

Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 20, 2009

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:



I know everyone else is asking so the church may as well ask too. If you desire to make an end of the year donation for tax purposes, a donation toward the building of the new church would be exceedingly appreciated. You would be able to see the results of your donation quickly as we plan to have the Mass of Dedication on March 14th at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

God's blessings to all as we approach the celebration of the Christmas Season and a New calendar year.

Peace & Prayers: Fr. Kevin

Immaculate Heart of Mary Weekly Planner: December 21—27, 2009

| Date | Mass Times and Intentions | Mass Readings | Parish Events |
|---|---|---|--|
| Monday 21 | 6:45 a.m. + Marcella Staab Rosary Group Intention of the Week: For our Priests, Seminarians, Deacons, Sisters, and Brothers | Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45 | JWJ NO CLASSES- CHRISTMAS BREAK |
| Tuesday 22 | 8:00 a.m. + Tom Jacobs | 1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56 | RCIA: 7 p in the Parish Office Midnight Mass Choir Practice: 7:30 p. Use south door in church. |
| Wednesday 23 | 6:45 a.m. + Cletus Miller 6:30 p.m. + Charles Hoover | Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66 | Parish Office Closed at Noon No Faith Formation |
| Thursday 24 Christmas Eve | 5:00 p.m. L/D Leon Herrman (Church) 5:00 p.m. People of the Parish (L.T.) 7:00 p.m. + Norbert Miller (Spanish) Midnight People of the Parish | Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 | Parish Office Closed No Faith Formation Class Christmas Break |
| Friday 25 Christmas | 8:00 a.m. L/D Richard Hammerschmidt Family 10:00 a.m. + George Klaus | Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 | Parish Office Closed |
| Saturday 26 | 5:00 p.m. + Rita Kuhn | Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22 | |
| Sunday 27 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph | 8:00 a.m. + Irv Karlin 10:00 a.m. + Bertha Binder 12:00 p.m. People of the Parish | Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45 | Wee Words: During the 8 and 10 a masses. |

**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.**

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

| <i>Liturgical Ministers</i> | December 26 Saturday 5:00 p.m. | December 27 Sunday 8:00 a.m. | December 27 Sunday 10:00 a.m. |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Music Ministers | Cantor: Shawn Demuth Accompanist: Linda Lang | Cantor: Bob Dreiling Accompanist: Angie Meagher | Cantors: Gwen Staab and Katrina Staab Accompanist: Allyson Klaus |
| Altar Servers | Cade Gerhard Hannah Hearld Cody Kreutzer | Mason Lagree Allison Vahling Sydney Vahling | Haylee Hedge Jared Schumacher Nick Schumacher |
| Readers | Barbara Carlin Tara O'Connor | William Kane Les Herrman | Carolyn Pfeifer Marla Wasinger |
| Gift Bearers | Norbert Kuhn | Cindy Washburn | Robert Binder |
| EMs | Craig Augustine Karen Bieker Judy Koerner Maxine Maska Janelle Pfannenstiel Jackie Skolout (Deacon Tom) | Julie Haselhorst Mary Karlin Dee Koster Bill Meagher Suzie Nehls Kathy Rupp (Deacon Tom) | Cynthia Anschutz Lori Appelhans Gilbert Brungardt Lorraine Brungardt Joe Unrein Jerry Wasinger (Deacon Tom) |

Stewardship of Treasure

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

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Adult Envelopes | 28,578.50 |
| Loose Plate | 1,165.04 |
| Children's Envelopes | 33.17 |
| Total Giving for Dec. 13, 2009 | 29,776.71 |
| Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, 2009 | 1,439.75 |

Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Budgeted offertory as of Nov. 30, 2009 | \$ 620,925.37 |
| Actual tithing total as of Nov. 30, 2009 | \$ 572,998.67 |
| Fiscal Year Collections on Nov.30- behind | \$ (47,926.70) |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Building Fund Donations: 2nd Collection | \$ 666.53 |
| Amount Borrowed for New Church to date: | \$ 825,000.00 |

Money Counters for the Upcoming Weeks

December 27th

Arlyn Schupman and Jeffrey & Kelly Ackerman

January 3rd

*Diana Staab, Daniel & Colette Carrasco,
and Jeff & Kelly Ackerman*

Bulletin Helpers for December 23rd

Patricia Lane and Margie Legleiter

Year End Donations

If you are planning on making a year end donation, we ask that you have it to the parish office by the end of the workday on **Tuesday, December 29, 2009**. This will allow us to post the payment and deposit the funds. Thank you for your continued support.

Sunday Readings

First Reading: Micah prophesies the birth of the Savior from the least of the clan of Judah. God's intervention in human history often shatters our expectations. The Savior is born in lowliness and the extension of his reign is a work of peace and not control through power.

Second Reading: The author of Hebrews portrays Jesus as God's obedient servant who offered for all humankind the one perfect sacrifice. This sacrifice was the gift of perfect obedience to God, culminating in Jesus' complete gift of himself on the cross. Like Jesus, we are called to proclaim in word and deed our obedient service to all God asks of us. We can do so only if we unite ourselves to Jesus' perfect sacrifice.

Gospel: Elizabeth acknowledges in Mary the dwelling place of God's promise fulfilled. Mary, like her ancestors in faith, believed that God's promise would be fulfilled, and by God's graciousness bore the Savior of the world. Each of us is called like Mary to carry the Lord's presence to others, and to rejoice in the Lord's presence brought into our lives by another like Elizabeth.

Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation



*No Classes
December 23rd & 30th
Christmas Break*

*Classes will Resume
January 6th, 2010.*

May your lives be full of Christmas Joy & Love



Question of the Week

Blessed are you!

We've all heard the first blessing of Elizabeth's greeting to Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus." It's part of the "Hail Mary." But we are not as familiar with the second blessing, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

In the first blessing, Mary is singular. She alone is the Mother of God. She is truly blessed among women because out of all women throughout time, God created her and chose her to bear Jesus. She is blessed above all because she said "Yes" and offered herself that God might walk among His people and bring them salvation.

In the second blessing, Mary is our example. God has spoken to all of us. In ancient times, He spoke through the patriarchs and prophets. In the fullness of time, He spoke to us in Christ, the one Word of God. Today, He continues to speak to us through the Scriptures, through the Church, and in our hearts. Do we listen to Him speaking to us? Do we, like Mary, believe that His promises will be fulfilled? Do we expectantly await His return, or do we set faith aside to better fit in in this world?

Question of the week for adults and children:

Do I follow Mary's example, saying "Yes" to God and believing that His word will be fulfilled?

IHM CYO

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

IHM JR. CYO

Jan. 9th-7:00-9:00 p.m.-Bowling night at Centennial Lanes! All Jr. CYO members are invited. Cost is \$5.00 per person to be paid at registration. The evening concludes with a closing prayer and reflection.

"Answering the Call"

Lights are up on houses, Santa is appearing in all the Malls, and holiday tunes are blasted in stores and every radio station. It's clear to see Christmas is right around the corner. But what happened to the original Christmas? Where "Merry Christmas" wasn't replaced by "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings"? Where nativity scenes were still being sold in corporate stores? Where there was a "no room at the inn" sign instead of a "sold out" sign? It seems in today's growing commercialized society, the true meaning of Christmas is slowly slipping away. The thought of celebrating the birth of Jesus is pushed behind opening presents and eating a huge feast. But why shouldn't we celebrate the greatest gift we have ever been given—the gift of a Savior; the gift of being saved?!

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." **Luke 2:1-14**

Let's all make room for Jesus; after all isn't that what this is really all about?! Merry Christmas!

Michelle Harris, PR

Parish and Community Announcements



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 **Tuesday, December 22nd**. Thank you for helping to beautify our worship space this Christmas season.

Midnight Mass Seasonal Choir Final Practice:

Tuesday, December 22nd

- **At 7:30 p.m. in church (use south door)**
- **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 this weekend, **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.

Pope Benedict XVI invites everyone to thank the Lord for the precious gift of the religious who serve the church and the world. 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.



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.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people . . . In the city of David, a Savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord." -Luke 2:10-11

May the unending love of Our Savior fill your heart with hope, grace, and peace this Christmas.
Do not be afraid to reach out for help.

Next retreat: Feb 5-7, 2010

1-877-477-4383

rachelvineyard@salinadiocese.org

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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 www.salinadiocese.org/stewardship.

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

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!

Missing Wheelchair

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



Religious Materials for the Missions

A Heartland Parishioner is coordinating an effort to provide Catholic sacramental items, devotionals, and light reading materials to a Catholic missionary order that distributes them throughout the world. The priests & brothers in The Institute of the Incarnate Word operate parishes, run orphanages, and teach in seminaries. Please bring religious items, **especially Bibles and Rosaries**, to Mark Roberti at the St. Joseph parish office.

Please mark your calendars for June 6, 2010 to attend the Diocesan Assembly, which will kick off the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Salina. This celebration will be held at FHSU. Catholic musician John Angotti will be performing as well as leading the session for teens. Stay tuned for more about this exciting event.

Community Announcements

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

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.

The Family Life/Social Concerns Commission of St. Joseph Catholic Church invites you to participate in the Roe v. Wade Prayer Service and March for Life Saturday, January 16, 2010, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Church. Fr. Felix will be the homilist. **Please join us as we unite for life!**

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.

Catholic School News

HOLY FAMILY

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

Jan. 4th-Teacher Work Day! No school for students!



Jan. 5th-School resumes!

Thank you for collecting Box Tops and Campbell product labels. Please watch the expiration date on the Box Tops. Don't collect too long before turning them into the office. Every penny counts at HFE. We deposited \$131.65 in change donated to our school!

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. 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: Stewardship of the Church

The Church is the people of God established by Jesus in the New Covenant (i.e. the New Israel). Each member shares in the responsibility for its mission. Each is called to practice Stewardship of the Church. Each must place self at the service of the entire human community (especially the most in need). The Eucharist is a sign and agent of this expansive community of charity.

Respect Life Mass, January 8th

The next Respect Life Mass for the Heartland Parishes will be on Friday, January 8th because the First Friday falls on January 1, the Feast of Mary the Mother of God. Please join us in supplication to Jesus through the Mother of Life as we pray for life, our nation, and that all within our nation and the world would respect life from conception to natural death. Mass begins at 5:30 P.M. at St. Joseph Parish. It is preceded by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 4:55, then the Rosary at 5:00 P.M.

Next Confirmed Seniors Sharing Bunko – February January 11th

Our next confirmed "Bunko Party" event is Thursday, January 11th at 2:30 P.M. in the parish hall at St. Nicholas of Myra. We presently have a scheduling conflict with the January event. Stay tuned to the bulletin for more information.



Heartland Parishes Announcements

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

It has been 36 years since the tragic Roe vs. Wade, U.S. Supreme Court Decision legalizing abortion. Join other Heartland Parishioners – Saturday, January 16th beginning at 10:00 A.M. at St. Joseph Parish – for a prayer service and procession honoring our sacred, precious, innocent, 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 to end abortion and for the protection of all life from conception to natural death.

December 31 Year-End Giving to Our Parish

Year-end is upon us. 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.

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

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 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**

December 25, 2009—Christmas Day (continued)

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.**