



Parish Calendar

- December 10** Strategic Planning 7:00 pm
- December 12-13** Altar Society Bake Sale Weekend
- December 13** LOTW Board 1:00 pm
- December 13** Knights of Columbus party 5:00 pm
- December 16** St. Vincent de Paul 6:00 pm
- December 19** Church Cleaning 7:00 am led by the Charles Garnier Group (Novosad)
- December 19** Full of Grace 9:30 am
- December 19** Stewardship Committee 9:30 am
- December 20** Coffee & Rolls Sunday morning
- December 20** New Parishioner Welcome after 9:30 am Mass in the Family Room

School Calendar

- December 11** Dismissal at 1:30 pm
- December 14-15** Christmas Programs 7:00 pm
- December 18** Christmas Vacation Begins—Dismissal at 1:30 pm
- January 4** School Resumes

CCD Calendar

- December 23 & 30** No CCD Classes—Christmas Break

Advent Confession Schedule

- Sunday, Dec. 13:** 3:00-4:00 pm (5 priests)
- Saturday, Dec. 19:** 4:30-5:45 pm (2 priest)
- Monday, Dec. 21:** 7:00-8:00 pm (3 priests)
- Tuesday, Dec. 22:** 7:00-8:00 pm (3 priests)
- Wednesday, Dec. 23:** 7:00-8:00 pm (3 priests)

The Nativity of the Lord Mass Schedule

- Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24:**
4:00 pm Mass & 6:00 pm Mass
Midnight Mass (traditional choir will begin at 11:30)
- Christmas Day, Friday December 25:**
8:00 am Mass and 10:00 am Mass



**The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation**

- Mass Schedule
- Vigil Masses **Thursday, December 31,**
5:00 pm & 6:30 pm
- Friday, January 1, 8:00 am 10:00 am**

This is also a day of prayer for world peace. Let us begin the New Year by praying for our families and our world to be open to the peace Jesus offers.

2010 religious calendars are available in the Narthex. Please take one home with you!

Budget Report to Date: Fiscal Year Jul 1, 2009 - Jun 30, 2010

Received to date: July 1–Nov. 29.....	\$ 351,211
Needed to date for annual budget	\$ 358,600
Annual budget shortage to date.....	(\$7,389)

Building Fund Campaign November Report
(To finance our new Church and Parish Hall)

BOS Envelopes and plate.....	\$ 16,422
BOS E-Tithe.....	\$ 9,811
CSA.....	\$ 20,500
Recycling.....	\$ 22
Bazaar.....	\$ 20,000
Total.....	\$ 66,755
Amount Applied to Debt.....	\$ 66,755
Debt as of Nov. 30, 2009.....	\$519,320

Charitable Contributions for 2009: When completing your income tax and other financial planning for the year, please remember that charitable contributions to the parish must be given by **Thursday, December 31st** to be included on your 2009 Stewardship of Treasure statement.

Altar Society Holiday Treats Bake Sale is the weekend of **December 12th** and **13th** after all Masses. *All women of the parish* are invited to bring your favorite holiday treat to support this Altar Society fundraiser. Please bring your treats to church Saturday 5-7:00 pm and before Masses on Sunday.

Knights of Columbus Family Christmas Party will be held on **Sunday, December 13th** beginning at 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall. All Knights members and their families are welcome. Please bring a main dish and a side dish (salad, veggies, or dessert). Everything else will be provided. A fun evening of food, games and Santa is planned!

KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW 2010 is **Wednesday, February 10th**. There is a morning or afternoon session for parents and prospective Kindergarten students. Register now by calling the school office (476-7373) or send an e-mail to carol-ruskamp@cdolinc.net. Please submit parent's names, child's name and date of birth, and daytime phone number. A letter will be sent at the end of January with additional information to those registered for the preview.



POINSETTIAS to be placed around the altar at Christmas can be ordered in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$ 9 per plant. Please drop your donation and this filled out form in the collection basket or at the Parish Office. Deadline is **Monday, December 14th**.

Donated in memory of _____

Donated by _____

Dear Parishioners,

We had our first big snow of the season on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. I am sure the students enjoyed the “extra” day off. I am grateful for our snow removal crew for their devoted work in keeping our parking lots and walkways clear of snow and ice.

We had a very successful Bazaar last month with lots of great food, games and auction items to buy. It was fun to see so many people in attendance and enjoying all facets of the day. Thanks to all who gave their time and items and especially the Bazaar Committee for all their good planning and work.

Advent is the season to “make straight a pathway for the Lord.” One of the best ways we do this as Catholics is by going to Penance and being reconciled with the Lord in this awesome sacrament of mercy. We will have Confessions offered on several occasions with additional priests, especially on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 3-4 p.m. Please take the time to make a good confession as part of your Christmas preparation.

We were blessed to have a successful stewardship campaign in many respects. Our final report shows that 301 people responded with an increase of \$2,512 per week or an average of \$8.34 increase. 41 people responded with an increase of \$3,107.5 per month for an average increase of \$75.79 per month. The weekly increase would amount to an increase of \$130,624 and the monthly an increase of \$37,290 for a max annual increase of \$167,914. We also had 100 people respond who will keep their giving where it was. Therefore, 442 families or parishioners responded to our stewardship campaign. We are very grateful for the pledges and generosity of so many at North American Martyrs. These gifts allow us to continue in support of the many ministries in our parish.

We look forward with great joy to the celebration of the Birthday of Christ and the Christmas Season.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Brian Connor



New Catholic CD's: The following new titles have been added to the CD Kiosk in the Narthex. *Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality, A Call to Joy, Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime, The Virgin Mary Revealed Through Scripture, Life-Changing Stories of the Eucharist* and *What Every Couple Should Know About Marriage and Prayer*. These professionally recorded presentations from leading Catholic clergy, theologians and lay speakers provide inspiration and spiritual growth for all Catholics.

GIVING TREE: The Giving Tree sponsored by the Martyrs 5th grade Confirmation class has begun. Gifts will be distributed through Catholic Social Services to children in need. The tree will be in the Narthex during Advent. If you wish to participate, take an ornament, purchase the gift item (use SCRIP!), and return the unwrapped gift to the church, along with the ornament by **December 16th**. Thank you!



Baptism Preparation Classes: The *Welcome Your Child* baptism classes for first time parents are held the first 2 Sundays of the month from 1—3:00 pm in the Family Room. The next session begins on **Sunday, January 3rd**. Parents are welcome to attend before their child is born. Please call the Parish Office at 476-8088 to register or ask questions.



WELCOME to our new Parishioners who registered in the month of November: **Jose Cervantes, Gary & Deb Vandenberg, Michael & Diana McCarthy, Andrew & Katie Chaves, Marcia Sayer, Michelle Arnold, Jon Scholz, Matt & Alison Schilling, Jessica Rempe** and **Jeffrey & Amy Meier**. New parishioner welcome is **January 17th** after the **9:30 am** Mass. Please come to the Family Room where you will be welcomed and given information about Martyrs parish. *Welcome to our parish!*

Faith and Finances with Phil Lenahan **Lending Money to Family and Friends**

During tough economic times, it's not uncommon for family members in a pinch to ask for help. Is it ever wise to lend money to those close to you?

Scripture describes debt in a cautious manner. Proverbs 22:26-27 says, “Be not one of those who give pledges, who become surety for debts. If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you?” Combine this caution with debt being between family, and the risk of harm to the relationship is multiplied.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't provide help to those in need, especially those closest to us. The Gospel is clear on that point (Mt. 25:35-40). But you should ask yourself whether your assistance will help your family member, or rather enable them to continue harmful behavior?

Our goal should be to help those we love become the best person they can be. Sometimes that requires mercy and sometimes that requires “tough love.” It can be difficult to know which is needed, so pray and seek counsel. If we err, we should err on the side of mercy. After all, that's what our Lord does!

Finally, unless it's clear the recipient will be able to repay the loan, it probably makes more sense to provide assistance in the form of a gift. That will avoid creating ongoing tension resulting from unpaid debts. Providing your assistance through a gift also helps you be more realistic about how much you can actually afford to help. God love you!