

December 21, 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER

Sunday 10A Eucharist
 11-12: K-6 Pageant Rehearsal
 7- ADULT—Bible Study
 11:45A Christmas Decorating
 4P Caroling (meet in narthex)

Tuesday 8P AA Jaracz Hall

Wednesday 3:30P Choir warmup and last minute rehearsal
 4P Preludes by Community Members
 4:30P Christmas Eve Eucharist

Thursday 10A Christmas Morning Eucharist
 12N AA Children's Chapel

Next Saturday 4P Reconciliation 4:30P Eucharist
 Next Sunday 10A Eucharist

WE SERVE



Great Stocking Stuffers...

and being fair to the poor is just what God wants!
 Chocolate (large \$3/small \$1.50) and Coffee (\$8)
 are still available from Gail DeMarsh.

SHARING TREASURE

Last Week: Church Support= \$1,931.30 Make-Up = \$40
 Fuel = \$175 Kateri Tuition = \$221 Youth Mission Trip = \$5
 Gifts = \$295.75 North Country Ministry = \$60
 Christmas = \$50 Christmas Flowers = \$385

Way over and above the call of duty!

Thank you to **Laura Hatch** for continuing her work on "data input" on Thursdays. (She is working on the census.) And thank you to hubby, **Bob Hatch**, for maintaining a mouse-free West Wing! Thank you to all who donated Christmas gifts for area families. The outpouring was extreme! And thank you to **Richelene Morey** for organizing and distributing the gifts. Thank you to **Judy Rozell** and **Cathy Fife** for carrying all the Christmas Decorations from upstairs in the Hall and the Garage attic...and for organizing the decorating project. No small task!



Mrs Claus (aka **Ellen Hickson**) knitted warm scarves for all our Faith Formation youngsters. (Ellen, with her husband **Jim**, set up and serve and clean up from the snack every Sunday, K-6.) **Gail DeMarsh** (HS Catechist) made every child a homemade ornament and bought them chocolate! Together with **Jane Skorko** (crowd control and truant officer), all the gifts were wrapped with love (and tissue paper!) *St C's is full of angels!*

WE WORSHIP

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12/20 4:30P Michelene Gray Req. Richelene Morey
 Sunday, 12/21 10A Dorothy Semon Req. Renate Elber

Christmas Schedule at St. Cecilia's

Wednesday, 12/24 4:30P Intentions of St. Cecilia's Parishioners
Thursday, 12/25 10AM Intentions of Benefactors

Saturday, 12/27 4:30p Milly Byrne Req. Husband, Walter
 Sunday, 12/28 Tom Havens Req. Renate Elber

FRIDAY EUCHARIST AT ST. C'S WILL RESUME IN LENT.
THERE ARE NO FRIDAY EUCHARIST BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.

Available Mass Intentions: Saturday, January 24;
 Sundays January 4, & 25 (No Friday Mass til Lent)



NO ADORATION THIS OR NEXT WEDNESDAY...

December 24 or December 31
 regular adoration will resume January 7

Wednesdays, 8:30am - 9pm Sacred Heart Church,
 Chaplet Divine Mercy - Wednesdays 3pm



Prayer Chain: Contact **Alice Damp**
 623-3618 or edaldamp@yahoo.com



December **Tabernacle Candle** burns
 in memory of **Milly Byrne**, requested by husband, Walter

Some Sad News.....

Sandra Lawson Morris, the older sister of Phyllis Welsh, suffered a massive heart attack this past week and returned to the Lord. This was never expected and is a terrible shock. The funeral will be Tuesday. Please pray for all of Sandy's family that they experience great consolation and deep peace during this holy time of year. May Sandy rest in peace.

Some Good News.....

A Smiling Sister Linda is 100 Pounds Lighter!!

How come?!

On Friday, St. C's lawsuit was settled under the negotiating power of Judge David Krogmann. The parish now has just enough money to put on the appropriate roof over the renovation. Phew! It only took 7 years!!!!!! But that weight is now off. Many thanks to our lawyer, Michael Costello, and to the diocese for all the support given to St. C's during this time. (Never underestimate the power of diocesan support! We would have been up the Schroon without the diocese!) Many thanks to Joe Barlow and Ed Gaiotti who stood by Sister's side for seven years and listened to her anxiety! (code for complaining!) Phew! Now to the new roof! Is red a good color? (Just kidding!)



WE TEACH

This weekend Faith Formation for everyone K-Adult will meet, right after Sunday Mass. The K-6 (and everyone else who would like!!) will prepare for the Christmas pageant. **Emily Kladis** and **Gail DeMarsh** will complete Bible Study with the High Schoolers in the rectory, and the Adults will continue their Bible Study with **Mark Hart** in the Children's

Sunday, January 18, Faith Formation K-11 will resume.

A Prayer for this Busy Season

Heavenly Father, help us remember that the "fool" who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who is stumbling to make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking homeless man, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last Christmas that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy, and love. Let this be our gift to each other. Accept this as our gift to You. **AMEN.**

More Good News!!

Thanks to our Christmas Fair Committee (Linda Gaiotti, John Cleveland, Ann Murphy, Donna Emerson, Alice Lochmann, Johanna Morin, Suzanne Glebus, Joanie LaMagna and go-for Ed Gaiotti), along with donations from many parishioners, the Fair successfully raised \$1,950.35 !!!! The Raffle Winners were: Crate and Barrel Vases and Candles = Judy Rozell; Basket full of Avon products = Pat Gotham; Money Tree worth \$50+ = Kim Ross; \$50 in the 50/50 = Angie Minnear.

In January there will be an "evaluation meeting" to consider what worked and what didn't. If you have any ideas or suggestions, simply relay them to one of the elves listed above. Do you want to be involved next year? Contact Johanna Morin at 696-7059. Thanks to the elves and all the shoppers!



STAFF

Parish Life Director: **Sr. Linda Hogan csj**
 slhcsj@verizon.net / 623-3021
 Sacramental Minister: **Rev. Paul Cox** 656-9464
 Pastoral Associate Admin: **Gail DeMarsh**
 pyramidlifemom@aol.com / 744-9241
 Bookkeeper/Cemetery: **Dawn Brunner**
 623-3021 (Tuesday AM)
 Parish Nurse / Maintenance: **Judy Rozell**
 222-4140 sunflwr50@yahoo.com



Christmas Caroling Today, Sunday December 21
 To date, caroling are Bob and Sue Shepler and grandsons, Rita Lang and Francesca and Louis, Linda and

Jacob Johnson, Patti Alexander, Peg Villeneuve, Cathy Johnson, Brenton Southwick, and Barb and Clark Orton. Would you like to come? Deliver cards and cookies? Just show up!!! Questions? **Call Sue Shepler: 623-3072.**

Would you or your child like to offer a gift to the community?

Be part of the preludes on Christmas Eve.... sing a song... play and instrument.... offer a poem.

It starts at 4PM.

Sign up with Sister Linda. Thanks!

Local and Neighborly News

NORTH COUNTRY MINISTRY

623-2829 Clothing Center and Baby's Place... 3933 Main Street
 Open Monday and Tuesdays 9A-12N and on Wednesday thru Friday 1-4PM.

Volunteers are always needed.

THE PRIORY IN CHESTERTOWN 494-3733

www.prioryretreathouse.org for full list of offerings
 or check the bulletin board

ALL WELCOME TO THE PEACE RETREAT AT ST. JOSEPH'S PROVINCIAL HOUSE

"Beyond Iraq, Beyond Afghanistan
 A Time to Love"

Friday January 16, 7PM to Saturday, January 17, 4PM

\$100 Overnight Guests \$55 Commuters

For Registration forms and information, contact

Joanne St. Hilaire, CSJ 389-2666 or

jsthilaire@csjalbany.org

Retreat Directors:

Kathy Kelly coordinates *Voices for Creative Nonviolence* (www.vcnv.org), a campaign to end US military and economic warfare. During each of nine recent trips to Afghanistan, as an invited guest of the Afghan Peace Volunteers, Kathy has lived alongside ordinary Afghan people in a working-class neighborhood in Kabul. She believes that "Where you stand determines what you see."
Maureen Baillargeon Aumand is an educator and a full-time grandmother. She works with the community of activists in the Capital District in such organizations as Women Against War. She believes that true transformation will come through powerful inter-connection of issues, ideas and individuals, so she is happy to help to bring ideas and activists together.