meaning of Christmas occurs this weekend, Saturday, December 13th. We will have Eucharistic Service with Taize Meditation and Benediction beginning at 5:30 pm. Please plan to spend some quiet time before Our Blessed Lord. Let us enter into Advent Silence.

In addition, on Sunday, December 21st at 3 pm we will be decorating our Church for Christmas. Everyone is invited to come to prepare our Church for the beautiful feast of Christmas. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please join us.

If your children are participating in the First Christmas Story at our 4 pm Mass on December 24th, Christmas Eve, please remember that the form needs to be turned in to the rectory office by Monday, December 15th.

Also, for those parishioners participating in this year’s Giving Tree, your gifts need to be received by Monday, December 15th. If you forgot to bring your gifts to mass this weekend, please drop them off at the rectory office.

Many families observe the Christmas Eve tradition with oplatki. There is a table at the Blessed Mother’s altar with a supply of oplatki along with the prayer service.

Together may we prepare a place for Christ to be reborn in the mangers of our hearts this year.

Wishing You a Joyful Advent,
Father Jasany

Readings for the Week of December 14th

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Sunday, December 14th
Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus, Bringer of Joy
We rejoice because Jesus wants to be with us. So let us pray to let Jesus love us.

**Today at our 9 am Mass we will have the Rite of Election for Confrimandi.** Please remember in your prayers those who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation – Natalie Garcia, Nathan Glinka, Cassandra Glinka, Zachary Milam and Stephen Sikora

**Holy Name Society Meeting** at 10 am with Mass to follow

**World Apostolate of Fatima Holy Hour** at 12:30 pm. Benediction, Rosary and Chaplet of Mercy. Everyone is invited to the Holy Hour.

Monday, December 15th
PSR Classes 6:30 – 8 pm

Tuesday, December 16th
Rosary before our 8:30 am Mass
Wednesday, December 17th
Golden Agers Meeting at the Senior Center in Newburgh Hts at 11:30 am
Zumba Class 7 pm School Hall
Choir Practice – 7 pm

Thursday, December 18th
Rosary at 8 am before Mass
Grandmothers Club Meeting at Cuyahoga Hts. Village Hall at 11:30 am

Friday, December 19th
Rosary at 8 am before Mass

Sunday, December 21st
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, God’s Greatest Gift – We celebrate once again how God gives us God’s very self in Jesus.

So this week pray in thanks for this mysterious and wondrous gift.

Church Decorating For Christmas at 3 pm. Everyone is invited to help decorate our church for the Holiday Season. Refreshments served afterwards, so please join us!

Christmas Concert featuring the German Music Society at St. Barbara Church, 1505 Denison Avenue at 7 pm. Admission is free. Plan on attending with your family and friends.

St. Rita Parish Christmas Concert featuring Burning River Brass and the Moving Heart Gallery at 3 pm. Proceeds will be used to help Cleveland children find homes. St. Rita’s is located at 32820 Baldwin Road in Solon.

Please remember these individuals, who are called to the priesthood in your daily prayers.

Also, please remember the Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ)

Sunday, Dec. 14th – Bishop Anthony Pilla
Monday, Dec. 15th – Ivan Perez-Gallegos
St. Mary Seminary
Tuesday, Dec. 16th – James Miller
St. Mary Seminary
Wed., Dec. 17th – Christian Torres-Esparza
St. Mary Seminary
Thursday, Dec. 18th – Martin Dober
St. Mary Seminary
Friday, Dec. 19th – Matthew Cortnik
St. Mary Seminary
Saturday, Dec. 20th – Eric Eiermann
St. Mary Seminary
Sunday, Dec. 21st – Bishop A. Edward Pevec

May our prayers bring healing, comfort and strength to the sick and their caregivers, remembering especially John Balciar, Carol Bellomy, Gwen Beres, Mary Ann Betliskey, Bill Bican, Millie Bloedorn, Bonnie Branche, Bill Connors, Katie Davis, Corrine Dawe, Robert Dunning, Jose Dybzinski, Kristin Hill, Frances Holecek, Art Madsen, Cindi Magyar, Rita Petkoff, Nancy Recko, Brianne Rhine, Andrew Turowski and Virginia Turowski.

May our Loved Ones who have died, rest in eternal happiness in heaven remembering especially Ann Olenski, Patricia Hradesky and Deborah Krava whose funerals were last week.

For the safety of the Men and Women serving in the military, especially those from our parish and their families.
Did you know that there is a passage in Matthew’s birth story that I didn’t quite understand? But I do now! When the Holy Innocents are killed, Matthew quotes the prophet, Jeremiah, when he writes, “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.” (Matt. 2:16-18)

Why Rachel? So I looked up the passage in Jeremiah and try to understand what Jeremiah was talking about. Here’s what I found out: Jeremiah was a prophet in the southern part of the divided kingdom, Judah. He took it very personally when the people of Judah would not repent and turn to God. Rachel was the wife of Jacob and the mother of both Joseph and Benjamin. She died while her son, Benjamin was born. She is said to have been buried in Ephrath, which later will be called Bethlehem. Now, Jeremiah used her to describe his laments over the Hebrews exile to Babylon. Mt. Ramah, which is mentioned in both verses, is the place where the Hebrews were gathered in order to be sent into Babylonian exile. In the story of salvation, there are connections everywhere and I finally understand this one.

Rachel, when she left her father Laban’s house, took with her his pagan idols. When Laban approached Jacob and searched everywhere for his idols they couldn't be found because Rachel was sitting on them. Jacob issued a curse that whoever had the idols would meet their death. Rachel dies upon the birth of her son, Benjamin, in fulfillment of Jacob’s curse, after he had built an altar at Bethel and made everyone turn in their pagan gods, including Rachel! So, Rachel never saw her sons grow up. She was “exiled” from them. The Hebrews turned to false gods, and were sent out of their country! Jeremiah makes this connection and Matthew takes it even further because Rachel is buried in Bethlehem, the sight of the murder of the Holy Innocents! There is this long thread connecting the Bible!

By the way, in my research, there were probably less than 25 babies and children murdered. It is not recorded anywhere in history and this could be because it was a “small” story, and everyone knew Herod was mad and did crazy things!

In this third week of Advent, I hope that you have taken some time to reflect upon the readings and make straight some of the paths in our own lives. We can “lament” over the loss of these things, as Jeremiah lamented over Israel, and Matthew laments over the murder of innocent children. But there is joy also, as we become closer and more deeply in love with our Lord. We let go of the “crooked path”, maybe with some sorrow, but we embrace the straight path of our Lord with love and joy!

See you soon!
Karen

Sanctuary Guild Volunteers
December 10th thru December 23rd

Barb Nieszczur, Andrea Powers
& Toni Suchy