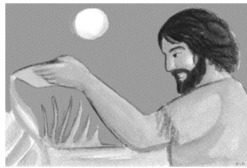


December 14: Third Sunday of Advent

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

— Jn 1:6-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, December 14, Third Sunday of Advent I (Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28)

8:00 am- Parish Family

10:30 am- Jim & Josephine Gutierrez & Frank Gutierrez

Monday, December 15, Advent Weekday, (Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27)

7:00 am- Jerome & Victoria Respondek

10:00 am- Living & Deceased Members of Herbert Hermes & Neskora Family (Hallettsville Rehab)

Tuesday, December 16, Advent Weekday, (Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32)

7:00 am- Alvin & Annie Schneider, Don & Wilma Peterson

Wednesday, December 17, Late Advent Weekday, (Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17)

7:00 am- Living & Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters

8:05 am- Living & Deceased Members of Jasper & Martha Pagel and George & Gussie Bucek Families

6:30 pm- Clyde & Georgie Jobb (CCD)

Thursday, December 18, Late Advent Weekday, (Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25)

7:00 am- Mary Bonorden

10:00 am- Gus & Rosa Werner, Joe & Agnes Leopold (Stevens)

Friday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday, (Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25)

7:00 am- Anton Honish

8:05 am- Kayleigh Foster

Saturday, December 20, Late Advent Weekday, (Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38)

5:30 pm- Alvin Schneider Jr. and Jerry & Bertha Mozisek

Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent I (2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38)

8:00 am- Living & Deceased Members of the Catholic Financial Life

10:30 am- Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: In Memory of Jim & Josephine Gutierrez and Frank Gutierrez

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In Memory of Jim & Josephine Gutierrez and Frank Gutierrez

Vigil Light: For Special Intentions.

Please pray for the blessing of beneficial rainfall!

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$9,964.50; Loose-\$2,228; Children-\$85; Second Collection-\$2,462.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

-Church Choir Practice, after 6:00 pm Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 am

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- CCD K-12—6:30 pm Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

- RCIA Class, Family Center, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- Baptismal Class – 9:00-10:00 am – Family Center



Among our sick: Donna Avant, Lorene Christ, Josephine Muniz, Wilbert Kalinec, Barbara Kubena, Kathy Davis, Elrose Ehler, Marilyn Palmquist, Doug Blumberg, Amanda Gutierrez, Becky Pekar, Karen Kahanek, Harvey Drozd, Monte Staha, Marie Hermes, Karen Perez, Georgie Meyer, Doris Anders, Jack Crandall, Gary Trojcek, Jerry Novosad, Brian Wisnoski, Jeanne McClain, Frances Kutach, Henry Konvicka, Sweet Hrcir, Clorisa Hartensteiner, Betsy Brown, Marcella Henke, Mark Henneke, Kirk Remmers, Leo Haas, Jr., Richard Grahmann, Margie Becker, Anita Pesek nursing home residents, & the homebound.

Calendar Membership: **Dec. 4:** Magdalene M. Steffek -\$100; **Dec. 5:** Sylvia Steffek -\$100; **Dec. 8:** Arthur Spies- \$50; **Dec. 9:** Alvin P. Grahmann- \$50; **Dec.10:** John & Charlene Pillow- \$50

KJZT Society #2 Christmas Party, Sunday, December 14 begins at 11:30 a.m., Family Center. Meal served at noon.

New Year's Eve Dance

Come out with your friends and ring in 2015 at the KC Hall. The KC Council will host a New Year's Eve Dance. The band playing for the dance will be the Red Ravens Polka Band. Breakfast will again be served and a good time of dancing and visiting with friends and family will be had by all. Dancing from 8:00 pm to 12:00 am (Midnight). Hope to see you there! Happy New Year!



School News

Friday, December 19--Early Dismissal at 12:00 noon for Christmas Holidays. Classes resume, Monday, January 5, 2015.

Holy Family Victoria Men's ACTS Retreat—The next Men's ACTS Retreat is January 22 through January 25, 2015. For more information, please contact, Director, Andrew Vasquez 361-575-2804, cell 361-571-6715, Co-Director, Michael Hanes 361-648-5589, or Eddie Longoria 361-648-2602.

Christmas Flowers: Donations are being accepted for the flowers during the Christmas Season. Please drop off your donation at the Rectory, or place it in an envelope with your name and drop it in the collection basket.



From the Desk of Msgr. John

As we continue our Advent journey and reflect upon God's love, I'd like to share a few thoughts with you for Christmas, the season for which we are preparing.

God sent his best gifts that first Christmas-

The hope shining bright in the Star,
The faith in the hearts of the wise men

Who followed its light from afar...

The promise of peace from the angels

Who told where the Savior would be,

The worshipful awe of the shepherds

Who went to the stable to see...

The joy on the face of the mother

The miracle of a Child's birth,

And, to a world watching in wonder,

His beautiful love come to the earth.

We seem to think of Christmas

As a special time...a season...

But really it's much more than that,

Christmas is a reason...

A reason to be joyful, a reason to believe,

A reason to be grateful for the blessings we receive,

A reason to have faith and trust in the Lord above...

Christmas is a reason to be filled with hope and love.

"The greatest gift does not lie under the tree or in a store

But rests quietly in the heart, waiting to be given...

The greatest gift of love."

Youth Night: We will be visiting the Stevens Nursing Facility this Sunday December 14th from 2-4 pm. to play games with the residents! Students 8-12 grade are invited. Transportation will not be provided so students must arrive and leave from the nursing home. We highly encourage our youth to participate in this event as it can be a very spiritually uplifting experience. God bless.

If you are looking for that something special for someone during the Christmas Season--Shop now for that special gift available at the Rectory --Advent Wreaths, candles, Nativities, ornaments, etc.



Advent Penance Services:

St. Joseph, Moulton – Monday, December 15,
5:30 pm

St. Joseph, Yoakum – Tuesday, December 16, 5:30 pm

Sacred Heart – Thursday, December 18, 5:30 pm

(Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner does not participate.)

Confessions at Sacred Heart:

Friday, December 19, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 20, 4:00 p.m.–5:15 p.m.

Monday, December 22, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 P.M. and 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 23, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Confessions at St. Mary:

Saturday, December 20, 10:00 a.m.

Confessions at St. John:

Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m.

Confessions at Ascension Parish, Moravia:

Saturday, December 20, 5:00-5:45 p.m.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SWEEPSTAKES RAFFLE

Once again, Catholic Life Insurance is sponsoring the Catholic School Sweepstakes Raffle that will benefit Sacred Heart Catholic School (SHCS). Tickets are only \$5.00 each and all money collected stays at SHCS.

Prizes are as follows:

Grand Prize:

Choice of 2015 Ford Truck OR 2015 Ford Fusion Sedan OR Prepaid \$20,000 Visa Credit Card

Secondary Prizes:

(15) Prepaid \$1,000 Visa Credit Cards

(20) Prepaid \$500 Visa Credit Cards

(20) Prepaid \$250 Visa Credit Cards

Tickets are available at the school, the rectory, or any SHCS student. Drawing will be held on January 30, 2015.

Third Sunday of Advent

"There is one among you whom you do not recognize."

With these words, John the Baptist was referring to his cousin, Jesus. Although Jesus had not yet begun His public ministry, John knew that Jesus was the Messiah. And it was John's mission to prepare other people to recognize that fact.

John and Jesus had first "met" in utero when Mary visited Elizabeth. Even from that early moment, John understood the significance of encountering Jesus. The Gospel of Luke tells us that the baby "leaped for joy" in Elizabeth's womb when the expectant Mary approached. Now that these two babies were grown men, John was still in the business of recognizing Jesus' significance. He describes his cousin as "the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." John knew that Jesus was something special. And he made it his goal to lead others to the same realization.



Of course, as Christians in the twenty-first century, we already know that Jesus is the Messiah. But John's words still raise an important question for us today: Do we recognize the real significance of Jesus? Do we take him for granted, or do we appreciate the gift of salvation that he offers us? Today's Gospel reading tells us that John came "to testify to the light." Do we let the light of Christ guide our way? Have we "made straight the way of the Lord" by putting Jesus first in our lives?

Today as we light the third candle on the Advent wreath, we would do well to reflect on the true light that came down from heaven. Let us pray, as this holy season continues, that our minds and hearts will be enlightened to grasp the true significance of the coming of Christ.

KC/CDA CHRISTMAS PARTY—The Annual

KC/CDA Christmas Party & Awards Night has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2014. A delicious roast beef meal with a delicious dessert will be served around 7:00 pm. KC awards will be presented. There will be plenty of Door Prizes. Doors open at 6:00 pm.

Although not required, please try to RSVP to the KC Hall before December 12 at 798-2311.

CDA Members are asked to bring snacks for the party.

All widows of our Deceased members are invited to join.

