

November 29, 2009: First Sunday of Advent



“People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” — Lk 21:26-28

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, Nov. 29 (Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12---4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36)

8:00 am- Ryan Grahmann
10:30 am- George Bujnoch
5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

Monday, Nov. 30, St. Andrew (Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22)

7:00 am- Richard & Irene Janak
10:00 am- James Kouba (Hallettsville Rehab)

Tuesday, December 1 (Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24)

7:00 am- Henry, Elizabeth & Celie Henke, David Henke & Cheryl Henke

Wednesday, December 2 (Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37)

7:00 am- Edward Janak
8:05 am- Charlie & Frances Novak

Thurs., Dec. 3, St. Francis Xavier (Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27)

7:00 am- Tim Schaefer
10:00 am- Eddie Belcik (Stevens)

Friday, Dec. 4, St. John of Damascus (Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31)

7:00 am- Tyler Bludau
8:05 am- Anastazie & Alfons Janak

Saturday, Dec. 5 (Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35---10:1, 5a, 6-8)

5:30 pm- Frank V. & Roselee Henke

Sunday, December 6 (Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family
10:30 am- Joe Zappe



Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of George Bujnoch by Dorothy Bujnoch.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Allan Lanik Family.

Vigil Light: In memory of Ryan Grahmann.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$6,219.50; Loose-\$1,124; Children's-\$50; Manna-\$875.

Anniversaries:

Paul & Annette Henke	40 years	Nov. 29
Marvin & Annette Grahmann	30 years	Dec. 2

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Mary Kutach* of our parish family, & *Leonard Kubena*, brother of Leona Labay. *May they & all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

Calendar Membership: **Nov. 19:** Maggie Pustka-\$100; **Nov. 20:** Robert Reagan, Harker Heights-\$100; **Nov. 23:** Bill Bludau-\$50; **Nov. 24:** Ronald Huser-\$50; **Nov. 25:** Doloris Leopold-\$50.

Choose Life: If you paid attention to the media, you would think that those who oppose embryonic stem cell research and a host of other laboratory-created life techniques are “anti-science.” But this is not a science debate. It’s a debate about ethics, morality and what is right and wrong. (Wesley Smith, *NRL News*)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- Catholic Daughters will receive Holy Communion in a body at 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- Advent Party, home of Adela Grahmann, 2489 C R 226, 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. Advent prayers, blessings of Nativities & Christmas Trees at 3:00, 5:00, & 7:00 p.m.
- Covered dish supper in Family Center after Spanish Mass.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- RCIA Class, 7:00 p.m., Family Center.
- KC’s General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., KC Hall.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

- CCD: Grades K – 11th, 6:00 – 7:10 p.m.
- Spiritual Book Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary’s House.
- Divine Mercy Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Room.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins with adoration at 6:00 p.m. in church. The intention this month is “*Keep Christ in Christmas.*”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m. in church.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

- Serra Club Mass, 8:30 a.m., Sacred Heart, Flatonia.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

- Christian Mothers Christmas Party, 2 pm, Family Center. Members are to bring a dessert & a gift for your child.

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, Chuck Holley, nursing home residents, homebound.



The Sharing Tree with name tags of Catholic nursing home residents is in the foyer of the church. Please purchase a gift, attach the name tag to the gift & bring it to the tree no later than **Sunday, Dec. 6.** The gifts will be delivered to the nursing homes so that each Catholic resident will have a gift to open at their Christmas Party. A list of suggested gift items is in the foyer of the church.

From the Desk of Father John

Thank you to all who helped with the 40th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Sacred Heart Church Building. It was a beautiful celebration. Thank you to the choir, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, the Knights of St. Gregory and those who served in the various ministries during the Liturgy.

Thank you to the ladies on the Parish Advisory Council for the beautiful table setting and for serving the meal to the bishop, clergy and religious at the KC Hall. Thank you also to Designs by Donna for the table arrangements and Jo Nell Janecek for the use of her china. A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus for providing the meal for our special guests.

Today is the beginning of Advent and the beginning of a new church year. "How are you?" "Busy." That response cloaks a low spirit, beaten down by many responsibilities, opportunities, and longings. Many people are so busy with the day's work that they lose track of the goal of their lives. Over time, values get lost. Priorities get shifted. Dreams are abandoned. All because people are busy.

The weeks before Christmas are among the busiest of the year. The high expectations of this holiday put stress on relationships and cash flow, your faith and friendships.

Everyone knows the meaning of Christmas. It commemorates the birth of Jesus. But not everyone lives the meaning of Christmas. Not everyone rejoices with its message of salvation for the sinner, its summons to show charity to your neighbor, and its opportunity to adore the Lord. This is a time of hope. But for many it is a time of anxiety.

Advent struggles for attention. You have already been deluged by the sights, sounds, and solicitations of the holiday season. And you still have several weeks to go. By the time Christmas gets here, many people are ready to throw out the tree, box up the decorations, and lock the season back in the attic. Something is wrong with this picture. The impatience that dogs holiday preparations outmaneuvers the patience of waiting for a Savior. Advent gets lost.

Many Christians bristle at the way society has seized Christmas and turned it into the holiday season. School children sing about snow. Merchants greet you with, "Happy Holidays." Nativity scenes are banished from public squares. The start date for the season is pushed ever earlier. Halloween decorations are not down before holiday decorations go up.

Do not let Advent get lost. Use this time wisely and prayerfully.



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.

Sacred Heart Catholic School ~ 798-4251

December 4: Early dismissal at 2:00 p.m.

December 5: Junior High youth involvement at 5:30 pm Mass.

Advent Wreath Prayer Week 1 (1 candle is lit): *Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.* (Candle is left burning during evening meal, at prayers or at bedtime.)

First Sunday of Advent

Christians always end up with this cultural collision this time of year. While we begin a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves approaching the final month of the civil year. While we struggle to focus on the religious meaning of one of the central events of our salvation – the birth of the Savior – we are overwhelmed by the crass commercialism of the "holiday" season. Even the sacred names that originated the feasting get pushed to the side in favor of what is perceived to be less offensive nomenclature.

Maybe that's as it should be as we begin Advent. The Gospel readings provided for the final Sundays of the church year and the beginning of the new one invite us to consider what will happen at the end of time. This Advent in particular, for the first three Sundays, the focus is on justice – God's justice, which is brought to completion when the Lord returns in glory.

In the meantime, we wait, sometimes patiently, and sometimes impatiently, like shoppers ready to take advantage of the first "door-busters" of the season. We could bemoan the lack of religiosity in this run-up to Christmas. Or we could use it to our advantage. It doesn't take much to express our faith this time of year. A cheerful greeting of "Merry Christmas" in the check-out line; a teaching moment with children when passing a store display of manger scenes; including religious emblems in our lawn displays; singing a Christmas carol for meal prayer each night: these are all ways that we can easily express our faith in the midst of the culture. The Gospel commands, "Be vigilant at all times." In our vigilance we can look for ways to express faith at every opportunity.

2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

**EXPRESS
OUR
FAITH**

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

David Svab Family	25.00
Alvin Paul & Barbara Grahmann	15.00
Cheryl & Wayne Beran	25.00
Daniel & Beverly Wagner	20.00
Charles & Frances Franta Family	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Sitka	10.00
Gene & Bettye Bujnoch	10.00
Henry & Elrose Muenster	20.00
Bohumir & Mary Ann Pustejovsky	10.00
Monte, Arleen, Nickolas & Kellan Werner	20.00

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

David & Carol Zak	15.00
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Rother	20.00
Albert & Margaret Janak	20.00
John & Karen Ashley	15.00
Rita & Frank Zaruba	20.00
Gary & Pat McCoy	25.00
Leroy & Anita Etzler	20.00
Melody & Michael Grigar	20.00
Leo & Evelyn Hoffer	20.00
Bill & Virginia Curley	10.00
Robert & Leona Steffek	10.00
Robert & Gloria Haas	20.00
John & Susan Stewart	100.00
Larry & Cathy Svab	100.00
Mark & Donna Nevlud	20.00
Peoples State Bank	10.00
<u>In memory of Rosalie Grahmann:</u>	10.00

In honor of M/M Charles Michalec's 60th Anniv.: 10.00

Robert & Leona Steffek

In memory of Ben Spanihel:

Robert & Leona Steffek	10.00
Elrose Kalisek	20.00
Bohumir & Mary Ann Pustejovsky	10.00
Henry & Elrose Muenster	20.00

SACRED HEART CHURCH CCD PROGRAMIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Helen M. Appelt	10.00
Donald & Donna Shimek	25.00
Marvin & Susan Bujnoch	15.00
Steven & Cheryl Leopold	10.00
Steve & Rene Bludau	30.00
William & Sharee Rainosek & sons	10.00

In memory of Ben Spanihel:

Marty & Karen Steffek	10.00
William & Sharee Rainosek & sons	10.00

SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Bob & Lou Kubena	20.00
Kubena Funeral Home	20.00
John & Evelyn Pavliska	25.00

In memory of Ben Spanihel:

John & Evelyn Pavliska	10.00
Kubena Funeral Home	20.00

SACRED HEART CHURCH FLOWER FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler	10.00
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In memory of Ben Spanihel:

Mona Davenport	25.00
Marilyn Hajek	15.00

SACRED HEART QUILTING CIRCLEIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Lawrence & Delores Grahmann	10.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Mike & Carol Bozka	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Urban Hemmi	10.00
Florice Leopold	10.00
Chris Kubena Family	25.00
Glen Bludau	10.00
Edna Bludau	10.00
Richard Bludau & sons	20.00
Richard & Frances Henke	10.00
David & Kathy Bujnoch	20.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Phillip & Evelyn Bujnoch	20.00
Tom Bludau	35.00
Charles & Doloris Leopold	100.00
Dennis & Cynthia Matula	20.00
Adela Grahmann	10.00
Brian & Janice Bludau	20.00
Randy & Pam Dornak	10.00
Karen & Bob Barbour	25.00
Michael & Stephanie Werner	150.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ALUMNI FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Charles Grafe	5.00
Dollie Leopold	25.00
Marcus & Marjorie Grahmann	20.00
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Glenn & Donna Leopold	10.00
Arthur Etzler, Jr.	25.00
Marilyn Kocian	50.00
Margaret Bludau	10.00

In memory of Oscar Barta:

Everett & Pam Bludau	25.00
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SACRED HEART SCHOOL ATHLETICS FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Carol, Bobby & Cole Bludau	30.00
Victor & Magdalen Steffek	10.00

HILBERT & AGNES BLUDAU SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Hilbert & Kathy Bludau	20.00
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DOROTHY HENNEKE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Tommy & Elsie Grahmann	10.00
Roy & Loretta Hardcastle	10.00
Roland Henneke	10.00

VICTOR GRAFE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Dorothy Bujnoch	15.00
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SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD & DAYCAREIn memory of Gus Cudlum Werner:

Harvey & Vivian Janak	10.00
Jimmy & Tammy Garner	20.00
Earl & Ginger Logue	20.00
Boogie & Cheryl Jansky	10.00
Evelyn Holy	10.00
Arthur Spies	10.00
Michael & Tanya Woytek	15.00

Find the peace of Advent

Many of us look forward to Christmas all year but let Advent pass unnoticed. This quiet season can't compete with the lights, the joy, the excitement, and the preparations for Christmas that can go on for months before the day.

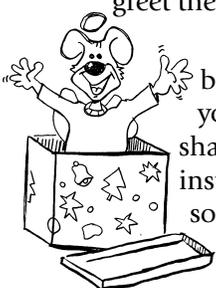
This year, why not use the whole season of Advent to prepare for Christmas? Look beyond what your eyes can see to focus on your inner preparations.

Keep watch. Jesus is coming.

We know this because we celebrate his coming every Christmas. He will also come again in glory but we don't know when that will be. Advent reminds us to always be prepared for the coming of Christ. *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths (Matthew 3:3)."*

Give the gift of yourself. This year prepare the one gift for Jesus that he truly wants: YOU. Jesus thought each of us was worth love and his life. To him, we are a gift from the Father (John 17:24). Prepare yourself during Advent so that when he unwraps your gift on Christmas morning, it is the very best you have to offer — your love.

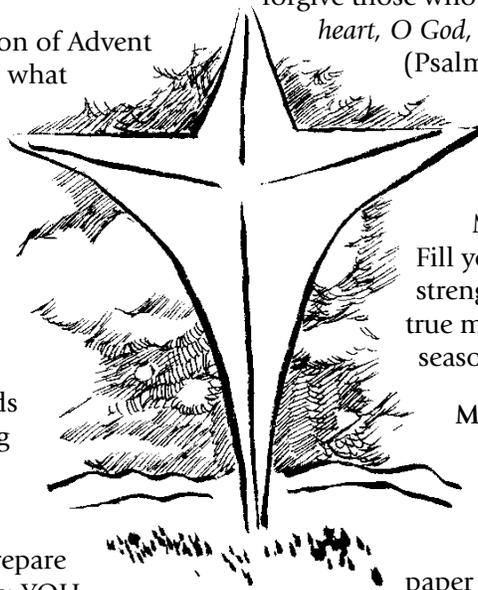
Break down barriers. Let go of anything that stands between you and your faith. Perhaps you have a bad habit or a companion who is a poor influence. Take this opportunity during Advent to make things right. Ridding yourself of opportunities for sin will help you be ready to greet the Savior when he comes.



Give gifts from the heart. Instead of buying gifts, give from your heart. If you're a good baker, make treats to share with others. If you sing or play an instrument, create CDs of your favorite songs for friends and family. Jesus showed us that the greatest of gifts come in the simplest form. Remember a gift given

with love is the best gift of all.

Clean house. Just as you would clean your home to prepare for an honored guest, clean your soul of sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Remember to forgive those who have hurt you, too. *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10, RSV).*



Decorate with special meaning.

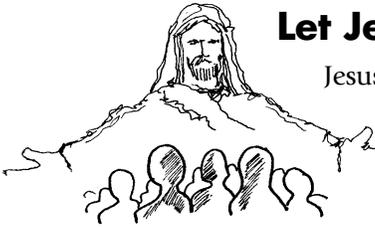
Make every decoration count this year. Fill your home with religious items that will strengthen your faith and remind you of the true meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Make your own. Look for sacred images of the season that touch your heart and turn them into decorations. One likely source is religious Christmas cards you receive. Even mounting one on colored paper and taping it on your desk or a wall can be a cheerful way to call Christ to mind.

Shine the Light. When you string lights or light Advent candles, let them be a reminder to you throughout the Advent and Christmas season to share the light of your faith with others through your words and actions.

Keep Life Evergreen. In his Angelus (Dec. 19, 2004), Pope John Paul II said that the evergreen fir is a symbol of undying life. *"The message of the Christmas tree is consequently that life stays 'evergreen' if we make a gift of it: not so much of material things but of life itself: in friendship and sincere affection, in fraternal help and forgiveness, in time shared and reciprocal listening."* Give the gift of friendship this season.

Bring your Nativity to life. Place the pieces in your scene at different times. Anticipate the coming of Jesus by keeping his bed empty until Christmas morning. Let the Magi arrive at the Epiphany and follow the Star by looking for signs of the Savior every day throughout the year.



Let Jesus find you.

Jesus came into the world for us. His birth, his death and his rising were meant to save us. He never left us and is looking for each of us. Make sure he can find you.

"Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep (Luke 15:6)."

Invite him in. This is the time to let God occupy a bigger place in your life but he is a gentleman and waits for an invitation. The problem is that we are often too preoccupied by everyday worries to invite him in. Start by ridding yourself of negative thoughts or worries that may take up too much mental energy and keep you from feeling God's love.

Seek him out. Jesus came to us humbly. Look at those in your community who have been humbled due to hardship and reach out with a smile or comforting word. God is in all of us and by showing our love to others, we show our love for God.

Visit him. Try to attend a weekday Mass. Don't miss Mass on the weekend. Spend time at a Perpetual Adoration Chapel or in the presence of our Lord outside of Mass. Take a pilgrimage to different churches to admire their nativity scenes.

Listen for him. Mother Teresa said, "In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." Look for ways to practice silence during Advent.

Make room in your "Inn."

When Mary and Joseph reached the inn, there was no room, not even for the King. During Advent, look for ways to make more room for our Savior in your life.

Make room in your prayers. Consider giving fewer gifts and offering spiritual bouquets instead. Use the time you save shopping and wrapping in prayer for the people on your list.

Make room in your mind. God is always with us but it is easier to find him during quiet times. Cut back on social engagements and entertaining. Limit activities other than work or volunteering. Schedule extra prayer time during the season and protect it on your calendar. Don't let anything come between you and God.

Make room in your heart. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had to rely on the kindness of strangers to provide them even the barest place to stay.

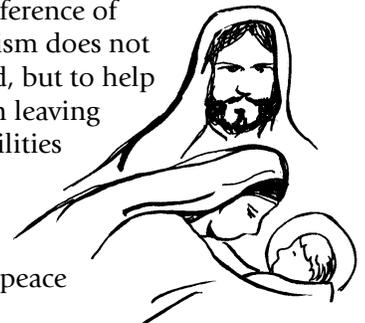
Imagine what it would be like to have no home at all this year. In honor of the Holy Family, seek out a homeless shelter in your area. Find out what the residents may need to help celebrate the coming of the Savior.

Or, call your parish rectory and find out if there is anyone in your parish who is struggling and in need of special attention during the holiday season. Do what you can to make someone else feel welcome at the "Inn."

Make room in your day. Instead of spending time watching television or on the computer, use the time to enrich your soul. Read scripture. Pray the Rosary. Pick up a good book.

Make room in your home. The holidays can be a lonely time without family or close friends. Look for someone at work or in your neighborhood who may not be connected and invite her to Mass, or to join in your Christmas celebration.

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Catholicism does not call us to abandon the world, but to help shape it. This does not mean leaving worldly tasks and responsibilities but transforming them." During Advent this year, try transforming your tasks to acts of prayer, penance, and peace to honor the coming Savior.



O Antiphons

On the last days of Advent, you can add these "O Antiphons" to your evening or bedtime prayers. Each one highlights a title for the Messiah and refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

December 17

O Sapientia — O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Adonai — O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Radix Jesse — O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Clavis David — O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Oriens — O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O Rex Gentium — O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel — O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!