

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2009

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this Third Sunday of Advent we hear from John the Baptist. The crowds ask him what they should do, and he tells them very specific actions we also must take so that the Lord Jesus will make his home with us. Let us make ourselves ready to listen to the Baptist's words and so prepare for the great feast of Christmas.



Christmas & Year End Giving

Christmas and year's end is a special time to give extra support to the parish while positively impacting your federal and state income taxes. All gifts made on or before December 31st are tax deductible for this year. Your gifts must be in the parish office by December 31, 2009 to appear on your statement.

You are invited

Please join your Parish Council for the **Head Start Christmas Party On: Dec 15, 2009**
In: St Michaels Hall
At: 7:00pm

Santa will distribute **Your** gifts to the Head Start Pre-School children



Eucharistic Celebrations

- Sun. 8:00 a.m. John T. Koch
People of the Parish
- 10:00 a.m. Harold McCruden
- Tues. 8:15 a.m. Mary Lynn Roach Clark
- Wed. 10:30 a.m. John Roemer (Beth Haven Mass)
- Thurs. 8:15 a.m. Amelia McKenzie
- Fri. 7:00 a.m. Bill & Rosemary Beard
- Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sam Astorino
Nelson Vessell
- Sun. 8:00 a.m. Phil Chetta
Chase Shaw
- 10:00 a.m. Jason Harvey
People of the Parish



CHRISTMAS COOKIES NEEDED

for our next *Loaves & Fishes* Meal on December 22nd at First United Methodist Church, 9th & Broadway.

If you can help bake a few cookies for our Hannibal Community Meal program please call Ronnie Bolletta at 221-9287.

ALTAR MINISTERS - DECEMBER

5:30 p.m. Ministers of Eucharist:

Kim Johnston, Tabitha Houser, Bill & Joni Albright, Janet Alexander, Sean Meyer, Chuck Spratt - alt.

Minister of the Word: Pat Yount

8:00 a.m. Ministers of Eucharist:

Belinda Failor, Lori Dowil, Joe & Julie Gwinner, Dick & Janice Rupp, Geri Graves - alt.

Minister of the Word: Sharon Welch

10:00 a.m. Ministers of Eucharist:

Rayburn & Pat Cook, Karen & Richard Zerbonia, Frank Janes, Karan Noonan, Cecelia Pierceall - alt.

Minister of the Word: Michaele Palmer

Greeters - December

- 5:30 p.m. Terry & Margaret Miller, Debbie Coleman
- 8:00 a.m. Evelyn & Harley Hirner, Gail Terrill
- 10:00 a.m. Jenny McConnell, Elaine Edge, Doris Nichols

Servers - December 19-20

- 5:30 p.m. Jared Barron, Alexis Cheney, Logan Lamb
- 8:00 a.m. Brittany Carroll, Sean Carroll, Alana Jacobson
- 10:00 a.m. Clare Anderson, Luke Anderson, Tyler Johnston

SENIOR SNOWMAN TREE



Thanks to all who brought gifts for our nursing home and home-bound parishioners. We appreciate your spirit of giving during this blessed time of year. Thanks again for your generosity!

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST  **TODAY, Sunday, Dec.13th** after the 8 & 10 a.m. Masses! Don't hassle with breakfast today...let the

Knights of Columbus prepare your meal. Join us anytime from 8 a.m. to Noon.

We Ask Eternal Rest O Lord for the Souls of: *From Death to New Life* 

Danielle Meyer, granddaughter of Tyra Schwartz, of our parish
Chase Shaw, son of Steve & Emily Shaw and grandson of Bill & Bernadine Shaw, of our parish
Jean Redington, mother of Tom Redington, of our parish



**THIS WEEK 
IN OUR PARISH**



Sun. 12/13

K of C Pancake & Sausage Breakfast from 8 am to Noon

Return Senior Snowman Gifts

2-4 p.m. Cursillo Meeting - St. Michael's Hall

6 p.m. Women's CRHP - St. Michael's Hall

7 p.m. H.S. Youth Group Meeting - rectory

7 p.m. Men's CRHP - St. Anthony Room

Mon. 12/14

6:00 p.m. Rosary in church

6:30 p.m. CCW Christmas Party and Installation of Officers - St. Michael's Hall - all women of the parish are welcome to attend!

6:30 p.m. K of C Dinner Meeting - K of C Hall

Tues. 12/15

8:15 a.m. Mass in church - all welcome!

6:30 p.m. Parish Council - St. Elizabeth Room

7 p.m. Head Start Mitten Tree Party - St. Michael's Hall - all are welcome to come see the children open the gifts from our parish

7 p.m. Perpetual Help Devotions - Holy Cross Chapel

Wed. 12/16

10:30 a.m. Mass at Beth Haven - all are welcome!

7 p.m. ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE in church

7-8:15 p.m. Religious Education Classes - school

8:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Practice - St. Anthony Rm

Thurs. 12/17

8:15 a.m. Mass in church - all welcome!

7-9 p.m. RCIA - St. Michael's Hall

Fri. 12/18

7:00 a.m. Mass in the chapel - all are welcome!

9 a.m. Friday to 8:30 a.m. Saturday - Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel - all are welcome!

1 p.m. Holy Family School Dismissal - Christmas break - School will resume

Sat. 12/19

5:30 p.m. Mass - all welcome!

Sun. 12/20

8 & 10 a.m. Masses - all welcome!

11 a.m. Children's Christmas Choir Practice-church

2-4 p.m. Cursillo Meeting - St. Michael's Hall

Your Gifts To God

 And Parish...

Offertory Budget	52 wks.	\$ 1,041,248.00
Needed to Date	23 wks.	471,845.00
Received to Date		454,802.04
Over (Under) for Year		(17,024.96)
Needed Each Week		20,515.00
Received Dec. 5-6		30,208.16

The total for Dec. 5-6 is comprised of:

Regular Envelopes & Loose	18,796.52
Youth Envelopes	113.64
Donations	10,000.00
Memorials	120.00
Masses	55.00
Votive	6.00
School Support	340.00
Arts & Environment (C'mas flowers)	680.00
Holy Days (I.C.)	97.00

Building Fund	447.00
Families In Need	10.00
Human Development	25.00



CCW CHRISTMAS PARTY... Holy Family Council of Catholic Women will have their Christmas Party and Installation of Officers on Monday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. in St. Michael's Hall. The Rosary will be held at 6:00 p.m. in church, prior to the meeting. All ladies are reminded in lieu of a gift exchange to bring \$5.00 for our "Families In Need" Fund. All women of the parish are welcome to attend. See you at the party!!!



Our Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows: Christmas Eve:

Thurs., December 24th - Masses are:

5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and Midnight

Christmas Day: Fri., December 25th - 9:00 a.m. Mass
All Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Servers, Greeters are asked to call the parish office to volunteer to serve at our Christmas Masses.

Thanks to Marcus Allen who has volunteered to serve at the 5 pm Mass on Christmas Eve and to his mom, Debbie, who has volunteered to be a Eucharistic Minister at that Mass as well. Thanks also to Eucharistic Ministers Pat & Rayburn Cook who have volunteered to serve at 7:30 pm Mass. Call the office, 221-1078 to serve ASAP. Thanks!

70's DISCO FEVER PARTY - THE 9TH ANNUAL HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL AUCTION

The School Auction will take place Saturday, February 13th at the Admiral Coontz Armory with doors opening at 5:30 PM. TICKETS GO ON SALE THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY. Save the date!!! Donations happily accepted NOW. Please contact Mary Novara, 248-8004 to make your donation today! We greatly appreciate the generous donations received to date for the upcoming Holy Family School Auction. Watch the bulletin for more auction info.!

Christmas Mass Choir Practice Note

Next, Wednesday, December 16th we will have our final choir practice at 8:00 p.m. in the St. Anthony Room. This will give all an opportunity to attend the Advent Penance Service.

WHY CATHOLIC?

Faith Enrichment Sessions 2010

Scripture and Tradition: The Braid of Revelation

Please mark you calendars for attending the **Monroe City faith enrichment session on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church in Monroe City, MO.** Sr. Kathleen Collins from Renew International will be presenting the session. **The Why Catholic Faith Enrichment Sessions** are in-depth faith formation workshops based on the topics found in year one of *Why Catholic*. The two hour sessions are open to anyone who would like to attend but especially for all small group participants and leaders. The theme for Year One will be:

Scripture and Tradition: The Braid of Revelation.

When we gather, we will take a look back at the two sources of revelation available to the Church: Scripture and Tradition. Our faith tells us that in Jesus Christ, God has fully revealed himself to humanity. Through braiding together of Scripture and Tradition, we as Church, discover the presence and meaning of Christ in the world.

CHILDREN'S 5:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

The following dates are the practice dates for any children wishing to participate in the 5:00 pm Children's Christmas Eve Mass: **After Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass until 12:15 p.m. on: Sundays, December 13th, 20th**



READINGS FOR THE WEEK - Dec. 13-20

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) Is 12:2-6
Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab,
6&7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2,9-13 Ps34:2-3,6-7,17-18,
19 & 23 Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8,18,21b-25 Ps 85:9ab
&10-14 Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2,8-10 Ps 72:1-2,3-4ab,7-8,17
Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19
Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,
16-17 Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Lk 3:16,17

Adults When have I felt most alive in the presence of God?

Children When are some times that I felt God was near me? Was I happy?

Can You Help?

Two of our parishioners in nursing homes would appreciate receiving a card or a note for the holidays. They are:

Earl Woodson, Room 206
Lewis County Nursing Home
17528 State Highway B
Canton, MO 63435-3463

Ilene Megown
Maple Lawn Nursing Home
1410 West Line St.
Palmyra, MO 63461

Ilene misses being able to attend church, church functions and seeing all of her friends.

So if you know Earl and Ilene, please take time out of your busy schedule to send a Christmas card or note or both. Thanks for your care for your fellow parishioners.

Please Pray For All The Sick

December 13, 2009

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION DECEMBER 25-26 AND JANUARY 1-2. If you have any questions, please call Joan Varadin at 221-0501.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 13: 7-8:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting at the Rectory



YEAR FOR PRIESTS In this “Year For Priests” please pray for these priests of our diocese:
Fr. Tom Alber, Fr. Don Antweiler, Fr. Wayne Boyer, Fr. Frank Bussmann, Fr. Edwin Cole,
Fr. Mike Coleman, Fr. Chris Cordes, Fr. Joe Corel, Msgr. Dave Cox, Fr. Bill Debo, Fr. Pat Dolan

U.S. House Keeps Abortion Funding Out of Health Care Reform

Tell Senators: Follow the House’s Lead on Removing Abortion Funding, Protect Conscience Rights, Ensure Affordable Health Coverage, Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case for genuine health care reform that will protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage.
- It is critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language on this issue. This Amendment ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as part of needed health care reform.
- The Senate must address other essential moral priorities: protecting conscience rights; making health coverage more affordable and accessible for those in need; and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied health care coverage needed for the good of their families and the health of society.

ACTION: Contact Senate and House Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.

To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.

Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members’ local offices. Full contact info can be found on Members’ web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—SENATE:

“Please adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment that upholds longstanding policies against abortion funding, and please protect conscience rights in health care reform. Health care must be made more affordable and accessible to those in need, and immigrants must not lose or be denied health care coverage.”

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

“I am pleased that the House-passed health care reform bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. Please work to ensure that this essential provision is included in any final bill sent to the President.”

WHEN: The Senate schedule is uncertain. **Act today! Thank you!**

For more information on proposed legislation and the bishops’ position on authentic health care reform, visit: www.usccb.org/healthcare.

HAVE YOU ASKED SOMEONE TO BE A PRIEST OR RELIGIOUS TODAY?

SPECIAL THANKS TO...



FOR PROVIDING INTERNET SERVICE TO HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL!

CHRISTMAS ASSESSMENT

Your donations to the Seminarian Education and Priestly Retirement Fund help fund: 1) the work of our diocesan vocation office which recruits future priestly candidates for studies in the Diocese of Jefferson City 2) The expenses incurred with education of priestly candidates currently serving in the seminary; and 3) The retirement needs of our older priests who gave decades of service to our parishes throughout the diocese. Our 2009 Christmas Assessment is \$10,681. Please be generous!

LETTERS FROM SANTA... Avenues (Domestic Violence Shelter and Advocacy Services) is sponsoring a Letters from Santa program. Call Avenues at 573-406-1400 for information on this fund raiser. All orders for this program need to be received by December 18th and all proceeds benefit Avenues.

CALLING ALL COMMUNITIES

U.S. Cellular® is beginning its 2nd Annual Calling All Communities program between 11/13/09 and 01/15/10. During this time, everyone in the community is encouraged to vote for one particular school in the area. The ten schools with the most votes will receive \$100,000 each. This program is an incredible opportunity for both private and public schools throughout the country. The money can be used towards anything the school chooses to spend it on. Last year was a huge success, with the money awarded being used for playground equipment, scholarships, and much more.

Whether a U.S. Cellular® customer or not, anyone ages 18 or older is eligible to vote. To vote please visit any U.S. Cellular® location between November 13th, 2009 and January 15, 2010 to pick up your code, and vote online. Please visit www.uscellular.com/callingallcommunities for more details.

This could be an incredible opportunity for our school. I was a formal Holy Family Student, and I understand how much \$100,000 could help our school. Please vote! **If anyone has anyone questions or suggestions, please contact Amanda Elizondo 573-248-4800 or amanda.elizondo@uscellular.com.**

Praying With Pope Benedict XVI

Dear Heavenly Father,

During this Advent Season, we lift up every child throughout the world. May children in every land be respected and loved and never be the victims of exploitation in its various forms. Protect your children, Lord!

We also pray that on Christmas, the peoples of the earth may see in you, the Word Incarnate, the true light that illuminates every human being. We pray that every nation may open their doors to Christ, the Savior of the world.

WHAT THEN SHOULD WE DO? (Luke 3:10)

John the Baptist may have lived in a world that was just as muddled as ours, but he was far less muddled than most of the people around him. If he were here today, he would tell us the same thing that he told the people of ancient Judea: We all need to look at how we integrate the gospel into our daily lives.

Today's Gospel reading gives us a number of examples of John's teachings. Asked about the right way to live, he avoided lengthy theoretical discourses. Rather, he focused immediately on people's behavior. *"Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."* (Lk 3:11) He told tax collectors to stop cheating people. He told soldiers to be honest and just, and to stop bullying those weaker than they were. It seems that everything John said and did could be reduced to one command: Treat one another with the same love God has for you!

Clearly, no one had a hard time trying to figure out where John stood. In fact, it was his blunt, no-nonsense approach to holiness that got him into trouble with King Herod and eventually cost him his life.

When we look at the Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus also telling us how we should live. He told us that anger, hatred, and resentment are just as serious as murder. He said that the "least" are those who disobey God's commands, while the "greatest" are those who keep them (Matthew 5:19).

How are you living? As Christmas approaches, take John's advice and repent. Make sure to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that you can get rid of your sins and be ready to welcome Jesus with a heart as clean as John's. Turn to the Lord, and let him answer the question: *What then should I do?*

- Taken from The Word Among Us, Advent, 2009