



"And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." - Lk 23:41-42

Readings for the Week of November 25, 2007

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43
Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Lk 21:20-28
Friday: Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Stewardship Reflections

"... let him save himself if he is the chosen one..." - Luke 23:35

Out of love, Jesus willingly came for the salvation of all humanity. Loving God, may others see an attitude of gratitude in me for your gift of salvation.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Adults: How do my words and actions reveal Christ as ruler of my life?

Children: What can I do this week to be more like Jesus?

Religious Education News

First Communion Students will celebrate their first Reconciliation at our parish Advent Penance Service on Monday, December 3rd at 6PM. Please keep them in your prayers.

Parents of First Communion students who missed the Reconciliation meeting need to call the office and choose a date for the celebration of First Eucharist. Options available are Sat. May 17th, 4pm, St. Ann, or Sat. May 3rd, 4pm, St. Ann.

Confirmation Students Year I, (9th Graders) Begin their class schedule on the weekend of December 2nd. For this initial gathering please meet in our Parish School Gym at 11:00 AM following Mass.

RCIA

RCIA will meet on Monday, November 26. If you are interested or have questions please call Kathleen McCabe 978-281-4820 ext. 0121.

FASTING FOR FUEL

Fasting For Fuel: High School Students and 8th Graders: We are looking for individuals to consider a 24 hour fast on behalf of St. Vincent de Paul. The Youth Ministry Program sponsors this event each year, just after we have enjoyed more than enough at Thanksgiving, in consideration of those who go without. We gather at 5pm on Fri. Nov. 23 in our parish school gym and stay overnight with movies, games and good company. We will provide fruit, and fluids to keep up your strength. We have pledge sheets and permission slips. Please call the office to enlist interested individuals.

Fuel Assistance

The Action Fuel Assistance Program began Nov. 1st. For information please call 1-800-696-9276

Reflections by Father Bullock

(Prior to his passing, Father Bullock transcribed his reflections for inclusion in our parish bulletin. We will continue to share them with you in the coming weeks.

Walker Percy, in "Lost in the Cosmos", wonders about us humans, "who spend billions on space stations listening for blips that might speak to us" and finds it ironic that we seek communication from outer space, yet the greatest communication of all from outer space - God - is greeted with skepticism, denial or indifference. Some say that Percy's observation was taken up tellingly in the movie "ET, The Extraterrestrial". One writer sees ET as a 21st century Christ, unappreciated by the holders of power on earth, but accepted by the children. "You must become like little children," Christ told those who would be his followers. ET spends his last night on earth in a forested glade (a modern Gethsemane) trying to communicate with the folks back home (as Jesus prayed to the Father). The next day the scientists and technicians (Pharisees and Romans soldiers) capture him and stick him behind a shield where he dies. But the children, having no fear of intergalactic bacteria, and no intolerance of the different, resurrect him by their love. A spaceship arrives and he ascends to heaven.



Percy ends "Lost in the Cosmos" with a fantasy that Spaceship Earth is indeed addressed by an extraterrestrial being, and a persistent signal questions us: Do you need? Are you in trouble? Have you sought help? Did help come? If it came, did you accept it? Are you conscious? Do you know who you are? Do you know how to love? Are you loved? Do you read me?

In a sense, those are the questions that Christ is asking Pilate - and each one of us! Pilate could not see through to this; can we? Do we remember the words of Scripture: "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone will open to me, I will come in." "Come to me all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will give you rest." There is, indeed, life in outer space, and it is constantly talking to us. Are you in trouble? Can you accept help? Do you know who you are? Do you know you are loved? Do you read me?

Cell Phone Courtesy

Cell phones and PDA's have become common-place in our lives and true conveniences of daily living. Sometimes, they are so common, that we forget that we even have them with us or that they are turned on... ready to ring / beep / chime away at a moment's notice. This is all well and fine at most moments in our lives, but can be a real distraction during church services. Therefore we would like to make a gentle request: when in church, please silence the ringer on your cell phone, pager, or PDA. Most devices these days offer a "silent" feature or vibration setting that will not disturb others who are seated around you. If, in a genuine emergency, you must take a call, please show consideration for your fellow parishioners by completely leaving the building before answering the phone. Making ourselves "less available" to the outside world for an hour or so will help enable everyone to be more available to God. Thank you for your attention to this simple matter of courtesy to one another.



Holy Family Parish gratefully acknowledges the following donations in memory of:

Mary Ann Coyle
Scott & Arlene Lesch &
Family
Rev. Samuel M. Fayad,
C.C.S.
Judy Rodgers

Sandy Curcuru
From Family
Allyn Smith, Sr.
Lucy & Art Sheehan
Bianca Stewart
Lucy & Art Sheehan

Host & Wine

The Host & Wine for November was donated in loving memory of:

Michael Mortillaro
From Wife & Children




Coffee and Donuts

Coffee and donuts are being served in the **Rockport Community House, next door to St. Joachim Church, immediately after the 9am Mass.** If you would like to volunteer to serve coffee in the weeks to come, please call Jean Dugan 978-283-9256.

Fresh coffee and donuts are also being served **after Mass on Sundays at St. Ann Church** in the parish hall.

Faith: A Mothers Story

Celebrate the Advent Season by experiencing the Women of the Bible in a one-woman performance where the events surrounding Jesus' birth come to life. Olivia Woodford will be performing this play on Sunday evening, December 9th at 6pm at St. Ann Church, mark your calendar now!

 *In Loving Memory*
We commend into God's care those who were buried from our Parish recently:

Anne N. Drohan

Mass of Remembrance for Deceased Survivors of Abuse

In 2002 we were shocked and saddened by the flood of reports of sexual abuse of children by priests. The impact of this terrible betrayal of childhood trust and innocence is devastating. Many still carry a heavy burden of sorrow and suffering and wonder if their Church still cares about them and their families. On Wednesday, November 28 at 7:30 pm Bishop John Dooher will celebrate a Mass of Remembrance for survivors of clergy abuse who have died. This Mass will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 573 Washington St., Newton. Together, let us remember these beloved children of God. Let us pray for an outpouring of God's mercy, love and peace for all who grieve. And, as we remember, let us pray as one for the continued healing of all survivors, their families, and for our Church. All are welcome to attend.

Christmas Fair Requests

THEME BASKETS are needed for our Wheel of Fortune game at the Christmas Fair. Again, we appeal to your generosity. With 100+ baskets we can provide a full day of fun at the fair and a substantial donation to our parish. All items must be new and unused. Value of baskets should be approximately \$25. We need baskets for children (crafts, toys, games, winter wear, etc.) as well as adults (bath, kitchen, holiday, etc.) Please bring baskets to the parish hall on Friday, November 30, day or evening. For further info, call Jeanne at 978-281-1915.

CRAFT TABLE: If each parishioner could donate just one item to the craft table, it would be greatly appreciated. With everyone's help, we can make this our best fair ever. Thanks to all!

INTERNATIONAL TABLE: Ethnic foods are needed for our international table. Please bring your favorite dish on Dec.1. For further info, call Rosie 978-281-4161.

JEWELRY is also needed so please clean out your jewelry box. For info call Agnes 978-283-6245.

Christmas Giving Tree



Christmas Giving Trees, sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, have been set up in the vestibules of St. Joachim and St. Ann Churches. Each tree is decorated with colored stars describing a gift, which may be donated for the people of Cape Ann. Each gift should be new and unused and returned unwrapped with the original star attached. The trees will be up until Monday, Dec. 17th and all gifts should be returned to the convent offices no later than noon Dec.17th. **WE ARE SORRY BUT NO GIFTS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE AS GIFTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL FAMILIES ON WED. DEC. 19th.**

The Clothes Shop

The Thrift Shop, formerly located in St. Mary Chapel, has been moved to the basement of the St. Ann School, and renamed "The Clothes Shop." Entrance to the shop may be made by way of the school yard. Signs will show the way. Hours are Wednesdays 6pm-8pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Members of the Holy Family Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul volunteer their time and efforts to keep everything running smoothly. Space allows only clothing to be available and donations may be left in the receptacle in the school yard. All revenue received from the sales is used to help families in need in the community. So when you see the "Open" sign stop in and see what we have to offer, there may be a bargain just for you in our new "Clothes Shop!" Any questions, please call 978-283-7391.

