

The Parish Family of
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Farmington, Missouri



Join us for
doughnuts
TODAY
in the
Parish Center
after mass.

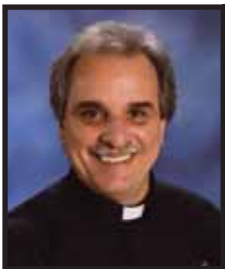
December 5th, 2010
Second Sunday of Advent



Everyone is
invited to the
ADVENT
RECITAL
tonight at
6:30 pm in the gym.

John the Baptist said, "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. — Matthew 3:11





From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph

Advent...
A Season of Waiting
A Season of Hope...
Preparing our Hearts for
Christmas!

Today we celebrate the **Second Sunday of Advent**, a season of waiting... a season of Hope. This beautiful liturgical season is a time for us to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ anew this Christmas!

Christ has come and our lives must now be different. Fill in the valleys of our depression by deep faith and trust in God's promises. Bring down the mountains of our pride by giving God the glory, He now we, are the source of all that is good. Our ways are often crooked when we try to straddle the fence and compromise with this world. Make these ways straight by absolute fidelity to God. Do not rationalize our habits of weakness; rather strive daily to make our rough temperament smooth with Christ's grace. We live in the age of the Holy Spirit. We await the full glory of Christ; meanwhile we are a people of joy. During this Advent season let us renew our faith, hope and joy.

May the gift of this Advent Season help us to prepare well for the ultimate gift of Christmas, the gift of a peaceful heart!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation THIS Wednesday, December 8th

On **Wednesday, December 8th** we will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. **We will have masses at 7:00 am, 8:00 am and 7:00 pm.** Mary, under the title of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is the patroness of the United States.

First Reconciliation Tomorrow Evening for Our Second Graders

Please remember our second graders from our parish who will be making their First Reconciliation tomorrow evening. May their hearts feel the fullness of peace that comes from this Sacred Sacrament from Christ. Keep the children in your prayers this week as they prepare for this very special graced filled moment.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation to be Offered All Day Long Thursday, December 16th for Our Advent Preparation

On **Thursday, December 16th** we will offer an entire day from **8:00 am until 6:00 pm** for the reception of the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*. During Advent, families will clean and decorate their homes and plan for visits from relatives and friends. This invitation is about spiritual preparation of our hearts in order to welcome Christ. A schedule that outlines the time each priest will hear confessions is on page 14 of this bulletin.

A Christmas Tradition. . . Bringing a Gift to Baby Jesus

Our parish has the wonderful tradition of giving gifts to Baby Jesus before all of the Christmas Masses. Children from ages "two to ninety-two" are invited to place a gift for Baby Jesus near the crib. This is an awesome way for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas. The tender gesture of placing a wrapped baby gift near the crib is a moving witness to us all. These baby items are distributed to mothers who need them.

This year our **Respect Life Committee** has chosen the local hospitals and the Parkland Pregnancy Resource Center to receive and distribute Baby Jesus' gifts to mothers and babies in our community. (Items needed: sleepers, newborn mittens, onesies, undershirts, receiving blankets and heavier blankets.)

Santa Claus is Coming to Our "All You Can Eat Breakfast" Next Weekend!!!

Bring the children and grandchildren to the Knights of Columbus Breakfast after all 3 Masses

Mark your calendars to bring your children and grandchildren for **Breakfast with Santa** next Sunday morning after all 3 masses. Santa is so awesome with our children and indeed makes each one feel special! Santa has an amazingly warm, gentle, and joyful spirit. The kids will love meeting Santa!!!

Our **Knights of Columbus** will be taking pictures of the children with Santa and you will be able to pick them up the following weekend at mass. What a great gift for grandparents!

What an Awesome Advent by Candlelight Evening for Our Ladies \$4920.84 raised for our Secret Santa!!!

Last Sunday evening 164 ladies from our parish gathered in a beautiful candlelight setting for a very reflective evening on “**The Yes that Changed the World.**” Our deepest and heartfelt thanks to our Religion Coordinator, **Sr. Barbara Wentworth, DHM**, for an excellent presentation and to the 22 wonderful women who served as hostesses for this first annual evening. Please see the photos on pages 10 and 11.

Secret Santa. . . Together we can help some of our own Parish Families to have a Merry Christmas (translated: Quiet Holiness)

At this time we have 12 registered households that are in need of a visit from Secret Santa. Again this year I invite you to join me in helping these parishioners who are in need of extra help this Christmas. These are families or individuals that are registered in our parish and for various reasons are experiencing difficult times. They may have not requested help from our St. Vincent de Paul Society but they have confided in me about their struggle to make ends meet. “Secret Santa” is a way to respond to their needs. The only requirement that “Santa” has, is that they faithfully attend mass each week.

A registered active parishioner is one who attends mass regularly and also contributes their time, talents and treasure to the parish. Sorry, but because of the need this year, we will not be able to help any family members of parishioner’s who are not registered in our parish.

All requests are previewed, without names, by our Finance Committee and are discreetly delivered personally by someone on our parish staff. If you would like to participate in this “quiet holiness”, please use the envelope found in your monthly offering package.

Are You Seeking Some Peaceful Time. . .

Do you feel a little overwhelmed with the holidays upon us... I invite you to come and spend an hour with Christ in Eucharistic Adoration all day this Thursday to grasp the full meaning of the “Holy” days that will be upon soon.

Remember Your Loved One at Christmas by the Gift of a Christmas Poinsettia

Memorials will be published in our bulletin

As is our custom, you can remember your loved one by donating flowers to decorate the altar area. An envelope is included in your December packet of offering envelopes. The names of those who are especially remembered in this way will be listed in our December 26th bulletin.

The printer’s deadline for this bulletin is **Monday, December 20th**. Hopefully we will have a complete list. However, any gifts received after the deadline will be listed in the January 2nd bulletin.

Please note that the extra funds collected are placed in a restricted flower fund and are used for decorating our Sacred Space year round. Thus, throughout the year when you see the plants and flowers we hope you will be reminded of your loved ones.

Remembering Those Serving in Our Military This Christmas. . .

In our Christmas issue of our bulletin we would like to remember those who are currently serving in our Military. Please call Sandy at the parish office if you know of a parishioner or have an immediate family member serving in our military to have their name listed in this special section.

And Finally...

Please note that there will be **NO** Parish Rosary this Wednesday evening due to the 7:00 pm mass of the Immaculate Conception. Our PSR students will go directly from their class to the mass.

There will also be **NO** Bible Timeline bible study due to the mass for Immaculate Conception.

Our congratulations to **Becky Gruhala** who was the recent winner of the beautiful Respect Life Nativity Set drawing. Congratulations!

“Always remember that as long as we keep the Eucharist the center of our lives, everything else will fall in place...of that I am confident”!!!

Blessings of Peace...**Fr. Rickey**

Our Pastoral Team

Rev. Rickey J. Valleroy..... Pastor
email: frickvalleroy@aol.com

Rev. James W. Dyer..... Associate Pastor
email: frjim@stjosephfarmington.com

Deacon Albin Gegg Permanent Deacon

Susie Rohrer.....Principal
email: principal@stjosephfarmington.com

Sr. Barbara Wentworth.....Religion Coordinator

Agnes Hinkebein Pastoral Health Care
email: agnes@stjosephfarmington.com

Lauren Stein.....Preschool Director
email: prekdirector@stjosephfarmington.com

Nathan SteinBusiness Manager
email: nathan@stjosephfarmington.com

Sandy Doty..... Event Coordinator and Bulletin Editor
email: bulletin@stjosephfarmington.com

Jane Hardy & Lisa Cartee Secretaries
email: secretary@stjosephfarmington.com

Mike WardMaintenance Supervisor

Brian Stamm Pastoral Council

Chuck Hayden Financial Commission

Ed Brown.....Cemetery Association
phone: 573-756-5369

Parish Business Office Hours

Monday thru Friday • 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Phone (573)756-4250 • Fax (573)756-6938
10 North Long Street • Farmington, MO 63640

Mass Schedule

Monday thru Friday 7:00 am
Friday (All School Mass August - May) 8:05 am
Sunday Observance
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am
Holy Days of Obligation 7:00 am, 8:00 am, and 7:00 pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday 7:00 am, or by appointment

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month
after the 10:30 am Mass

The Sacrament of Marriage

Celebrated after meeting the bride and groom and
beginning preparation six months before the wedding,
in accordance with Archdiocesan Wedding Policy.

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 7:30 am thru Closing Prayer Service at 5:20 pm
First Fridays of the month from 8:30 am to 2:15 pm

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Open Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

For assistance call 756-0997

Yesterdays Kids Concert and Way of Lights

Those signed up for the Yesterday's Kids trip to the
Holiday Brass Concert and the Way of Lights
please note that the bus will leave Lober parking
lot at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 7th.**

This Week in Our Parish

Mon	12/6	First Reconciliation 6:30 pm • Church
Tues	12/7	Yesterday's Kids Trip bus leaves at 12:00 noon Cub Scouts 6:30 pm • Cafeteria
Wed	12/08	Immaculate Conception Masses 7:00am, 8:00am, 7:00pm NO School PSR Classes 6:00 pm • School NO Parish Rosary NO Bible Timeline Bible Study
Thurs	12/09	Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 am - 5:20 pm • Church Boy Scouts 6:00 pm • Cafeteria
Fri	12/10	Parent's Night Out 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the gym
Sun	12/12	K of C Breakfast with Santa After all Masses • Cafeteria



Happy Birthday



<u>December 5th</u> Pamela Galeski Dolores Neumeier Julie Nicholson	<u>December 7th cont.</u> Alex Cummings Marilyn Trokey	<u>December 9th cont.</u> Harold Gray Carol Hawkins Kathy Hinkebein Jennifer Swinarski Connie Thebeau
<u>December 6th</u> Chris Fingerhut JW Flowers Mary Flowers Connie Jung	<u>December 8th</u> Grace Cowley Joshua Gerstner Mandy Potter	<u>December 10th</u> Gerald Hafner Cory Herzog
<u>December 7th</u> Sue Brown	<u>December 9th</u> T. J. Benoist Don Boyd Harold Crawford, Jr.	<u>December 11th</u> Kimberly Ramos



Happy Anniversary



<u>December 7th, 2001</u> James C. & Renee Johnson	<u>December 11th, 1982</u> David & Cathy Reichert
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Eucharistic Celebrations and Mass Intentions

Week of December 6th - 12th, 2010

Monday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26
7:00 am: **Christopher Schwent**

Tuesday: St. Ambrose

Readings: Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14
7:00 am: **Angela Wade**

**Wednesday: Immaculate Conception
of the Virgin Mary**

Readings: Gn 3:9-15,20 Ps 98:1-4
Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38
7:00 am: **C. E. (Kopie) & Lucille Koppeis**

Thursday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15
9:00 am: **Todd Jokerst**

Friday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19
7:00 am: **Eugene Smith**
8:05 am: **Frank & Rosemary Knittig**

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

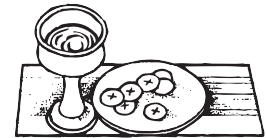
Readings: Is 35:1-6a,10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11
5:00 pm **Parishioners**

Sunday:

7:30 am: **Harry & Mildred Hogenmiller**
9:00 am: **Lindell Basler**
10:30 am: **Catherine Tantillo**

visit www.stjosephfarmington.com and click on "daily mass readings" for easy reference.

Ministers of the Liturgy



Saturday, December 11th

5:00 pm Mass

Priest: Fr. Rickey Valleroy
Lector: John Crouch
Extraordinary Ministers:
Tom Karl, Jim Willis, Linda Versluys,
Laura Denkler, Donna Conklin
Ushers: Dennis Rogers, Ralph Trepasso,
Bill Baker, Buddy Bordewick
Servers: S. Brown, A. Willis, G. Gerstenecker

Sunday, December 12th

7:30 am Mass

Priest: Fr. Rickey Valleroy
Lector: Jim Eaton
Extraordinary Ministers:
Melissa Mitchell, Steve Forsythe,
Bob Lowery, Rose Hayden, Chris Westrich
Ushers: Jack Neiner, Ed Weidenbenner,
Ed Brown, Tom E. Donze
Servers: K. Weidenbenner, N. Westrich

9:00 am Mass

Priest: Fr. James Dyer
Deacon: Deacon Al Gegg
Lector: Dawn Fuemmeler
Extraordinary Ministers:
Kevin Boatright, Vanessa Trokey,
George & Sandi Kracke
Ushers: John England, Bill Kure,
Jerry Morris, Dale Springs
Servers: L. Trokey, G. Trokey, S. Trokey

10:30 am Mass

Priest: Fr. James Dyer
Lector: Gary Berblinger
Extraordinary Ministers:
John & Helen Thurman, Jim & Jill Robert,
Theresa Aubuchon
Ushers: Travis Trolinger, John Bieser,
Mark Bieser, Bob Bone
Servers: F. Hulsey, S. Lyons-Jahn, JC Odle



Welcome to St. Joseph Parish

Welcome to St. Joseph's Parish. If you are a regular visitor and would like to join our parish, please return this form in next week's collection basket or stop by the Parish Office at 10 North Long Street.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Monday, December 6th, 2010

Sacristans

Theresa AuBuchon, Sue Brown,
Barb Doss, Geneva Jokerst

Money Counters

Marilyn Currington, Bob & Mary Lou Govreau,
Kathy Miller, Edsel Wade

There will be **NO Parish Rosary** this Wednesday due to the Immaculate Conception.



We welcome into our faith community through Baptism. . .



Nathaniel Charles Strohmeier
son of Jeremy & Jessica Strohmeier

“May the Lord give His angels charge over you, to guide you in all your ways.”
Psalm 91:11

In Our Thoughts and Prayers. . .

We pray for the repose of the soul of:



Bertha Thomure

mother of Ron (Debbie) Thomure

Greg Barenburgge

father of Greg (Lyn) Barenburgge

May God welcome them home, fill them with peace, and bless those who will miss them.



St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you St. Joseph’s parishioners for your generosity on **Thanksgiving. \$1,180.00** was given to our St. Vincent de Paul Society!!

St. Vincent de Paul



Thank you St. Joseph’s parishioners for your generosity for the month of **November** to our St. Vincent de Paul Society. **\$2469.99** was given in our monthly S.V.D.P. envelopes.

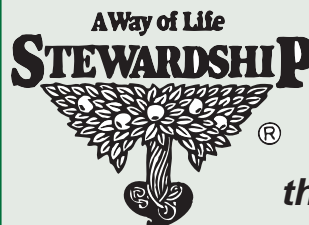
Your Gifts to God and Parish
Sunday, November 28th, 2010

Adult Envelopes \$17,999.11
Loose \$305.07
Children’s Envelopes \$1.00
\$18,305.18

	<u>Current Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Sunday Offering	\$18,305.18	\$229,919.43
Budgeted Amount	<u>\$10,850.00</u>	<u>\$238,700.00</u>
Shortage/Overage	\$7,455.18	\$(8,780.57)

Partners in Education \$110.00
Maintenance & Repair \$35.00
St. Vincent de Paul \$195.00
Retired Religious \$45.00
Washington DC Pilgrimage \$500.00
Christmas Flowers \$25.00
Human Development \$125.00
Secret Santa \$898.00
Total for Specials \$1,933.00

Thank You For Your Faithfulness!!!



“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”
Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. As we are immersed in the Holiday shopping season now might be a good time to evaluate what gifts do we give to God?

Together we pray for those who are sick. (Parishioners names are in bold.)

Please pray for: Wanda Meyer, **Mary Jones**, **Charmaine McFarland**, **Tom Rigdon**, **Bob Medley**, Charles Southard, Kathy Krechnyak, Rhonda LaPierre, **Norma "Mutzie" Greif**, Diane Starks, **Robert McManus**, **Patrick Kernan**, Roy Wirth, Marilyn Wilson Proffer, Melissa McKelvey, Barry Bruder, Louise Ashworth, **Rose Trepasso**, Chris Meyer, Ann Raymer, Gene Jenkins, **Thelma Blake**, **Frances Zolman**, Bobbie Hammon, Judy Reich, Amy Erard, **Mary Ann Burns**, Jackie Whitworth, **Howard Denton**, Sandy Stuart, Julie Bone, Sandy Turley, **Sue Pruetzel**, Jean Parrott, Phillip Dickerson, John Bernal, Steve Strohmeier, Jean Bach, Michael Coogan, William Visnovske, Clet (Cletus) Weidenbenner, Jhena Copeland.

If you need to add someone to the prayer list, please contact Pat Boatright at 756-4169.

Gifts of the Spirit

The reading from the prophet Isaiah is a very hopeful description of the Messiah. And part of that description in verses 2-3 contains the traditional seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, and looking forward to His coming in glory, let's take a look at those gifts and see how we can use them.

Wisdom is first and it is not a matter of tossing out proverbial quotes. This wisdom is the gift of seeing God in his creation. It means that we value the things of this world only as they help us to know and love God more. The second gift, Understanding, follows from Wisdom: as we appreciate God in His creation, we understand what God expects of us in dealing with creation and other people. This gift helps us to know how to act in a world that seems to ignore God.

Counsel follows from Understanding as the gift of making correct judgments on how to act, how to follow those commands of God. For example, Understanding can lead us to love others. Counsel guides us to love them in appropriate ways.

Strength or fortitude, is the gift that enables us to do those things inspired by understanding and counsel, even if they are difficult. John the Baptist shows that gift in the gospel, when he challenges the Pharisees. It gave him the courage to die for his faith.

Knowledge is similar to counsel (knowing how to act) in that we begin to see what God wants for us in this world. It includes an understanding of Scriptures and how God's Word applies to our lives. Knowledge leads us to deeper revelations of the truths of our faith. This can lead to the sixth gift (seventh in Isaiah's text: "delight in the Lord") of Piety. This is a willingness to worship and love God, a desire to be close to Him in prayer. Piety leads us to totally rely on God and humbly ask his help.

The final gift, Fear of the Lord, is more than just being afraid: It is the awe and wonder of recognizing how great God is, how much he loves us, and so how much we want to stay close to Him. The desire to be close to God leads back to Wisdom, where we see God in his creation.

(from "The Word in our Lives")

The Answer is Always "Jesus"

Sr. Barbara Wentworth, DHM



Did you know that the Mass can be basically divided up into roughly four sections ?

† Come † Listen † Do † Go

We come together at Mass as one in Body, gathering to pray before Jesus. We listen to Scripture and the Homily, the Word of Jesus. We pray and participate in the Eucharist, becoming one with Jesus. We are sent forth to bring His message to all the world.

Where did this all start? Is what we do so solemnly each Sunday based on a worship pattern familiar to Jesus, the apostles and perhaps, Paul? Most of us are most comfortable with what is familiar...and the early Church was no different. Our Mass is patterned after ancient synagogue worship....Most scholars agree that, for at least 1500 years, the order of worship in the synagogues and temples would have been quite familiar to us:

- The gathering litany blessing God for the love he shows
- The confession of faithfulness to God
- The Intercessory Prayer
- Scripture Readings and Homily
- Benediction and sending forth

Synagogue worship centered on reading and remembering the work of God among his people and as the new Christian Church developed it's own theology and understanding the core connection to Judaism was never lost. In fact it was not unusual, after the death of Jesus, for the apostles to worship in the temple in the morning and "break bread" with the other disciples in the evening.

The Last Supper is obviously the reason why Christian liturgies exist. We do what Jesus told us to do...what he himself had done. Anticipating the Passion, Jesus called his followers together during the time of Passover, but not on the night of Passover, for what was a traditional ritual meal. Scholars believe that this was a "Berakoth", a Jewish blessing meal at which there would be a breaking of the bread and where the final cup of dinner wine would be shared by all at the table. On that night, Jesus offered himself, first as "servant" as he washed the feet of those who were assembled, and then in his Body and Blood for our redemption. ***"This is my Body...This is my Blood....Do this in memory of me."***

Though the event of the crucifixion was a single, solitary event... it was an event with eternal consequences, an eternal sacrifice.... an actualization of the Cross, the Tomb, the Resurrection and the Second Coming. This is what we celebrate at each Liturgy of the Eucharist. The words might change a bit over the centuries given the signs of the times, but the sacrifice is the same. His life was given to ransom ours.

Home & School Association

Supporting families as the first teachers in the ways of FAITH!

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 6th -
St. Nick Day, First Reconciliation
at 6:30 pm in church

Wednesday, December 8th -
Immaculate Conception, No School

Friday, December 10th -
Parents Night Out. . .
Finish Up Your Christmas
Shopping! all school and PSR
families are invited to drop off their
children at the gym from 6-8 pm for
free baby sitting while the parents
enjoy an evening out of fun or
Christmas shopping!

Sunday, December 12th -
Third Sunday in Advent, K of C
Breakfast with Santa in cafeteria
after ALL masses

The bookfair in November was a huge success, thanks to everyone who helped and participated. At right Mary, Jim and Matt Eaton pose with Curious George and Clifford. Lower right Mrs. Rohrer reads a story to the preschoolers who all received a book from the bookfair.



Outdoor Advent Wreath

Have you seen our beautiful outdoor Advent wreath? This large and noticeable wreath is one way that our school is witnessing our Catholic faith. A big heartfelt thank you to **Brian Stamm** for constructing this wonderful wreath. We'll be able to use this every year.

Youth Group News

Greetings Parish!

Last week the Youth Group enjoyed a relaxing... if somewhat comedic night of Rosary making. Although some Rosaries were more "unique" than others, spiritual connections were made after as we prayed a guided Rosary together in front of the Holy Altar. Afterwards, the teens shared an intimate time with Father James as he blessed our freshly-made Rosaries and shared to us how the special prayer can impact our lives.



Today, there will be Junior High Youth Group in the gymnasium from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and Senior High Youth Group in the gymnasium from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. We will be talking about reflection during Advent, and how to get a fulfilling experience out of this Holy Season. Be sure to invite a friend, there will be pizza and Christmas goodies!!!

Quote of the Week: "It is human to err, but it is devilish to remain willfully in error." - St. Augustine

La Parroquia Familiar
de la Iglesia Católica de San José
En Farmington , Missouri
Lo Invita cordialmente a una
celebración especial en Español
De la Santa Eucaristía

**Domingo Diciembre 19
a las 3:00 p.m.**



**En La Ocasión dela
fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Y la celebración del 4to. Domingo de Adviento
Con el Padre David Nations CM**

Trae tu platillo y comparte con nosotros
En la Mesa del Señor en el Centro
de la Parroquia después de la misa

Le notificamos que tendremos un invitado de honor
Javier Orozco

Director de la Arquidiócesis del Ministro Latino ,
Con nosotros en este día especial para ayudarnos a satisfacer
Los sacramentos necesarios de nuestra comunidad Latina .
Deseámos tener una multitude grande para recibirlo

Para mas información llama a Raúl Borrego al 573-760-8721

A dvent by Candlelight

"The Yes that Changed the World"



A total of **\$4920.84** was raised for our "Secret Santa" funds to help the needs of some of our parishioners this Christmas season.

A Special Thank You To

Sr. Barbara Wentworth, DHM

*Daryl Buchheit and
Bill & Kathy Palmer, musicians*

*and to the special table
hostesses for the evening:*

*Connie Grindel
Patricia Boatright
Helen Thurman
Agnes Hinkebein
Patricia Nekula
Linda Gillespie
Rita Boyd
Mandy Potter
Amy Williams
Sue Brown
Joyce Wozniak
Jami AuBuchon
Joni Coleman
Terri Roney
Susie Rohrer
Shirley Bieser
Angie Winch
Phyllis Trolinger
Jessica Arnold
Jane Hardy
Phyllis LaPlant
Leslie Fischbeck*



*Lord,
"We thank you
for counting us
worthy to stand
in your presence
to serve you"*

*Eucharistic
Prayer II*

Growing in FAITH™

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

December 2010

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Fr. Rickey J. Valleroy

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.

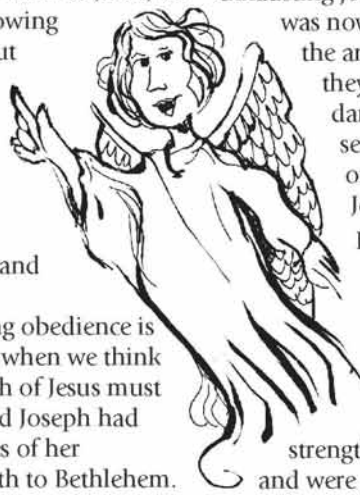
Rethink gift-giving habits. The Season of Giving doesn't have to mean over-shopping, over-spending, and over-stressing. Come up with a reasonable budget that doesn't involve running up debt and stick to it. Then resolve to buy simple gifts. For example, get all the adults on your list the same thing 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?

Cuauhtlatoatzin 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)



Snow Plowing Our Grounds

Our parish is in need of someone to snow plow the grounds this winter season. We are hoping that there may be a parishioner that will step forward to fill this need for our parish. If not, we will be soliciting bids for snow plowing/removal. Please contact Mike Ward at 760-8800.

Holiday Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24th

Masses at 5:00 pm and Midnight
(Traditional Christmas Carols begin at 11:30 pm)

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25th

Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 am
There will be NO 5:00 pm mass this day.

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday, December 26th

Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 am

Feast of the Epiphany - Sunday, January 2nd

Vigil at 5:00 pm on Saturday, January 1st
Sunday Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 am

Since New Year's Day falls on a Saturday it is not a holy day of obligation this year.

We are in need of volunteers to help in the school cafeteria from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please contact Dolores in the cafeteria if interested.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

**For Advent to be Offered all Day Long
Thursday, December 16th**

8:00 - 10:00 am.....Fr. Rickey & Fr. James
(school children will be present)

10:00 am - noon.....Msgr. James Hanson

noon - 2:00 pm.....Fr. Jeffrey Knight

2:00 - 4:00 pm.....Fr. Joseph Reilly

4:00 - 6:00 pmFr. James Schaefer

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held throughout the day.

Advent Meditation

They watch for Christ who are sensitive, eager, attentive in mind, who are awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honoring him, who look for him in all that happens, and who would not be surprised, who would not be over agitated or overwhelmed if they found that he was coming at once. . .

This then is to watch:
to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen;
to live in the thought of Christ as he came once, and as he will come again;
to desire his second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of his first.

Cardinal Newman

Look at what's happening in our Parish. . .



Sunday, December 12th
Breakfast with Santa

Wednesday, December 15th

Bit of Comfort Dinner
6:00 pm in the Parish Center



Santa Eucaristia



Sunday, December 19th
Spanish Mass at 3:00 pm

Portrait Pick Up

We recently had family photographs taken for our new pictorial directory. Some of you chose to have your complimentary 8x10 portrait sent to the church. A box of portraits has arrived. You may pick up your portrait in the parish office any time Monday through Friday, 8:00 until 4:30.

Let us pray for those who share weekly in our Eucharistic Celebration and who are carrying the gift of life. . .

Golda (Anton) Aseniero

Stephanie (Paul) Boshoff

Lauren (Nathan) Stein

If you are carrying the gift of life and would like the prayers of your parish family please call Sandy at the parish office.

**Looking for peace during this busy time of year?
Come spend some time with Our Lord.**



Regular Eucharistic Adoration hours are **Thursdays from 7:30 am - 5:20 pm** followed by Benediction. Everyone is welcome to visit during Adoration Hours!

To sign up for a specific hour or to be on the substitute list, please call Charlie and Rita Boyd at 756-2383, or e-mail them at ctboyd@sbcglobal.net.

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