

Third Sunday of Advent — December 13, 2009

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:



John is the voice, but the Lord is *THE WORD* who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; but from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever. Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find a place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: The word ought to grow, and I should diminish? The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: My joy is complete.

And so John the Baptist said, "I am not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet. *I am the VOICE of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*" John is the voice, but the Lord is *THE WORD* who was in the beginning. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Peace & Prayers: Fr. Kevin

Immaculate Heart of Mary Weekly Planner: December 14—20, 2009

Date	Mass Times and Intentions	Mass Readings	Parish Events
Monday 14	6:45 a.m. + Cindy Kleckza Rosary Group Intention of the Week: For our young people who are preparing themselves for the Sacrament of Confirmation	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Mt 21:23-27	JWJ Classes: 6:30 p Baptismal Prep Class: 7:00 p in the Parish Office
Tuesday 15	8:00 a.m. L/D Jim L. and Mary Kinison	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32	RCIA: 7 p in the Parish Office
Wednesday 16	6:45 a.m. + Delores Giebler 6:30 p.m. L/D Isidra Ramirez and Dionisio Montya Family	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25 Lk 7:18b-23	Faith Formation: 6:30-8:00 p 7:10 p-Advent/Christmas Prayer Service CYO: ROC session in the Activity Center.
Thursday 17	8:00 a.m. L/D George and Anna Benton Family	Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	Weekly Music Practice: 6:30 p Midnight Mass Choir Practice: 7:30 p. Use south door in church.
Friday 18	6:45 a.m. + Catherine Stoeklein	Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	
Saturday 19	5:00 p.m. L/D Linus and Luella Dreiling Family	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25	
Sunday 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent	8:00 a.m. L/D Elmer and Lorraine Wolf Family 10:00 a.m. People of the Parish 12:00 p.m. L/D Loya Mendez Family	Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45	Wee Words: During the 8 and 10 a masses.

Stewardship in Our Parish: Sharing Time, Talent, and Treasure

<i>Liturgical Ministers</i>	December 19 Saturday 5:00 p.m.	December 20 Sunday 8:00 a.m.	December 20 Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Music Ministers	Cantors: Elise Peterson and Dan Leis Accompanist: Tom Meagher	Cantor: Ellie Herl Accompanist: Angie Meagher	Cantors: Judy Brummer, Holly Newell, Shannnon Musgrove Accompanist: Billie Jacobs
Altar Servers	Heather Befort Allison Pfeifer Melissa Pfeifer	Rachel Becker John Chittenden Allison Hohmann	Aaron Jacobs Joshua Jacobs Carson Klaus
Readers	Christy Befort Steve Demuth	Donna Lubbers Jane Younger	Deanne Schmidt Dan Schmidt
Gift Bearers	Lorel Dreiling	Bob Wolf	Scott & Amy Casper
EMs	Bev Brinkman Jerry Brinkman Janice Collins Ken Collins Dave Dunn Joan Dunn (Deacon Tom)	Larry Dreiling Leroy Gnad Terry Kuhn Adolph Schmidt Dale Stramel Lois Stramel (Deacon Tom)	Annette Hammeke Curtis Hammeke Ted Nowak Tina Nowak Lynette Pfannenstiel Shelton Renz Carol Young

Stewardship of Treasure

Weekly Budget for 2009-2010: \$28,223.89

Adult Envelopes	36,488.00
Loose Plate	1,241.31
Children's Envelopes	28.73
Total Giving	37,758.04

Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

Budgeted offertory as of Oct. 31, 2009	\$ 479,805.97
Actual tithing total as of Oct. 31, 2009	\$ 435,103.10
Fiscal Year Collections on Oct. 31- behind	\$ (44,702.87)

Building Fund Donations: 2nd Collection	\$ 715.79
Amount Borrowed for New Church to date:	\$ 825,000.00

Money Counters for the Upcoming Weeks

December 20th

Arlyn Schupman and Eugenia Uhrich

December 27th

Arlyn Schupman and Jeffrey & Kelly Ackerman

Bulletin Helpers for December 17th

Janet Klaus and Stacey Komarek

Please notify the parish office if you are planning on moving or need to change your registration information. This will help us save money on postage for returned church mail-outs and envelopes.

Sunday Readings

First Reading: Zephaniah proclaims a day of festival to celebrate God's presence in the midst of his people. It is interesting to note that he portrays it from the perspective of God celebrating over His people. God exults, renews, dances, and shouts for joy. We are heirs of God's promise, of God's joy!

Second Reading: Paul assures the community at Philippi that he desires their happiness, the gift of peace that accompanies the lord's presence. When anxiety seeks to rob us of God's peace, Paul counsels prayer. We offer prayers of intercession, for God alone can give us his peace. We pray in thanksgiving, for we trust that God will provide the gifts we need.

Gospel: John's ministry penetrated people's hearts to the degree that they wondered about the ways their lives needed to change. As John concretely responds to tax collectors and soldiers, he announces the coming of the one who will baptize in the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Word challenges us to new patterns of justice and mercy, while God's Spirit enables us to live this new way of being.

Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation

- ◆ **December 13th—Sunday, 1st Reconciliation 3:00 p.m. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**



- ◆ **December 16th— 7:10 p.m. Advent/ Christmas Prayer Service in church—Living Nativity by 3rd grade. All are invited to join the children in prayer. 6:00 p.m.—3rd gr. meet in the Gathering Space of the Church**



Question of the Week

Rejoice!

The third Sunday in Advent, is called Gaudete Sunday. This is the week of Advent when the priest wears pink vestments and we light the pink candle. Gaudete means “rejoice” and this week reminds us to rejoice in the Lord’s coming.

For the last several weeks we have been reminded over and over again that we need to get ready, to stay awake and to be alert as we prepare for Christ to come again. We have been told of signs and of tribulations. We have been told to repent and to make straight the way of the Lord.

This week reminds us that Jesus’ return should not fill us with fear, but with joy. He is coming back and will “clear his threshing floor,” but those who are ready will see salvation and experience the everlasting joy of heaven. He is coming back to gather His sheep to Himself. He is coming back for the same reason He came the first time: because of His great love for us, His people. He is coming to save us, to bring us to the Father, to carry us home.

Rejoice for the Lord is near!

Question of the week for adults and children:
What reasons do I have to rejoice this Advent?

IHM CYO

Dec. 13th-17th-9:30 p.m.-Liturgy of the Hours Night Prayer! Please join the CYO in praying Night Prayer every night this week as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus!

Dec. 16th-6:30 p.m.-ROC session in the A.C. @ IHM! The 7th & 8th grade RE students will join us for an Advent Liturgy!

Dec. 20th-7:00 p.m.-Drive by Prayer Night! Meet in the Activity Center before going out on drive by prayers!

Dec. 23rd-7:30 p.m.-Activity Night in the A.C. @ IHM!

Dec. 25th-Merry Christmas!

IHM JR. CYO

Dec. 19th-6:30-9:30 p.m.-Drive by prayers and service activity! Following the prayers, we will return to the Little Theatre for hot chocolate and to make Christmas cards for the homebound of our parish.

“Answering the Call”

Christ reigned in the lives of all who went on this year’s trip to Kansas City for the National Catholic Youth Conference as the head of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry, Bob McCarty, encouraged us all to “Show up, Step up, and Step out”. Being with over 20,000 other Catholic youth at NCYC was a definite eye opener to all in attendance. “It was overwhelming to see that many youth just praising God and loving Him” adult sponsor Paulla Harris commented. Whether it was a certain speaker or session, each person had something that truly spoke to them and strengthened their faith. Jason and Crystalina Evert gave a wonderful chastity speech that both youth and adults loved. Sophomore Cassidy Stecklein said “they related it to our lives, and didn’t just sound like old people.” Shaun Wasinger, senior, agreed, saying “they were funny, open, and made a good point. It wasn’t the normal sex talk.” Parents Lee Fisher and Paulla Harris both agreed that Jason and Crystalina spoke on the youth’s level and hopefully made kids feel it is important to respect themselves. Another speaker that many loved was Fr. Tony Ricardo. First time attendee Zach Binder said, “Fr. Tony related well, was interesting, made us laugh, but taught a good lesson.” Austin Haselhorst’s favorite session was also Fr. Tony. Austin commented, “He put it into our language and told it how it was.” Though everyone enjoyed the funny and lighthearted speakers, all would agree with Colby Schippers. His most memorable moment was the ending Mass because of the fact he had never been with so many Catholic people in Mass before. No matter the memories they will keep, all would agree with Lee Fisher in saying, “Overall, NCYC, with the music and various speakers, was the total package kids needed to have their faith rejuvenated.” This is just a few of the comments and thoughts on the great experience we all enjoyed. Be sure to seek out youth and adult sponsors that attended the conference to learn more about how “Christ Reigns” in them.

Michelle Harris, PR

Parish and Community Announcements

Midnight Mass Seasonal Choir Practice Schedule:

Thursday, December 17th
Tuesday, December 22nd


- All at 7:30 p.m. in church (use south door)
- Each practice will last from 1- 1&1/2 hours
- Open to all ages and anyone interested
- Vocalists and Instrumentalists Needed!


Anointing of the Sick

The communal **Rite of the Anointing of the Sick** will be celebrated the weekend of **December 19/20** immediately following all masses. All are invited.



The **Perpetual Adoration Chapel** has the following holy hours to be filled: **Wednesdays at 1:00 a.m. & 3:00 a.m.** If you can fill one of these hours, call Lil at 625-7474 or Bob Feauto at 628-1429.

 If you would like to donate to the **Immaculate Heart of Mary's poinsettia fund**, place your contribution in a regular envelope marked for this purpose and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office. If you want to make this donation in memory of someone, kindly do so by **Wednesday, December 16th**. Thank you for helping to beautify our worship space this Christmas season.

 **Confirmation is a Catholic sacrament of mature Christian commitment, a sacrament of initiation and faith in God's fidelity to us.** You are invited to join us for the Rosary each morning at 7:15 a.m. (after 6:45 Mass) at Immaculate Heart of Mary church.

The **Retirement Fund for the Religious** depends on its annual appeal to support our aging religious women and men. The collection takes place on the weekend of December 12-13. Please give generously to this week's second collection and pray for our retired religious.

Please call Sr. Mary at the Parish office if you or a loved one are homebound or hospitalized and wish to receive the Eucharist. Under restrictive HIPPA laws, this information is not available to us.

This Christmas, Help Us Honor Those Who Served

St. John's in Hays and Victoria are gathering items for the Kansas Soldiers home in Fort Dodge. These items are available for veterans and their families at little or no cost to them. We will be Collecting items until December 18. Call 628-3241, 628-8742, or 735-2208 for more info.

Missing Wheelchair

Whoever used the wheelchair please return it or let the parish office know that you borrowed it. Thank you for your assistance.



Jr. CYO Placemats

Be sure to view the placemats in the gathering space and north hallways designed by members of the Jr. CYO with assistance from Northwestern Printers! A table set with these placemats would tell all guests "Welcome to our home". They are also a great teaching tool for children to learn their prayers. Contact the youth office or a member of the Jr. CYO to order yours in time for Christmas. All proceeds benefit the new church!

All Together Now: Reading the Pastoral Letter as a Diocese

To increase the true understanding of stewardship in our parish, the Diocese is encouraging all parishioners to read and study *A Disciple's Response*, the pastoral letter on stewardship.



Parishioners are encouraged to form small groups (6 to 10 people) and designate a group leader who will host reading sessions of the letter at their home and facilitate discussion. The group leader can then come to the parish office to pick up printouts of the pastoral letter for all group members and supplemental questions to help guide the study sessions. Additional information and a pdf file of the letter are available at <http://www.salinadiocese.org/stewardship>.

If you have any questions about this ongoing process, please speak to Fr. Kevin or contact the parish office.

If you or your loved ones need prayers, call Pat at 628-1138 or Lil at 625-7474.

Religious Materials for the Missions Especially Bibles & Rosaries!

A Heartland Parishioner is coordinating an effort, locally, to provide Catholic sacramental items, devotionals, and light reading materials to a Catholic missionary order that distributes them in their mission fields throughout parts of the world. The Institute of the Incarnate Word is a young religious order that was founded in Argentina in 1984. It is a missionary order working in the US, Sudan, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Italy, & Pakistan. The priests & brothers operate parishes, run orphanages, and teach in seminaries. To help with this ministry, you can bring Catholic Bibles, devotionals, magazines, pamphlets, etc., and small sacramental items such as rosaries, chaplets, scapulars, Crucifixes, etc., **especially Bibles and Rosaries**, to Mark Roberti at the St. Joseph parish office.

Community Announcements

Cup a Joe

• **Tuesday, December 22 – Cup a Joe** will be **open** in the morning from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. It will be **closed** from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. due to Christmas Break.



• **Tuesday, December 29 – Cup a Joe** will be **open** in the morning from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. It will be **closed** from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. due to Christmas Break.

Looking for creative and unusual Stocking Stuffers for Christmas? Cup a Joe is offering gift certificates. They are in \$1.00 increments. They will be sold as a booklet of 5 for \$5.00.

Help Moms and Babies



St. Mary's Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Christmas Tree located in the IHM gathering space with ornaments asking for needed items that will benefit the Mary Elizabeth Maternity Home and Birthright. You are invited to choose an ornament and as you are conducting your Christmas shopping, you can help a mother and/or her baby by buying the item. Gifts do not need to be wrapped. However, please put the ornament on the item so that it can be distributed to the proper agency.

Charitable Breakfast

Alpha Kappa Psi, the professional business fraternity at FHSU, is hosting a charitable breakfast in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Activity Center on Sunday, December 13th from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thirty percent of the proceeds raised will benefit the Mary Elizabeth Maternity Home.



Catholic School News

HOLY FAMILY

Dec. 17th-The *Joyful Noise Singers* perform for Hays Kiwanis at **12:30 p.m.** at the Rose Garden Bakery Shop and at the Hays State Bank at **1:30 p.m.**



Dec. 18th-10:00 a.m.-*Joyful Noise Singers* perform at the Commerce Bank.

Dec. 21st-Jan. 4th-Christmas Vacation!

While shopping for Christmas gifts, consider supporting Holy Family Elementary by purchasing gift cards through the HFE Bucks Program! New to the program is a VISA prepaid card. Stop by the office to get your HFE Bucks!

TMP-MARIAN

Families, businesses, clubs, and organizations are invited to **claim** a tree by contacting Patricia Gottschalk or Mr. DeWitt. Locate the tree of your choice and then add lights. A message for the viewers is welcome or a prayer to the infant Jesus is appropriate. There will be a traditional Living Nativity in the grotto on Dec. 17th at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Christmas program.



Dec. 17th-TMP-Marian Christmas Concert!

Dec. 21st-Jan. 5th-Christmas Break!

Catholic Schools Week Jan. 31st-Feb. 6th, 2010.

Go to the TMP web-site to see the schedule of events.

Feb. 21st-Incoming Freshman Parent Information night.

Mar. 2nd & 4th-3:30-6:30-Pre-enrollment for class of 2014!

Heartland Parishes Announcements

Catholicism: Jesus' Way

Stewardship is based on the teachings of Jesus. The Bible is our handbook. The implication is that we are called to evangelize with our very lives. The reward for stewardship, evangelization, and discipleship is the Kingdom of Heaven. We can share in the kingdom, albeit imperfectly, while we are here on earth. We do that through Catholic stewardship.



Respect Life Mass, January 8th

The next Respect Life Mass for the Heartland Parishes will be on Friday, January 8th. Please join us in supplication to Jesus through the Mother of Life as we pray that all people would respect life from conception to natural death. Mass begins at 5:30 P.M. at St. Joseph Parish preceded by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 4:55, then the Rosary at 5:00.

Roe Vs. Wade Memorial – 36 Years – Memorial Service & Procession

Join other Heartland Parishioners – Saturday, January 16th beginning at 10:00 A.M. at St. Joseph Parish – for a prayer service and procession honoring children who have died as a result of this national and worldwide tragedy. The procession will begin at 10:30 and we will pray in front of the Ellis County Courthouse and Planned Parenthood before returning to the parish. Those who cannot walk the procession will remain in the Church praying the Rosary.

Heartland Parishes Announcements Cont.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter – February 12-14

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more... said that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...” Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and recharge your marriage/holy orders. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is February 12-14 **at the Manna House in Concordia**. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information call Dave and Joan Dunn at 785-628-1795 or e-mail at micromedia@ruraltel.net . Visit our website at www.wwmesection9.org .

December 31st Year-End Giving to Our Parish

Year-end is nearing. Our parish is always in need of financial resources for programs, ministries, repairs and renovations. You may also want to consider assisting our Catholic schools and Catholic Charities. All are noble causes and help us promote and strengthen our Catholic Church. Remember, also, that you can donate a paid-up whole life insurance policy and receive a tax deduction. Call Father for information on parish needs. For guidance with planned-giving questions, contact your tax adviser or contact Mark Roberti 625-7356 before making any significant non-cash donations.

2009 Advent/Christmas Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians - Antonino
St. Anthony - Schoenchen
St. Catherine - Catharine

St. Joseph - Hays
Immaculate Heart of Mary - Hays
St. Nicholas of Myra - Hays

St. Francis of Assisi - Munjor
Comeau Catholic Campus Center

December 13, 2009 - Third Sunday of Advent

IHM - Communal Penance Service - 3:00 p.m.
IHM - Liturgy of the Hours - 9:30 p.m.
St. Joseph - Advent Vespers/Benediction Service 5:30 p.m.

December 14, 2009 - Monday

IHM - Liturgy of the Hours - 9:30 p.m.

December 15, 2009 - Tuesday

IHM - Liturgy of the Hours - 9:30 p.m.

December 16, 2009 - Wednesday

IHM - Posada Prayers in the Activity Center - 7:00 p.m.
IHM - Faith Formation Advent Program - 7:00 p.m.
IHM - Liturgy of the Hours - 9:30 p.m.
Munjor - Communal Penance Service - 7:00 p.m.

December 17, 2009 - Thursday

IHM - Posada Prayers in the Activity Center - 7:00 p.m.
IHM - Liturgy of the Hours - 9:30 p.m.

December 18 (Friday) - December 23 (Wednesday), 2009

IHM - Posada Prayers in the Activity Center - 7:00 p.m.

December 20, 2009 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Joseph - Advent Vespers/Benediction Service 5:30 p.m.
St. Nicholas of Myra - Communal Penance - 3:00 p.m.

December 21, 2009 - Monday

St. Joseph - Communal Penance Service 7:00 p.m.

December 24, 2009 - (Thursday) Christmas Eve

Catherine - 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

Comeau Catholic Campus Center - 10:00 p.m.
IHM - Masses in the Church & Little Theater - 5:00 p.m.
IHM - 7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass; 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass
Munjor - 9:00 p.m.
Schoenchen - 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph - 5:00 p.m. (Children's Mass),
11:30 p.m. Choir & Bell Choir, 12:00 a.m. Mass
St. Nicholas of Myra - 5:00 p.m. (Family Mass); 11:00 p.m.

December 25, 2009 - (Friday) Christmas Day

Antonino - 9:00 a.m.
Comeau Catholic Campus Center - **NO MASSES TODAY**
IHM - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Munjor - 10:30 a.m.
St. Joseph - 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
St. Nicholas of Myra - 9:00 a.m.

December 31, 2009 - (Thursday) Mary Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation - Vigil Masses)

Antonino - 5:00 p.m.
IHM - 5:00 p.m. (English) & 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Munjor - 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph - 5:00 p.m.
St. Nicholas of Myra - 5:00 p.m.

January 1, 2010 - (Friday) Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Catherine - 9:00 a.m.
IHM - 8:00 a.m.
St. Joseph - 9:00 a.m.
St. Nicholas of Myra - 9:00 a.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary will **not** have Thursday confessions on Christmas Day and New Years Day.
The Saturday confessions for these weeks will remain the same.