

November 28, 2010: First Sunday of Advent



“Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” — Mt 24:40-42

Illustration from the Lectionary for Mass ©2004, 1998, 1978 CCB

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, November 28 (Is 2:1-5/Rom 3:11-14/Mt 24:37-44)

8:00 am- James Grahmann
10:30 am- Joe J. & Stella Smolik
5:00 pm- Jimmy Sanchez (Spanish Mass)

Monday, November 29 (Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11)

7:00 am- Forrest Timm, Sr.
10:00 am- Mass of Thanksgiving (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, November 30, St. Andrew, apostle (Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22)

7:00 am- Tim Schaefer

Wednesday, December 1 (Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37)

7:00 am- Lucille Etzler
8:05 am- Jerome Kocian

Thursday, December 2 (Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27)

7:00 am- Virginia & Bill Pederson
10:00 am- Herman Sciba (Stevens)

Friday, December 3, St. Francis Xavier, priest (Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31)

7:00 am- Frank V. & Rosalee Henke
8:05 am- Randy Zavesky

Saturday, December 4, St. John of Damascus, priest & doctor of the Church (Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35---10:1, 5a, 6-8)

5:30 pm- For our Parish Family

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

Bulletin Sponsor: In thanksgiving for the health of Helen Mitchon by her children and grandchildren.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Allan & Evelyn Lanik.

Vigil Light: In memory of James Bozka.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,463.50; Loose-\$935; Children-\$36; Human Dev.-\$536 ;Catholic Ed.-\$2,616.

Anniversaries:

Patrick & Beverly Jansky	30 years	Nov. 28
Elroy & Louise Tesch	58 years	Nov. 28
Donald & Mildred Grahmann	35 years	Nov. 29

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.

Calendar Membership: **Nov 18:** Ronnie Jansky-\$100; **Nov 19:** Gela Martin, Pearland-\$100; **Nov 22:** Kirk Blahuta, Austin-\$50; **Nov 23:** Wilbert Kalinec-\$50; **Nov 24:** Blahuta Advertising-\$50.

First Friday Rosary, Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. in church. The intention this month is “may we open our hearts to receive baby Jesus in church.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m. in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory in advance to register.
- Covered dish supper in Family Center after Spanish Mass.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.
- Dave Ramsey Course, 6:30 p.m., Family Center.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- Altar Society meeting, 5:15 p.m. in church.
- Adult Education/RCIA, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Family Center.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

- CCD: Grades K-12th, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
- Scripture Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary’s House.
- Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Rm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in church. The intention this month: “maintaining Christian principles in our country & keeping Christ in Christmas.”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

- Serra Club Mass, 8:30 a.m., St. John, Koerth.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

- Christian Mother’s Christmas Party, 2:00 pm, Family Center.

Among our sick: Edna Key, Ty Heinsohn, 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.

The Christian Mothers **Sharing Tree** with name tags of Catholic residents in our nursing homes is in the foyer of the church. Please select a name and bring a wrapped gift with the resident’s name attached back to the Sharing Tree no later than **Saturday, December 4**. The gifts will be delivered to the nursing homes so that each Catholic resident will have a gift to open at their Christmas Party.

Christian Mothers Society: Several members’ dues are in arrears. If you have not paid your \$6 per year membership dues, please mail your check payable to Christian Mothers Society to Rhonda Brown, 526 C R 131A, Hallettsville. If you have not paid your dues for several years and do not know what you owe, please call Rhonda at 798-1937. Your prompt attention to this matter will be appreciated!

Fund Drive for house at 318 S. Texana: Goal \$40,000
Total Donations Received To Date \$14,675

From the Desk of Father John

Advent is the season in which we prepare for the great celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. During these four weeks, we're invited to contemplate the richness of God's gift to us in Christ, as we, along with the entire Church:

Wait. We remember humanity waiting for the coming of the Savior. We wait and pray for the Second Coming of Jesus as our Lord and Judge.

Convert. We examine our lives and listen to the call of John the Baptist, to make the ways of our hearts ready for forgiveness and love.

Hope. We remember how God has fulfilled His promises in the grace and salvation through Jesus, and we pray and celebrate in hope for ourselves and for all God has made.



The Youth ConneXion

Kris Hermes 798-0655



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

RCIA/Adult Education

November 30: The Last Things: Death, Judgment, Purgatory, Heaven and Hell.

Death, Judgment, Heaven or Hell....this will be the destiny for all of us. Why do we have to die? What is death? How will we be judged? What will we do for all eternity in Heaven? Why would an all-good God allow Hell to exist? And what about Purgatory? Come learn the facts for yourself! The Church still teaches the truth that we all will die one day; and, after death, we will be judged by God individually, and then we will spend eternity where we deserve, whether heaven or Hell.

Note: The next class will be held on January 25, 2011.

Sacred Heart Catholic School ~~ Office: 798-4251

Support SHCS by purchasing a \$5 raffle ticket for the Catholic School Sweepstakes sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance. All monies from the sale of the tickets go to our school. Grand prize 2011 Ford F150, 2011 Ford Fusion or \$20,000 prepaid VISA card. Secondary prizes are prepaid VISA credit cards: (2) \$5,000, (2) \$2,500 & (5) \$1,000. Tickets may be purchased from SHCS students or at the school office or the Rectory. Tickets sold thru Dec. 3. Drawing will be held on Jan. 29, 2011.

St. Nicholas Ministry will be preparing boxes of food, toys, Christmas Shoe Box gifts, and other items for children and their families on Dec. 6-10 at the Lillie Appelt Youth Center 9:00 am-7:00 pm daily. Sign up sheets are in the foyer of the church if you wish to help in any way.

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.

1st Sunday of Advent

Wheel of Fortune is more than a TV game show with Pat Sajak and Vanna White. Fortune's Wheel has a much longer history. Going back to Roman times, and then made famous in the Middle Ages, the true "Wheel of Fortune" is an allegory on life. Fortuna (Fortune) is shown as a woman who spins the wheel with a person at the top, one on either side, and a fourth crushed at the bottom. The person on his way up will reign, the one on top is reigning, the person on his way down has reigned, and the final person on the bottom has lost everything. This is fortune's never ending cycle in human existence.

At first glance, the return of the Son of Man in Sunday's Gospel may seem to be no more than the vagaries of fortune. For men in the field and for women grinding grain, the fate is the same: "one will be taken, and one will be left." It is as though Jesus were describing the employment situation in the current economy.

Rather than adhering to the wheel of falling and rising fortunes, with the beginning of the church year today we enter into our annual cycle of celebrations of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As Christians, we are on a greater journey than a wheel of fortune. The life of Christ is our life too. As Paul reminds us in his Letter to the Romans, we have put on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not fortune that guides us, but hope: hope in Christ, who is our salvation. We will follow Him in this new year of grace, and through faith and love we will be ready to welcome Him when He comes again.



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The four stages of marriage are: (1) romance, (2) disillusionment, (3) misery, and (4) awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th stage. Don't give up. If your marriage suffers from disillusionment or misery, please consider attending the Retrouvaille weekend on January 14-16. To register or for information, call 979-543-3493 or email lbconner@sbcglobal.net or visit the website at www.retrouvaille.org.

Taize Prayer Experience, 7:00-8:00 p.m., December 7, Incarnate Word Convent Auditorium, Victoria. Taize prayer service held in a candlelight atmosphere consists of music, song, chant, scriptural reading, meditation and prayers of intercession. For information call 575-7111.

Mass and Healing Prayer celebrated by Fr. Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent, at 10 am on Dec. 4 at Our Lady Of Lourdes Church in Victoria.



Advent Wreath Prayer – 1st Week (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.)

One Minute Meditations

Shepherds of the poor

Among the first to receive Jesus into the world were shepherds. Today, the presence of the shepherds in the Nativity scene reminds us of the poor of the world and how close they are to Jesus' heart. In honor of the shepherds, perform some act of kindness for the poor.

Say "no" for Advent

Instead of taking on extra activities during the Christmas season, try saying "no" more often. Don't work overtime, don't attend another party, even say "no" to additional volunteer activities. Use the time you said "no" to the world to say "yes" to preparing for the Lord.

Advertise your faith

Put on a joyful appearance no matter what is going on in your day. Remind yourself of the coming miracle and what it means for each one of us.

Unborn joy

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb ..." (Luke 1:40). Even in the womb, John was filled with joy to serve God. During Advent look for ways to do God's will and then leap for joy as you fulfill his plan.

The light of Advent

"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

Make ready for something wonderful

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 wonderful birth ...

Week One - Wait.

Whenever you find yourself waiting for something this week, think of the fact that you are also waiting for Jesus to come. Ask him what you need to do to be ready for his arrival.

Week Two - Hope.

This week remember that God keeps his promises in ways more glorious

than we can imagine. *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Week Three - Prepare.

Look for ways to prepare your heart for Christmas.

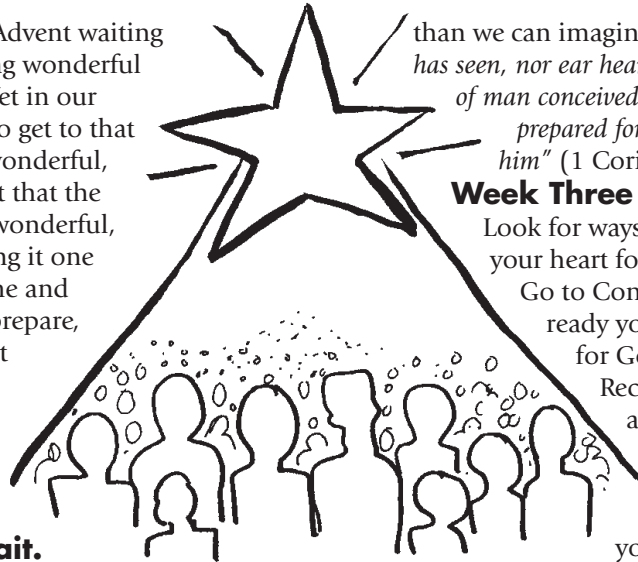
Go to Confession to ready your soul for God's grace.

Reconcile with anyone you need to in order to increase your peace.

Week

Four - Rejoice.

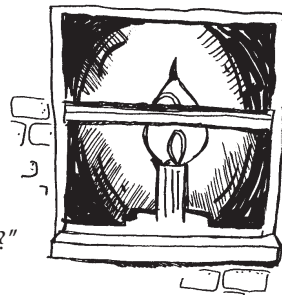
Sing "O Come O Come Emanuel" at the top of your voice. Pray with enthusiasm at Mass. Spend time with family and friends. Write out a list of all the things in your life for which you are grateful. Welcome our Savior with a peaceful, joyful heart.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we celebrate Advent?

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency. It is when the Church wants us to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?" We know that Jesus



will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet him next.

Develop an Advent frame of mind



The holiday season can seem more like a test of character than a preparation for celebration. In the midst of the seasonal stress, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. It may help to remember that the real reason for the season is the celebration of unimaginable love.

Try to see with a Father's eye. Our Heavenly Father delights in our creation and loves us for exactly who we are. During Advent, try to see yourself through his eyes. Not the flawed human visible to the rest of us, but the spectacular product of God's divine love and the reflection of his glory.

Tune in to a remarkable moment. "And the Word became

flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). It really happened. God really came and shared our experience in the world. In response, we can reach out beyond our friends and family and share our experience of God with the rest of the world.

Prepare your gift. The real gift of the Magi was to receive Jesus as the savior of all people. Your gift to Jesus can be an open heart, ready to receive the love he has for you. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Anticipating an eternity of unimagineable love is absolutely the right Advent frame of mind.

5 ways to enrich your season

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, and the excitement of Christmas. Yet Advent is a beautiful season in itself.

Consider these five ways to enjoy Advent as the season of hope ...

1. Come into the silence.

Over the next few weeks, take lots of deep breaths and treat yourself to some silent time each day.

2. Mark your progress. Buy or make an Advent wreath with four candles and light a new candle each Sunday. Say the traditional prayers or write your own.



3. Share the joy. Make peace with anyone who wronged you - or was wronged by you. Put resentment out of your heart to make more room for joy.

4. Comfort the lonely. Compile a list of people who live alone, are new to your area, or who have lost a loved one this year.

Include them in your holiday gatherings.

5. Start a new tradition. Sing a special song each night during Advent. Reserve a favorite food just for this time. Go out for a special meal after Mass. Whatever you do, make it joyful and celebratory.

St. Nicholas - A saint for the season

St. Nicholas was born at the end of the third century in Asia Minor. He was the son of wealthy parents who died while he was a child. Despite his misfortune, he selflessly wanted to share his wealth with those in need.

One popular story involving St. Nicholas concerns a man who had lost his fortune and was too poor to fill his family's bellies. He was even thinking of selling his three daughters to pay off his debts. Nicholas heard of the man's situation and secretly threw a bag of gold into an open window in the house. When the man awoke the next morning, he thanked God for his good

fortune. Twice more Nicholas helped the man in this way, and each time the man praised God - just as Nicholas intended.

St. Nicholas' feast day is December 6th this year. Children all over the world put their shoes out at night to find candy and small treats in them in the morning, in remembrance of St. Nicholas' anonymous generosity.



An illuminating tradition

The Advent wreath is one of the most popular devotions of the season. It is a symbol of our watchful wait for the Savior. Here's a way to make your own.

Supplies: Styrofoam ring, markers, evergreen branches that you buy or gather, wire or twist ties, three violet (purple) candles, one rose (pink) candle.

Directions: On the Styrofoam ring, mark four "Xs" equal distances apart where the candles will sit. Press a candle into the ring at each "X" to make an indentation. (Don't leave the candles in place yet.)

Wrap the evergreen branches around the ring to cover it completely. Secure the greens with wire or twist ties. Place the candles in the indentations you created earlier. Wind ribbons around the ring or add pine cones to decorate as you choose.

The three violet candles represent preparation, and are lit during the 1st, 2nd, and 4th weeks of Advent. The rose candle, lit during the 3rd week, is a reminder to rejoice.

Light a candle each night during Advent and offer prayers of hope and thanksgiving.

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