

**DECEMBER 25, 2011 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH**

Readings	Liturgy	Intention	Please Pray for
Sunday, December 25 <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i> Isaiah 62.11-12 Titus 3.4-7 Luke 2.15-20	Mass - 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Our Parish Community Our Parish Community Our Parish Community	
Monday, December 26 <i>St. Stephen</i> Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59 Matthew 10.17-22	No Mass (Office Closed)		Msgr. Vincent Kerr
Tuesday, December 27 <i>St. John</i> 1 John 1.1-4 John 20.2-8	No Mass (Office Closed)		Fr. Kevin Cull
Wednesday, December 28 <i>The Holy Innocents</i> 1 John 1.5 - 2.2 Matthew 2.13-18	No Mass (Office Closed)		Discalced Carmelite Nuns (O.C.D.)
Thursday, December 29 1 John 2.3-11 Luke 2.22-35	Mass - 8:30 a.m.	Patrick McCormick	Fr. Edward Hughes
Friday, December 30 <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3.12-21 Luke 2.22-40	Mass - 8:30 a.m.	John Gualtieri	Fr. Daniel Miehm
Saturday, December 31	4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	Fr. Mark Morley
1 John 2.18-21 John 1.1-18	Mass - 5:00 p.m.	Jozef Pona, Fiore Sozio, Bill Hess, Alfredo DiScipio, Joseph & Beatrice Foley	
Sunday, January 1 <i>The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i> Numbers 6.22-27, Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.16-21	Mass - 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Our Parish Community Our Parish Community Our Parish Community	

Collection for December 17/18, 2011
Regular - \$7,244.50, Christmas - \$145.00
Flowers - \$122.50
St. Vincent de Paul - \$165.00



**From Teresa Hartnett,
Diocesan Family Ministry Office.....
Family Tip for December**

According to some customs, Advent is a time to reflect on the upcoming celebration of Christmas by lighting the candles of the Advent wreath and to focus each week on a different aspect of the season: hope, peace, joy and love. As a family take some time after the events of Christmas (Mass, gift-giving, extended family gatherings and a big meal) to quietly reflect

on these precious concepts in your own lives. Talk about the hope that our faith provides us in the everyday trials of life; discuss what it means to have true inner peace and our call as Catholics to reconcile our differences with those closest to us; express your joy in being part of your immediate family and tell each person what they mean to you, then remind each other of the joy that comes from being part of God's family; speak to each other of God's deep love for us, exemplified by sending his Son to die for our sins and to unite us with him in eternity, then express how you show love each day to those in your family. Christmas is a time to create moments that draw us together as family; conversations deep in meaning will certainly do that!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

This quote is an appropriate reflection as we celebrate this great feast of the Birthday of Our Lord – Christmas. During this holiday season, we remember that the Lord Jesus entered this world as a small child – a baby. He became a vulnerable person to begin his mission on earth. Jesus came to bring peace to the earth and to create a new society of love. When we look on our earth we see that the presence of Jesus still needs to be brought to many people. We pray for peace on earth. We especially pray for those areas experiencing war and violence at this time. We pray for peaceful solutions in the Middle East, the birthplace of Jesus and Mary. We pray for the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt, Iran, the Phillippines, Syria and Korea. We ask that Jesus, the Prince of Peace bless these areas. We also pray for the vulnerable of our society – the poor and the marginalized. We pray for the elderly and unborn. We pray for those who struggle to provide for their families while living in poverty. We pray for those whose lives are scarred by abuse and violence, especially women and children. We pray for those who suffer physically and mentally. We pray for those individuals who are rejected by family and society. Jesus' birthday is a reminder that we have much to do in God's Kingdom here on earth.

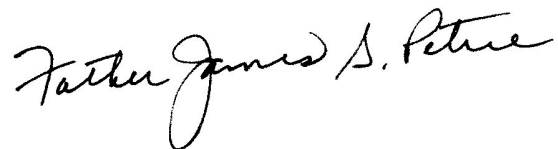
This season is also about reflecting on the blessings we have received. As pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, I too, have many people that I am thankful for. I wish to publicly thank my staff: Deacon Gerry, Susan Klunder, Eva Wood, Vincent DeGregorio, Yolande Burgess, Gilles Arguin and Bernadette Campbell. All of these individuals give much more than is expected of them. I thank them for their hard work in our parish community. I want to thank the liturgical ministers: our lectors, Eucharistic ministers and altar servers. Their commitment to the parish is deeply appreciated. I want to thank the Children's Liturgy Leaders who strive to instil a sense of faith in our young people. I want to thank the musicians of our parish. They have made our liturgies more special by their talents. I want to thank Yolande Burgess and the decorating committee, who decorate our Church, not just at Christmas, but every weekend of the year, to ensure that our spiritual home is a place of beauty and reverence for God. I want to thank the service organizations of our parish: the Legion of Mary for the wonderful outreach they provide to ensure that the sick

and elderly are part of our parish community. I want to thank the Knights of Columbus for all they do for our parish. I want to thank the Catholic Women's League for their social and financial support of our parish. In a very special way, I want to highlight the generous financial contributions that both the CWL and the Knights of Columbus have shown to our parish. Finally I want to thank the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of our parish, who all year round provide assistance and compassion to individuals and families in our community. To anyone I may have forgotten, I apologize and I am truly grateful to EVERYONE who gives of their time, talent and treasure to our parish. We truly are the Body of Christ in our community.

Personally, I would like to thank all of you for the cards, goodies and gifts that you have given me for Christmas. I am overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. I say it often to the bishop and to my fellow priests that I am truly blessed to be in this parish.

It is my prayer that all of you and yours have a truly blessed Christmas and may the prayers of our Mother Mary, and the graces of the Christ-child come upon all of you.

Merry Christmas!



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Announcements, Events & Meetings.....

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM

Our most sincerest thanks goes out to all the members of the Parish who generously donated to the Christmas Hamper program this year. Through your generosity we were able to provide 52 families in our community with hampers, assisted St. Matthew's House, St. Martin's Manor, the Good Shepherd and offered support to other SVDP conferences as well.

A special thank you goes out to all the people who volunteered to sort, assemble and deliver these hampers. This year it was terrific to see so many new faces involved. Without all your support, this huge endeavour could not have been achieved. Our Parish has once again made Christmas a reality for many families in our community.