

Dear friends in Christ,

This fourth and final Sunday of Advent affords us a whole week of preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Christ next Sunday, Dec. 25. Next year we won't be so lucky. The 4th Sunday of Advent in 2006 will be on Sunday, Dec. 24 and then we'll turn around and celebrate Christmas the very next day (or that same evening if you come to Christmas Eve services). That's a headache I don't even want to think about yet, so let's just rejoice in our full week of before Christmas this year.

I know the kids are out of school this week and many adults have a reduced work schedule. Our offices, for example, will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 22 and will not re-open until Tuesday, Dec. 27. With this extra time, the temptation will be to squeeze in a few more days of shopping, or baking or attending parties, but I encourage you to make time for the coming of the Lord. On Monday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the church we will have an Advent evening prayer service with readings from Scripture and beautiful music from our choir. They've been rehearsing for several weeks in preparation of this evening, and I can assure you it will be time well spent. Give yourself and your family a break from all the activities of the Christmas season and spend it in communion with the parish as we anticipate Christ's birth. A reception follows in the Community Center. Also, don't forget that our chapel is always open for prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Come and adore Him, Christ our Lord!

Let's also take a moment to review the Christmas Mass schedule. All registered families were sent a schedule at the beginning of Advent, and it has been re-printed here in the bulletin several times, but still it helps to make sure we are all on the same page. On Saturday, Dec. 24, first note, we will not hold our usual Saturday morning confessions that day. I hope you attended our Advent Penance service last week. Masses will be at 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 12 Midnight. We do not designate any particular Mass to be the so-called "Children's Mass." Every Mass is for kids, both old and young alike! That being said, obviously the 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Christmas Eve masses attract the largest number of families with children, so plan accordingly. You already know this, but it bears repeating: Come early to find (a) a space in the parking lot and (b) a place in the pews!

We are expecting large crowds at all masses, and to accommodate the great numbers we are trying something new this year. At the 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. mass on Christmas Eve, and again on Christmas Day at 11 a.m., we will have extra seating in the Community Center with a video link to the Mass in the Church. You will be participating along with the Mass on a large screen and Holy Communion will be brought over to the Community Center. It won't be the exact same as being inside the Church, but I think it will be close and it will give more people a place to sit and be able to participate in the liturgy. Please be patient with the process. It's the first time we've done it (though it has been done successfully elsewhere) and there will be a few glitches (there always is), but we think it will be a real benefit for those who otherwise could not fit inside our church. Until such time we get our new church built, this is part of the growing pains of a booming church. Believe me, there are worse problems we could have!

The 8 p.m. mass on Christmas Eve is always a nice service, not too crowded and not too sparsely attended. If you are an older adult without small children, I recommend you consider attending it or the traditional Midnight Mass. You can never go wrong with Midnight Mass! It is a truly "Catholic" thing to do! And, yes, our Midnight Mass starts at Midnight, but there will be singing of carols and Christmas hymns beginning at 11 p.m. Of course, there is nothing wrong with actually attending Christmas Mass on Christmas Day itself, Sunday, Dec. 25. We will hold our regular Sunday schedule of 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m., but there is no Sunday evening 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

Because of the extra crowds at Christmas and on Easter, I sometimes hear people say "Where are these people the other 50 weeks of the year?" It is often said with a bit of a superior tone, a not-so-subtle condescending message to those who don't come to church on a regular basis. Please, if I can ask only one thing of you this Christmas season, do not bring that attitude to CtR. It's uncharitable and un-Christian. Yes, like you, I wish all the visitors

were with us each week, but the fact that they are with us on Christmas is something to celebrate and rejoice in, not condemn. The only way we are going to get them with us each week is to be the face of Christ to them. Welcome the stranger in your midst. Let them know of the joy that is found in celebrating every week with the community and being fed regularly at the table of the Lord. That's the good news we have been given to share. Let's share it in a spirit of welcome. We'll leave the work of changing their hearts to Christ, but let's do our part by letting them know, regardless how often they come, that they are always welcome at Christ the Redeemer.

Finally, details are starting to come in about the assistance needed at our adopted parish in Sabine Pass, St. Paul Mission. We'll have more details at Christmas, but we are planning a "house warming party" for those who were displaced by Hurricane Rita into FEMA housing. They don't have much now, but with our help they soon will. Plan on making it part of the 12 days of Christmas for you and your family.

Peace, Fr. Sean

Mass Intentions for Week of December 19, 2005		
Monday	9:00 AM	Vincent Tran+, All Souls Antoinette Guzzetta
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Lee Ann DeJohn+, John Probert+ Wallace Chavez+
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Benard Berger, Seretta Manuel+ Frank Galik+
Thursday	9:00 AM	Suzanne Maniscalco+, Michelle Meliti+ Daniel Gawryziak+
Friday	9:00 AM	All Souls, Donnie Redmon+
Saturday	4:00 PM	Wallace Chavez+, Bruce Walker+ Carl Rizzotto+
	6:00 PM	Bruce Walker+, Lester Ladewig+ Walter & Frances Grasket
	8:00 PM	Marie Ladewig+, Michael Hicks+ Dorothy Zajac+
	12:00 MN	Ruben Garcia+, JoAnn Tinkle Charles & Anna Correll+
Sunday	7:30 AM	CtR Parishioners
	9:00 AM	Marie Ladewig+, Tom Vidis+ Joseph, Mary & Victor Bilski+
	11:00 AM	Jason Plata+, Lee Ann DeJohn+ Mary Hudson+

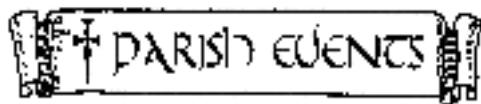
Readings for the Week of December 18, 2005

- Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
- Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25
- Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33; Lk 1:39-45
- Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2; Lk 1:46-56
- Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66
- Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89;
Lk 1:67-79
- Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Envelopes (624).....	\$24,827
Loose.....	\$8,743
Mailed In.....	\$1,708
Children's Envelopes	\$7
Total	\$35,285
Weekly Budgeted Expense	\$27,260
Immaculate Conception	\$4,218
Retired Religious Fund.....	\$5,322

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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	203,205,207
1:00 PM	Baptisms	Church
3:00 PM	Contemporary Choir	Church

Coffee & Donuts – Knights of Columbus

Monday, December 19

8:00 AM	Church Cleaning	Church
9:00 AM	Mass	Church
7:00 PM	Advent Music Night	Church, CC

Tuesday, December 20

9:00 AM	Mass	Church
9:30 AM	Christmas Environment	Church, Chapel
9:35 AM	Rosary	Chapel
4:15 PM	Children's Choir	111, CH, Narthex
7:00 PM	Adult Faith Formation	112
7:00 PM	Youth Bible Study	111, 201
7:30 PM	Adult Choir	Church, Narthex

Wednesday, December 21

9:30 AM	Familia 2	112, Nsy.
9:30 AM	Familia 3	207, Nsy.
6:00 PM	Christmas Instr. Prac.	111, Church
7:00 PM	Mass	Chapel
7:30 PM	BSA Troop 573 Mtg.	CC

Thursday December 22

9:00 AM	Mass	Church
12:00 PM	OFFICE CLOSED @ noon	
6:00 PM	Bell Choir	Church
7:15 PM	Adult Choir	Church, Narthex

Friday, December 23 OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 AM	Mass	Chapel
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Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Masses at 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 PM and Midnight

7:00 AM	Men's Prayer Group	113
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Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM

No Coffee & Donuts

Christmas Nursery News

The nursery will be open for your use Christmas Eve during the 4 & 6 PM Masses. Please use this free of charge nursery so all may prayerfully enjoy the liturgy.



Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

O come let us Adore Him, as Advent concludes!

Openings for Weekly Holy Hours:

3 am Tuesday or Wednesday 4 am Sundays 1 am
Sundays 2 or 3 pm on Saturdays or Sundays 8 pm Fridays
or Saturdays Contact ctradoration@yahoo.com or
281.856.0989

Religious Education News

Christmas Holidays:

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. @ 6:15 PM. Notify the RE Office before coming.

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.

Seafarer Centers

Students in grade 1-5 responded to a request from the Seafarers Center with gift boxes, which will be handed out to the clients during this Christmas season. The chaplain sent the following note "Many thanks on behalf of the seafarers who's Christmas is touched by the goodness of people like yourselves. These boxes mean so much to so many people who are far away from home during this glorious season." About 50 gift boxes were delivered.

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.

2006 Archdiocesan Jr. High Youth Rally

Saturday, February 4, 2006 at St. Vincent de Paul Church. Registration forms and \$35 are due no later than **Dec. 29th** to the Youth office. Leaving CtR at 10 AM and return 10 PM. Awesome prayer experiences, cool workshops, concert & dance featuring Righteous B and Vince Nims. Fun, fellowship and Mass. Come and join us.



I Feel Good When I Thank God

Here are some of "My Good Deeds" from the children's envelopes:

I cleaned the dog dish.- to make soup for dinner.- clean my room.- I got water for my dogs.-listening to my parents.- I let parker beat me in marioogcart.-put up christmas decortions.- I helpt brush tog.- helping daddy with the christmas tree.- being nice to grandma.-

The office will be closed for Christmas from Thursday, Dec.22 at noon until Tuesday, Dec. 27. The CtR staff wishes you a happy and blessed Christmas.



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, 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, Audrey Lyons and Bob & Maggie Schaefer. Please keep them and all the sick of our parish in your prayers.

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In your prayers, please remember Thomas Kenney, husband of Brynda and father to Matthew & Brecklyn, who recently passed into eternal life. And in your prayers remember the family that they may feel the love and comfort of the Father to heal their pain.



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. Bertlshofer, 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

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" – "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." - that the promise finds fulfillment. See Luke 1:38

RCIA Children

RCIA for Children ministers to children (with their families) ages 7 – 17 who desire to know more about the Catholic faith. Through the sharing of our faith, we prepare children for the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation).

Contact Person: Patty Lynch
Phone: 281-469-5533 ext. 133
Email Address: rcia@ctrcc.com

AFF – Adult Faith Formation

Last AFF Class for this Semester

Come join us this Tuesday for our final meeting of the fall. We will finish our discussion of the Church and our reading of the Vatican II Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*. We will meet on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 7:30-9 PM. in Room 112. *This is a change from our regular time because of the concert on Monday night.* Presented by Jonathan Raia, a seminarian for the Diocese of Austin studying at St. Mary's Seminary.



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

Fredna Kilcommins (Support Our Youth Groups)

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

The Priest

Nowhere does a parish community show forth the mystery of the Church more clearly than in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Mass requires the presence and ministry of a priest. Like John the Baptist, the priest is the “friend of the bridegroom” (John 3:29), rejoicing in the union of Christ with his bride, the Church. The priest effectively fosters that union by standing in the person of Christ at the head of the assembly (*in persona Christi capitis*), by presiding over its prayer, preaching the word of God, and offering the sacrifice of Christ in the Holy Spirit to the Father. “When he celebrates the Eucharist, therefore, he must serve God and the people with dignity and humility, and by his bearing and by the way he says the divine words, he must convey to the faithful the living presence of Christ” (GIRM, 93).

The priest must be ablaze with what John Paul II calls “eucharistic amazement” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 6). When the priest speaks the words of consecration first uttered by Christ in the upper room, he places his voice and his whole being at the disposal of the Lord. Then, awed by what happens on the altar before which he stands, he proclaims the presence of the mystery of faith in the midst of the Church. Everything in the life of the priest flows into this moment, and flows out of it.

Prepared by Father Mark-Daniel Kirby, OCIST, Ph.D. Copyright © 2005, Archdiocese of Chicago, Liturgy Training Publications, 1-800-933-1800, www.ltp.org



Liturgical Minister Schedule – December 24/25, 2005

If you have signed up for any of the special masses during the Christmas weekend, please honor your commitment or find a substitute. If you have not signed up yet, we invite you to do so on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

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).

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. Five are used per weekend.

We use 2 towels per mass. The towels are used for the washing of the Pastor's 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.

The Greatest Gift

Christmas is coming! So much time has been spent in the past weeks thinking about gifts, where to find just the right presents for all the people on our list. Nothing but the best for those we love. And if we're honest, we've spent a few hours thinking about the presents we'll receive.

Today's Advent message makes even the best gift seem a little shabby. In accepting her role as the mother of Jesus, Mary gave everything to God. She gave up her reputation, her “social acceptance” and the ability to “choose her own path”. She willingly sacrificed her will, her life, her future and in doing so brought God's greatest gift to us, His son Jesus. As Christmas day fast approaches, may Mary's gift teach us the real meaning of Christmas, giving to God in celebration of the gifts He's given us.





Around the Archdiocese

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.

CtR Men's Group

The CtR Men's Group would like to extend an invitation to other men of the parish to join them in their next discussion on Saturday, Dec. 24, from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in room 111 of the RE Building. The topic will be "Christians and Civil Authority – Render Unto Caesar". No preparation is required. Please come and join us as we build our faith and share fellowship. Contact Mike Bonin (281-374-0354) or John Huston (281-897-0010) if you have questions.



Victoria Cottrell
Scott & Katherine Dellinger
Monroe & Patricia Grabowski
Larry & Alexys Overman
Kristin Plummer
Al & Senen Rodriguez
Charles & Karen Sumner
Matthew & Agnes Wagner
Charles & Ann Vana
Jason Hajduk
Polly Quinones
Helen Raia

Archdiocesan Choir

The Archdiocesan Choir will perform an Epiphany Concert featuring Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, and sacred choral music of the Christmas Season. The concert is offered in honor of the bishops of the Archdiocese and will benefit vocation discernment retreats offered by the Office of Vocations. It will be held in the St. Agnes Academy Auditorium, 9000 Bellaire Blvd., on Sunday, January 8, 2006. Doors open at 3:30 PM with the concert beginning at 4 PM. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$5 for students with ID and are available through the Archdiocesan Office of Worship, 713-741-8760. Donor information is also available. Consider giving tickets as Christmas gifts.

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 Dickenson, 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.

7 Day Mission Opportunity

S.O.S., Sending Out Servants, a Catholic Lay mission organization is currently forming a small mission team to travel to Santa Cruz, Guatemala between March 11th- 19th to share our faith with the indigenous Maya. Spanish and non-Spanish speaking team members NEEDED. This is a non-medical trip. The only qualification is flexibility and a servant's heart. Training begins in early January so please contact Ernest or Connie Braren soon at 281-440-6165 or braren@pdq.net. Need more information about us? Please visit our website, www.sendingoutservants.org.

Jamie Cortez Concert

Mark your calendars! Jamie Cortez is coming on February 3 - 4, 2006 for a concert and workshop. Sponsored by St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church, this concert and workshop is bilingual. For more information contact Greg Gondron at 713-946-5768 or email music@sfchoutx.org.

Travelling? For nationwide Mass times ad locations, call 1-800-Mass-times (1-800-627-7845 or www.Masstimes.org)