

December 6, 2009: Second Sunday of Advent



John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. — Lk 3:3

Illustration from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCSS

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, December 6 (Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6,8-11/Lk3:1-6)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family

10:30 am- Joe Zappe

Monday, December 7, St. Ambrose (Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26)

7:00 am- Louis, Stazie & Jerome Haas

10:00 am- Special Intention (Hallettsville Rehab)

6:00 pm- Special Intention (Vigil Mass for Holy Day)

Tuesday, December 8, Immaculate Conception of Blessed

Virgin Mary (Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38)

6:45 am- Dennis Smirak

Holy Day of Obligation

8:05 am- Georgia Bohuslav

12:05 pm- Priests

Wednesday, Dec. 9, St. Juan Diego (Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30)

7:00 am- Harold & Georgia Ludwig

8:05 am- Pete Steinberg

Thursday, December 10 (Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15)

7:00 am- Deceased members of John Michna Family

10:00 am- Alfred & Josephine Treptow, Hubert Tobola (Stevens)

Friday, Dec. 11, St. Damascus I (Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19)

7:00 am- Living & dec. members of Adolf & Minnie Berger

8:05 am- Leo (Buck), Lillian & George Henneke

Saturday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38)

5:30 pm- Herbert, Robert, Wilbert & Heddy Greer, H.G. Cobb

Sunday, December 13 (Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family

10:30 am- Jim & Josephine Gutierrez

Bulletin Sponsor: In honor of Joe N. Steffek's 91st birthday by John & Frances Bock Family.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In memory of Joe P. Zappe by Josie Zappe Family.

Vigil Light: Living & deceased members of Neskora & Hermes Families.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,614; Church Endowment-\$70; Loose-\$1,505; Children's-\$58; Thanksgiving-\$536; Campaign for Human Dev.-\$588; Cemetery-\$564; Catholic Education Envelopes-\$620.

November Baptisms: Kayla Ann, daughter of Coy & Shelley Sunderman; Colton Michael, son of Michael & Brooke Dieringer; Jacob Stephen, son of Matthew & Lisa Motal; Kenton Allen, son of Kenneth & Lindsey Kirkland; Alexander Tandy & Atalaya Lynn, children of Jason & Pamela Fenner.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Frank Mikes, Sr.*, father of Jimmy Mikes & Sandy Zaruba; and, John Hollerich. *May they rest in the peace of Christ.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

-Christian Mothers Christmas Party, 2:00 p.m., Family Center.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

-JCDA meeting, 3:45-5:00 p.m., Family Center.

- No Rosary & evening prayer this evening.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.

-RCIA Class, 7:00 p.m., Family Center.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

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

-Spiritual Book Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

-Pan Dulce & Coffee after 5:30 pm Mass, Family Center.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

-Firefall at 6:00 p.m. in church. Parishioners are invited to join the youth in Eucharistic Adoration.

AMONG OUR SICK: Hubert Grahmann, Alvin Rosenauer, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Josie Ohnheiser, Mason Leibham, Riley Mika, Mary Bonorden, Annette Krupala, Anthony Corte, Amanda Conniff, Margaret Timm, Helen M. Appelt, Michael Kutac, Rosalie Simpson, Ed Aulick, Paige Haas, Anita Kallus, Hubert Etzler, Jeff Zavesky, Renae Ross, Alma Jurena, Kate Kopecky, Michael L. Drozd, Bill Biehunko, Lindal Finley, Frank Fishar, Pam Dornak, Clayton Patek, Suzanne Romano, Mary Agnes Grahmann, Alice Kocian, Anita Bohuslav, Betty Toman, MacKenzie Fogle, Henri Mae Patek, Louise Pesek, Doyleen Drozd, Bryce Saldi, Travis Klmitchek, Judith Koerth, Thelma Mikulenska, Louise Tesch, Sharon Grahmann, Sandra Henneke, Mary Ann Koenig, Ronald Kanak, Marcella Henke, Helen Mitchon, Tillie Schott, Robert Vasek, Georgia Schaefer, Geraline Morgenroth, Joseph Ilardo, Anthony Petru, Dolores Ludwig, Denise Lewis, Evelyn Kutac, Barbara Tesch, Emil Grahmann, nursing home residents, homebound.



If you would like to contribute toward the Christmas Poinsettias, you may bring your donation to the Rectory or place it in an envelope & drop it in the collection basket. Thank you!

For those who have not picked up their picture taken for the parish directory, please pick it up in the foyer of the church.

The Christian Mothers are updating their records. To verify membership status (dues owed), make address or phone number corrections, or to cancel membership, please call Rhonda Brown at 798-1937.

Christian Mothers Christmas Party, Dec. 6, 2:00-4:00 pm, Family Center. Members are to bring a dessert & a gift for their child for Santa's visit.



KJZT Society #2 Christmas Party, Sunday, Dec. 13, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner at 5:00 p.m. provided by the Society. Members & spouses are invited. RSVP by December 9 to Bea Heinzel 798-4186.



From the Desk of Father John

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. We also celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas.

According to the old folk tale, St. Nicholas "Svatý Mikuláš" comes from heaven every year on the night of December 5th. He visits the houses of all the children accompanied by an angel "andel" and a devil "cert."

The visits were different in each locality. In the poorest areas, children hung socks on the windows or doors at night and the next morning, they found the gifts for their behavior.

On the other hand, in the richer areas, St. Nicholas visited children personally. St. Nicholas received great respect, the angel represented calmness and peace, and the devil wanted to know if the children had been good or bad all year. St. Nicholas asked the parents about the behavior of the children. If he was satisfied with their answer he gifted the children with apples, nuts and sweets. The non-behaving children received unbaked potatoes and coals instead of candy or other treats until they learned to behave better!

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time, the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young.

Obedying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man.

Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. He was released later and he died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day.

St. Nicholas is patron of sailors and protector of children and ferrymen.

Next Saturday, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas. We will have the Spanish Choir at the 5:30 Mass on Saturday. Afterwards we will have some Pan Dulce (sweet bread) and coffee in the Family Center.



The Youth ConneXion



December 13: Youth meet in church at 5:00 p.m. Firefall at 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Christmas Party in the Youth House after Firefall.

Music Practice: Mondays, 6:00 p.m., Youth House.

Religious Education (CCD) ~~ Office 798-3124

Janice Busselman, Coordinator
Angela McConnell, Assistant

December 9: Teacher In-service, 7:15 – 8:45 p.m., Family Center.

December 16: CCD Christmas Mass, 6:05 p.m.

December 23 & 30: CCD classes dismissed for Christmas & New Year's Holiday.

Sacred Heart Catholic School ~~ 798-4251

December 7: PreK Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m., Gym.

December 10: 3rd – 4th Grade Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m., Gym.

December 13: Band Christmas Concert, 6:00 p.m., Gym. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Please bring a non-perishable food item for LAMB.

Calendar Membership: **Nov. 26:** Nicole Bell-\$100; **Nov. 27:** Irene Szwarc-\$100; **Nov. 30:** Jason Bludau, Houston-\$50; **Dec. 1:** Hubert & Mary Grahmann-\$50; **Dec. 2:** Edward & Patty Grahmann-\$50.

Advent Wreath Prayer Week 2 (2 purple candles lit):
Father in heaven, set our hearts ablaze to follow in the steps of John the Baptist. May we bring light & love to all we meet, that the darkness of sin & fear may be overcome. In Christ's name we ask this. Amen. (Candle is left burning during evening meal, at prayers or at bedtime.)



K.C.'s & Catholic Daughters Christmas Party,

Tuesday, December 15. Social 6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Spouses are invited. Ladies are to bring a snack for the social. Donation of \$3 per person at

the door. Please RSVP by December 11 (KC Hall 798-2311, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.).

Victoria Diocese Pastoral Institute 6-week Scripture course "Trinity" taught by Ron Friedel at the Chancery & via distance learning to Hostyn on Tuesdays 9:15–11:30 a.m. & 7:00–9:15 p.m., January 5 – February 9. For information or to register, call Barbara Parkan at 573-0828.

Choose Life: Writing in the *Michigan Law Review* about Oregon's assisted suicide law, two physicians stated that reasonable sounding safeguards, which proponents said were there to protect patients, do not appear to have achieved that purpose and are easily circumvented. "As a result, Oregon physicians appear to have been given great power without being in a position to exercise it responsibly." *NRL News*, June, 2008. *Let us pray for all those involved with providing and performing abortions.*

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Emilie Bitala:

Leo & Evelyn Hoffer 20.00

Sherry Hale 10.00

Peoples State Bank 10.00

In memory of Beatrice Melnar:

Marcus Melnar 20.00

FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER, 2009

Church Income:

Sunday Collections	\$ 24,209.50
Other Donations	3,586.00
World Mission Collection	479.00
Religious Articles	1,003.90
Family Center Rent	565.00
October Interest	<u>688.23</u>
Total Church Income	<u>\$ 30,531.63</u>

Church Expense:

Salaries	\$ 6,578.15
Utilities	2,145.15
Church Expense	1,290.12
Rectory Expense	176.87
Office Expense	1,004.76
Religious Articles	1,053.73
Family Center Expense	378.66
Repairs & Maintenance	643.00
Special Collections	479.00
Building Insurance	<u>1,650.19</u>
Total Church Expense	<u>\$ 15,399.63</u>

School Income:

Tuition: K-12 th	\$ 47,242.50
Tuition: PreK	6,275.00
Field Trips	104.00
Bus Fees	150.00
Extended Care	2,355.00
Catholic Education Envelopes	1,275.00
Memorials	530.00
Athletics	2,000.00
Donations	45.00
Miscellaneous	<u>3,379.00</u>
Total School Income	<u>\$ 63,355.50</u>

School Expense:

Salaries	\$ 71,992.31
Contracted Services	903.84
Office & Teaching Supplies	1,697.26
Extended Care Supplies	107.72
Postage	378.73
Staff Development	35.00
Public Relations	410.90
Testing	299.00
Textbooks	2,845.97
Library Expense	1,336.91
Utilities	5,651.06
Plant Repairs	2,246.88
Bus & Van Expense	1,906.06
Payroll Taxes	5,366.93
Medical Insurance	12,338.04
Retirement Fund	3,456.68
Property Insurance	2,597.13
Convent Expense	755.79
Acquisition of Equipment	1,491.00
Technology	304.47
Marathon Expense	3,675.00
Miscellaneous	<u>499.17</u>
Total School Expense	<u>\$120,295.85</u>

Parish Income	\$ 93,887.13
Parish Expense	- 135,695.48
Parish Deficit	\$ (41,808.35)

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

<u>In memory of Elizabeth Kleiber:</u>	
Clarence & Gladys Dittrich	10.00

2nd Sunday of Advent

The very music swells and lifts at the beginning of George Frederick Handel's Messiah as the tenor sings, "Every valley shall be exalted." The staccato of "ev-ry va-al-ley" jumps up the scale as though the music itself is lifting up the valleys making a level path and a smooth highway. Performances of the Messiah abound this time of year in concert halls, churches, and on television. Listen closely, and you may even hear selections punctuate the piped in music of malls and department stores.

What is fascinating is that most people associate one of the most famous selections from the Messiah with Christ-mas. But the renowned "Hallelujah" chorus is not part of the Christmas section of Messiah. It comes at the end of part two, the section devoted to Christ's passion, death, and (hallelujah!) resurrection. There is a certain wisdom in associating this Easter message with the Advent – Christmas season. It is Christ's resurrection from the dead that is the origin of our faith. And while we prepare to celebrate His birth, what we are ultimately called to do is to be ready for when He comes again.

The prophet's message that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God," is a reminder in this Advent season of where we are really headed. It's likely that we're getting into our cars a little more often these days heading to stores and parties and Christmas events. We hope that the road we travel will be smooth. But the prophet's vision isn't about highway projects. It is about eternal salvation. Maybe when we get behind the wheel each day this month we can just say a little prayer asking God to keep us on the right path.



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SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

<u>In memory of Ben Spanihel:</u>	25.00
<u>In memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:</u>	25.00
<u>In memory of Ignac Krejci:</u>	25.00
<u>In memory of Ludwig Pete Steinberg:</u>	25.00
Knights of Columbus Council 2433	
<u>In memory of Beatrice Melnar:</u>	
Ben & Mary Lee Brosch	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Sitka	15.00
Annie & Dorothy Svetlik	15.00
Robert & Barbara Grahmann	10.00
R. L. & Elsie Orsak	15.00
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Brzozowske	20.00
Gladys Vrazel	10.00
<u>In memory of Oscar Barta:</u>	
Melinda Wycoff, Cathy McVey, & Charlotte Whitten	100.00
Peoples State Bank	10.00
Doris Opela	10.00
Jimmy & Barbara Lloyd	15.00
Knights of Columbus Council 2433	25.00
<u>In memory of Dennis Appelt:</u>	
Peoples State Bank	10.00
<u>In memory of Elizabeth Kleiber:</u>	
Doris Opela	20.00
Vaclav & Vickie Netardus	5.00

Growing in FAITH™

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December 2009

One Minute Meditations

Mary's faith

Like us, Mary got confused by God's instructions. When the angel appeared and told her of her role in God's plan, she was "greatly troubled" and confused enough to ask, "How can this be ...?" (Luke 1:29, 34). Even the full explanation was too enormous for her to completely understand. It was Mary's great faith in God that caused her to say, "Yes," to whatever he asked.

The Advent wait

We spend Advent waiting for something wonderful to happen. Yet in our impatience to get to that something wonderful, we can forget that the wait can be wonderful, too. Try taking it one week at a time and wait, hope, prepare, and rejoice at the miracle of Christ's birth.

A Catholic difference

As Catholics, we are never alone in our efforts. We are members of the Church, the body of Christ, and together we make a real difference.



Celebrate Christmas like the first one

Celebrating Christmas can be anything but peaceful. Between the extra spending, shopping, and holiday activities leading up to Christmas, we may be more stressed at this time than at any other time of year.

Yet Jesus certainly doesn't want it that way. He spent his first day on Earth in a manger. His first outfit was little more than wrappings of cloth and his first gifts weren't entertaining. Why not learn from the first Christmas how to truly celebrate his birth?

Surround yourself with family. Jesus spent that first night in the company of his parents. Their gifts to him were simple: love and attention. Celebrate Christ's birth with family or invite

others who would otherwise celebrate alone.

Praise God like the angels. "And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God" (Luke 2:13). There is an abundance of amazing Christmas hymns and carols to sing out praise. Renew the tradition of caroling in your neighborhood or host a caroling party by inviting family and friends to share their joy through song.

Give gifts from the heart. The Magi "opened their treasures and offered him gifts" (Matt. 2:11). What gifts can you offer from your treasure of talents? Remember, gifts from the heart are more valuable than anything you can find in a store.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe Mary was born without Original Sin?

The *Catechism* teaches that God gave Mary all the gifts necessary for her to become mother of our Savior. In fact, when the angel Gabriel addressed Mary as "full of grace" in Luke 1:28, he meant that Mary had the special divine



help necessary for the task ahead.

While we are cleansed of original sin at Baptism, Pope Pius IX infallibly affirmed that Mary's role in Jesus' work was so crucial that it kept her from original sin at the outset.

Give gifts of love this Christmas

Jesus came to us out of love. He suffered and died on the Cross out of love. During Advent and Christmas, why not find ways to share Jesus' gift of love with others? "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you" (John 15:12).

Look for the lonely. Christmas can be a sad time for those who are alone. Gifts of love can be as simple as baking Christmas cookies, sending a card with a personal note, or offering to share a Christmas meal.



Reach out to the suffering. Many people are struggling financially this year. Even if you are one of them, consider calling your parish office or Catholic Charities (800-919-9338) to find out how you can help someone who is worse off. That's a great gift of love.

Offer time. This is one of the most precious ways to show you care. Spending time with someone else - even when you may not have it to spare - is a gift of love that will not be forgotten.

from Scripture **Luke 2:41-52, Living in the world**

In this reading, the Holy Family went to Jerusalem during the year Jesus was twelve. In those days, a Hebrew boy became a man around the age of twelve and was recognized in a ceremony we know as a Bar Mitzvah. At this point a Jewish boy would begin formal education in the Torah and Hebrew Scriptures.

This was an important time in Jesus' life. This reading said that Jesus stayed behind to talk with the scholars and teachers, and told his parents he was



doing his Father's work. He had become aware of his duties to his Father in Heaven, yet he remained mindful of his responsibilities to his parents on Earth and obediently left with them.

Christians live in the world, in neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. Jesus demonstrated his respect for his ties to his family, yet he continued to pursue his place in God's plan of salvation.

The lesson for us is that we don't have to retire from the world to be holy. Instead, we have to find ways to live a holy life in the world.

Q & A What are the origins of some of the carols we sing?

Some of the most popular Christmas hymns date back two hundred years or more.

Silent Night – Written as a poem in 1816 by Austrian priest Joseph Mohr,



it came in handy two years later when his church organ broke. Mohr gave the poem to his friend Franz Xavier Gruber who wrote the melody in time to be played on a guitar for Midnight Mass.

O Little Town of Bethlehem – Rector Phillips Brooks of Philadelphia wrote it in the late 1800s after he had visited the Holy Land. He was inspired by the view of Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine.

O Holy Night – The words were written by Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure, a wine seller, in 1847 when the parish priest asked him to write a poem for Christmas.

O Come All Ye Faithful – Englishman John Wade is credited with writing this hymn in Latin in 1744. One hundred years later, it was translated into English by an Anglican minister, Frederick Oakeley. Since then, it has been translated into 76 languages.

Feasts & Celebrations

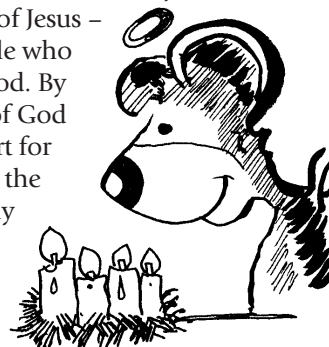
December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the day we celebrate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin.

December 12th - Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico. She asked him to tell the bishop to build a chapel for her, and had him carry roses in his tilma (cape) as a sign. When he emptied his tilma before the bishop, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 26 – St. Stephen (1st

century). A deacon of the early Church, St. Stephen angered the Jewish authorities by preaching that the Israelites consistently rejected God's chosen messengers. He was stoned to death and became the first martyr.

Dec. 27 – The Holy Family (1st century). On this feast day, we celebrate the family of Jesus – three people who lived for God. By their love of God and support for each other, the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.



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