

December 14, 2008: 3rd Sunday of Advent



John answered them, "I baptize with water; but, there is One among you Whom you do not recognize, the One Who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." – Jn 1:26-27

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, Dec. 14 (Is 61:1-2a,10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28)

8:00 AM- James Grahmann

10:30 AM- Jim & Josephine Gutierrez

Monday, December 15 (Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27)

7:00 AM- Herbert Bludau

10:00 AM- Special Intention – Mass of Thanksgiving
(H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, December 16 (Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32)

7:00 AM- Henrietta Pesek

Wednesday, December 17 (Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17)

7:00 AM- Adolf, Mary, Jerome & Freddie Jansky

8:05 AM- Julius Olsovsky

6:15 PM- (CCD Mass) Deceased members of Henry Grahmann

Family

Thursday, December 18 (Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25)

7:00 AM- Special Intention

10:00 AM- Leon Sitka (Stevens)

Friday, December 19 (Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25)

7:00 AM- Hedwig "Hedy" Pustejovsky

8:05 AM- Tom, Rosie & Molly Pesek

Saturday, December 20 (Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38)

5:30 PM- Herbert, Robert & Wilbert Greer; H.G. Cobb

Sunday, Dec. 21 (2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Rom16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38)

8:00 AM- For our Parish Family

10:30 AM- Eugene & Eva Brent

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of Jim & Josephine Gutierrez by Bob & Lou Kubena.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In memory of Alvin J. Grahmann by Don & Barbara Rainosek.

Vigil Light Sponsor: Special Intention for surgery & recovery.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,778.50; Loose-\$1,356; Children's-\$48; Building Repair Fund-\$634.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Thelma Owen and James Kouba of our parish family; Gene Vacek, brother of Judy Renger; and Lucille Friesenhan, sister of Anita Drabek and Bernie Bludau. *May they & all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

Calendar Membership Winners: Dec 4: Janet Brier-\$100; **Dec 5:** Robert & Sharon Reagan, Harker Heights-\$100; **Dec 8:** James Zaruba-\$50; **Dec 9:** Arthur Etzler, Jr., Houston-\$50; **Dec 10:** Glenda Trlicek-\$50.

Catholic Daughters Cookbooks available for sale at AllMed Sales & Rentals, Rainosek's True Value or call Barbara Grahmann 798-4167.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

-KJZT #2 Christmas Party in the Family Center. Social 4:00 p.m. Dinner provided by the Society at 5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

-Rosary & Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

-SHCS Booster Club Fudge delivery, 3-8 p.m., KC Hall.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

-Quilting Circle: 9 a.m. – Noon, KC Hall of Fame Room.

-RCIA Class: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. in the Family Center.

-Serra Club meet at 7:00 p.m., Jalisco's Cafe.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

-CCD: Grades K – 11th, 6:00 – 7:10 p.m.

-Spiritual Book Study: 6:00 – 7:10 p.m. in the Rectory.

-Divine Mercy Prayer Group, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Rm.

AMONG OUR SICK: Hubert Grahmann, Deacon Marvin Fikac, Mary Laas, Jacque Holchak, Alvin Rosenauer, Frank Luke, Douglas Bludau, Macey Moeller, Margaret Flores, Mary Ann Gaitan, Virginia Pederson, Odessa Blumberg, Debbie Fishbeck, Johnny Rainosek, Josie Ohnheiser, Clint Brewer, Mason Leibham, Josie Muniz, David Tomek, Riley Mika, Joyce Svetlik, Louise Tesch, Mary Bonorden, Marie Grafe, Loraine Butschek, Jesse Cavazos, Bernice Woytek, Evelyn Henke, Lillie Sitka, Harvey Prasek, Annette Krupala, Thelma Mikulenska, Alphonse Steffek, Mary Ann Kana, Bill Chapline, Anthony Corte, Philip Schlageter, Maggie Volcik, Matthew Walker, Amanda Conniff, Marcella Henke, Margaret Timm, Madeline Lakey, Sylvester Garza, Harry Jackson, Helen M. Appelt, Luke Bludau, Mary Kaiser, Michael Kutac, nursing home residents & homebound.

Area Penance Services:

Yoakum – Monday, December 15, 5:30 p.m.

Shiner – Tuesday, December 16, 5:30 p.m.

Hallettsville – Thursday, December 18, 5:30 p.m.

Moulton – Friday, December 19, 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Confession Schedule

Sacred Heart:

Friday, December 19, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 20, 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Monday, December 22, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 23, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

St. Mary's: Saturday, December 20, 10:00 a.m.

Moravia: Saturday, December 20, 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.

St. John: Monday, December 22, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Christmas shopping? Come by the Rectory Gift Shop to check out our selection of Nativity sets, Advent Wreaths, ornaments, statues, afghans, history books, cook books, bibles, rosaries, medals and much more.

Donations for Christmas Flowers: You may come by the Rectory or place your donation in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket.



Jr. Catholic Daughters Christmas Party on Monday, Dec. 15 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Family Center. Each girl is asked to bring a \$5 gift for the gift exchange.

This is the third week of Advent. Rejoice! The third week of Advent begins with *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete*, meaning "rejoice," is the first word of the opening antiphon for the Mass on this day: Rejoice in the Lord always. The joy of *Gaudete* Sunday shows in the use of rose as the liturgical color – for example, on the Advent wreath and the priest's vestments.

The gospel readings for this Sunday reveal to us the reason for our joy: the identity of Jesus. He is the Word made flesh, the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Let us prepare the way by confessing our sins. Advent resounds with the theme of reconciliation and the call to repentance. That call is not about dwelling on our sins and being even more burdened by them, but the opposite: bringing them to God in sorrow and hope for forgiveness.

We have our Advent reconciliation service on Thursday, December 18, and other opportunities for individual confession during the week. It is a fitting time to approach Jesus in this sacrament – and to be able to approach Him in the Eucharist on Christmas with a renewed heart.



The Youth ConneXion



December 14: High School Youth gathering & Christmas party has been moved to December 21 after Firefall.

December 21: Firefall at 6:00 p.m. in the church followed by High School Youth gathering & Christmas Party at the Youth House. Those who would like to participate in the White Elephant Gift Exchange need to bring a \$10 gift that is suitable for anyone.

Religious Education – Janice Busselman 798-3124

December 17: Mass at 6:15 p.m. for CCD students & their parents. Liturgy by 11th Grade.

December 24 & 31: No CCD (Christmas Holidays).

*Sacred Heart Catholic School News
(361) 798-4251*

***Band Christmas Concert:** Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. Refreshments will be served.

***PreK – 2nd Grade Christmas Program:** December 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Everyone is invited to attend.

***Early Dismissals:**

December 17 at 12:00 noon, 9th – 12th Grades.
December 18 at 2:00 p.m., PreK – 12th Grades.
December 19 at 12:00 noon, PreK – 12th Grades. Classes dismissed for Christmas Holidays. There will be no extended day care.

***Classes resume** January 5, 2009.

Lord, make straight His paths.”

Mk 1:3

Third Sunday of Advent

Many of us struggle with the concept of being outwardly faithful and helping others to understand the warmth of the light of life and fire of the Holy Spirit that fills us. Often, we are fearful of what others will think of us; we don't like to be embarrassed or ridiculed for our beliefs. But what is the worst that could happen? Those who laugh or point fingers in disgust are the very ones we need to reach. We may not immediately see that we've reached them, but at some point that light we enjoy may also shine on them. Truly, it would be worse if we were able to show that light, and yet did nothing.

Today's Gospel reading from John is the story of the questioning of St. John the Baptist by the priests and Levites of Jerusalem. They mocked him, asking if he was the prophet Elijah, or any other prophet for that matter. After all, what right did he have to claim to know something about the coming of the long-awaited Messiah? He was just a man who spent his days among sinners, baptizing them in the waters of the Jordan. Who was he? "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord'" as Isaiah the prophet said." That's who he was.

John was not afraid to profess who He was or in whose name He gave great glory. We are taught in the Catechism, "The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it" (CCC 1816). John might have simply lived his life knowing his belief in God and Jesus Christ would be enough for his salvation, yet he went further. In this season of Advent, challenge yourself to not only live your faith, but to share in its great joy with others.



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Prayer for Rain: Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We



realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. To think that so much water can fall out of the sky, which now is empty and clear! We place our trust in You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of men will be made glad. Amen.

Pro-Life: Between 1900 & 1953 over 1,000,000 Americans had died in car crashes, nearly double the combined American deaths in both world wars. Yet in a single year over 1,400,000 babies die from decriminalized surgical abortion. The loss of life is always a tragedy; more so when abortion deaths are preventable.

Victoria Diocese Pastoral Institute offering Scripture classes at the Chancery & Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn (via distant learning) January 6 to February 10. Classes will be offered twice on Tuesdays, from 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. and at 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. Registration fee \$15; Bibles \$35. For more information, call



A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the

573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.