

December 5, 2010: Second Sunday of Advent



John the Baptist appeared...saying,
 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of
 him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:
 A voice of one crying out in the desert,
 Prepare the way of the Lord.

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, December 5 (Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12)

8:00 am- James Kouba
 10:30 am- Joe P. Zappe

Monday, December 6, St. Nicholas, bishop

(Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26)

7:00 am- Linda Fishbeck
 10:00 am- John & Annie Gerdes (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, December 7, St. Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the Church (Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14)

7:00 am- Willie & Lillie Wagner

Wednesday, Dec. 8, Holy Day of Obligation – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

6:45 am- Laddie & Josephine Janak
 8:05 am- Paul & Annie Henneke
 12:05 pm- Living & deceased members of Joe & Bernadina Bludau Family
 6:15 pm- (CCD Mass) Josephine Matejek

Thursday, December 9, St. Juan Diego, hermit

(Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15)

7:00 am- Living & deceased members of Adolph & Minnie Berger Family
 10:00 am- Rudy & Mary Opela (Stevens)

Friday, December 10 (Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19)

7:00 am- Joe & Lillie Muhlstein
 8:05 am- Anton & Mathilda Tupa; Rudolph, Rosa & Jamie Bujnoch; George & Mary Tupa; Joe & Helen Pekar

Saturday, December 11, St. Damascus I, pope (Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13)

5:30 pm- Dennis Smirak

Sunday, December 12 (Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family
 10:30 am- Jim & Josephine Gutierrez
 5:00 pm- (Spanish Mass) Jose Guadalupe, Carlos, & Adriana Hernandez



Mass Schedule for area churches:

Moravia: December 7 at 6:00 p.m.
 St. Mary's- December 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Bulletin & Radio Broadcast Sponsor: KJZT Society #2.

Vigil Light: In memory of Russell Grahmann by Marvin & Annette Grahmann & Family.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,627.50; Loose-\$1,228;
 Children-\$60; Manna-\$743; Cemetery Fund-\$525.

Anniversaries:

Steven & Shirley Dixon	30 years	Dec. 5
Tom & Linda Donnelly	35 years	Dec. 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

- Christian Mother's Christmas Party, 2:00 pm, Family Center. Members, bring dessert, chips or dip, & a gift for your child for Santa's visit!
- Lions Club Arts & Craft Show, K.C. Hall.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

- JCDA Christmas Party, 3:45-5:00 p.m., Family Center. Bring a \$5 gift to exchange. For information, please call Shanna Clark 798-9189 or Amy Shimek 798-9116.
- Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.
- Dave Ramsey Course, 6:30 p.m., Family Center.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- K.C.'s General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., KC Hall.
- Adult Education/RCIA dismissed until January 25.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

- CCD: Grades K-12th, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
- Scripture Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

- KJZT #2 Christmas Party, 11:30 a.m., Family Center. Catered meal provided by the society. RSVP by Dec. 7. Bea Heinzl 798-4186 or Mary Ann Pavliska 798-5033.
- Covered dish supper in Family Center after Spanish Mass

Among our sick: Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Helen M. Appelt, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Marge Rehm, Renae Ross, Hubert & Mary Grahmann, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Danielle Grady, Carl Pederson, Mary Ann Koenig, John Pavliska, Rose Thumann, Dr. Michael Moore, Raymond Palmer, Theresa Steffek, Arnold Rother, Dolores Ludwig, Mary Ann Pustejovsky, Bill Gohlke, nursing home residents & the homebound.

November Baptisms: Phoenix Alexis, daughter of Joe & Elaina Garcia Luksovsky; Chase Matthew, son of Wesley Appelt & Shelli Doubrava; Nathan Edgard, son of Edgard & Bernadette Grahmann Martinez; & Trista Ken, daughter of Ryan & Amye McElroy Sevcik.

Welcome to the Parish: Sandi Klekar & son, Henri; and Robert Hansen.

Drive-thru Nativity, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., December 5 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Hwy 77A, Yoakum.

Fund Drive for house at 318 S. Texana: Goal \$40,000

Total Donations Received To Date	\$14,675
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Calendar Membership: **Nov 25:** Blahuta Advertising-\$100; **Nov 26:** Bob & Sally Janak-\$100; **Nov 29:** Natalie Pitre, Opelousas, LA-\$50; **Nov 30:** Beverly Hrcir-\$50; **Dec 1:** Carol Woytek-\$50.

Perpetual Adoration – An adorer is needed on Fridays at 3:00 p.m. If you are able to spend this hour with our Lord, please call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

Pray for vocations to the priesthood & religious life!

From the Desk of Father John

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, will be celebrated next Sunday afternoon at the 5:00 p.m. Spanish Mass followed by a covered dish supper along with Pan Dulce (sweet breads). Please invite anyone you know who might be interested in joining us for this celebration.

Advent. A child is coming: as for any birth, we must prepare. The Advent season is a gift, rich with opportunities to ready our lives for the embrace of our Savior.

One powerful way to prepare for the gift of Jesus is to turn away from the outside noise and pressure and take a few quiet moments to pray with the Church. Use your church bulletin (or visit www.maydailyvisitor.com) to look up the Mass readings for each day. If you can, take time to attend daily Mass; use it as a period of refreshment in the midst of the busy-ness all around.

Even during our most hectic times, we can still “watch and wait” with the Church. Everything else that we do during Advent can echo what we hear in God’s Word and the Church’s prayer. Our Advent wreaths are physical reminders of the coming light and the prophecies fulfilled. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we acknowledge our darkness and need, and rejoice in the light of forgiveness offered through the Child.

Joining our thoughts and prayers to those of the Communion of Saints whose feasts occur during this season – Ambrose, Lucy, John of the Cross, Juan Diego, and others – helps us hear John the Baptist’s call along with these holy men, women, and even children who have gone before us in faith. Just as they heard and responded, so can we.

During this season, we twice celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose openness to God models our own patient Advent waiting. On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8), we celebrate the truth that she was conceived without sin. On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12), we celebrate Mary’s appearance to the poor Indian peasant St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531.



The Youth ConneXion
Kris Hermes 798-0655



Note: Due to Spanish Mass being moved to Sunday, December 12, Firefall has been cancelled.

Music Practice: Monday’s @ 6:00 p.m., Youth House.

Sacred Heart Catholic School ~ Office: 798-4251

Dec. 6: Pre-K Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m., Gym.

Dec. 9: K-2nd Grade Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m., Gym.

Dec. 12: Band Christmas Concert, 6:00 p.m., Gym.

Dec. 13: Booster Club fudge pick-up, 5-7 p.m., KC Hall.

Dec. 14: 3-4 Grade Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m., Gym.

Religious Education (CCD) ~ Office 798-3124

Angela McConnell, Coordinator

Dec. 8 (Holy Day of Obligation): 12th Grade youth involvement at 6:15 p.m. Mass.

Dec. 22 & 29: No class – Christmas Holiday.

RCIA/Adult Education – The 2011 Spring Class Schedule and Topics for Fr. Tommy’s Tuesday night Religion Classes are now available at each of the exits of the church. They are printed on bright yellow paper.

Retirement Fund helps senior religious. As expenses continue to increase & economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more & more the help of the Retirement Fund,” notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious supports the day-to-day care of thousands of elder sisters, brothers, & religious order priests. Please share in the care & give generously to next week’s second collection.

Miniatures of the Seminarian Vocation poster are now available at each of the exits of the church. Please pick one up and take it home and remember to pray for these men who may be our future priests! The addresses to their seminaries are provided, in case you would like to write to them or send them some goodies.

Applications for the position of Director of Sacred Heart Early Childhood & Daycare must be turned in to the Rectory by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 6.

Masses sent to area priests: Joe N. Steffek-12; Olga Haas-13; Herman Sciba-5; Anton Steffek-16; Helen M. Etzler-46; Lillie Demny-11; Pam Dornak-25; Dorothy Svetlik-5; Josephine Matejek-6.



Advent Wreath Prayer - 2nd Week (2 purple candles are 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. We ask this in Christ’s name.*

Amen. (Candle is left burning during evening meal, at prayers or at bedtime.)

2nd Sunday of Advent: In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist had no hesitation about calling out the Pharisees and the Sadducees. From his perspective, they were coming out to take part in a ritual cleansing - an important rite of Judaism in the time of Jesus - without having the proper disposition of repentance and conversion. John’s warning to them does not make for comfortable reading, even today. As we go about the hustle and bustle of preparation for Christmas, we might lose sight of the fact that Advent is also a time of preparation for our final end, a time we don’t like to think about. And it’s even harder to do so in this busy season. But Advent celebrates Christ’s coming: His coming in time at Bethlehem; His coming to each individual Christian in the fullness of one’s life; and His coming at the end of time. Maybe take a little time this week to reflect on your readiness for Christ.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

December 2010

Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Merry "Xmas"

The word "Christmas" comes from the Old English "Cristes Maesse," or "Christ's Mass." The first letter of the name of Christ in Greek is X. The word "Xmas" was ancient shorthand for "Christ's Mass" long before it came into secular use.

The first crèche

Early in his ministry, St. Francis of Assisi wanted to help people experience the miracle of the Nativity. So he assembled a living Nativity scene – a crèche – with a live baby in a manger, townspeople dressed as Mary and Joseph, shepherds, wise men, and more. The crèche remains a Christmas custom all over the world.

Mary's "Yes"

Long ago, when the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree.

God gave us free will to allow us to make our own choices. We can choose to love him or not. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) has been amazing.



The most exciting gifts still come on Christmas

The thrill of receiving presents at Christmas is exciting to a child but fades as we become adults. Yet

the gifts we receive at Christmas are the most thrilling part of the holiday at any age.

The gift of love.

It is an amazing truth that God came to Earth as a baby and lived among us. When we open our hearts to that baby, we learn that he loves us more than we can imagine. Our first Christmas present is the gift of love.

The gift of hope. It is a sad fact that we often turn away from God in sin. The baby born on the first Christmas came to free us from sin and

offer us the hope of something better. Our second Christmas gift is hope.

The gift of family. It is our family that gives us strength, helps us heal, and keeps us safe. Baptism brings us into the family of Christ. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God" (1John 3:1). The gift of family is our third Christmas gift.

The gift of Heaven. Without that amazing birth long ago, Heaven would be beyond our reach. Baby Jesus changed all that. The best gift of all this Christmas is the gift of Heaven.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we tell the story of the Magi?

The story of the Magi who visit the Christ Child is found in Matthew 2:1-12. Legend identifies them as Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They traveled "from the East" to visit the newborn



King of the Jews. The gifts they brought were gold (a gift for a king), frankincense (a gift for a priest), and myrrh (a burial spice).

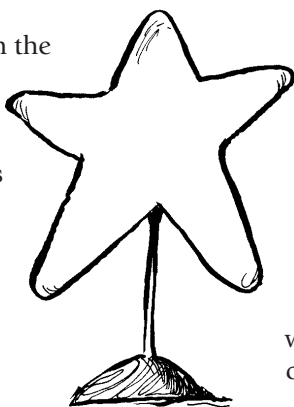
The Magi are symbolic of all nations. This story reminds us that Jesus came to save all people,

not just the Jews.

Celebrate a simple Christmas

The season of Advent is an important one in the Church year but often gets overshadowed by the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle. It may not be practical to fully retreat from the world during the four weeks before Christmas but simplifying your holiday may help.

Decide what is important. List all of the activities and events you are offered during the holidays. Include both personal and professional activities. Think about what Christmas really means and put a star next to



any activity that is in keeping with the true spirit of love, wonder, and awe. Decline the rest.

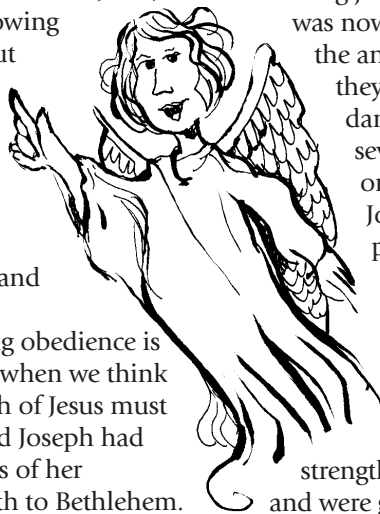
Rethink gift-giving habits. The Season of Giving doesn't have to mean over-shopping, over-spending, and over-stressing. Come up with a reasonable budget that doesn't involve running up debt and stick to it. Then resolve to buy simple gifts. For example, get all the adults on your list the same thing so you can buy several at a time: local wine or beer, tickets to the movies, or restaurant gift certificates.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, St. Joseph was used to following orders from God without question. So when the angel appeared to him in his sleep urging him to flee to Egypt, Joseph obeyed immediately. He trusted that God would take care of him and his new family.

Joseph's unquestioning obedience is particularly remarkable when we think about what the real birth of Jesus must have been like. Mary and Joseph had traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On foot or donkey, it was a dirty,



exhausting journey. Once there, there was nowhere to stay except with the animals. After a short time, they fled to Egypt to escape danger, and stayed there for several years without family or friend. Through it all, Joseph trusted God to protect his family.

As a father, St. Joseph knew his share of pain and difficulties much like our own experience. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.

Q & A

Who was Juan Diego?

Cuauhtlatotzin was an indigenous farmer in Mexico who was baptized after the Spanish conquest of Mexico in 1521. He took the Christian name of Juan Diego.



One day in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego and asked that he visit the local bishop to request that a church be built where she appeared.

The bishop was skeptical and asked for proof. At her next appearance, Mary instructed Juan Diego to fill his tilma (cape) with the flowers that were blooming out of season there and take them to the bishop. When Juan Diego unfolded his tilma, the flowers spilled out to reveal an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Nine million Indians converted to Christianity as a result of St. Juan Diego's evangelization.

Pope John Paul II said of St. Juan Diego, "Juan Diego represents all the indigenous peoples who accepted the Gospel of Jesus, thanks to the maternal aid of Mary." We celebrate his feast day on December 9th and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.

Feasts & Celebrations

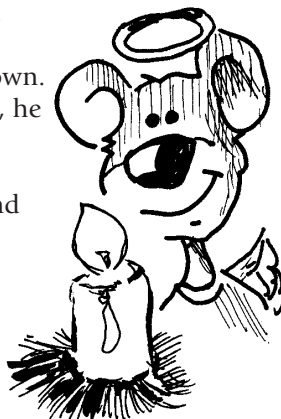
December is the month in which we anticipate the coming of Christ and begin the celebration of his birth.

Dec. 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. This is a Holy Day of Obligation meaning that Catholics are required to attend Mass.

Dec. 26 - The Holy Family (1st century). We celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - three people who lived for God. By their love and support of one another the

Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.

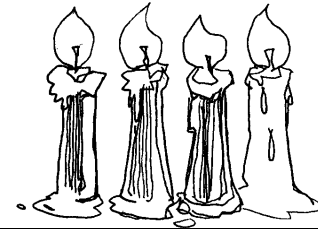
Dec. 27 - St. John (1st century). An apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could call down fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later in his life, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to descend on the Samaritans. Friendship with Jesus really changes a person.





















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 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

2010 Advent Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 28  Buy or make an Advent wreath. Bless it and light the first purple candle each night this week.	29  Develop a new prayer to say before each meal during Advent. Write it down and say it every year during Advent.	30 Offer your parish a Christmas gift of your time, talent, or treasure. Describe it in a Christmas card that you send to your pastor.	December 1 Include in your Christmas cards a note about the blessings you have received this year. It will be a witness to God's love.	2 Pray anytime you have to wait today. Keep your prayer simple and begin with praise.	3  Spend some time today examining your life for areas needing repentance.	4 Attend Confession today to ready your soul for the grace of Christ's birth!
5  Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."	6  Show love on St. Nicholas Day by filling an old shoe with treats and leaving it outside someone's door.	7 The holidays can be a lonely time for anyone who is alone or has suffered a loss. Today, offer someone companionship.	8  In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception , in St. Ann's womb, attend Mass and pray a Rosary.	9  To honor St. Juan Diego today, place a rose in a vase and think about his simple faith and obedience.	10  Take comfort today in the Biblical accounts of God's merciful treatment of sinners.	11 Clear your closets of unwanted clothes in good condition. Donate them to a shelter or other charity.
12  Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy. Look for one new thing at church today that you haven't noticed before.	13  The presence of Jesus in our lives gives us hope in God's mercy and love. Today, on a pad list your hopes for the future.	14  Ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt in the past year. Offer it to one who has wronged you.	15 Pick a Christmas card you've received this week and pray for the person who sent it.	16  Put a lamp or electric candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas Day.	17 Take a moment today to listen to Christmas carols as a joyful symbol of the season.	18  Even if you live alone, put up and decorate a Christmas tree.
19  Light all four candles in the wreath tonight and all week. Reread today's Gospel reading, <i>Matt 1:18-24</i> .	20 Make time today to feed the hungry. Make cookies for coworkers, serve at a soup kitchen, or offer a homeless person a meal.	21  Designate or decorate a special candle as your "Jesus Candle." Light it to remind you of the light Jesus brings.	22 Take a drive or a walk around your home to look at the Christmas decorations or displays.	23  Set up your Nativity scene or crèche. Picture yourself in the scene and think about how you would act if you were there.	24  Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling at a nursing home or homeless shelter.	25 Rejoice!  Read the story of Jesus' birth in <i>Luke 2:1-20</i> .

"... For (un)to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11)

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).

