



Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2007

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.

— Isaiah 35:10 a

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This Sunday the 16th will be the last class of Religious Education before the Christmas and New Years Holidays.

Many Thanks to all of the Catechists, for giving so much of your time and talent to the children of the parish.. We would also like to thank the parents for all of their support of the program.

May the Blessings and joys of the season be showered on you family at this special time of the year.

We invite all of our parishioners to attend the Christmas pageant in the family center after the 10:30 Liturgy.

In case you want to contact Sister Imelda, you may do so at Our Lady of Angels Convent, 609 S. Convent Road, Aston, PA 19014

ADVENT ANGEL Thank you for all your generous support to the Advent Angel program. You have made a difference for these families. Thank you again for all your support. *Casey Dauphin* (302) 998-4848.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Sunday, December 16 at 2 p.m. Classic choral settings of Christmas carols will be presented by St. Joseph's Adult & Youth Choirs. All are welcome! Light refreshments

will be served.

Altar Servers

They are Jesus' Friends

Boys and girls fourth grade and up are invited to register for this ministry by calling Ann Michels, Director, Altar Servers (302) 654.9273 or (302) 750.0089. Training session will be scheduled in January. Pope Benedict XVI's August appearance in St. Peter's Square was mainly for an audience of 42,000 European altar servers. *"Dear friends, in reality you already are apostles of Jesus. When you offer your service at the altar, you give a witness to all. Your attitude of prayer, your devotion that comes from the heart is expressed in gestures, song and responses, all this is apostolic."* - *Catholic News Service*

WATCHING AND WAITING

*In his love Christ has filled us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes at the end of time
he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise*

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Christian Imagination

Over and over again, we hear of men and women, and sometimes children, doing what we all thought could never be done. The world is full of stories where the seemingly impossible becomes possible. We should feast on such stories because they can help nurture our sense of what is possible in life. Our readings today are filled, not with what men and women can do, but with what God can and does do in our world.

God makes the wilderness into a garden, opens blind eyes, cures deaf ears, gives courage to the cowardly, sets the oppressed free, makes the lame walk, cleanses the lepers and even raises the dead. God can make all things new. This is what we celebrate today. Now the trick is to take that wonderfully hopeful idea and allow it to enter our communal and individual world.

The saints were not afraid to imagine a world that was different from the world in which they lived. When we simply sit back and accept what is because that is all we know, and are not able to imagine how things could be any different, then nothing much is going to happen. If a community has no vision of how to move into the future, it seems highly doubtful that God is going to use that community to bring about any needed changes.

God needs hearts and imaginations that are wide open and unafraid. A philosopher who was thinking about what he would want in life wrote these words: "If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility never. And what wine is so sparkling, what so fragrant, what so intoxicating, as possibility". (Soren Kierkegaard).

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We encourage all to celebrate the glories of Christmas by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our Church or elsewhere if you choose.

Wednesday, December 19th 11:30 (before 12:05 Mass)
Thursday, December 20th, 11:30 (before 12:05 Mass) and 4 – 5 p.m.
Friday, December 21st, 11:30 (before 12:05 Mass) and 7 – 8 p.m.
Saturday, December 22nd 8:30 a.m. (after Mass) and 11 – 12 a.m., and 4-4:45

MASSES FOR YULETIDE: Christmas Eve Church & Family Center 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., Church only 7 p.m., & 10 p.m. Caroling begins at 9:30. At Christmas time we welcome everyone, but remember early Mass in Church/Family Center are overcrowded. 7 p.m. has room; 10 p.m. is comfortably filled. If you don't like crowds, wait until Christmas Day when there is always seating.



Christmas Day - December 25, 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m.
 December 30th, Feast of Holy Family, normal weekend schedule
 New Year's Eve - December 31, - Mass 5 p.m.
 Feast of Mary Mother of God Jan. 1 Holy day
 New Year's Day - January 1, 7:30 a.m., 9:00, & 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Novena of Masses

Envelopes can be found in your monthly envelope mailing as well as in the church. Place your request in the collection basket or drop box at the Rectory.

The offices will be closed December 24, December 25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. In case of an emergency, please call 658-7017.

Bottles for Babies

Birthright of Wilmington & Newark is so grateful for the kind support of Bottles for Babies during Respect Life Month. Our parish raised \$1,454,47 for this program. "Thank you" from Birthright.

Religious Retirement Collection: Thank you to all who contributed to the appeal to assist Religious communities in caring for their elderly retired and sick members. \$3,160 was received and we're sure additional contributions will come in. Many who benefit from this appreciate your generosity. It is only right that we who have profited from their services help them in their time of need.

Kindergarten Registration: St. Catherine of Siena School, Wednesday, Jan. 30 from 9 - 12 in the Gathering Space. Bring a copy of your child's birth and baptismal certificates and a non-refundable application fee of \$60 per family. If you can't make the date and time, please call school office (302) 633.4901 for more information. Open houses for parents who want to visit the school on Thurs., Jan. 31 9:30 - 11:00. Guided tours of the school are provided weekly. Call the office to make an appointment.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus describes John the Baptist as the one who was sent ahead of Him to prepare His way. In our day and age, God calls women and men to prepare His way in the hearts of all people by serving as religious sisters and brothers, as deacons and as priests. If you think God might be calling you to religious life or priesthood, please call or write Father Joe Cocucci, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113; jcocucci@cdow.org)

Silent Prayer Group

is always ready to help with divine assistance. Call Cindi Clare 654-6344 with your intentions or to volunteer to pray with the group.

- Saturday (Dec. 15)
 5:00 p.m. Rita Kearns by family
- Sunday (Dec. 16)
 7:30 a.m. Angelina Jobe by family
 9:00 a.m. Ann & Clover Knotts by Bev & Carol, daughters
 10:30 a.m. Parishioners
- Monday (Dec. 17)
 7:00 a.m. Samuel Griffin by Karen & Bill Brehm
 12:05 p.m. Anna Wolfe by Lisa & David Beatson
- Tuesday (Dec. 18)
 7:00 a.m. Neila Hunter Biden & Naomi Christina Biden by Senator & Mrs. Joseph Biden and family
 12:05 p.m. Hamilton Lewis by Jean Lewis
- Wednesday (Dec. 19)
 7:00 a.m. Lawrence Gropp by Michael & Christy Fleming
 12:05 p.m. Hamilton Lewis by family
- Thursday (Dec. 20)
 7:00 a.m. Michael J. Grieco by family
 12:05 p.m. The living & deceased members of Peguesse/Ridgway families by family
- Friday (Dec. 21)
 7:00 a.m. Allen Cloud by Mary Cloud
 12:05 p.m. Drs. William F. and Stephen P. Butler by Peggy Butler Baird
- Saturday (Dec. 22)
 8:00 a.m. Evelyn O'Connor by Michele Massaglia
 5:00 p.m. Living & deceased members of Laffey/McHugh families by Marie Louise McHugh

You may or may not be aware of a law passed by congress in 2006. This law included what is called the Charitable IRA Rollover which is an incentive for an individual to donate a portion or all of his/her RMD, required minimum distribution from his/her IRA. At 70 ½, the IRS requires you to take a distribution from your IRA. This becomes part of your income and will be taxed. Many parishioners need that income and taking the distribution will not affect their taxes significantly or penalize their social security. Other parishioners may realize substantial savings by directing a portion or all of your mandatory IRA withdrawal directly to our parish. You will not have to report that amount as income and you will avoid having to pay taxes on those funds. Before this year draws to a close, I wanted to make sure that you were aware of this opportunity and ask you to consider a gift from your IRA to our parish if this will benefit you.

What have you done for your marriage today? Resources for living happy, healthy, wholesome, and holy marriages are at your fingertips. Check out the U.S. Bishops' new marriage website at www.foryourmarriage.org. Forward the web address to your friends and family.