

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
DECEMBER 18, 2011**

Monday, December 19  
8:15AM David Straight by Leo Cummins  
Tuesday, December 20  
8:15AM Brian Petrowske by Donna & Gary Eggemeyer  
Wednesday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius  
10:00AM Paul Schmerbauch by Marie Hecktor  
Thursday, December 22  
No Mass  
Friday, December 23, St. John of Kanty  
8:15AM Dec'd Members of Moranville fam. by Lena  
Saturday, December 24, Vigil of Christmas  
5:00PM For The Parish  
Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day  
9:00AM John Hanger by Barb

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 18<sup>TH</sup> THRU DEC. 25<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday 9:45-11AM PSR Class(Christmas Celebration)  
Preschool Sunday School During 9AM Mass  
Parish House  
Decorate Church for Christmas Following 9AM Mass  
Monday 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon  
7PM Advent Penance Service in Church  
Tuesday 8:15AM Mass (Grs. 1-4)  
Wednesday 10AM Mass at Chester Rehab  
Thursday 9:30AM Practice for Christmas Eve Mass  
in Church  
Fr. Gene's Day Off  
No School  
Friday No School  
8:15AM Mass  
Saturday 5PM Mass (Children and Family Mass)  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
Sunday MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
Mass at 9AM  
No PSR Class/No Preschool Sunday School

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR** We are approaching the darkest, longest night of the year. For centuries, people in the Northern Hemisphere have kindled fires against the dying of the light, turning away the dark of the winter solstice, and leading the imagination to hope and new beginnings. It is thus easy to understand why these solstice celebrations of non-Christian Europe attracted the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. In time the solstice migrated away from December 25, but the Christmas feast remained in place. From this day, a whole season of celebration developed, stretching from Advent through the days of Christmas, and even beyond to the February 2 blessing of the candles, and beyond that to March 25, the Annunciation, nine months before the next Christmas. Centuries ago, this was New Year's Day, and many reasoned that it was the date of Adam and Eve's fall, and the date of the Crucifixion. The message is clear: don't let your Christmas be over too soon. Keep the lights blazing into January, and savor the meaning of the feast!

**SERVERS SCHEDULE:** December 25 - Sign-up sheets available in back of church.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: NOT TOO MUCH**

If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all.

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD** for Dec. 11: \$6,883.00 from 151 env. Improvement Fund, \$1027.00; Children, \$3.00; V. Lights, \$36.00.

**IT'S TIME** to place your offering for a Poinsettia & Votive Lights in Memory of Family Members. Fill out the form below & return it via the collection.

**POINAETTIA OFFERING \$25.00**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTIVE OFFERING \$2.00**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU** to the teachers and Bill Surman and students for a very nice Christmas program. Everyone did an excellent job.

**THE TIME HAS COME** to give birth to the Christ Child. Mary, like mothers the world over, has endured nine months of worry, difficulty and sacrifice. As she brings forth her newborn Son, the distant words of the angel are embodied: "Blessed are you among women, blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus." Likewise blessed is every mother who has nurtured a child to birth, especially through a difficult or unplanned pregnancy.

**IF YOU ARE FREE** today (Sunday) right after the 9AM Mass, we would appreciate your help in decorating church. The more help we have the quicker it goes.

**HELP FOR TROUBLED MARRIAGES:** The St. Louis Retrouvaille Program starts with a weekend Feb. 10-12, 2012, with a Weekend (Friday night thru Sunday), and has six follow-up sessions. If you are facing financial difficulties, we can work with you. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, call 1-800-470-2230 toll free, or visit [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

**A 24-HOUR** New Year's Contemplative Prayer Retreat: Dec. 31 - Jan. 1, 2011/2012, with Mark Dean, OMI at King's House Retreat and Renewal Center in Belleville, IL. "Mary-Woman of the Year & Guide for our hearts" Experience a prayerful transition into the New Year with Mark Dean, OMI. This retreat includes presentations and time for personal reflection. Registration and lite dinner begins 5pm New Year's Eve and concludes Jan. 1 at 7pm. Eucharist included. King's House is in a quiet, wooded area just 20 minutes by freeway from downtown St. Louis or the JB Bridge. For further information call King's House 1-800-779-7909 (outside Metro East), 618/397-0584 (Metro East), or [info@kingsretreatcenter.org](mailto:info@kingsretreatcenter.org) Visit our Website: [www.kingsretreatcenter.org](http://www.kingsretreatcenter.org) for directions and information

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE** - One hundred years from now, it won't matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child.

