



Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, December 18 8:15 AM
 † Caitlin Recker & All Her Cousins

Tuesday, December 19 8:15 AM
 In Thanksgiving for RE Catechists
 5:15 PM
 † Dick Klar & Living & Deceased
 Family Members

Wednesday, December 20. 8:15 AM
 † Roger Kartman

Thursday, December 21 8:15 AM
(Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church)
 † Soul of Ida Mae Fure &
 Deceased Family Members
 5:15 PM
 Pace Family

Friday, December 22. 8:15 AM
 † Bill Wagner

Saturday, December 23. 8:15 AM
 Bishop Robert Morlino
 5:00 PM
 † Leo Abing

Sunday, December 24. 7:30 AM
(4th Sunday of Advent)
 People of Our Parish
 9:30 AM
 † Joseph Schurman Sr. & Joseph Schurman Jr.

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**Sunday, December 24 . . . . . 5:00 PM\***  
*\*Solemnity of Christmas (Vigil)*  
 † Ivan 'Ike' Schildgen  
**9:00 PM\***  
*\*Solemnity of Christmas (Vigil)*  
 People of Our Parish

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Monday, December 25 9:30 AM
(Solemnity of Christmas)
 † Paul & Diane Pink

RECONCILIATION

(in the confessional closest to the rectory)

Mon. thru Sat. Before Mass
Saturday at 4:00 PM

Face-to-face reconciliation by appointment only.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 10 & 11

Church Support Envelopes . . . \$5,133.00
 Offertory Cash \$554.00
 Children's Offertory \$70.00
 Weekly Electronic Giving \$978.00
Total \$6,735.00

Budgeted Offertory for Dec. . . . \$51,742
 Offertory Received in Dec. . . . \$15,388
 Budgeted Amount Still Needed. . \$36,354

From Our Pastor:

Last Sunday, we heard Saint John the Baptist proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, calling upon people to live the faith in word and deed, to prepare the way of the Lord (Mark 1:1-8). This Sunday, we read in the Gospel of Saint John the Evangelist (1:6-8, 19-28) that Saint John the Baptist came to witness and testify to the Light, Jesus Christ, so that all might come to believe through Him. Saint John was not the Light, but testified to the Light, calling upon all people to make straight the way of the Lord. Later in the Gospel, Saint John even says of Jesus Christ: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

In today's culture, it seems that we live in a world obsessed with being number one. At stadiums and arenas across the country, sports fans and athletes can often be heard chanting, "We're number one," regardless of their team's actual ranking (I've never heard anyone chant, "We're number two," even if their team is second). Oftentimes, it seems that the champion is the only one who matters. The second-place finisher (no matter how valiant or deserving their play) is routinely relegated to obscurity, while the winner (no matter how unbecoming his or her conduct) is honored and remembered. The competition to be number one, therefore, can get rather intense. And since there can only be one true champion, there is a tendency for a great number of impostors falsely to lay claim to the title of being number one.

How easy it would have therefore been for Saint John to have claimed the title of number one when he was asked if he were *the* Messiah. All John the Baptist had to say was "yes sir, that's me, the messiah." Instead, he made a point of relegating himself to at least number two, of going so far as to say that he didn't even deserve to untie the Champion's sandal strap. Surely John understood the risk of not being number one. He must have realized that he was inviting the crowds to forget him. In his humility, John teaches us that there is only one True Champion, and that by making Jesus Christ "number one" in our life, we will never be forgotten or lost.

Let us pray: *Lord Jesus, help us to have the wisdom of Saint John the Baptist so that we may willingly and joyfully proclaim and give witness to You by our words and deeds. Help us to live the faith that You have given us, to stay close to You in prayer, in Your Church, Word and Sacraments, especially Confession and Holy Communion, mindful of Your communion of saints. Help us, dear Jesus, to humbly follow You wherever You lead us each day, all the way to Life Eternal in Heaven. Amen.*

With peace and prayers in Christ,
Fr. William

PS: This third Sunday of Advent is also known as "Gaudete Sunday" because the first word of the Entrance Antiphon (*introit*) for Mass is *Gaudete*, which is Latin for "rejoice." The antiphon is "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." We also read about rejoicing in the readings at Mass (Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; the Responsorial Psalm, based on Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1; and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24). We rejoice because Christmas, the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is just a little more than one week away!

IMPORTANT YEAR-END DONATION REMINDER!

Please have your monetary donations you would like posted to your 2017 tax statement in the **December 30/31 weekend offertory collection or postmarked by Dec. 30**. All donations received after these dates will be posted to your 2018 tax statement. Thank you for your generous support of our St. Clement Parish!

In addition to the daily and Saturday Confession schedule, Fr. William will be offering Confessions from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on Tuesday, December 19.

Area Communal Penance Schedule:

- **Tuesday, Dec. 19, St. Charles Borromeo, Cassville, 7:30 pm**



FORMED: HANDING ON THE FAITH IN A NEW AGE!

In the time of Jesus, people learned about the Lord through word of mouth, the preaching of the Good News, worship, and eventually, the written word. In many ways, this is still true, yet so much has changed! The first disciples used every means possible to share the faith with others; and the bishops of the world have stated that the Church must continue to proclaim the Gospel to the entire world, using every means available, including the advances of technology. **FORMED** is one of the ways that individuals, groups and families can grow in faith, knowledge and spiritual enrichment using modern technology.

FORMED.org is a “treasure chest” of excellent Catholic studies, movies, podcasts and e-books for adults and children. When you go to the **FORMED** website for the first time, you will need to enter our parish code to get started. Click on the box that says, “Enter Code.” You will need to enter the St. Clement Parish access code. Our Parish Code is **DHYNXC**. Next, you will be asked for your email address, personal information and a password. In the future when you go to **FORMED**, you will use the login icon using your email and password.

For many of the parish studies that we have done in the past, if a person was unavailable on the day and time the study was offered, one couldn't take part. For example, if you were not able to come to the presentation this past week on “Our Lady of Guadalupe,” in the past you would have missed out. Now that has changed as you can watch the video of “Our Lady of Guadalupe” on **FORMED**. The documentary is very well done and gives excellent information on St. Juan Diego, the tilma with Our Lady's image, and how Our Lady of Guadalupe influences the lives of many people today. You'll find this video, along with hundreds of other offerings, at **FORMED.org**.

Our parish purchased a subscription to **FORMED** so that all parishioners could have this excellent content available to them free of charge. We hope many of you will take advantage of this gift and opportunity. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions or are having trouble getting registered.

PLEASE REMEMBER...

The many people who will not be home for the holidays. We keep in prayer our military, diplomatic and relief aid personnel who are stationed around the world, especially those in dangerous places, striving to make “peace on earth” a reality. We think of missionaries bringing “good news of great joy” in far-away lands. We remember too those who have died, and also their families who face the holidays with heavy hearts. We know of loved ones who have moved away and who do not have the time or means to come home, or who are estranged from family. There are many more who are ill and in hospitals, or who reside in nursing homes or in assisted living. And there are those who must work each of these days; and still others with no place to call home, except the streets on which they live. The list could go on and on. As we come together to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in just a few days, may we hold these people in our prayers. May they, and all of us, be blessed by the Prince of Peace, and know the presence of Emmanuel, God-with-us.



FAMILY PROMISE: OUR HOST WEEK IS COMING UP SOON!

Our week to host families experiencing homelessness is coming up the week of January 7th, so we need to get ready to once again offer to them our care and hospitality. Volunteer Sign-Up Forms for the various areas of service are on a table at the entrance of the church. You can volunteer for more than one area, or more than once. Families often like to see familiar faces throughout the week! Please sign up early in order for us to be ready on January 7. With Christmas and New Year's approaching, it will be upon us soon. One reminder- **please do not bring in food items at this time**. As we get closer to our host date, we will contact people for the items we need for breakfast and lunch. As of this writing, there is not a family in the program, but that can change on any given day, so we do need to prepare and be ready.

If you have any questions, or are interested in helping out but have not done so in the past, please give Bill Manthe a call at 723-4990. Thanks!

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - we are in need of your assistance for the Masses of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please call Bill Manthe at the parish office this week to volunteer. Your call will save us a lot of time on the phone. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Christmas memorial donations to remember your loved ones are due this **Sunday, December 17**. The money we collect will go toward decorating our parish church during Advent and throughout the Christmas Season. Please put your donation in an envelope marked with your name and the name(s) of those you wish to remember, and drop the envelope in the offertory basket or at the Parish Office. All checks should be payable to St. Clement Parish. The memorial listing will be published in the Dec. 23/24 bulletin. Thank you!

RELIGIOUS ED NEWS FOR GRADES K TO 6

December 20: Class for all 6:00-7:00pm

Dec. 23/24: Attend Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24/25: Attend Mass for Christmas

Together, Mass & Class form our students in Christ.

RELIGIOUS ED NEWS for Grades 7 to 9

CLASS SCHEDULE: December 20

Grades 7 & 8 – NO CLASS

Grades 9 – class, 7-8:30 pm

YOUTH MINISTRY- ISAIAH 43

**Registration form for Steubenville North Youth Conference is on the Isaiah 43 Youth Ministry table by the holy water font. The forms were due last Friday, December 15. If you are interested in attending, please contact Katie at the parish office or through Isaiah 43 Facebook page as soon as possible. This is very important as they have changed registration dates this year.*



THIS WEEK AT ST. CLEMENT

Tues., December 19 . . . Individual Confessions, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Wed., December 20 All School Mass at 8:15 am

. Finance Meeting @ Noon, Parish Office Meeting Room

. RE classes; Grades K-6 (6-7 pm), 9 (7-8:30 pm)

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE *Sunday, December 24*

Vigil of Christmas 5:00 PM

Vigil of Christmas 9:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY *Monday, December 25*

Nativity of the Lord 9:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY *Monday, January 1*

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 9:00 AM

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

HELP AND HEALING FOR POST-ABORTION

No matter how much time has passed, recent or long ago. *Project Rachel* and *Rachel's Vineyard* retreats offer compassionate and individual care for anyone hurting from abortion. To talk with someone, contact Mary 608-221-9593 or rachel@straphael.org Confidentiality assured. www.madisondiocese.org/projectrachel

BLESS OUR PRIESTS COLLECTION

Please contribute to the "Bless Our Priests" collection as soon as possible. This collection, due by **December 31**, is used to directly support all retired priests' welfare including the rising cost of healthcare, long-term care and medical costs. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 11 counties of our Diocese!

HELP THE DIOCESE OF MADISON PREPARE ENGAGED COUPLES FOR MARRIAGE!

The Diocese of Madison invites you to share your marriage and your faith with newly engaged couples through our Marriage Prep Program. It is an opportunity to share your real-life experiences and the beauty of God's plan for married love with couples preparing for marriage. We need couples that have experienced the trials, struggles, and joys of marital love and are striving to live their Catholic faith within their marriage. Join us for a training session Friday January 19, 2018 from 6:30-9:00pm at Holy Name Heights in Madison. Visit madisondiocese.org/jointhempsteam for more information OR Contact Beth Ulaszek at (608) 821-3026 or beth.ulaszek@madisondiocese.org for more information.

CAROLS AT THE STABLE
Inside St. Clement Catholic Church
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 7 PM
Featuring Lancaster Area Musicians
THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!

SAINT CLEMENT SCHOOL

SCRIP WARS

Saint Clement School classes are currently competing against one another for a chance to win our 2017 SCRIP War Competition. The class that recruits family and friends to purchase the most SCRIP from November 18 - December 24 will be declared the winner. The winning class will receive the opportunity to present a \$100 donation to Family Promise on their behalf, as we continue to live our faith by serving others. In addition, if we reach our goal of selling over \$125,000 worth of SCRIP during this time, all students will be rewarded with a special pajama party. So, please stop by the SCRIP table after Mass to get your Christmas SCRIP and be sure to let us know which student or class you would like to receive the credit towards our SCRIP War Competition. We also have a few smaller denomination SCRIP cards available during the Christmas Season to better meet your gift giving needs! Thank you all once again for your continued support of our wonderful parish school!!!

SAINT CLEMENT SCHOOL/HOME & SCHOOL RAFFLE CALENDAR WINNERS:

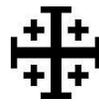
December

- | | | |
|----|------|-------------------------|
| 11 | \$25 | Mark Haskins |
| 12 | \$25 | Noah Kirsch |
| 13 | \$25 | St. Clement School |
| 14 | \$25 | Amara Hoffman |
| 15 | \$25 | Gary & Chris Haas |
| 16 | \$25 | Steve & Marian Olmstead |
| 17 | \$50 | Raymond & Sheri Ihm |





WEEKEND LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



DECEMBER 23 & 24

5 PM Lectors: Tom Schaefer & Peg Jonas

5 PM Servers: Hunter Abing, Braeden Bausch & Hope Williams

7:30 AM Lector: Shayne LaBudda

7:30 AM Servers: Need Volunteers!

9:30 AM Lectors: Jenny/Gracie Winter & Kitty Mumm

9:30 AM Servers: Lydia, Aaron & Anna Murphy

DECEMBER 30 & 31

5 PM Lectors: Linda Ihm & Rick Benson

5 PM Servers: Erin & Meg Walker

7:30 AM Lector: Jan Block

7:30 AM Servers: Need Volunteers!

9:30 AM Lectors: Josh Jensen & Tom Lucke

9:30 AM Servers: Emma, Joe and Abby Esser

*If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled liturgical role,
please find a substitute.*

****We need lectors and servers on December 24 at 5:00 PM and at 9:00 PM for our Christmas Eve Masses. We also need servers and lectors for the Christmas Day Mass at 9:30 AM, and for Mass on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1, at 9:00 AM. Please contact Bill Manthe at the parish office to volunteer.**

SERVERS: Your new schedules are ready and can be picked up in the sacristy.

INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Madison Diocesan Choir will present its popular *Festival of Lessons and Carols* this Sunday, December 17 at 4 p.m. at Holy Name Heights (the former Bishop O'Connor Catholic Pastoral Center) in Madison. Bishop Robert Morlino will preside. All are invited and admission is free. Please bring a non-perishable food item to share with the Catholic Multicultural Center food pantry.

The concert will feature Glenn Schuster, Diocesan Choir organist, playing the recently restored and installed Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ, which will be blessed by Bishop Morlino at the beginning of the service.

The Choir also will sing *Epiphany Lessons and Carols* on Saturday, January 6 at 4 p.m. at Holy Name Heights. Scripture and Carols for Christmas and Epiphany will be used and the choir will repeat some choral music from the earlier performance.

HAPPENINGS IN THE AREA...

Fr. Don Lange will offer reflections upon four Christmas carols with group singing in the following nursing homes...

- **Manor Care, December 19, 1:30 pm, Platteville**
- **Park Place Assisted Living, December 20, 9:30 am, Platteville**

YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is an abundance of music in Lancaster during these weeks leading up to Christmas. Musicians from St. Clement Catholic Parish have given and are actively giving their talents in various churches throughout town, in the nursing homes, in the schools, and in the Public Library for the Festival of Trees.

The Winter Concert with middle school and high school students on Sunday, December 10, was a beautiful example of inspiring music, a combination of secular and sacred choral repertoire announcing the birth of Jesus. Christmas was proclaimed through voice, piano, bells and a string quartet. Many of our students are in the choirs directed by our parish choir director, while cello, piano, and violin accompaniment came from adult members of St. Clement. Members of the Lancaster Community were invited to join the choir for the traditional singing of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, with many St. Clement singers among them.

The Holy Spirit sends the laity forth from their parishes to proclaim Jesus Christ, transform society and evangelize with all of our talents, in our homes, careers and hobbies. Thank you, St. Clement musicians, for learning and living and loving your Catholic faith through music.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (CCW) NOTES

ALL women of parish are members of the Council of Catholic Women (CCW). The dues of \$5 help us support parish activities, roses for life (on the altar) for two weekends per month, altar bread, Lighthouse Media CD stand etc. Thank you to members who sent in your dues. If you haven't yet, please send it in as soon as you are able. Thank you.

2018 PARISH CALENDARS

If you have not already picked up your 2018 parish calendar, they are available at various places in the entrance of the church, and also outside the parish office. You can also take one or more of the calendars to give to family members, neighbors and others. We wish to extend a big THANK YOU to Greg and Rita Schmitz of Homeward Bound for once again supplying our calendars for us. Thank you Greg and Rita for your generosity!!

