

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
DECEMBER 4, 2011**

**Monday, December 5**  
8:15AM Vallie Jany by John & June Mulholland & Family  
**Tuesday, December 6, St. Nicholas**  
No Mass - Reconciliation for School Children  
**Wednesday, December 7, St. Ambrose**  
7:00PM David Straight by Leo Cummins  
**Thursday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception**  
8:15AM Jim Howie by Family  
**Friday, December 9, St. Juan Diego**  
No Mass  
**Saturday, December 10**  
5:00PM For The Parish  
**Sunday, December 11**  
9:00AM Don Esselman by Lena

**CALENDAR FOR WEEK DEC. 4<sup>TH</sup> THRU DEC. 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**Sunday** 9:45AM - 11AM PSR Class - Gr. 3-8  
Confessions  
Preschool Sunday School during 9AM Mass  
CCW Christmas Party  
**Monday** 8:15AM Mass  
11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon  
**Tuesday** No Mass - Reconciliation for School Children  
**Wednesday** 7PM Mass: Vigil of the Immaculate  
Conception(Holy Day of  
Obligation)  
**Thursday** 8:15AM Mass: Immaculate Conception  
Holy Day of obligation  
**Friday** No 8:15AM Mass  
**Saturday** 5:00PM Mass  
**Sunday** 9:00AM Mass

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:** From outer space, the United States must seem peculiarly aglow these nights: we have strung lights on every tree within reach. Sometimes, even tictacks and earrings twinkle with "microlights." Clearly, something is afoot: there is a deep-down yearning for the world to change. Yet, John the Baptist would probably be unplugging most of these lights if he had the chance. In today's Gospel he turns people away from his baptism of repentance. "Give some evidence that you mean to reform!" he cries. What meaning do our holiday lights convey for you? In the deep and dark countryside, a single candle glowing in a window can be seen for miles. It signals welcome and readiness: it is a beacon guiding strangers to the door, a token of a warm hearth, a loving embrace, a sign that those who have placed the candle are awake and waiting. This year, set the timers aside, and each night as you light the candles in your windows, pray: "May Christ find an eager welcome here. May this household be filled with the light of his word," One candle at a time, our faith community can reclaim the meaning of the lights of Advent hope.

**SERVERS SCHEDULE:** Dec. 11, 5PM, Jared Meyer, Reilly Holley; 9AM Hanna Bert, Hunter Fedderke

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD** for Nov. 27: \$5,412.00 from 154 env.; V. Lights, \$20.00; Childrens, \$6.30

**PLANNED GIVING:** Assets in your IRA may be taxed at the income tax rate of your surviving beneficiaries other than your spouse. Please consider naming Mary Help of Christians as the beneficiary of your appreciate IRA assets so that you avoid this income tax.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles that one has overcome while trying to succeed.

**YOU'RE INVITED:** St. Boniface, Evansville, 5th Annual Christmas Celebration, Sunday, Dec. 11 at Parish Center. Chicken & Dumpling dinner from 11AM - ?

**GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** - Placement Test for Incoming Freshmen Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8:30AM. There is no charge for this test. Please email Susan Mackin, [smackin@gibaultonline.com](mailto:smackin@gibaultonline.com) to reserve a spot for your child.

**AN INVITATION** to Catholic High School Students: *The Messenger* would like to hear from you about what you consider "the greatest gift" you could receive at Christmas. If you could write an essay in 100-150 words, we would be happy to review your writing to be published in the Christmas issue of *The Messenger*. Top essays will receive a \$25 gift credit card. Please include your name, address, phone number and your parish with the essay. Please email entries to [The Messenger at cathnews@bellevillemessenger.org](mailto:cathnews@bellevillemessenger.org) by Dec. 1.

**CCW (SODALITY) Annual Christmas Party** Sunday, December 4, @ 6:00PM @ the K.C. Hall. Meat will be provided. Everyone attending is asked to bring a covered dish. If you are interested in participating in the gift exchange, please bring a \$5-\$10 wrapped gift for the exchange. In addition, please bring either a food item or monetary gift for the Chester Christian Food Pantry.

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!** To celebrate the glorious Christmas season, a very special entertainment event will take place at the Oblate King's House Retreat & Conference Center in Belleville, IL on Dec. 17 & 18 at 7PM. All are invited to attend our dinner theatre production, "Yuletide Madrigal Feast." Our conference room will be transformed into a 16th century castle banquet hall where our guests be served a delicious four-course meal and be entertained by wonderful singers, dancers, musicians, jesters and even a professional magician. Surrounded by the magnificent holiday music, lavish costumes and spritely dances of the "renaissance", guests will experience the pageantry, history and celebration of Christmas as never before! Tickets for the dinner show are \$30 per person, child meals & prices available. Due to limited seating, tickets must be purchased in advance. For reservations call 618-409-0015 or e-mail [tickets@takeabowshowcase.org](mailto:tickets@takeabowshowcase.org).

**TEC WEEKEND:** Belleville Diocesan TEC is a three day experience in Christian Living. It is designed for high school juniors through adults who are searching for goals, for acceptance, for meaning, for community, for values, for God. The next TEC weekend is at St. John the Baptist in Red Bud, January 14-16, 2012. We are offering a buy one get one 1/2 price deal so bring a friend with you. Applications must be sent together to get the deal. For an application, visit [www.bellevilletec.catholicweb.com](http://www.bellevilletec.catholicweb.com).

**VOTE US IN TO WIN:** St. Vincent Schools(Perryville) has applied for a grant and the schools with the most community votes will be awarded grants. They have asked St. Mary's and the Chester community to help them. Please read the attached flyer and take a little of your time each day to vote for St. Vincent's.

# Help the SVHS Band, Choir and Music Program

Win a nationwide

## \$50,000 Grant Competition!

Schools with the most community votes will be awarded grants!

### Vote by Text

- ♦ Text Message: clorox3605
- ♦ Send to: 44144

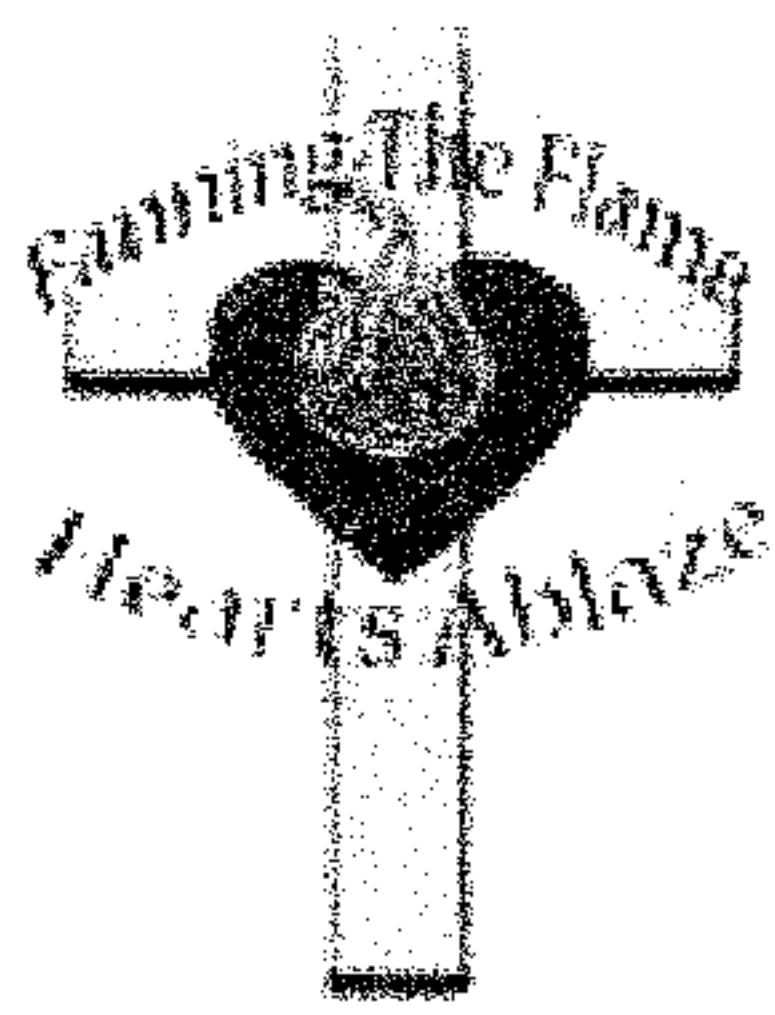
### Vote Online

- ♦ Visit [www.powerabrightfuture.com](http://www.powerabrightfuture.com)
- ♦ type Perryville into "location search"

*You can vote both ways once every day, Oct. 24 - Dec. 9.*

Grant money to upgrade classrooms, technology, and instruments.

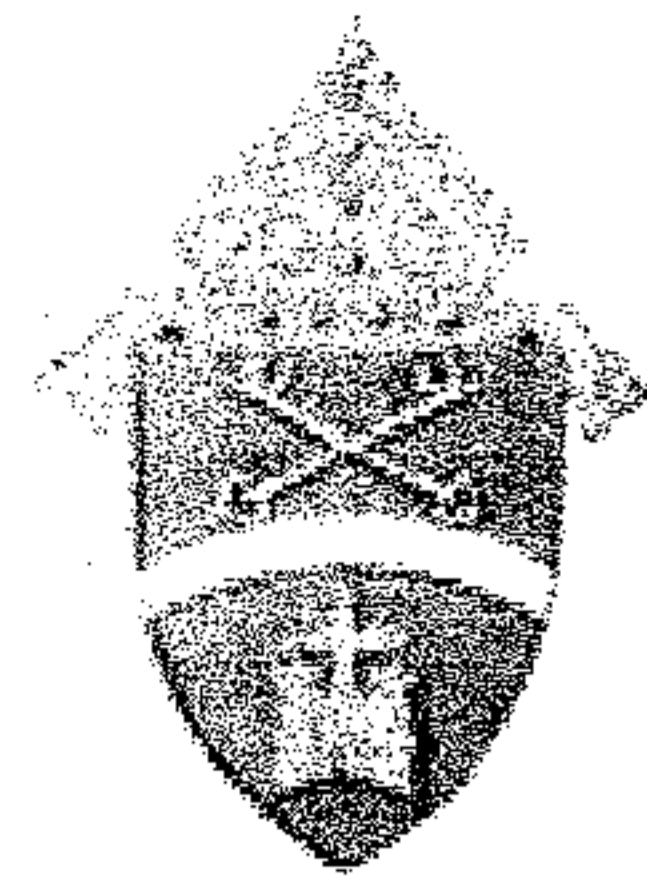
Sponsored by Clorox Company "Power a Bright Future" Grants Program.



# *Fanning the Flame*

**A Diocesan Wide Anniversary Journey of Faith**

**[www.ftfdiobelle.org](http://www.ftfdiobelle.org)**



Why are we Catholic? What makes us Catholic? What are the teachings of our Catholic faith? If we know these teachings, do we really believe them and live by them? How do we confidently bring that lived faith into our challenging culture? We invite you to join us in prayerfully discerning the answers to these questions. In this exploration of the richness of our faith, we will strengthen our Catholic identity. *Fanning the Flame* supports a year-long journey (2012) using the **United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA)** with readings, reflections, small-group sharing and internet opportunities.

This journey will begin the week of January 15, 2012, and the program will end the week of November 25, 2012. This program is open to all adult parishioners and anyone else who wants to truly understand, strengthen and deepen their Catholic faith. People may gather in parish groups, neighborhood groups, youth groups, families, or individuals can follow along on their own. You are invited to join a group that will meet on Tuesday evenings at the Parish House, or you are free to organize your own group. We will use the **USCCA**, moving ahead one chapter week after week (allowing for occasional weeks off for liturgical celebrations and breaks). A calendar of the weekly chapters and topics to be discussed and reflected upon is on the back of this page.

When we gather, participants will read the chapter for the week and then choose from a variety of options for exploring and applying the information. These materials will include Chapter Guides with reflections and discussion questions, weekly support highlights in the parish bulletin, a short commentary in *The Messenger*, expanded remarks on the Fanning the Flame website, reflections and challenges for "going deeper" on the Fanning the Flame blog and Facebook.

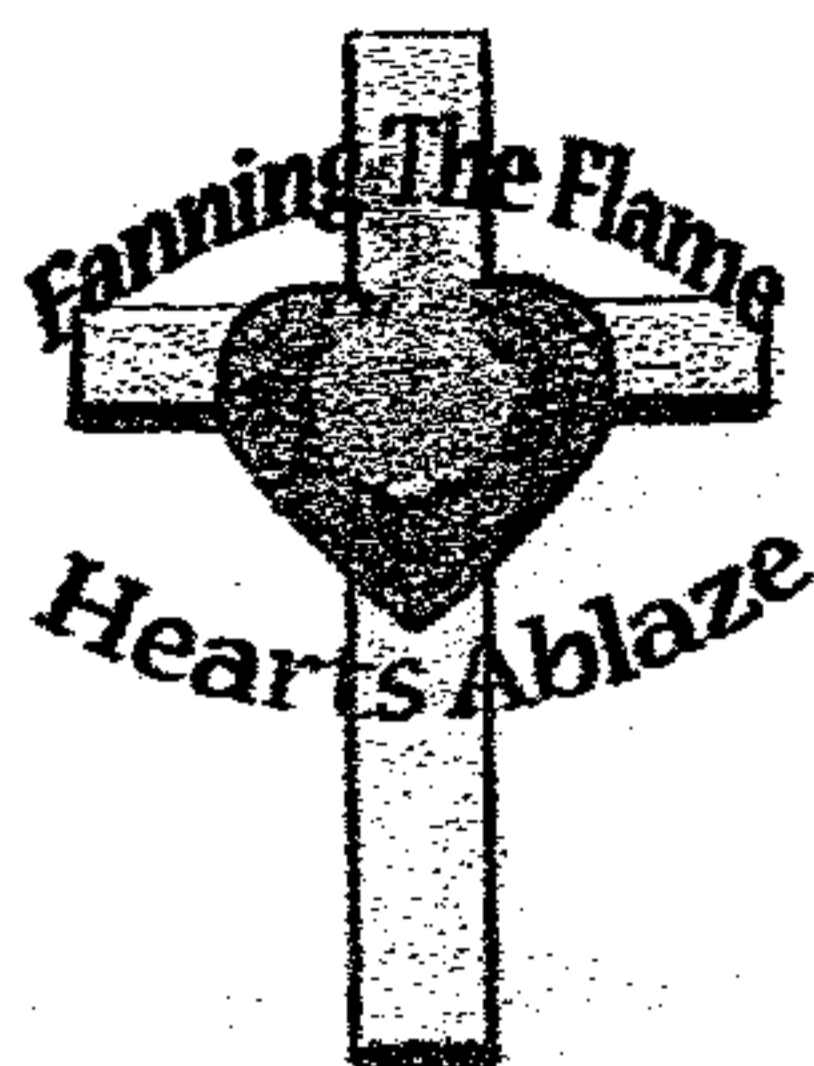
Each participant should have their own copy of the **United States Catholic Catechism for Adults**. Normally this book would retail for \$24.95, however through a partnership with the Diocese and the USCCB, we will be able to obtain these books at a discounted rate of \$15.00 (this included shipping and handling). We will be placing an order for these books as a parish. There is an order form on the back of this page which you can fill out and return with your payment in the collection or to the parish office. We would like these returned by December 19 so we can be sure you have your book to you by January 15. If you would rather order your own book, go to the website for *Fanning the Flame*, [www.ftfdiobelle.org](http://www.ftfdiobelle.org), and click the link for discount ordering information.

If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Gross, DRE at 826-2526, Brian Niermann at 826-4178, or go to our website at [www.maryhoc.org](http://www.maryhoc.org). The time to learn and renew the faith we believe, celebrate, live and pray is **NOW!**

*Fanning the Flame*

*125th Anniversary*

**2012 Year at a Glance**



<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAPTER &amp; NUMBER</u>		
<b>JAN.</b> 15	My Soul Longs for You, O God (1)		<b>JUNE</b> 10 Anointing the Sick and the Dying (19)
22	God Comes to Meet Us (2)		17 Holy Orders (20)
29	Proclaim the Gospel to Every Creature (3)		24 The Sacrament of Marriage (21)
<b>FEB.</b> 5	Bring About the Obedience of Faith (4)		<b>JULY</b> 8 Mary: The Church's First and Most Perfect Member (12)
12	I Believe in God (5)		15 Sacramentals and Popular Devotions (22)
19	Man and Woman in the Beginning (6)		22 God Calls Us to Pray (35)
26	The Good News: God Has Sent His Son (7)		<b>AUG.</b> 19 Life in Christ—Part One (23)
<b>MAR.</b> 4	The Saving Death and Resurrection of Christ (8)		26 Life in Christ—Part Two (24)
11	Receive the Holy Spirit (9)		<b>SEPT.</b> 9 The First Commandment: Believe in the True God (25)
18	The Church: Reflecting the Light of Christ (10)		16 The Second Commandment: Reverence in God's Name (26)
25	The Four Marks of the Church (11)		23 The Third Commandment: Love the Lord's Day (27)
<b>APR.</b> 8	<i>EASTER</i>		30 The Fourth Commandment: Strengthen Your Family (28)
22	The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ (14)		<b>OCT.</b> 7 The Fifth Commandment: Promote the Culture of Life (29)
29	Baptism: Becoming a Christian (15)		14 The Sixth Commandment: Marital Fidelity (30)
<b>MAY</b> 6	Confirmation: Consecrated for Mission (16)		21 The Seventh Commandment: Do Not Steal— Act Justly (31)
13	The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Christian Life (17)		28 Our Eternal Destiny (13)
20	Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation: God is Rich in Mercy (18)		<b>NOV.</b> 4 The Eighth Commandment: Tell the Truth (32)
			11 The Ninth Commandment: Practice Purity of Heart (33)
			18 The Tenth Commandment: Embrace Poverty of Spirit (34)
			25 Jesus Taught Us to Pray (36)

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**Order Form for the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Copies: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of each book is \$15.00 (this includes shipping & handling). Please turn in this form along with your payment in the collection or to the parish office (make checks payable to St. Mary's Church). Please return the form and your payment by December 19. Books will be distributed at the weekend Masses when they arrive.