

Dear friends in Christ,

This week we have a second collection, which, like all of the second collections, is an important one. This one hits close to home for many Catholics, however, especially many Catholics of a "certain age," as we like to say.

It is the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious and it goes to support the religious sisters, brothers and priests from religious orders who have served the Church so remarkably over the years. Many older Catholics are a product of Catholic schooling and chances are if you were in a Catholic school in the '40s, '50s or '60s, you were taught by a member of a religious order. For several decades, nuns were a prominent fixture in Catholic school classrooms. Priests and brothers staffed many parishes and schools as well.

Now those same sisters, brothers and priests are long-since retired and they struggle to make ends meet. With the shrinking number of new members coming into religious life, there is not as much income to support the older members of the order. For many years, sisters and brothers in Catholic schools worked for little or no money. This is our chance to say "thank you" for their work in service of the Church. All income from the second collection will go to the Retirement Fund for Religious, which hands out very generous grants to religious orders throughout the country. Please be generous in this collection.

I am happy to report that Arlene Hawkins from our parish has agreed to be our liaison with St. Paul Church in Sabine Pass. She's been in contact with members of that church that was all but wiped away in Hurricane Rita. We are working to put together a "Welcome Home" house warming party for the members of the parish who are now moving into FEMA trailers that replaced their homes. They have a roof over their head, but not much else. Arlene will keep us posted on what is happening in Sabine Pass and I am hopeful that we can have a "needs" drive for them in the Christmas season. It doesn't appear that we can get it done before Christmas, but remember the Christmas season doesn't really start until Dec. 25! This will be a way for us to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas in proper fashion by giving of our blessings to those in need. We'll have more details soon, but let's all plan on participating in this very worthy cause. We can then deliver the items to the people of St. Paul's in Sabine Pass in the early days of 2006.

Our Giving Tree project to support CAM is going well. Thanks to all of you who took a card or two home from Mass last week. You are asked to return those cards with either stamps or a gift card inside. We'll place them on our giving tree and CAM will distribute to families in need in our area. We still have a few cards to give away, so stop by office and pick one up, but be sure and return them to us right away so we can get them distributed before Christmas.

Our annual Advent Penance Service for CtR is this coming Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Church. (There is no Mass that night.) We'll have several priest-confessors present to hear individual confessions. Please plan on participating in this beautiful and healing sacrament. If you have been away from confession for a number of years and are not sure "what to do," fear not! We'll walk you through everything and help you receive this gift of God's infinite mercy and grace.

In addition to the Penance Service, another way to prepare your heart for the coming of the Lord at Christmas is at our Advent Evening Prayer Service on Monday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. That last week before Christmas is always crazy, right? We are running around like chickens with our heads chopped off, trying to buy, buy, buy more "stuff" to make Christmas "special this year." What a ridiculous notion! The only way to "make Christmas special" is to heed the call of the Prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist and prepare the way of the Lord. Give yourself and your family the gift of the Advent season by spending Monday, Dec.

19 in joyful expectation of the coming of Christ. We'll have beautiful Advent hymns (not Christmas carols yet!) that will help our hearts prepare for those final few days before the birth of the newborn King. We've got special musicians coming to help us so I can guarantee you a night of sacred songs and joyful praise. A reception will follow in the Community Center. It promises to be a night not to miss.

Finally, Christ the Redeemer is accepting applications for a full-time maintenance position. This is a 40-hour per week job with benefits overseeing our physical plant and building operations. Interested parties may contact our business manager, Leada Mitchell, for more details.
Peace, Fr. Sean

Mass Intentions for Week of December 12, 2005		
Monday	9:00 AM	Robert Westphal+, Vincent Tran+ Guadalupe & Maria Perez+
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Mary Barroso+, All Souls Joseph & Mary Bilski+
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Penance Communal Service
Thursday	9:00 AM	Bill & Angelina Podraza+ Morgan Faith Rogers
Friday	9:00 AM	Werner Tietze+, Donnie Redmon+ "Thanksgiving"
Saturday	5:00 PM	Macaria Dionido+, Leo Wysocki+ Julian Laskowski+
Sunday	7:30 AM	Marie Ladewig+, Mary Barroso+ Laura Diane Rodriguez+
	9:00 AM	CtR Parishioners
	11:00 AM	Jason Plata+, Michael Hicks+ Frank Walters
	5:00 PM	Dorothy Zajac+, Nellie Sicola+ James Leroy+

Readings for the Week of December 11, 2005

Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10; Ps 30; Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67; Jn 5:33-36
Saturday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Mt 1:1-17
Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

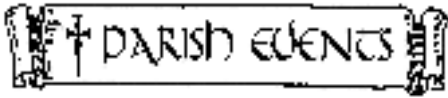
OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Envelopes (609)	\$25,477
Loose	\$8,020
Mailed In.....	\$3,296
Children's Envelopes.....	\$21
Total	\$36,814
Weekly Budgeted Expense	\$27,260
Needy.....	\$5,619

Parents of Young Children

If your child is having a bad day and starts acting up, whining, crying, etc. during Mass, please take them outside (weather permitting) until they can calm down. Not only is a crying child distracting too you, but also to your neighbor, minister and the presider. If you have young children ages 6 months through 3 years we encourage you to bring them to our nursery during the 9 & 11 AM Mass. We now have it fully staffed with adults, and there is no charge.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Sunday, December 11

Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM
8:30 AM Meal w/ Santa Mall
8:30 AM Candle Sale Mall
8:30 AM Welcoming Table Mall
9:00 AM Preschool classes Upstairs
9:00 AM RCIA Dismissal 203,205,207
11:00 AM Children's Liturgy of Word 111

Coffee & Donuts – Youth

Monday, December 12

8:00 AM Church Cleaning Church
9:00 AM Mass Church
7:00 PM Stewardship Com. 112
7:30 PM Venture Scouts 215, 217

Tuesday, December 13

9:00 AM Mass Church
9:35 AM Rosary Chapel
4:15 PM Children's Choir 111, CH, Narthex
7:00 PM Bereavement Team Off Site
7:00 PM K of C General Mtg. CC
7:00 PM Youth Bible Study 111, 201
7:30 PM Adult Choir Church, Narthex

Wednesday, December 14

6:00 PM Christmas Instr. Prac. 111, Church
7:00 PM Penance Service Church
7:30 PM BSA Troop 573 Mtg. CC

Thursday December 15

Mass 9:00 AM Church
6:00 PM Bell Choir Church
7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 113
7:00 PM RCIA Christmas Party CC
7:15 PM Adult Choir Church, Narthex

Friday, December 16

9:00 AM Mass Chapel

Saturday, December 17

9:00 AM Christmas Concert Reh. Church
5:00 PM Mass Church
6:00 PM K of C Christmas Party CC
6:00 PM K of C Tamale Sale CC, Mall

Sunday, December 18

Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM
8:30 AM K of C Tamale Sale CC, Mall
9:00 AM RCIA Dismissal 112,205,207
1:00 PM Baptisms Church
3:00 PM Contemporary Choir Church

Coffee & Donuts – Knights of Columbus

Religious Education News

Christmas Holidays:

All classes are in session this week, Dec. 11th. Christmas holidays are Dec. 18- - Jan 8.

Penance:

Children who have completed the penance formation are welcome to celebrate their first penance at any of the regularly scheduled times, Sat. @ 9:00 am or Wed. @ 6:16 PM. Notify the RE Office before coming.

Baptismal Certificates:

Copies of Baptismal Certificates need to be in the RE office by the end of Dec. 2005 for all children celebrating the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

Heavenly Scent Candles For Sale

Candles are available for \$8 each in Cinnamon Bun, Spiced Orange, Buttered Vanilla, and Peppermint. They can be purchased at the receptionist window. All proceeds benefit R.E. Pre-school and CtR Prep School. For more info, contact Jill Dimiceli or Mary Davis.

Youth Doings

Youth Bible Study

You are invited to attend youth bible study on Tuesdays from 7-8:30pm in room 111. This group of young people has a thirst for learning more about the bible. If you have the same thirst, join us.

Generation Christ

Our high school youth group meets for fellowship and prayer on Thursday' s from 7-8:30pm in the community center. Come and meet old friends or make new ones.

Generation Next

Our Jr. high youth group meets for fun and prayer on Thursday' s from 7-8:30pm in the youth room.



I Feel Good When I Thank God

Here are some of "My Good Deeds" from the children's envelopes: helped grandma. -raking pine needles.- helping my Great Grandpa.- Keeping my room clean.- I help my Dad.- helping put the Christmas tree up.- being a gentleman at the birthday party.- I watched my brother at a park in Mexico for my mom.- I cleaned My Bathroom.- I vacuumed. I cleaned up. I gave the dogs water.- I love you Jesus.- I made my bed.- clean the house.- taking care of my dog.- using good "party" manners at the birthday party.- telling the truth.- talking to people.- I cleaned the house.- help put lights.- Doing my chores.- taking care of Rol Lee.- helping clen.- I put up halloween decorations.- being good when Mommy was sick.- I watered the plants.- helping someone find a classroom at school.

Expect the Miraculous!

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Advent is a great time to experience ADORATION. Commit to a Holy Hour (short term OK) and see the benefits for yourself! Contact ctradoration@yahoo.com or talk to any scheduled Adorer about what time fits your schedule for an Advent commitment. You can also be on call for vacationing or ill Adorers. Commit to at least one full Hour a week, for optimum results!



In Our Parish

Let us keep the following people in our prayers: Helen LaKome, Joan Watson, Caroline Champness, Concetta Hawver, Jennifer Wysocki, Rosita Canlas, LaVerne

Ball, Is Moritas, Mary Cole, Penni Smith, Jeanette Schieber, Lois & Charles Fietz, Carolyn German, Joe DeJohn, Marie Everingham, Mary Lamanse, Gail Shear, Norman Bell, Lloyd & Barbara Oakley, James Grahmann, Gale Zimmerman, Linda Freeman, Doug Bell, Jay Maduzia, Ron Andreo, Evangeline Beverly, Kim Gillespie, Dave Perham, Felicity Belmarez, Amber Whitworth-Downey, Misty Whitworth-Downey, William Downey, II, June Downey, Ann Brooke, Mary Ann Taylor, Chris Mylod, Darrell Christiansen, David Hawkins, Joe Nagangast, Rita Altamuro, Christine Galik, Mary Fleming, Jimmy Davenport, Clyde King, Wanda Cirillo, Camille Joseph, Billy Andrews, Helen Winn, Deacon Jim & Regina Osterhaus, Raymond Dawson, Paul Deselle, Donna & Johnny Burkett, Jack Bell, Liliana Garza, Judy Jenkins and Audrey Lyons. Please keep them and all the sick of our parish in your prayers.

(If someone in your family is in need of prayer, please contact the parish office to have their name placed in our parish bulletin. We will keep the name on for 2 months unless otherwise notified.)

Prayer List for our Service Men & Women

Please keep the following in your prayers as they serve this wonderful country:



Casey Smith, Ernesto Meruelo, Paul Mallory, Nick Zientek, Jaime Martinez, Michael Sutton,

Brett Guidry, Marcus Malek, Lcpl Dave Lewis, Lcpl Nathan Kemnitz, Josh Beaver, Lcpl Michael Jenigan, Lt. Luke Gorney, Lt. Michael Gorney, Ross Christensen, Allen Bravenec, David Frederick, Wesley Drake, Ross West, Kristina Linseisen-Snead, Sgt. Sean Taylor, Sgt. Mark Howell, Kyle Berlanga, PFC. David Wilhite, Jeremy Miller, Major Jason Colbert, Cpt. Mark Grahmann, Stuart Laperouse, Brady Bennett, Melissa Montelongo, Nate Brown, Matthew Macejewski, Rick Grog, Corp. Paul Black Jr., Spc. Edward Herrera, Marc Weiner, Brandon Sokora, Joseph Vinklerek, Ian Roberts, Gary Lang, Ordet Klekar, Major Lloyd Waugh, Lcpl. John Buikema, Angela Tripp, Wade Coker, Tyler Coker, Karl Aschenbeck, Donnie Fricks, Jr., Gary Jonika, Jr., Alex Lambert, Augusto Cespedes, Jr., Lt. Col. Patrick D. Bertshofer, Christopher Petrovich, Lcpl. Louie G. Welch, Cadet Greg Lambert, USMA, Anthony Barth, Lt. Col. Peter A. Lee, and Capt. Christopher B. Lee.

(Please call the parish office to add the name of your loved one in the Armed Services to our prayer list.)

Stewardship Corner

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Cantor

A Cantor's first ministry is to lead the singing of the psalms when the Church gathers for worship. When a choir is not present, the cantor leads the assembly in all its sung prayer. Auditions are required and training is on an individual basis.

Contact Person: Stephen Sloper

Phone: 281-469-5533 ext. 146

Email Address: music@ctrcc.com.

AFF – Adult Faith Formation

No Class This Week

Adult Faith Formation will take a break this week because Jonathan, our presenter, will be taking his final exams! Pray for him!



CAM NEEDS YOUR COLD, DEAD TURKEYS

CAM will need over 250 turkeys to give out to our families for Christmas. We have available freezer space so if you can donate a turkey - - **and any other holiday food** - - please bring it to 11202 Huffmeister. - We are open 6 days a week for donations: 9:30 AM to 6 PM Mon., Tues. Wed., and 9:30 AM to 3 PM Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Thanks for all the help you give us in our work with those in need.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

Margaret Carnicle/CtR Prep School

Travelling? For nationwide Mass times and locations, call 1-800-Mass-times (1-800-627-7845) or visit www.Masstimes.org on the web.

Please be sure to patronize our sponsors and thank them for advertising in our bulletin. They make the bulletin possible at no cost to Christ the Redeemer.

LITURGY CORNER



Advent

Advent can be described as a festive commemoration of the incarnation and a devout and joyous expectation of the *parousia* (the second coming). *The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar* tells us “Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s First Coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation” (39). The kingdom of peace, repentance, hope *gaudete* (rejoice), John the Baptist, Emmanuel, Mary’s Magnificat and the O Antiphons are some familiar images of this joyful season.

Advent, Year ABC. Michael R. Pendergast, MTS, MA © 2005 Oregon Catholic Press. All rights reserved.



Year B-Mark’s Gospel

The shortest and earliest of the four Gospels in the Bible – a mere sixteen chapters – provides a fast-paced story of the events of Jesus’ public ministry. The Gospel dates from about 70 CE, nearly four decades after Jesus’ death and resurrection. Mark’s Gospel is unique and abbreviated, with no story of the birth of Jesus and no account of the resurrection. Mark’s Gospel, filled with so much imagery of suffering, is difficult for us to hear. Some Scripture scholars have called Mark’s Gospel a passion narrative with a long introduction. In Year B, the Gospel of Mark is proclaimed at Sunday liturgy (every three years, starting with 2006). The feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist is on April 25th, and Christian art portrays Mark with a lion by his side.

Mark’s Gospel, Year B. Michael R. Pendergast, MTS, MA © 2005 Oregon Catholic Press. All rights reserved.

Liturgical Minister Schedule – December 17/18, 2005

Sacristan	Lola Chin, David Keating				Drew and Joanne Lapps	
Ministry	5 PM Sat	7:30 AM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	5 PM Sun	
EMHC	1. Daly, Joan	1. Atchison, Diane	1. Anderson, Bruce	1. Arnett, Patty	1. Babin, Anne	
	2. Dolinsky, Carol	2. Atchison, Ken	2. Bell, Douglas	2. Bradley, Bill	2. Castillo, Sharon	
	3. Garich, Jan	3. Danish, Helen	3. Croes, Tony	3. Bradley, Stacie	3. Conroy, Shannon	
	4. Glen, Stephen	4. Danish, Tom	4. Gehrt, Melanie	4. Cavestany, Adrian	4. Damore, Mary	
	5. Head, James	5. Kowalski, Karl	5. Hroch, Joseph	5. Cavestany, Cherrie	5. Gibbons, John	
	6. Head, Norma	6. McManus, Michele	6. Jackson, Phillip	6. Hall, Greg	6. Kelly, Marie	
	7. Rehberg, Vicki	7. Nicholas, Geneva	7. Macejewski, Albina	7. Herbert, Tim	7. Mallamohamad, Nickie	
	8. Reyna, Angela	8. Rinaldi, Katherine	8. Maxwell, Marjean	8. Herbert, Trudy	8. McKay, Pam	
	9. Thornton, Robert	9. Szymanski, Mary	9. McCarren, Dick	9. Kilcommins, Fredna	9. Nunez, Nehomi	
	10. Veselka, Debbie	10. Watso, Todd	10. Nobis, Tom	10. Kilcommins, John	10. Whalen, Susan	
	11	11. Wieland, Randy	11. Spies, Andrew	11. O' Keeffe, Jerome	11	
Greeters	1. Veselka, Brittany	1. Rinaldi, Meghan	1. Worthy, Michael	1	1. Myers, Melanie	
	2	2	2	2	2	
Ushers	1. Couillard, Norman	1. Moses, Carol	1. Daus, Nancy	1	1. Carnicle, Alma	
	2. Couillard, Susan	2. Moses, Steve	2. DeJohn, Joe	2	2. Myers, Joe	
	3. Gerdich, Gregg	3. Petrzelka, Valerie	3. Proske, Buddy	3	3	
Servers	1. Best, Scott	1. Rinaldi, Mary	1. Fishbeck, Kyle	1. O' Keeffe, Phoebe	1. Archabal, Ali	
	2. Dolinskay, Michael	2. Rinaldi, Peter	2. Roemlein, Megan	2. Rodriguez, Phillip	2. Kasperek, Ryan	
	3. Parker, Mason	3. Veenstra, William	3. Weyand, Shelby	3. Stevens, Zachary	3. Priest, Jessica	



Altar Linen Ministry Needs You!

Did you know we use 8 purificators per Mass. A purificator is the special altar linen we use to wipe the cup of the Precious Blood. Since we have 5 masses we use a

total of 40 per weekend, 8 for daily Masses, and additional purificators for special Masses (Christmas, Holy Days, etc.).

We use 1 corporal per mass. A Corporal is the larger altar linen that is placed on the altar on which we place the Eucharist. We use 5 per weekend.

We use 2 towels per mass. The towels are used for the washing of the Pastors hands and for any mishaps that might happen during the celebration. We use a total of 10 or more per weekend.

We have a marvelous group of women who clean these special linens each week, however, two of them can no longer participate in this ministry. We are in desperate need of more help. More people would mean a better rotation schedule as well as alternates to call upon.

Please prayerfully consider this very special ministry and contact Joyce Truax at the parish office or email her at liturgyschedule@ctrcc.com.

Around the Archdiocese

Become an Angel Sponsor

Poverty never takes a holiday. Somewhere in our community this Christmas, there is a child who is hungry, a breadwinner out of a job, or an elderly person in need of a helping hand.

This year Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston asks that you "*Share your Blessings*" and become an Angel Sponsor. This year more than 750 client families are in need.

According to Catholic Charities Volunteer Coordinator Michael Schillaci, thanks to the continued support of various parishes partners, many of the client families have Angel Sponsors. However, more than 60 families still need sponsors.

Angel Sponsors are needed to help those in need have a happier holiday and a more hopeful new year by providing families with food, clothing, toiletries, gifts and toys. The cost of sponsorship ranges from \$50-\$1,000 depending on family size and needs.

To become an Angel Sponsor, contact Michael Schillaci at 713-874-6727 or via email at mschillaci@cathiloccharities.org.

Day of Prayer

Day of Prayer with Fr. William Martin, OMJ on Wed., Jan 11, 2006 at the Christian Renewal Center in Dickinson, TX from 9 AM – 3 PM. This day's topic is "Do Whatever He tells You". The seven portraits of Mary in the Gospels give us the image of her Son. Phone: 281-337-1312, email: crc1515@retreatcentercrc.org.



The Classics, a group of singles, couples, widows, and widowers over the age of 50 will NOT have a meeting on the 3rd Sunday in December. Our next bus trip will be on

Sunday, January 22 when we will see the show "Smoke on the Mountain" at the College of the Mainland in Texas City. Please call Cecilia Forrest at 281-469-1065 for information about the bus trip, our monthly meetings, and our other activities.

Tamale Sale

\$7.00 dz. or 3 dz. for \$20
Treat family & friends
to a great local tradition



Just in time for
Christmas

Dec. 17-18, 2005