

Altar Society Duties for December 2015

Funerals—Circle 7; Albs—Circle 10

Coffee Hour—Circle 6; No Duty—Circle 9

Would you like to donate a Poinsettia in memory of your family or loved one.? Please bring it to the parish office no earlier than Noon December 21st.



Knights of Columbus

A special "thank you" for the Great Float in this years Baker City Christmas parade

For the past seven years, Scott Sherman has coordinated the creation of a very attractive float in the Baker City parade and it —**evangelizes what Christmas is really about!** A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO Scott and Kerry Sherman, Leo and Tonna Haw, Art and Catalins Corona, RE Director, Tammy Skidmore and all the young children and adults that filled the long trailer of Scott's truck with Christmas music, caroling and a Nativity Manger/scene in full view as the float moved down the parade route. There was no question what the theme of the float was: The Birth of the Lord and Family.

IS EVERYONE HELPING "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" ??

The Knights' encourage everyone to help **"Keep Christ in Christmas."** A list with some simple, inexpensive, no cost ideas you and your family can do to help strengthen and evangelize the message to Keep Christ in Christmas are available at the back of the Church (or contact a Knight or stop by the Parish Office to obtain a copy).

If you have not yet started an Advent Wreath to share at the evening meal, there are still **12 Days Before Christmas!!** Start Now!! Durable yard signs, can be purchased from the Knights' for \$8.00. KCIC Seals for use with your December mailings are available at the back of Church. Ask for religious postage stamps at the Post Office. If you still send Christmas cards, check out the cards available in the parish hall following Mass. Also, don't forget to have a Nativity scene or crèche displayed in your home or yard for all to see.

Remember, Catholics are not the only group that is recognizing the true meaning of Christmas. It is a Christian value.. Therefore, we should ask ourselves, **"Besides promoting this message at home or my own yard, what can I do to promote this message with my neighbors or my community."**

WONDERING WHAT TO GET YOUR HUSBAND or SON FOR CHRISTMAS?

How about a ticket to the Northwest Catholic Men's Conference, February 26th and 27th, 2016 in Pendleton, OR? Inspiring presentations by Bishop Peter Christensen (Bishop of Boise).

Bishop Liam Cary (Bishop of Baker), Fr. Theodore Lange (Oregon State Chaplain, Knights of Columbus), Fr. Kumar Udgandla (St. Mary's Parish) and Mark Shea (author & speaker) will be featured during the Conference that begins Friday at 4:00PM and ends with a final blessing, Saturday, at 5:00PM. The theme of this years conference is **"Be Strong in the Lord."**

Fathers and sons and single men, age 15 and older, are welcome to attend. The cost is \$40.00 and includes 3 meals. Registration forms and additional information is available at www.nwcmg.com or by calling St. Mary's Parish (541) 276-3615.

Religious Education

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, it is called Gaudete Sunday, which means "rejoice". The pink candle is lit on the Advent Wreath today. In today's Gospel, Paul encourages the people to look past their conflicts and troubles and rejoice because the Lord is near. God is near, he will never leave you, he will always be with you.

Signs of Success

Congratulations! You are practicing JOYFULNESS when you . . .

- Look inside for your inner happiness.
- Believe that God created you and loves you always.
- Enjoy whatever it is that you are doing.
- Appreciate some gift in yourself.
- Feel an inner peace even when things are tough.
- Remember to laugh.

✠ AFFIRMATION ✠

I am thankful for the joy I feel inside. I enjoy my work and my play. I appreciate the gifts this day holds for me.

Thank you to Scott and Kerry Sherman, Leo and Tonna Haw and Art and Catalina Corona for the wonderful work they did on the Christmas float.

It was beautiful!

Thank you to all the youth and parents who sang and waved to the people during the parade. The float won the Baker City Twilight Parade best in Music Award. Great Job!

RE CLASSES—December 18th—7PM to 8PM

Covenant of Love - December 19

Date Night Saturday, December 19th @ 7:00 PM
Old Antler's Building, Corner of 1st & Washington.

Couples of all ages are welcome to attend. Come enjoy a relaxing evening with other couples. Please bring an appetizer to share and a beverage of your choice. Ben and Cynthia Norton will be hosting. Contact Cynthia Norton at 541-523-5652 for more information.