

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH, ST. LOUIS, MO #34



Monday, December 25th

9:00 a.m. Teresa Dummerth

Tuesday, December 26th

6:30 a.m. Casey Family

Wednesday, December 27th

6:30 a.m. Florence R. Speas

Thursday, December 28th

6:30 a.m. Lupe Garza

Friday, December 29th

6:30 a.m. Timothy Sullivan

Saturday, December 30th

4:30 p.m. Sallie Mertens

Sunday, December 31st

8:00 a.m. Susan Lockrem

10:00 a.m. Parishioners

Monday, January 1st *New Years Day*

9:00 a.m. Dr. Harry Purcell

Weekly Collection for FY 2007

Week of December 10, 2006 \$8,119.10

Average for FY 2007 \$6,956.31

Budgeted Average FY 2007 \$6,546.87

129 Envelopes Collected

Rectory Office News

Please take note that **the rectory will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.** Marcia will be on vacation the week between Christmas and New Years. The rectory will also be closed on Monday, January 1st. We will resume normal businesses on Tuesday, January 2nd. Fr. Tom will be away Jan. 2 to Jan. 12.

BULLETIN INFORMATION

If you have any items to be posted in the bulletin, we are on a holiday schedule:

To make the 1/6 & 1/7 must be in on Fri. 12/29 by 8 am.

Holiday Clip & Save Box

Confessions 3:30-4:15 p.m. Sat. Dec. 23

4TH SUNDAY ADVENT

Sat. Dec. 23-4:30 p.m.

Sun Dec. 24-8 & 10 a.m.

CHRISTMAS

Sun. Dec. 24-4:30 p.m. (Children's Choir)

10 p.m. (Choral Program begins at 9:30pm)

Mon. Dec. 25- 9 a.m.

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

Sat. Dec. 30-4:30 p.m.

Sun Dec. 31-8 & 10 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Mon. Jan 1-9 a.m.

From the  Pastor's Desk

Welcome to all our visitors, family members and friends worshipping with us this Christmas. I'm happy to say you're joining with a very special community, at a wonderful time. This feast finds us in strong unity, moving in good directions together, with enthusiasm and commitment, and also a sense of fun. Our school, pre-school through 8th Grade, has full classrooms and creative things going on. Students *and* faculty look happy. The many parishioners who volunteer time and skill to lead our various ministries are working together harmoniously, as we implement the Strategic Plan developed in over a year of hard work. In our groups on Christian Formation and Social Service, plans are underway for all ages of our parish population, and the parish continues to partner with groups to strengthen our neighborhoods. The conscience of the parish is strong in advocacy and work for the poor, and in civic matters of justice and peace. A hardworking staff works with me on administration of the parish.

If all this sounds rather rosy, it *is* that positive of a time here at St. Margaret's. But this is not without work and effort. I see firsthand over and over the strenuous effort people are willing to give to achieve this level of involvement. It all comes together in our prayer where, with a high level of skill befitting this community, our times of liturgy are joyful and exciting, and increasingly filled with children who auger a strong future.

This is, actually, a realistic picture of our parish right now. Welcome to all, and I thank the members of the parish for the privilege of leading such a talented, dedicated Christian community.

Fr. Tom Wyrch

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

by Peter Fisher Hesed

St. Margaret's RCIA group has now been meeting weekly for about three months. It is a wonderful group of people who are following the stirrings of faith in their lives and are learning what Catholics believe and practice. We are currently in the middle of an exploration of the Sacraments. A basic sacramental principle that we are applying as we go is this: *What is always and everywhere true is celebrated in a particular time and place.*

The Incarnation is the fulfillment of the mystery of *Emmanuel* – God with us. What is always and everywhere true is God's desire to be intimately connected to us, God's saving presence and action in the messiness of our world. And that truth is celebrated perfectly in the birth of God's son as a human child. This is the Sacrament of Jesus.

At Advent and Christmas believers reserve a blessed season of days – at the darkest time of year - to reflect and celebrate that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Every mystery of faith is always and everywhere true, but through the Liturgical Year we hallow our time by focusing in turn on each chapter of our great communal story. This is the Sacrament of the Church.

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” What is always and everywhere true is that we are a single family, loved into being by God. It is right for us to live in justice and peace, and to have reverence for each other. And we celebrate these truths when we open our homes to neighbors without electrical power; when we gather gifts from the Giving Tree to bring comfort and joy to those without means; when we help a child, or visit a relative. This is the Sacrament of our lives.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

"You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel." (MICAH 5:1)

We may think that the gifts we have to offer may be too small or too inconsequential to give to God. Today we are reminded that God brought forth His greatest gift to mankind, His own son, through the humble town of Bethlehem. He can also accomplish great things through us if we let Him.

WHAT HAPPENED TO SCHOOL ANNUAL GIVING?

The leadership of this drive has changed, and requests are coming out later than usual. We hope our parents have budgeted for this. Until you get your letter, your gifts are welcome at this time.

Year End Contributions

Anyone wishing to contribute to St. Margaret's for 2006 must have their donation at the rectory by December 31, 2006.

St. Louis Review Subscription Drive, 2007

SUBSCRIPTION SUNDAY is January 13th and 14th. Your faithful source for Catholic news. The St. Louis Review is the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. For \$23.00 a year, your weekly copy of the review will keep you in touch with the Church in St. Louis, across the nation and around the world. Please use the subscription renewal envelope in your envelope packet (or write your check for \$23.00 to the parish mark it "Review" include your name and mailing address) and return it in the Sunday Collection.

SHOPS Volunteers will NOT be selling gift cards this weekend. Thanks to everyone who supported SMOS school by using SHOPS for your holiday shopping or gift giving. We will return after Masses on December 30th and 31st.

NEWS FROM THE NURSE

Cathy White, RN

Dear Seniors,
Although this event is scheduled in January, mark your calendars for it now. Jane is an excellent presenter and this four hour reflection time promises to be a great "pick-me-up" after the rush of the holidays. You are invited to a day of reflection Wednesday, January 17 at St. Anthony of Padua Parish from 10am to 2pm. Come hear the Universe Story and learn what nature is teaching us about love, life and God's ways. Jane Siebel of SGSM and of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, will lead you to a new sense of awe, renewing you in spirit and gratitude. Call Barb at 655-0554 for lunch reservations or a ride.



Get ready! In January we will be starting a new program guaranteed to make you healthy, happy, and wholistic. It's free and everyone can participate! Watch this space for details.

News from Our School

We celebrate Advent with song and prayer and the lighting of the Advent candles. There are Advent wreathes in both buildings and each classroom has some celebration of Advent apparent.

First Week of Advent: Our 7th graders led us in prayer and celebration of St. Nicholas. The children each received a small gift from St. Nicholas – a peace dove pendant.

Second Week of Advent: Our 2nd Graders, who are Catholic, gathered Monday evening to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children were glowing with excitement as they approached Fr. Tom or Fr. Paul to 'fess up to their wrongs, ask God's forgiveness and be lovingly and gently assured of God's healing forgiveness. Many thanks to Mrs. Dooling for guiding them to this sacrament. There are few things so inspiring as to watch the expression on a child's face as they return from having received this Sacrament. Our 3rd through 8th graders have also received the Sacrament this week. And, again the glow!

Third Week of Advent: Our Giving Tree has filled with mittens and gloves, hats and scarves, and lots and lots of socks. The children and our teachers have been bringing things in to be given to our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Our Second graders created signs and songs to remind the rest of the school to share these objects of warmth this Advent season.

Advent is such an essential season in the lives of our children – such a time to teach them about the gifts of patience and anticipation.

Annual Christmas Musical Performance: As always, it was wonderful! *Christmas In Reverse* allowed Mrs. Merideth the opportunity to build parts for every single 8th grader and each of the 7th graders who requested parts. Mrs. Merideth, assisted this year by parent, Jenni Ryan, and teachers, Alice Chase, Audrey Greenstreet and Maura Darcy, is able year after year to guide the students to poise, confidence and projection – what an art. All students participated singing with grace and joy, even our 3, 4 and 5 year olds who sang the refrain to Angels We Have Heard On High. This event is such a highlight for our students and for their families.

SVDP "Christmas in St. Louis" CD

You waited until the very last minute didn't you, to buy that one special gift, and now time has run out. Not to worry, SVDP to the rescue! Christmas in St. Louis CDs are still being sold after all masses this weekend. Don't be caught empty handed as you walk into your cousin Fred's house. Take him a CD that he will enjoy for years. The beautiful, yet inexpensive \$10 CD features thirteen Archdiocesan choirs singing some very memorable Christmas carols, including our very own SMOS choir singing O Holy Night. Help our ministry to the poor and get yourself out of that "no gift" jam!

SVDP Soup Supper

Looking for a quiet break after the holidays from shopping and cooking. Mark your calendar for Sunday evening, January 7th, starting at 5:00p.m. in the Church Hall for the annual SVDP Soup Supper. Enjoy delicious soups, breads, salads and desserts. No fuss, no cooking, and no cleanup. The suggested donation is \$10 per person or \$25 per family. It's a great way to help us minister to our neighbors in need, and a way to finally slow down the pace.

Calendar of Events

Monday, 12/25—Merry Christmas,

Rectory Closed

Tuesday, 12/26— Rectory Closed

Wednesday, 12/27—

Thursday, 12/28—Eucharistic Adoration, 9a-10p

Friday, 12/29—DuBourg Swing Dance Party, 6:30-9pm
Church Hall

Saturday, 12/30—SVDP Gathering Place, 9a-Noon, CH

Sunday, 12/31—

Monday, 1/1—Rectory Closed

Tuesday, 1/2—Rectory Resumes Businesses

Wednesday, 1/3—School Resumes Classes

AUCTION

Don't delay, make your reservations to attend the 2007 Auction "It's the Newlywed Game!" on January 20, 2007 at 6 pm in the school gym. Just click on the Auction logo on the school's homepage www.smos-school.org. You can also check out the incredible auction items in the on-line catalog.

You're Invited

We invite all of our parish family to our wedding celebration, here at St. Margaret on Saturday, December 30, at 2:00 p.m. We would love for you to come and ask for your prayers as we become a new family in your midst Nancy Noecker and Matt Siemer.

2007 Memorial Mass for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Monday, January 15, 2007 the Archdiocese of St. Louis will celebrate the 31st Annual Commemoration of the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This Eucharistic celebration will be held at the Old Cathedral located at 209 Walnut St. downtown St. Louis. All directors, musicians, and singers are invited to join the choir for this liturgical celebration.

A Holy
and Blessed
Christmas

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. December 30th—4:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sun. December 31st—8:00 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sun. December 31st—10:00 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Monday January 1st—9:00 a.m.

Stephen Hagen



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. December 30th—4:30 p.m.

Becky Ward, Tom Ward

Sun. December 31st—8:00 a.m.

Bob Herleth, Joyce Herleth,

Betty Schneider, Gregory Kehr

Sun. December 31st— 10:00 a.m.

Mimi Newsham Mahoney, Deb Halter, Helen Halter,
Betty Andrews, Richard Buthod, Rose Mary Murphey
CSJ, Joe Hagen, Rick Blaes, Bridget Blaes



LECTORS

Sat. December 30th—4:30 p.m.

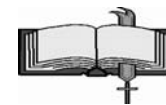
Therese Noecker, Patrick Bittick

Sun. December 31st—8:00 a.m.

Anne Hagen, Joe Iovanna

Sun. December 31st—10:00 a.m.

Bob Waeltermann, Alice Benga



GREETERS FOR JANUARY

4:30 p.m. Lucille Shirley,

Donna Schumacher

8:00 a.m. Earl & Martha Brake

10:00 a.m. Kay Reid, Betty Stock



NO DONUTS & COFFEE

12/31/06



DRIVERS

1 2 / 3 0 / 0 6

Bob Herleth

12/31/06 Bob Buscher

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 24 through December 31, 2006

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29

Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Mt 1:1-25

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a,2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-7,12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:41-52