

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
DECEMBER 25, 2011**

Monday, December 26, St. Stephen

No Mass

Tuesday, December 27, St. John

8:15AM James Howie by Family

Wednesday, December 28, The Holy Innocents

10:30AM Members of Schwent-Link Families, Living &
Deceased by Butch & Jean Jungewaelter

Thursday, December 29, St. Thomas Becket

No Mass

**Friday, December 30, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary,
and Joseph**

8:15AM Brian Petrowske by Donna & Gary Eggemeyer

Saturday, December 31, St. Sylvester I

5:00PM For the Parish

Sunday, January 1, New Year's Day

9:00AM Carl Gardiner by Waylan & Luan Downan

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 25TH THRU JAN. 1ST

Sunday	MERRY CHRISTMAS! Mass at 9AM No PSR Class/No Preschool Sunday School
Monday	No School No Mass Parish/School Offices Closed No K of C Luncheon
Tuesday	No School
Wednesday	No School 10:30AM Mass at Three Springs No Parish Council Meeting
Thursday	No School Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	No School
Saturday	NEW YEAR'S EVE Mass at 5PM
Sunday	HAPPY NEW YEAR Mass at 9AM No PSR Class/No Preschool Sunday School

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

OUR GIFTS TO GOD for Dec. 11: \$11,368.40.
Childrens, \$5.50.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: LOVE -
Let those who never loved before, love now:
Let those who always loved, love the more.

FANNING THE FLAME: Do you have questions about the Catholic faith? Do you feel that you need a "refresher" course on your faith? Are you interested in a new educational opportunity about your faith? "Fanning the Flame" is for you! This year-long program, based on the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults, begins the week of January 15 and can be done individually or in a group setting. Go to our website, www.maryhoc.org for more information, or pick up one of the brochures in the back of church.

IN THE NAME of Fr. Gene and of the entire parish and school staff, we wish to extend to all of you a Blessed and Holy Christmas, 2011. What a joy and blessing for all of us to celebrate the single most significant event in the history of humankind. The birth of Jesus is, was, and will be, for all time the pivotal turning point in history wherein God and man would be united in a miraculous moment defying the vary laws of nature.

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.

POINSETTIA OFFERING \$25.00

NAME: _____

BY: _____

VOTIVE OFFERING \$2.00

NAME: _____

BY: _____

HELP FOR TROUBLED MARRIGES: The St. Louis Retrouvaille Program starts with a weekend Feb. 10-12, 2012, (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.

A SPECIAL heartfelt thank-you to Mr. James E. McEvelly for his generous donation of \$2,500.00 to St. Mary's School in memory of Michael "Isaac" Jungewaelter and for believing in Catholic education. May God bless him & his family!

YOU'RE INVITED: Benefit Trivia Night, Saturday, January 28, 2012, Althoff Catholic High School Gymnasium, Starts 7PM; Doors open at 6:30. Proceeds to help two teachers receiving treatment for cancer.

