

ST. JOSEPH – Monroeville

ST. ALPHONSUS – Peru



June 28, 2008 – June 29, 2009
YEAR OF ST. PAUL
The Great Evangelizer
Martyr for the Love of Christ



DECEMBER 21, 2008
4th SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

PASTORAL STAFF

PASTOR- Fr. Kenneth Lill
DEACON-George Stepanic (663-5155)
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE-
Sr. Nancy Ferguson, OSF (465-2000)
ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH MANAGER
Catherine Raftery (668-5030)
PRINCIPAL-Jim Francis
SCHOOL SECRETARY-Krista Martin
BOOKKEEPER-Elaine Finch
(Office Hours: 8-3:30, Monday-Friday)

OFFICE – 66 Chapel St.
Monroeville, OH 44847

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FAX 465-2170

SCHOOL 465-2625

SJ HALL 465-4226

SA HALL 668-6004

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WEBSITES

www.stjosephmonroeville.org

www.stalphonsusperu.org

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

CALL THE RECTORY

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

AT LEAST 6 MONTH NOTICE AND
ATTENDANCE AT ENGAGED
COUPLES CONFERENCE

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

CALL THE RECTORY AT 465-4142

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY AT 4 PM AT
ST. JOSEPH

FINANCE COMMITTEES

BOB SUNDERMAN (SA) 663-8740

TOM HEDRICK (SJ) 465-4532

SCHOOL ADVISORY (SJ)

GERI MYERS 465-2185

PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHARLENE BAUER 668-9636

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the faith community of St. Joseph and St. Alphonsus on the 4th Sunday of Advent as we prepare to celebrate once again the mystery of God's love for the human race shown in the wonder of the Incarnation at Christmas.

This has been a year that won't be soon forgotten. The housing mortgage crisis, the stock market crash, lay-offs in the automotive industry and related companies and just the overall economic recession have brought worry and concern to all of us. It was in troubled times and into a difficult world that the Baby Jesus was born 2000 years ago. His birth was announcement of hope and restoration. We pray that our renewed faith this Christmas may bring new hope and encouragement to us.

Thank you for all of the cards, gifts and other treats I have received. I am grateful for your generous kindness in this season and throughout the year. The teachers at St. Joseph School did give me one gift that will be very useful. They made a contribution in my name to the Tuition Assistance Fund. The tuition cost for one student will be a little lower next year because of their thoughtfulness. If you are able to do something a little extra this year, how about a gift to the Tuition Assistance Fund at St. Joseph School?

Particularly during the winter, more of our senior parishioners stay indoors rather than risk a fall. Sr. Nancy, Catherine and I, as well as a dedicated team of parishioners try to bring the Eucharist and keep them up to date as to what is going on in our faith community. I know they are praying for us; let's keep them in our prayers too. If you know of anyone who is homebound or in a healthcare facility and not receiving regular visits, please call the parish office.

Please double check today's bulletin for any recent changes to our schedule for opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and for mass times and locations.

If you are home for a holiday visit or if you haven't been here for a while, we are glad to see you. If you need help in receiving the grace our Sacraments offer, we will be glad to serve you. To all of our faithful who have made this celebration possible, we thank you.

May the Eucharist we share bring us to the eternal life we seek in faith and hope.

Fr. Ken Lill

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 20

5:00 PM (SJ) Walter & Margaret Schlachter
Rosemary Schaffer

Sun., Dec. 21 – 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 AM (SA) The Gies Family
Jim Hohler

10:30 AM (SJ) Frank Ruffing
Michelle Crum
Rex & Doris Hickman

Mon., Dec. 22

NO MASS

Tues., Dec. 23 – St. John of Kanty

NO MASS

Wed., Dec. 24

4:00 PM (SJ) All Parishioners
6:00 PM (SA) All Parishioners
11:00 PM (SJ) All Parishioners

Thurs., Dec. 25 - Christmas

8:30 AM (SA) All Parishioners

Fri., Dec. 26 – St. Stephen

NO MASS

Sat., Dec. 27 – St. John

5:00 PM (SJ) Pete Schafer
Anna Wilhelm

Sun., Dec. 28 – Holy Family

8:30 AM (SA) Eldon Smith
10:30 AM (SJ) Richard Buchman &
James Limbird Sr.
Paul Long Sr.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SUN-2 Sm. 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a-16/Rom. 16:25-27/
Lk. 1:26-38

MON-1 Sm. 1:24-28/Lk. 1:46-56

TUE-Mal. 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk. 1:57-66

WED-Is. 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt. 1:1-25

THU-Is. 52:7-10/Heb. 1:1-6/Jn. 1:1-18

FRI-Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Mt. 10:17-22

SAT-1 Jn. 1:1-4/Jn. 20:1a, 2-8

CONTRIBUTIONS – DEC 14

St. Joseph-Sunday-4,507.50 (134 env.), Loose-117,
Holy Day-204, 50/50-80, Bldg Fund-25, Fuel-23,
Children-2, School Supp-86, Thanksgiving-5,
Flowers-288, Christmas-355, Rel. Ret-199, Needy-
528.

St. Alphonsus-Sunday-3,147 (86 env.), Loose-135,
Children-7, Holy Day-481, Vigil Lights-10, Flowers-
135, Christmas-1,085, Rel. Ret.-335.

*The Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24,
25 & 26 and Jan. 1 & 2.*

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 4:00 p.m. – St. Joseph

L Adam Mastroianni, Elaine Finch
U **Joe Brown**, Bob Good, Bob, Reid & Ross
Stieber

EM **Tom Runkle**, Geri Myers, Sr. Nancy, Betty
Schafer, Julie Jarrett, John C. Miller, Sue
Rogers, Barbara Good

S Kendra & Collin England, Hayley & Logan
Myers

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 6:00 p.m. – St. Alphonsus

L Sue Moore, Barb Chase
U Gregg Moore, Ken Silcox, Denny Perry,
Clayton Ott

EM John & Ian Miller, Ron & Barb Chase, Jim &
Cheryl Wasiniak, Bev Hipp, Tom Smith, Bob
& Alice Crist, John Schaffer

S Matt Silcox, Wesley Fritz

G Dennis & Rose Perry

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 11:00 p.m. – St. Joseph

L Angie & Bob Roth

U **Marie Bischoff**, Kevin & Elaine Stieber

EM **Carol Stieber**, Linda Laux, Rita Stieber, Dick
& Marilyn Palmer, Barb Smith

S Alex Darr, Nick & Eric Bischoff, Victoria
Smith

Thursday, Dec. 25 – 8:30 a.m. – St. Alphonsus

L Robin Welch, Larry Hanneman

U Volunteers

EM Nancy Wilson, Ruth Ann Foltz, Catherine
Raftery, Ken Wangler, Robin Welch,
Volunteers

S Colton Ott, Mitchell Ott, Michael Hanneman

Saturday, Dec. 27 – 5:00 p.m. – St. Joseph

L Adam Mastroianni, Krista Smith

U **Chris Gies**, Fred Leber, Robert Stieber

EM **Sheila Meikle**, Charlene Bauer, John Miller,
Betty Schafer, Shirley Stang

S Madeline Bollenbacher, Dominique Workley,
Brandon Seifker

Sunday, Dec. 28 – 8:30 a.m. – St. Alphonsus

L Erin Lendrum, Barb Chase

U Tom Ott, Jim Schindley, Jim Pheiffer, Dave
Barman

EM Gregg & Susan Moore, John, Kathy & Ian
Miller, Tom Smith, Sarah Hohler, John
Schaffer, 1 Volunteer

S Ann Vanderpool, Macie & Lauren Ott

G Karen & Mike Silcox

Sunday, Dec. 28 – 10:30 a.m. – St. Joseph

L Sandy Lonz, Angie Roth

U **Tom Hedrick**, Kevin & Elaine Stieber

EM **Rita Stieber**, Ron Betschman, Barbara Good,
Julie Jarrett, Linda Laux, Jennifer Meagrow

S Kyle England, Tyler Haughawout

PARISH CALENDAR

BINGO Monday night in the Social Center.

Doors open at 5; Bingo starts at 6:45.

NO PSR next Sunday. Next class is Jan. 4, 2009.



FOSTER KIDS CHRISTMAS

St. Joseph School children helped make Christmas a little merrier for four area children who are in foster care. Through their generous donations totaling \$364, they were able to purchase the following items:

- 11 year old boy: Flying Bat, Volcano set, Skateboard
 - 13 year old girl: Scrapbooking set, DVD player, Shoes, Hoodies & t-shirts
 - 6 year old boy: Lego truck set, Remote control Semi, 3-D puzzles
 - 2 year old boy: Drawing Easel, Large Tonka Truck, Hulk Figure, Disney DVD, Puzzles
- Thank you!

K of C BREAKFAST BUFFET

The K of C Breakfast Buffet will be today from 8 a.m. until noon. Serving eggs, ham, sausage, biscuits & gravy, pancakes or French toast. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$2 for children; children under 5 are free.



MONROEVILLE K of C

200 CLUB WINNERS

Dec. 16: \$50-St. Anthony Church

\$25- Ralph Pierce, Dorothy Hauler

200 Club Tickets are still available for \$50 each. You have three chances win each week – one \$50 prize and two \$25 prizes. A free appreciation dinner is held each November. Contact Charles Bauer at 419-465-2090 for more information.

MAY GOD SEND HIS HEALING

BLESSINGS to Bea Feuerstein, Ray and Mary Jane Gerber, Jeanette Leibold, Kim Neill, Gary Rasnick, Adam Schafer, George Stepanic, Jim Smith, & Tom V.



BINGO – DEC. 22

CREW #5: Ted Kluding, Deb Anderson, Carolyn Sabo, Kim Stallkamp, George or Amy Latteman, Kevin or Brandi Roeder, Tracy or Kenny Brooks

FOOD: Holly Hohler

KITCHEN: Agnes Balduff, Laurie Haughawout

BAKERS: Julie Landoll, Chris England, Annette Selka

SET UP: Wendy Adelman

WINDOW: Jane Kramer

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

DEC 28 – Jerry Gravenhorst

COUNTERS – DEC. 22

Mary Dreschel, Helen Hofacker, Esther Hauler, Catherine Raftery, Nancy Wilson, Sheila Stang

BIRTHDAYS



DEC 22-Gladys Hauler, Jessica Hunter, Arden Miller, Marilyn Pierce, Chelsey Shawver DEC 23-Christy Blanton,

Patricia Bores, Keisha Long, John McKown IV, Daniel Schafer, Brylie Schafer, Patricia Vitello, Anna Walton DEC 24-Paula Drown, Alvin Myers, Tina Stieber DEC 25-Jesus, Bill Duncan, Kyle Schafer, Brenda Wilhelm DEC 26-Joselyn Brown, Valerie Capucini, Leonard Didion, Anthony Funni, Rachel Jackson, Logan Myers, Eli Obringer DEC 27- Nicholas Blackford, Francis Ott, Claire Selka, Winsome Sprowl DEC 28-Thomas Gates, David Krupp, Mary Stieber

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

DEC 22 – Individual Confessions –
SJ – 4 & 7 p.m.

DEC 23 - Individual Confessions –
SA – 1 p.m.,
SJ – 4 & 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

DEC 24 – Christmas Eve –
St. Joseph - 4 & 11 p.m.
St. Alphonsus – 6 p.m.

DEC 25 – Christmas Day –
St. Alphonsus – 8:30 a.m.

DEC 31 – New Year's Eve –
St. Joseph – 5 p.m.

JAN 1 – New Year's Day –
St. Alphonsus – 8:30 a.m.

The phrase repeats itself over and over again in his mind: Silent night, holy night. It's the first line from a poem this young Austrian priest had written two years before. Now he can't get the phrase out of his mind. "Silent night, holy night."

Tonight is Christmas Eve and St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, north of Salzburg, will be chock-full of people. Father Joseph Mohr has a homily in mind, a message for his flock on this sacred night, but he needs a carol, something special to cap off the service. Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright...

The words won't go away. "I need a tune!" he says out loud, shaking his head. "I wonder if Franz can help me. I hope it's not too late." Franz Gruber is the schoolteacher in the nearby village of Arnsdorf -- a gifted musician, organist at the Arnsdorf church, and occasional substitute organist at St. Nicholas. "Franz will help me!" he says to himself. "He can't resist a musical challenge."

Quickly now he slings on his heavy coat, dons a fur cap and gloves, and ventures into the brisk December morning. The snow is crunchy underfoot as he makes his way across the churchyard towards Arnsdorf, just a 20 minute walk. "Silent night, holy night ... silent night, holy night." The rhythm of the words echoes with each step.

Elizabeth opens the door at his knock. "Father Mohr, how nice of you to stop by. Franz will be glad to see you." She takes his coat and ushers him in. Franz is picking something out on his guitar.

"Franz, remember that poem I told you about: 'Silent Night?'" says Mohr. "I know it's too late to ask, but could

you help put a tune to it? I want to sing it tonight for Christmas Eve."

Gruber's face lights up. A challenge. A song. He takes the lyrics from the priest and begins to say them over and over, looking for a cadence. Then he hums a line and scratches it down.

Mohr soon tires of the process and begins to play with the children. But within an hour or so, Gruber seems to have a melody and is working out the chords on his guitar. "Father, how does this sound?" he calls and begins to sing the words: Silent night, holy night, All is calm all is bright... He stops to make a correction in the manuscript, and then continues: ...Round yon virgin, Mother and Child, Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

Father Mohr is ecstatic. On the second verse Gruber's deep voice is joined by Mohr's rich tenor. Elizabeth, baby on her hip, who has been humming along, now joins them on the last verse. The song fills their home with its gentle words and memorable melody.

That night, December 24, 1818, the song fills St. Nicholas Church at Midnight Mass. Mohr sings tenor, Gruber bass, and the church choir joins the refrain of each verse, while Gruber accompanies on the guitar. By the time the last notes die away, the worshipers are a-buzz with joy and wonder at the song. On Christmas Day, the song is being hummed and sung in dozens of homes around Oberndorf. "Silent night, holy night." And in Oberndorf, they would sing their beloved carol again and again each Christmas.

