

## The Week Ahead

### Sat / December 23

4pm - Vigil Mass: *Marty Barrack - SI by M Barrack*  
5pm - **Brandenburg Reception**, in Hall, all invited

### Sun / December 24 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

9am - Mass: *People of the Parish*  
**Coffee & Donuts** after Mass, in the Parish Hall

### CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm - Vigil Mass: *James Kihm † by T & N Kihm*  
11:30pm - **Christmas Carols**, by Brandenburg Family  
11:45pm - **Midnight Mass**: *Kenneth Mead - SI by Brandenburgs*  
Second Collections for Retired Diocesan Priests

### Mon / December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

**Church Office CLOSED / Adoration Chapel OPEN at 2pm**  
9am - Christmas Mass: *People of the Parish*  
Second Collections for Retired Diocesan Priests

### Tue / December 26 - St. Stephen

**Church Office CLOSED**  
9am - Mass: *Dorothy Lampe † by B & R Brandenburg*

### Wed / December 27 - St. John, Apostle

9am - Mass: *Dec. Family Members † by B & R Brandenburg*

### Thu / December 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents

NO am Mass  
**B--I--N--G--O CANCELLED** - Join us New Years Eve!

### Fri / December 29 - St. Thomas Becket

9am - Mass: *Robert & Evelyn Lynch † by MVB*

### Sat / December 30

3-3:45pm - Confessions  
4pm - Vigil Mass: *Sarah Burton - SI by T & T Taylor*  
**Anointing of the Sick** after Mass, in the Church

### Sun / December 31 - Feast of the Holy Family

9am - Mass: *People of the Parish by Knights of Columbus*  
**Anointing of the Sick** after Mass, in the Church  
**Coffee & Donuts** after Mass, in the Parish Hall

**Coffee & Donuts** next week, December 31, will be served by Mel Hettinger & group # 7.

### **Birthdays Next Week:**

26-Jacinta DiCresce  
27-Michelle Gregory  
28-Tom Kihm  
30-Francis Bieg, Chuck Wolff  
31-Austin Bailey, Danny Mullins

*We wish you many blessings on your birthday!*

### Welcome to all Visitors

May your time with family & friends be blessed, & may you return home safely.

## Our Holy Day Mass Schedules

### December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas

Sun/Dec. 24: 4pm Children's Mass  
11:45pm Mass (*Carols at 11:30*)

Mon/Dec. 25: 9am Mass  
(The previously scheduled Latin Mass has been cancelled.)

*Christmas is a "Holy Day of Obligation". For those who may ask: the Sunday morning Mass does not fulfill your Holy Day obligation, and the Sunday evening Holy Day Mass does not fulfill your Sunday Mass obligation.*

### January 1<sup>st</sup> - Mary, Mother of God

Sun/Dec. 31: 4pm Mass

Mon/Jan. 1: 9am Mass

*January 1<sup>st</sup> is normally a Holy Day of Obligation; seeing it falls on Monday this year, the USCCB has removed the "obligation" to attend Mass. This day is still a Holy Day and the faithful are encouraged to attend Mass.*

### Second Collection on December 24/25

*Each Christmas we have a collection for the Diocesan Clergy Welfare Fund. Our diocesan priests have dedicated their lives to ministering and serving our families. This fund allows us to give back by providing care for our retired, senior and infirmed priests.*

### Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

*On behalf of St. Michael's staff, I wish to thank you all for your prayers, Christmas cards, and many expressions of kindness to us. We are very grateful. May God bless you with His gift of Peace and Love in the coming year!*

*~ Fr. Amal*

### THANKS!

*Many thanks to all for your generous support of our Second Collection for Christmas flowers to decorate our altar this Christmas Season. The poinsettias will remain on the altar until the Baptism of Our Lord, Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. After that time, anyone wanting a poinsettia may take one (please leave the other plants). May God richly bless you this Holy Season!*

**New Year's Eve**

**BINGO & Potluck Dinner**

Come join us for a night of fun ~ Door Prizes

***Please bring a dish to share***

Doors open - 5pm / Dinner - 5:30pm

BINGO approx. 7:15-10:30pm

*For more info call Izzy, 994-2243 ;  
or Ed, 257-2375*

**(NO BINGO Thur., Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, or Sun., Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>)**

**CHRISTMAS**

**“Christmas is not just a  
temporal celebration or the  
memory of a beautiful (event);  
Christmas is more....  
Christmas is an Encounter!”  
(The God Who is with US -  
Immanuel)  
~ Pope Francis**

☺ *Wishing you a happy week!* ☺

**Scripture Study will Resume in Jan.**

Scripture Study will resume January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:45pm. We will finish the Gospel of John using the book: “John 11-21: My Peace I Give you” by Kevin Perrotta. Make plans to join us! The book can be ordered on Amazon, or by calling Loyola Press, 800-621-1008.

There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. Please sign-up if you plan to attend so that we have an idea of the class size.

**2017 Contribution Statements**

If you use offering envelopes and would like a 2017 Contribution Statement, please call the Church Office to be put on the statement list. Statements will be mailed Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to start using church envelopes so you can get a statement next year, stop by the Church Office ASAP so we can get you signed-up. Thanks - Becky

**Attention All Women of the Parish**

*Mark your Calendar for January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for a "Come and See Tea". Watch for more information in the New Year.*

**Training Session Planned for EMHCs**

There will be another training session for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, for both at Mass and to the Sick, on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, following the 6pm Mass. Please pray about volunteering for this important ministry in our parish. Some who have served are no longer able. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**Adorers - when planning your holiday festivities, don't forget your Adoration hour. The Chapel will be open Christmas Day (beginning at 2pm) and New Year's Day (beginning at 10am).**

**Grief Support Group**

Peace Lutheran Church will be hosting a 13 week Grief-Share Program beginning Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. The group will meet from 10am to 12Noon weekly. The program is non-denominational and features biblical concepts for healing from grief. For more information call the church at 870-257-3957.

**Thank You - Knights of Columbus**

*Thank you to the Knights of Columbus who purchased a “Luna holder” to reverently house the Luna, used in the Monstrance, while it is being held in the Tabernacle. Its purchase was in memory of all deceased KC Members.*

**Ignatian Retreat**

Deepen your friendship with the Lord in sacred stillness & quiet. Experience an Ignatian Silent Directed Retreat at St. John's Center in LR, March 15-18. The cost of \$300 includes 3 nights lodging, nine meals, and daily spiritual direction. For more details see the announcement on the Church Hall bulletin board. To register, call the Vocations Office, 501-664-0340, ext. 337; or visit [www.dolr.org](http://www.dolr.org). Space is limited, so register soon.