



December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

HH - Hitch Hall MH - Maher Hall
SB - School Basement
R - Rectory CH - Church
WH - Waldeisen Hall

Date	Observance	Mass Intention	Readings	Event
Mon Dec 25	Nativity of the Lord	10:00 am Franz Family & Zimmerman Family by Kathy & Pat Franz	Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18	Rectory Closed
Tues Dec 26	Stephen, the First Martyr		Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22	Rectory Closed Free Store Closed
Wed Dec 27	John, Apostle & Evangelist	5:30 pm Stephen Smith by Altar & Rosary Society	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8	Bingo: WH - Open 9:30 am Games begin at 11:00 am Anointing of the Sick
Thur Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs		1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Mt 2:13-18	
Fri Dec 29	Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr	5:30 pm John Miller by Altar & Rosary Society	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35	
Sat Dec 30		5:30 pm Pollyann Fasnacht by Altar & Rosary Society	1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40	Confessions 9am - 10 am CH Free Store Closed
Sun Dec 31	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8:30 am Ellin Compton by Ray Compton 11:00 am Bob Doerr by Diane & Orien LeBlanc	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40	

Sanctuary Lamp - Special Intention

Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

COLLECTION REPORT

<i>Week Ending</i>	<i>December 10</i>	<i>December 17</i>
Sunday Offering -	\$ 2,316.00	Due to
Daily Offering -	\$ 190.00	the early
Christmas		submission
Holy Day -	\$ 949.00	of the bulletin,
Total	\$ 3,455.00	this collection
Weekly offertory budget	\$ 3,200.00	report will be
(Shortfall) Overage	\$ 255.00	included in
YTD Over (short) -	\$ 8,891.85	next week's
St. Vincent de Paul -	\$ 50.00	bulletin.
Cap. Improvement -	\$ 5.00	
Debt Reduction -	\$ 194.00	
Other Gifts -	\$ 490.00	
Diocese Designated -	\$ 362.00	
Envelopes used of 240 sent	66	

Available Mass Dates – January 1; 10:00 am

Weekdays: 5:30 pm: January 5, 8, 15, February 2, 5, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19, March 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29
Saturdays: 5:30 pm: January 6, 27, February 3, 10, 24
Sundays: 8:30 am: January 7, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 25
Sundays: 11:00 am: March 24, April 28, May 19, 26

Do you know anyone who's been away from the Church or is shut-in and can't get to Mass? Please let us know so we can reach out to connect with them.

As we celebrate the great feast of Christmas and look forward to a new year of ministry opportunities, I want to express my gratitude to all who so freely, joyfully and faithfully give of their time, talent and treasure to ensure that our parish continues to impact the Kenmore community for the Gospel. I especially want to thank our wonderful staff who works so hard for all of you and to Fr. Mike for his willingness to minister as our sacramental priest. We are so blessed and I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for us in 2024! Blessings, Melissa

Pre-Mass music will begin at 9:45 Christmas morning.

Rectory Hours: The rectory will be closed on Christmas, Monday, Dec. 25th, Tuesday, Dec. 26th, Wednesday, Dec. 27th from 11:30-1:30 and Monday, January 1st.

Kenmore Free Store: The store will be closed Tuesday, December 26th and Saturday, December 30th. It will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd

Anointing of the Sick: The next opportunity to receive the Sacrament will be this Wednesday, December 27th at the 5:30 pm Mass. This is a regional event so if you know someone who would like to be anointed, please invite them.

Mary, Mother of God: Because January 1st falls on a Monday, this Holy Day is dispensed, but we will celebrate Mass at 10:00 am. Come, honor our Blessed Mother and begin the new year in worship.

Christmas Thought from Henri J.M. Nouwen

“God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles, but moving toward the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: We are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent us his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that He walks with us. The challenge is to let God be who He wants to be. A part of us clings to our aloneness and does not allow God to touch us where we are most in pain. Often we hide from Him precisely those places in ourselves where we feel guilty, ashamed, confused and lost. Thus we do not give Him a chance to be with us where we feel most alone. Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let Him - whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend - be our companion.”

Wait for the Lord

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS - Being Stewards of the Eucharist

As Catholics we're bound to the command of Jesus at the Last Supper to receive His Body and Blood in remembrance of Him, which we do each time we come to Mass. This great gift of the Eucharist is known as the Sacrament of our salvation which was fulfilled by Jesus on the cross. His sacrifice is a sign of salvation for all of creation so the Eucharist is also a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for the work of creation. Since we're part of creation, we come to the altar, receive and then return to our pews to give thanks and praise to God. The Catechism tells us that "Through Christ the Church can offer the sacrifice of praise in thanksgiving for all that God has made good, beautiful, and just in creation and humanity. (#1359) Last week we reminded you that the word *eucharist* means *thanksgiving* and so we, as the Church, express our gratitude to God for all the blessings God has given us through creation including redemption and sanctification. Redemption means being set free from the slavery of sin through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Sanctification refers to the personal, lifelong process of transformation to holiness (to live in with and for God) and perfection of the life of charity through grace (God's divine help and presence in our lives). Remember all of this each time you kneel down in prayer after Communion.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A parish family is like a personal family. There are jobs & chores that need doing & if they don't get done, things don't run smoothly. Here are "chores/jobs" that need doing.

Liturgical Ministries: We're looking for dedicated students, women and men to step forward and share their stewardship as altar servers and lectors. Training will be provided for both ministries. Please call the rectory to share your stewardship.

Free Store Help: Have a heart for those in need & like to work with friendly, faith-filled people? Stop by Tuesdays, 4-7 pm or Saturdays, 9 am -12 pm, to check it out & join the team!

Funeral Dinner Ministry can use help. Be part of the team who puts on the meal and ministers to the family or sign up to be called when food is needed. Call the rectory.

Church Housekeeping: We're looking for people who want to help keep the church looking clean by vacuuming & dusting and can give a couple hours once a month. Please call the rectory to share your stewardship.

CareCards: Let our shut-ins know they are not forgotten & are important to us. Buy or create cards of encouragement, add a short note & sign your name. Put the cards into the envelope (do not seal) & place into the basket. Your cards are distributed during First Friday Communion Calls. Please, no cards from charitable or religious organizations.

Bingo: We are in real need of Bingo help. Do you have even one Wednesday a month to call Bingo, sell Instant Bingo or learn the office from our amazing Bingo Manager, Lorie? We need more people to serve our clientele & rotate workers. Bingo income is **critical** to our parish finances so come help, be part of a team, meet new people & help your parish.

Acme Cashback: Purchase Acme Brand, Top Care, etc., save your Acme receipts and place them in the baskets at the doors to help raise funds for the parish.

In His Name: Trial size toiletry items (things that will easily fit in a backpack) for the Peter Maurin Center may be placed in the basket at the main doors of the church.

Free Store Sack Lunch needs: Our community is hungry and in need. We're asking for individually wrapped snack & cookie packages, cases of individual 8oz. bottles of water, small individual bags of chips, pb&j, snack-size plastic bags & brown paper bags (size 5 or larger). You may also donate cash to be used to buy eggs & cheese sticks. You may put cash donations in an envelope, mark it "Free Store Lunches," & drop it in the collection basket. Please place donated items in the basket behind the last pew. Thank you so much.

Pastoral Council Secretary: The council is in need of a secretary to take & distribute minutes to council members. If interested, please call the rectory at 330-753-8429. Thank you.

MORE:

Debt Reduction: Your generosity in using the special yellow envelope will help us pay our monthly assessment of \$2,701.00 to the diocese. Thank you.

Offsite Events

Retrouvaille Weekend: Jan. 26 - 28, 2024, Cleveland. Retrouvaille (rediscovery), a lifeline for troubled marriages is supported by the Diocese of Cleveland, but open to couples of all faiths and consists of a weekend experience with six follow up sessions. For more info or to register, please call Shelly or Rob Martinko at 216-509-0301 or 440-836-4810 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org