

*Our Lady of Lourdes Monthly Calendar*  
*Advent Penance Service ~ Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 1:00PM*

## DECEMBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>2 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>                      RCIA 9A                      Sunday School 10:30A                      Teen Ministry 10:30A                      Parenting Class 10:30A                      Women's Council 11:30A                      St. Vincent De Paul 11:45A                      Centennial Gala Meeting 12N</p>	<p><b>3 Liturgy Meeting 7P</b>                      Life After the Pink Slip 7P</p>	<p><b>4 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A</b>                      Zumba Class 5:45P                      Baptismal Prep 7P                      Lector Prep 7P</p>	<p><b>5 Bible Study 7:00P</b>                      AGLD Rehearsal 7P</p>	<p><b>6 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A</b>                      Choir &amp; AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1</b>                      SVDP Meeting 9A                      Lector Prep 10:30A                      Eucharistic Minister Train 12N                      Dance by Kenya 1:30P                      Rosary 4:30PM                      5:00PM Eucharist</p>
<p><b>9 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>                      Sunday School 10:30A                      Teen Ministry 10:30A                      Parenting Class 10:30A                      KPCLA Meeting 1:30P                      Jr. Division Meeting 1:30P                      Dancer's Benefit 3:30P</p>	<p><b>10 Stand Up for Kids 4P</b>                      Pastoral Council 7P</p>	<p><b>11 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A</b>                      Zumba Class 5:45P</p>	<p><b>12 Bible Study 7:00P</b>                      AGLD Rehearsal 7P</p>	<p><b>13 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A</b>                      Choir &amp; AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> SVDP Meeting 9A                      Lourdes History Committee 10:30                      Advent Penance Service 1P                      Dance by Kenya 1:30P                      Centennial Committee 3:30P                      Rosary 4:30PM                      5:00PM Eucharist                      VAG Meet &amp; Greet 6:30P</p>
<p><b>16 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>                      Sunday School 10:30A                      Teen Ministry 10:30A                      Parenting Class 10:30A                      St. Vincent De Paul 11:45A                      Haiti Committee 12N</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A</b>                      Zumba Class 5:45P</p>	<p><b>19 Bible Study 7:00P</b>                      AGLD Rehearsal 7P</p>	<p><b>20 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A</b>                      Choir &amp; AGLD Rehearsal 7:30P</p>	<p><b>21 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Winter</b>                      Men's Ministry                      Movie Night for Edgewood 7:30P</p>	<p><b>22</b>                      Eucharist 11:00A                      Dance by Kenya 1:30P                      Rosary 4:30PM                      5:00PM Eucharist</p>
<p><b>23 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>                      Sunday School 10:30A                      Teen Ministry 10:30A                      Parenting Class 10:30A</p>	<p><b>24 Christmas Eve</b>                      Church Office Closed                      4PM ~ Family Mass                      7PM ~ Children's Mass                      12Midnight Mass @                      Ebenezer Sanctuary                      Caroling starts at 11P</p>	<p><b>25 Christmas Day</b>                      10:00AM Eucharist                      Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>26 Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>27 Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>28 Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>29</b>                      Rosary 4:30PM                      5:00PM Eucharist</p>
<p><b>30 No Sunday School</b>                      RCIA 9A</p>	<p><b>31 New Years Eve</b>                      Church Office Closed                      Watchnight                      11:00PM</p>					

*Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 ~ 4PM, Family Mass & 7PM, Children's Mass*  
*Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24 ~ Midnight Mass will be at Ebenezer Horizon Sanctuary*  
*Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25 ~ 10AM Eucharist*

**IS THIS THE NEW NORMAL?**

In September, NBC launched *The New Normal*, a comedy series about a gay couple who use a surrogate mother to start a family. No doubt creators of the show recognized that surrogacy is an increasingly popular alternative for infertile couples and others unable to bear their own children. In the political season just past, in fact, Mitt Romney noted that four of his own grandchildren were actually carried by a surrogate.

Surrogate mothers are ordinarily paid for their services. Genetic surrogates bear children conceived through artificial insemination, while gestational surrogates carry embryos conceived in labs ("test tube babies"), but neither maintain an ongoing parental connection with their children after birth. As a *New Normal* character says, a surrogate mom is "just like an easy bake oven, except with no legal rights to the cupcake."

**FEMINIST SUPPORT FOR A CONSERVATIVE VETO**

For that very reason, the feminist National Organization for Women (NOW) recently gave a surprisingly strong endorsement to New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's veto of legislation that seemed to encourage gestational surrogacy. Christie opposed this "profound change in the traditional beginnings of the family," agreeing with feminist arguments that surrogacy arrangements treat mothers as if they were just incubators who carry babies for men while offering nothing of lasting value to their children.

**TWO SIDES OF A SAD TRANSACTION**

A November *New York Times* story, "Making Babies, Just to Make Ends Meet," recounts the experience of a middle-aged woman who has served as a surrogate for three different couples. Her most recent baby went to a wealthy older couple, and she carried an ice chest with her to the hospital because, as she explained, "They bought the milk, too." Though her last pregnancy left her "green eyes shimmering with pain and worry," she is debating whether to rent her womb once again because she badly wants a decent house for her own family and thinks, "It's the only way to get a down payment."

"How do you think we feel about being created specifically to be given away?" asks a teen named Brian in a blog he created to discuss being a product of such a surrogate arrangement. "You can dress it up in as many pretty words as you want," but, he insists, "It looks to me like I was bought and sold." Even though sometimes it "doesn't show up until we're in our teens or young adults," he concludes, "nothing can console us."

**"BABIES ARE NOT COMMODITIES"**

Catholic teaching supports Brian's point: "Babies are not commodities. Babies are human beings." Catholics believe that no one has a "right to a child," but every child has the right to be born "of one father and one mother who are father and mother both from a biological and a legal point of view." Yet we also recognize the hardships of infertility, which is often keenly felt during the Christmas season. That's why our bishops urge compassion for childless couples and endorse "methods for treating the infertile couple with full respect for the dignity of the spouses and for the life to be born."

For more information, see **Addressing Infertility with Compassion and Clarity**, online at <http://old.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/2009/presslength/mindling.shtml>