



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

— During Mass, the presiding priest leads a brief prayer immediately after the Lord's Prayer. You've heard it many times. He prays, "Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Think about the words "protect us from all anxiety." What is meant by them? Are we praying in order that our lives be devoid of any anxiety whatsoever? And if this is actually the case, what are the chances we can actually attain this goal? St. Paul also speaks of anxiety in the second reading this Sunday (Phil 4:4-7). He advises them to "Have *no anxiety* at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."

Now, I've met some pretty calm people in my life, but I doubt I've ever met anyone who has never had an anxious moment in their life. (And if there is such a person, a short drive on the expressways of Chicago will change that!) Let's face it: a certain amount of anxiety is a fact of life. We all experience it – although in different ways and in differing life situations. It seems that to be human is to experience some measure of anxiety.

We probably need to be more nuanced in our thinking. Maybe we should interpret "anxiety" in a more spiritual way and less psychologically (as is more common). Spiritually understood, anxiety has more to do with a sense of hopelessness and despair in life rather than with psychological tension or worry. Although both forms of anxiety can do us harm, spiritual anxiety is crippling because it leaves us unable to live the life of the Spirit. It can leave us wondering, "What's the use of trying?" or even, "What do I have to live for?"

Although worry and inner tension are certainly worth attending to, our Advent faith calls us to a spirit of hope and trust in the promises of God. And if we are able to live in that spirit, our confidence in God's providence and protection will remain strong. Granted, our daily worries may not be over, but we will certainly be able to live in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Fr. Mannebach

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** will be celebrated at Holy Redeemer on Monday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. Parish reconciliation services will also be celebrated on Tuesday, December 15 at St. Augustine, Minster and Thursday, December 17 at St. Michael, Ft. Loramie. All services begin at 7:30 p.m. ***(Because of these services, Mass here on Monday and Thursday will be at 8:30 a.m.)*** Reconciliation will also be celebrated at its usual time on Saturday afternoons from 4:00-4:30 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Thursday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.**

(prelude music beginning at 3:30 p.m. with the children's choir)

**Thursday, December 24, 10:30 p.m.**

(prelude music beginning at 10:00 p.m. with the adult and handbell choirs)

**Friday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.**

(prelude music beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the contemporary music ensemble)

**EVANGELIZATION AND SERVICE COMMISSION** served 82 dinners and 41 carryout meals last Thursday at Loaves and Fishes. A special thank you goes out to the 6A CCD class for the meal preparation. They peeled 50 lbs. of potatoes, 10 lbs of carrots, sliced 32 lbs. of oranges and frosted 200 cupcakes. Thank you, too, to Elizabeth Balster, Mackenna Brackman, Meghan Brookhart and Sarah Hall for their help in serving the meals.



**POINSETTIAS** can be purchased to help decorate the church for Christmas.

The poinsettia may be in honor of your family or a loved one. Please place \$10.00 in an envelope and drop it in the collection or return it to the parish office by Friday, December 18. The poinsettias may be taken home after the Feast of the

Baptism of the Lord on January 10, which ends the Christmas season.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

**CYO games** on Sunday, December 13 at the South YMCA will be: boys' team vs. Minster B at 5:00 p.m.; girls' team vs. Ft. Loramie at 6:15 p.m.

**GOT TALENT?** Holy Redeemer will be hosting its first-ever 'Holy Redeemer's Got Talent' Christmas contest on Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. We're looking for anyone who can sing, dance, play an instrument, do magic, be a comedian or has any other talent. Acts need only last a few minutes in duration and be performed by single, groups, families, friends, young and old. All are welcome. Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. The audience will determine the winner by placing money in the ballot boxes of the contestants. Money raised will be sent to the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem. Got questions? Contact Kathy Pape at 419-629-2543 or 419-629-3130 or email at [hrcr@nktelco.net](mailto:hrcr@nktelco.net).



**ASSISTANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED** with decorating the church for Christmas – in assembling, testing lights, or just moving boxes and plants. Pre-

decoration (taking down Advent items, moving boxes from attic, assembling trees, testing lights) will take place on **Sunday, December 20 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass**. Decorating the church will take place on Monday, December 21 after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. If needed, final decorating will take place on Wednesday, December 23 at 7:00 p.m. Help is needed for any length of time. For more information, please call Jim Kaiser at 419-629-1337 or Shelli Parker at 419-629-4313.

**VOCATION VIEWS** – "What ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3:10-18)

**OUR GIFT IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GIFT-**  
December 6 - \$5,538.56 Attendance – 922  
Adults - \$5,009.00 High School - \$3.90  
Grade School - \$29.66 Anonymous - \$486.00

Feast of the Immaculate Conception – December 8  
Adults - \$714.00 Anon - \$249.05 Attendance - 521

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** would be welcomed by former Holy Redeemer pastors and parishioners who live outside of New Bremen:

Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, P.O. Box 969,  
Steubenville OH 43952-5969

Rev. James Trick, 2860 U.S. Route 127 Apt. 214,  
Carthagen OH 45822-9591

Br. Gabriel Bridges, 2860 U.S. Route 127,  
Carthagen OH 45822

Mrs. Lavera Scheblo, Mrs. Elmer Will, Mrs. Doris  
Wissman and Mr. Martin Dabbelt are at  
Heritage Manor, 24 North Hamilton Street,  
Minster OH 45865

Mrs. Marie Killian, Mrs. Mary Ann Nieter, Mrs.  
Louise Schwartz and Mrs. Elodie Sollman are at  
Otterbein: 11300 Circle Drive, State Route  
364, St. Marys, OH 45885

Mrs. Dorothy Bertke is at Briarwood Manor, 100  
Desch Drive, Coldwater OH 45828-1567

Mr. Joseph Kettler, 13101 Infirmary Road,  
Wapakoneta OH 45895

**RADIO MARIA ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING** – As a special gift to listeners, Radio Maria 88.7 FM WHJM (Anna), 1600 AM WULM (Springfield) and streaming live at [www.radiomaria.us](http://www.radiomaria.us) will be airing the following musical programs from this area:

**Sunday, December 13:**

**2:00 P.M.** Dayton Area Harp Ensemble Fall Concert, featuring 11 harps, flute, violin, cello, and percussion, conducted by Ron Kindell, recorded live at St. Henry Parish, Dayton

**6:30 P.M.** Jubilee Advent Concert and Evensong, under the direction of Paula Kern Price, broadcast live from Holy Trinity Church, Dayton

**Sunday, December 20:**

**7:00 P.M.** Festival of Choirs, featuring the five parishes in the Marion Cluster, joined by St. Louis Church, North Star and St. Nicholas Church, Osgood, for a combined choir of over 100 voices under the direction of Paul Mizer, broadcast live from St. John the Baptist Church, Maria Stein

**Christmas Day:**

Check their website and listen for special Christmas programming, including a Christmas Concert featuring several choirs from St. Augustine Church, Minster, under the direction of Amy Noykos.

Radio Maria wishes their listeners a blessed Advent and Christmas season. Radio Maria...a Christian voice in the home.

**LIVE NATIVITY SCENE** will be presented by Faith Alliance Church, 6670 Knoxville Avenue, New Bremen, from Monday, December 14 through Wednesday, December 16 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The scene features live characters and animals. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

**December 19 & 20**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

B. Bertke – R. Dicke – A. Elking – J. Hirschfeld

L. & R. Rutschilling – D. Schwartz – D. Stachler – L. Utz

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

C. & R. Brookhart – P. & S. Kaiser

B. & C. Killian – H. Kremer

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

Deacon G. Bornhorst – B. Feltz – L. Holdren – D. Knapke

C. Kuck – S. McCollum – J. Niekamp – S. Niekamp

S. Niekamp – N. Riethman – E. Rump, Jr.

**LECTORS:**

**December 14, 19 & 20**

*Parish Reconciliation*

**Mon. 7:30 p.m.**

S. McDaniel

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

S. Bertke – A. Thieman

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

R. Bertke – H. Krieg

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

J. Eshelman – R. Tangeman

**USHERS:**

**December 19 & 20**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

D. Anderson – S. Dwenger – J. Kremer

R. Niekamp – T. Wentz

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

G. Grevenkamp – T. Howell – K. McGlinch

T. Stachler – M. Varno

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

D. Champagne – L. Dicke – C. Griesdorn

**ACTIVITIES:**

Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist

- CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass

- Adult choir sings during 10:00 a.m. Mass

- Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass

Mon. - Emsemble rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

Tues. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), 7:30 p.m. in conference room

Wed. - CCD classes: Grades 1 through 6: 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.; 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.

Grades 7 & 8: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Grades 9 through 12: 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.

- Children's choir rehearsal, 4:15 p.m. in music room

- Handbell choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. in music room

Sat. - Men's Prayer Group, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in conference room

Sun. - Communion to the Sick/Shut-ins by Ministers of Eucharist

- CCD for 3's, preschool and kindergarten during 10:00 a.m. Mass

G. Nosek – W. Steineman

**MASSES:**

**December 12 to 20**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Bill Meyer

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.** Holy Redeemer Parish

**10:00 a.m.** John Garman

**Mon. 8:30 a.m.** Esther Hartings

**Tues. 8:30 a.m.** John Knapke

**Wed. 12:05 p.m.** Ken Jutte

**8:00 p.m.** Joan Rammel

**Thurs. 8:30 a.m.** Tom Lampert

**Fri. 8:30 a.m.** Freda Moeller

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Mildred Wentz

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.** Ruth Wilker

**10:00 a.m.** Holy Redeemer Parish

**SERVERS:**

**December 19 to 20**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.**

A. Pulskamp – M. Russell

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.**

A. Brackman – J. Elking

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.**

S. Brandt – J. Rutschilling

**PARISH REPRESENTATIVES:**

**December 19 & 20**

**Sat. 5:00 p.m.** Patrick & Laura Freels family

**Sun. 8:00 a.m.** Jim & Deb Freeman family

**Sun. 10:00 a.m.** Paul & Karen Frey

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**December 20**

Annette Bertke

**COLLECTION COUNTERS – December 20**

B. Thobe – M. Will – A. Doenges

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

Micah 5:1-4a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

- Ensemble sings during 10:00 a.m. Mass
- Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:00 a.m. Mass



John answered them all,  
saying, "I am baptizing you  
with water, but one mightier  
than I is coming. I am not  
worthy to loosen the thongs  
of his sandals. He will baptize  
you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Luke 3:16