

STEWARDSHIP AT OLOR

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

DECEMBER 17th/18th, 2011

\$6,855.00

Our goal of \$8,650.00 is necessary to meet all of our expenses each week (\$1,795.00 short last week).

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Welcome!!

Bienvenido!! Salve!!

Hwanyong!! Benvenuto!! Willkommen!!

The parishioners of Our Lady of Ransom welcome all those who may be visiting our church to celebrate God's love for us at Christmas. You are always most welcome!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK, ESPECIALLY....

Lola Aquilino, Helen Aigbokhaevbo, Pedro Alvarado, Linda Bamberger, Sister Barbara Browne, Ellen Buckley, Eleanor Campellone, Jane Caputo, Rosemarie Campagna, Marty Ciambrome, Mary Cerkez, Sophia Chin, Anna Marie Ciccone, Stephen Cifelli, Sam Cimino, Peg Clark, Charlotte Crane, Pat Cosgrove, Virginia Costine, Anne Coyle, Nancy Coyle, Tom D'Alessandro, Robert Davenport, Carol Davis, Gina Douglas, Tom D'Alessandro, Velia DiCicco, Patricia & Joe Doody, John Dorsey, Bruce-Mark-Rita Drzewicki, Barbara DeLuca, Betty Ann Duffy, Agnes Eckles, Edward & Mary Elisio, Chi Chi Encarnado, Joe Gillespie, Scott Endy, Gina Endy, George Escobar, Virginia Fagan, Joe Feliz, Donna Foley, Christine Flood, Mary Gallo, Liz Fogerty, Sam Franzone, Helen Gaigelas, Pat Gallagher, Tracy Gatto, Pat Gallagher, Carla Gillespie, Austin and Jocelynn Goodchild, Kathryn Gottshall, Lucy Griffin, Ed Jacobs, Brian Jaffe, Frances Juchno, Vera Jones, Peg Jordan, Seamus Kearney, Bernadine Kintzer, Gail Kosyla, Regina M. Kozul, Rose Kozul, Patrick Larson, Patti Lucas, Thomas Lund, Paul & Connie Marafino, Rev. James Martin, Roy Mayer, Michelle McGee, Marie McNichol, Bill Miller, Kay Mitchell, Noel Momain, Marie Moore, Helen Moran, Walt Murphy, Jule O'Brien, Teresa Ortiz, Anthony Oswald, Linda Pardo, Marian Perlsweig, Danielle Pesut, Anna Pittore, Elaine Prather, Ray Rachel, Lezli Rios, Sally Rodgers, Mary Schaffer, Gregg Schneider, Theresa Schultz, Catherine Schweiger, Joseph Schweitzer, Alice Sengal, Camillo Serano, Rosemarie Seyboth, Karen Shire, Jim Smith, Murray Snyder, Luke Spinelli, Richard Starr, Ronnie Sudul, Nicholas Sullivan, Bill Sweeney, Joan Thornton, Dolores Tomczuk, Jack Tomczuk, Kim Truitt, Arnold Valdino, Mike Walls, Marge Weil, Carl Westhafer, Ervin Wible III, Ervin Wible IV, Frank Wisniewski, Lisa Woods, Don Young, Michael Young, Jenna Young

Please pray for all of the deceased...

MSGR. JOHN SHARKEY KRISTEN PERRINE

Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord

SANCTUARY CANDLES AND BREAD & WINE MEMORIAL **FOR THIS WEEK (Dec. 25th thru 31st, 2011)**

The Sanctuary Candles in the Church burn:

*In memory of Faith Kornegay,
requested by The Stengel Family*

The Sanctuary Candles in the Chapel burn:

*In loving memory of Philip Pittore,
requested by Rita Pittore*

The candles of the Blessed Mother Altar burn:

*In loving memory of Theresa Robinson-Clarke,
requested by Mom, Dad, Catherine and Sean*

The candles of the Saint Joseph Altar burn:

*In loving memory of Charles Wambold,
requested by Marie T. Wambold*

The Bread & Wine at Mass is being provided:

*In memory of our parents, Arthur & Rose Pisacano,
requested by Jean and Sally*

THANK YOU to the Our Lady of Ransom School Students for a wonderful Christmas Pageant last week! Thanks also to all who worked so hard in putting this annual event together! It's just one example - of many - that shows how faith in Jesus brings out the best in our students! Thank you!
-- Fr. Sodano

THANKS FOR THE "GIVING TREE" GIFTS that you returned at Masses last weekend, to help those at Blessed Margaret Castello Home and Guiding Star Ministries. Many thanks!!!

SCRIP will NOT be distributed after Masses on Saturday, December 24th and Sunday, December 25th.

OLOR RECTORY will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 26th and 27th, as well as on Monday, January 2nd, 2012.

EACH CHRISTMAS GOD RENEWS HIS PROMISE

Long, long ago in a land far away, there came the dawn of the first Christmas Day,

And each year we see that promise reborn that God gave the world on that first Christmas morn...

For the silent stars in the timeless skies and the wonderment in a small child's eyes.

The Christmas songs the carolers sing, the tidings of joy that the Christmas bells ring

Remind us again of that still, silent night

*When the heavens shone with a wondrous light,
And the angels sang of peace on earth and told us of the Christ Child's birth -*

*For Christmas is more than a beautiful story,
It's the promise of life and eternal glory.*

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR:

Ashlee Edwards who is in the Marine Corps, cur. stateside
Joseph A. Danella (US Navy), currently deployed
Kenneth Keisler in the US Army, re-deployed to Afghanistan
Michael Sellers who is in the U.S. Army currently stateside
David Noe who is in the US Marine Corps currently stateside
Todd Beecher who is in the US Air Force, currently stateside
Shawn Mattison Jr. who is serving in Iraq
Michael O'Rourke who is in the U.S. Army, in Iraq
Christopher Flower who is in the Marines in Afghanistan
Joseph Mullin in the US Marine Corps, currently stateside
Joseph Baran who is in the US Air Force, currently stateside
Joseph Geiss who is in the US Navy, currently in Italy
Lisa Borek who is a Sargeant in the US Army currently in Iraq
Brian Wallace who is in the US Army currently stateside
Brian O'Shea who is in the US Marines in Afghanistan
Todd Endy who is in the US Army, currently in Afghanistan
Nisha Marrero who is in the US Army currently in Iraq
Bill Townsend who is in the US Marines, currently in Iraq
Ian Austin who is in the US Army, currently stateside
Michael Quinn who is in the US Army in Afghanistan
Kimberly Drzewicki who is in the US Army in Iraq
Krista Zielinski who is in the US Marines
Efrain Oyola who is in the US Army in Savannah, GA
Jude Cooke who is in the US Army currently in Iraq
Vincent Sodano who is in the US Army in Afghanistan
James Rice who is in the US Army, currently stateside

A PRAYER FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

Heavenly Father,
we pray for the members of our parish families and friends
who are serving our nation in the Armed Forces.

When they are afraid, give them courage.

When they are lonely,
comfort them with your presence.

When they are tempted to despair,
grant them a renewed hope.

Through the powerful intercession of the Holy Family of
Nazareth, grant your blessing to their families during this
difficult time.

Lord, bring them home safely so that they might join us in
giving you thanks
for the gift of freedom.

We ask this through the intercession of
Saint Joseph, Protector of Families;
Mary, Our Lady of Ransom;
and their Son Jesus, who is our Savior and who lives with
You and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. **AMEN**

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

(have some trivia fun with your family & friends...)

1. What item is the first thing usually hung on a Christmas tree?
2. What do English children expect to find their presents in?
3. How many points on a Christmas tree?
4. On what dates are gifts given in Italy?
5. What saint brought Christmas to Ireland in the 5th century?
6. What holiday film annually appears on TV more than 300 times?
7. According to superstition, what do cattle do at Midnight on Christmas Eve?
8. What romantic tradition did England save while others allowed it to perish?
9. Of the 365 days in a year, what number is Christmas Day?
10. What German tradition has never gained mass acceptance by the French?
11. On what day do French parents exchange presents?
12. According to superstition, what happens to bread baked on Christmas?
13. What department store chain is responsible for Rudolph?
14. What direction did the star lead the 3 Kings?
15. What is the English name for Christmas-tide?
16. Who is Santa's fastest reindeer?
17. What song originated in Austria and was intended to be accompanied by a guitar?
18. What singing cowboy was famous for his rendition of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?
19. How many reindeer does the Night Before Christmas mention?
20. This novelty tune first aired on the Perry Como show and was sung by a young man with a lisp...
21. What famous song did Irving Berlin write?
22. In England, the punch is called what?
23. What was Rudolph's punishment for his red nose?
24. How many pipers piping did my true love give to me?
25. What is the large mailing on Dec. 26th?
26. What popular toy was named after Theodore Roosevelt?
27. What country is credited with creating eggnog?
28. How many horses pull the sleigh in Jingle Bells?
29. Who said, "Don't you cry, I'll be back again someday?"
30. Why did Santa & Frosty leave Karen on top of the roof of her house when bringing her back home from the North Pole in the "Frosty" show?

THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE

The development of the candy cane took place over the past few hundred years. Before the invention of the modern pacifier, parents used to give their babies unflavored white sugar sticks to suck on. During the 1670's, a German choirmaster had the sugar sticks bent into a shepherd's staff and passed out to children attending the Christmas services. This holiday custom spread throughout Europe and fancy canes, decorated with roses, were used as Christmas decorations in many homes. About 1900, the white candy cane received its traditional red stripes & peppermint flavoring.

At the same time, the legend of the candy cane came into being. According to this legend, a candy cane maker in Indiana designed the candy cane to tell the true story of Christmas, a story about a virgin giving birth to a shepherd who would give up His life for the sheep.

First of all, he used a hard candy because Christ is the rock of ages. This hard candy was shaped so that it would resemble a "J" for Jesus or, turned upside down, a shepherd's staff. He made it white to represent the purity of Christ.

Finally a red stripe was added to represent the blood Christ shed for the sins of the world, and three thinner red stripes for the stripes He received on our behalf when the Roman soldiers whipped Him. Sometimes a green strip is added as a reminder that Jesus is a gift from God.

The flavor of the cane is peppermint, which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is in the mint family and was used in the Old Testament for purification and sacrifice. Jesus is the pure Lamb of God, come to be a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

So, every time you see a candy cane, remember the message of the candy maker ~ Jesus is the Christ!



ANSWERS TO "CHRISTMAS TRIVIA"

- lights
- their stockings
- five/six
- Jan. 6th
- St. Patrick
- It's a Wonderful Life
- speak
- kissing under the mistletoe
- 359
- Christmas tree
- New Years Day
- it never gets moldy
- Montgomery Wards
- westward
- yule
- Dasher
- Silent Night
- Gene Autry
- 8
- All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth
- White Christmas
- The Wassil Bowl
- no reindeer games
24. 11
- tax forms
- teddy bear
- USA
- 1
- Frosty the Snowman
- (This bulletin editor still doesn't know...but always wondered why they'd leave a kid on the roof...)

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Did you ever wonder what the "Twelve Days of Christmas" was all about? Well, from 1558 to 1829, the Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. (Can you imagine?) Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to the members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality that the children could remember.

- * The **partridge in the pear tree** was Jesus Christ
- * The **2 turtle doves** were the Old & New Testaments
- * The **3 French hens** stood for faith, hope & charity
- * The **4 calling birds** were the 4 Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- * The **5 golden rings** recalled the Torah or Law, the first 5 books of the Bible
- * The **6 geese-a-laying** stood for the 6 days of creation
- * The **7 swans-a-swimming** represented the 7-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit
- * The **8 maids-a-milking** were the 8 Beatitudes
- * The **9 ladies dancing** were the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit (*Galations 5*)
- * The **10 lords-a-leaping** were the 10 Commandments
- * The **11 pipers piping** stood for the 11 faithful disciples
- * And, finally, the **12 drummers drumming** symbolized the 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

*O God,
bless our family and all
its members and friends;
bind us together by Your love.
Give us kindness and patience
to support each other,
and wisdom in all we do.
Let the gift of Your peace come
into our hearts and remain with us.
May we rejoice in Your blessings
for all our days. Amen.*

Rev. Thomas Sodano, Parochial Administrator
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