

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 13, 2009



“Everyone should see how unselfish you are... Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude”... ‘What ought we to do?’... ‘Teacher, what are we to do?’... ‘What about us?’... Using exhortations of this sort, he preached the good news to the people.”

Continuing our Advent journey, we assemble with the crowds, the tax collectors and the soldiers, and pose our questions to John. They echo those asked by the groups above. John's response is directed to us, for he preached the 'good news' the imminent coming of Jesus Christ.

This time of the year, when the word “giving” takes on so many meanings all of us should pause to consider great gifts. The first is the gift of God sending His son to live among us, because of our needs. In prayer I offer my expression of gratitude for Him and for everything I have. It is all gift.

The second gift is my response to our generous God, returning something of myself, in prayer to Him and in service to others. I turn to those in need of loving hands, a listening heart, and supporting smile or some material help. My gift can be expressed in countless ways and its valued enhanced when I make it my expression of gratitude. A modern spiritual writer expressed it this way: “Gratitude is the memory of the heart.”

My saying for the week: “Then God's own peace which is beyond all understanding will stand guard over your hearts.”

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
DECEMBER 12/13



Women and men religious heed Jesus' call to “let your light shine before others and glorify your heavenly Father” by their witness to gospel values and their commitment to serving those around them. Through their ministries, religious have founded Catholic schools and hospitals and launched initiatives that support the neediest among us. In our often troubled world, they remain a visible sign of Christ's love.

This fund provides immediate support for aging religious and helps their institutes implement long-term retirement strategies. Through the ongoing generosity of Catholics to this collection, many religious institutes have been able to seed and stabilize retirement savings.

Times are challenging for many now, but you are simply asked to give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for all religious, that they may continue to be beacons of faith and hope who lead others to Christ. Please also pray for vocations to religious life.

FEAST DAYS OF THE WEEK

Mon., Dec. 13

St. John of the Cross

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 14	9:00 AM	Sandy Mundie
Tues., Dec. 15	9:00 AM	Roger Morisi
Wed., Dec. 16	7:00 PM	Elizabeth Ervin
Thur., Dec. 17	9:00 AM	Doris Bean
Fri., Dec. 18	9:00 AM	Ronald Evans
Sat., Dec. 19	5:00 PM	Robert G. Dean, Jr.
Sun., Dec. 20	8:30 AM	Rev. Christopher Twohig
Sun., Dec. 20	11:00 AM	Joyce Mae Blackwell

PARISH FINANCE

Offertory December 6, 2009

General Collection	\$4,521.00
Vestibule Fund	1,801.00
Feast of Immaculate Conception	45.00
Poor Box	55.00
Identifiable Gifts	125
1 st Sunday of December, 2008	\$4,743.95

Tithing--Sacrificial Giving-- Joyfully giving thanks to God.
Thank You for your faithful parish support.

PRAYERS

Please remember the sick of our parish: especially Franklin Adams, Louise Adams, Thomas Barnes, Geneva Blackwell, Catherine Briscoe, Ann Clayton, Alice Countess, Paul Dickens, Joan Dorsey, Mary Dyson, Kristin Hibbs, Gail Holden, Dorothy Lampkin, Alverta Lawrence, Frances Morgan, Hilda Mowery, John Mundie, Gloria Robinson, Marian Slade, infant Christian Joshua Taylor, Arianna Tiger.

Others in need of our prayers (requested by parishioners):

All members of our military and their families, John and Charla Adams, Charles Andrews, Kyle Bennett (in Iraq), Richard Bowen, Sarah Burch, Betty Coffman, Shannon Copp, Benjamin Countess, Caroline Countiss, Phyllis Davis, Ronald Dews, Fran Dicus, Ray Dicus, Julie Marable Donaldson, Diane Dorsey, Sister Louise Dowgiallo, OSB, George Fairfax, Ruth Farr, John Gateau, Mary Gavarinski, Paul Greenwell, James Gross, Judy Guffie, Jack Gumtow, Margaret Hankla, Sue Hoag, Mary Ann Hulth, Wendy Jackson, Cathleen Johnson, Bill Keeton, Vivian Keeton, William Kelmickis, Lois Krzeski, Cathy LaBelle, Lee Lancaster, Ann Lancot, Dr. Claude Lancot, Lovetta Lawrence, Danny Mahoney, Joseph Martin, Doris Mattingly, Dee Mauer, J. P. McCord, Barbara McDonnell, Maria McGuigan, Beverly McKay, Beth Meister, Vicki Moak, Margaret Murray, David Peixeira, John Pierce, Donna Poudrier, Tom Puckett, Shirl Quinn, Eleanor Raley, Sharon Redman, Tony Reeves, Mary Sue Robinson, James Ronan, Loretta Rule, Nancy Schmidt, Raymond Schmidt, Hunter Scott, Ami Shah, Evaon Shroeder, Palma Sileo, Sister Mary Rebecca, RSM, Sister Rose Bernard Tarleton, Dewayne Thompson, Jennie Umas, Rose Varela, Tom & Liz Warren, Bette Werner, Eugene Wright, Bob Ziebol.

Note: Please let us know when a name should be removed from our Prayer List. We are happy to know when prayers have been answered.

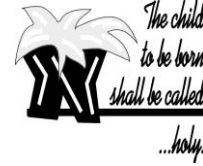


DECEASED Please pray for the soul **Bernard McKay**, brother of parishioner Joe McKay. *May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun., Dec. 13 CCD and RCIA/Adult Update, Comm. Ctr.
- Sun., Dec. 13 CCD Christmas Cookie Sale, after 8:30 & 11 AM Masses, Community Center
- Sun., Dec. 13 Communal Anointing of the Sick, 11 AM Mass
- Sun., Dec. 13 Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 12 PM, Community Center
- Sun., Dec. 13 PARISH MISSION begins, 7:00 PM
- Mon., Dec. 14 Morning Prayer, "Matins", 8:30 AM; and weekday mornings in Advent
- Wed., Dec. 16 No Cantor/Choir Rehearsals – Mission
- Sun., Dec. 20 Pageant Rehearsal, 12 PM, Comm. Ctr.
- Sun., Dec. 20 Children's Choir Rehearsal, 1 PM, Church
- Tues. Dec. 22 Children's Choir Rehearsal, 5:30PM, Church
- Pageant Rehearsal, 6:30 PM, in Church
- Wed., Dec. 23 Decorate Church for Christmas, 10 AM

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



- Thur., Dec. 24 4:00 PM Children's Liturgy
- Thur., Dec. 24 9:00 PM Solemn Christmas Liturgy
- Fri., Dec. 25 8:30 AM Christmas Liturgy, St. Francis Xavier, St. George Island
- Fri., Dec. 25 11:00 AM Christmas Liturgy, St. George

MISSION SCHEDULE

"Jesus Christ's Coming, Foretold"

- Sun., Dec. 13 7:00 PM Conference "Early Prophecies"
- Mon., Dec. 14 9:00 AM Mass and Mini-conference
- 7:00 PM Conference "Later Prophecies"
- Tues., Dec. 15 9:00 AM Mass and Mini-Conference
- 11:00 AM Meet with Scripture Groups
- 7:00 PM Conference "Birth of the Messiah" and Penance Service
- Wed., Dec. 16 9:00 AM Benediction and Mini-conference followed by All Day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 7:00 PM Closing Mass and Healing Service

Our thanks to Father Jude Winkler, OFM

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL NEWS

L.F.S, Easy Money Raffle - Grand Prize \$2,500. Only 1200 tickets will be sold! Donation: \$25 per ticket. Drawing will be held at **LFS Italian Night, February 12, 2010**. Other prizes include \$500, \$250 and four \$125 bonus prizes. For information or to purchase ticket, call Nancy Szewczyk, 301-863-2840 or Michelle Levin, 301-373-2907.

AREA NEWS

- Sun., Dec. 13 **Breakfast With Santa, Valley Lee F.D.&R.S., 8-11 AM.** (All you can eat – great menu!)
- Sun., Dec. 13 **Christmas Open House and "Home for the Holidays" Exhibit, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, 12-4 PM.** Admission: FREE. Holiday shopping in the Lighthouse Lens Museum Store. 301-994-1471
- Mon., Dec. 14 **Red Cross Blood Drive, Valley Lee F.D. & R.S., 2-7:30 PM.** Walk-ins welcome. For appointment and/or info: 301-994-1038.

Reminders: A few tags remain on the "Giving Tree" and some items for the food baskets are still needed. Please make sure the tags are securely attached to your wrapped gift and all returns made by **Sunday, December 20. Christmas Flower Offering** envelopes also due December 20.

Coming Parish Family After-Christmas Party – Covered Dish Dinner, Sunday, January 3, 2010, 3 PM. Details next week.

CCD NEWS

Please check above listings for times for the Children's Christmas Pageant. All children of the parish are invited to perform the story of the Nativity during the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve.



Sun., Jan. 10 **"The Teen Timeline"** New program to begin for high school teens (8 weeks) which will get you excited about God's Word in a fast-paced, relevant style of presentation. **Come to smile, laugh and learn!! 6-7:30 PM.**

To sign-up, call Mr. Buckler, 301-994-1987 or church office, 301-994-0607.



SCHEDULES:

ALTAR SERVERS

ORGANIST/ CANTOR

LECTORS

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

GREETERS

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sat., Dec. 19
5:00 PM

E. Carpenter
E. Carpenter

B. Carpenter

A. Fenwicjk
C. Galli

J. Carpenter

G. Adams
Volunteer

First:
Mi 5:1-4a

Sun., Dec. 20
8:30 AM

G. Holden
J. Holden
K. Waldron

J. Lenderman
B. Barnes

P. Baliko
J. Blackwell

R. Rose

W. Blackwell
F. Salmon

Second:
Heb 10:5-10

Sun., Dec. 20
11:00 AM

A. Hills
K. Hills
M Ojo

B. Carpenter
B. Goldsmith

E. Andrews
M. Goldsmith

Deacon L'Heureux

M. Kibler
J. Robison

Gospel:
Lk 1:39-45

Daily Mass Lectors, Dec. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18: A. Fenwick, T. Buckler, J. Blackwell, D. Adams, N. Neel
Meals on Wheels, Dec. 15, 16, 17: L. Quade, I. Hardy, C. Fugate
Altar Preparation, Dec. 19: C. Cantrill

