



**"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:42-44**

**Readings for the Week of December 2, 2007**

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44  
Monday: Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

**Stewardship Reflections**

*"...you also must be prepared ..." Matthew 24:44*  
*"The Lord's warning of judgment causes dismay for those who are unprepared, but it brings joyful hope to those who eagerly wait for his return in glory."*

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**

**Adults:** When have I turned to the wisdom of man and turned away from the wisdom of God to solve my problems? What were the results?  
**Children:** When do I ask Jesus to help me live as his friend and disciple?

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4pm at St. Ann or Sat., May 17<sup>th</sup> 4pm at St. Ann.  
**Confirmation Students Year I** (9th Graders) begin their class schedule today, December 2nd. For this initial gathering please meet in our Parish School Gym at 11am following Mass.

Thank you to Jack and Mary Jane Olson and to all who helped to make our Thanksgiving Senior Dinner such a wonderful success. Over 250 people were served. This is a way of Holy Family Parish making Christ's presence seen in the community.



## Catholic Charities Christmas Gala

Catholic Charities North extends an invitation to their 2007 Christmas Gala at the Sheraton Colonial in Wakefield on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, featuring auctioneer Billy Costa of TV Diner and music by Compaq Big Band. The Gala raises money for those most in need in our community. For tickets or more information call 781-593-2312 or e-mail sarah\_bartley@ccab.org.

## 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.*

When Flannery O'Connor died of lupus at the untimely age of 39, she left behind a literary output that included two short novels and two collections of strange and wonderfully disturbing short stories that marked her as one of the foremost crafters of short stories of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

She was also a fiercely fervent Catholic whose faith was an integral and necessary part of her writing. But that faith had to be grounded in the here and now, anchored in the concrete of the present reality because that is where things happen. Otherwise, both faith and writing skills would suffer. She saw the world and all in it, living and non-living, as the sacrament, the sign of an unseen Presence. She said in one place that "it was the business of the writer to touch upon the strangeness of truth."



And what could be stranger than a God who became man and lived for and among us; who suffered for and with us? It was said of her that she wrote for many people for whom the Incarnation had little meaning, and yet her stories constantly showed very ordinary, and sometimes very strange, people encountering a sign of the beauty and mystery of that Incarnate God. She herself said on another occasion, "to the hard of hearing you shout, and for the almost blind you draw large and startling pictures." In a sense she was saying, "Be awake, be alert, be watching, because you can never tell when grace, God's presence, is going to break into your life."

Which is just what the gospel is telling us today. Not just to wait for the unpredictable, the final coming whose exact time is unknown. Watch for the everyday comings or possible comings. We live in a world saturated with the presence of God, but we have to constantly struggle not to let complacency or matter-of-factness rule us!

## Nursing Home Mass Schedule

Seacoast – 3 pm Monday, Dec. 10th  
Golden Living Center – 3 pm Monday, Dec. 17th  
DenMar – 3:30 pm Monday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

*Mary Butler*

Mary Ciaramitaro  
Joe & Grace Favazza

*Richard J. McGlaufflin*  
Vito Piscitello

### 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.

### Host & Wine

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

*Emery & Jeanette SantaPaul  
Dorothy SantaPaul Halfman*

*From Family*



### 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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:*

*Charles Peterman, Jr.*

### Advent-Christmas Concert

On December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in St. Ann Church, the Holy Family Parish Choir will perform its 3rd Advent-Christmas concert. The music has been selected to embrace this holy season as well as to bring us closer to the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our choir members have been very busy preparing for this joyous occasion and look forward to your presence. We have also planned a sing-a-long for our parishioners who love to sing praise. Please come and share in this holy seasonal event. We look forward to seeing you!

### Parish Tree-Trimming



On Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, parishioners of Holy Family Parish are invited to the Rectory **following the 4 pm Mass** to help trim the parish tree. Feel free to bring an ornament to hang on the tree. There will be hot chocolate, coffee and cookies. This is a wonderful time to meet with friends and neighbors.

### 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. 17<sup>th</sup>. All gifts should be returned to the convent offices no later than noon Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. **WE ARE SORRY BUT NO GIFTS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE AS GIFTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL FAMILIES ON WED. DEC. 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

### 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 Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass schedule:

**Friday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> - 4pm St. Ann Church Vigil Mass**  
**Saturday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - 9am St. Joachim Church**

### Anointing of the Sick

Mass of the Anointing will be Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at the 10am Mass at St. Ann Church.

### Holy Family Parish Guild

The parish guild will hold its next meeting on Tues., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the church hall. Christmas party will follow. A buffet from the Gloucester House Restaurant will be served. Cost is \$5.00. R.S.V.P. before Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> to Bea Ciaramitaro 978-283-2691. Members are asked to bring a \$5.00 exchange gift. There will be no meeting in Jan. Next meeting will be Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Happy Holidays to All!

### Christmas Schedule

**Christmas Eve – Mon. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**

**4pm – St. Ann**

**5pm – St. Joachim**

**6pm St. Ann**

**12 Midnight – St. Joachim**

**Christmas Day – Tues. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**

**10am – St. Ann**

**10am – St. Joachim**



### Cursillo Ultreya

The Cape Ann Cursillo Community will be hosting their next Ultreya on Sat. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at St. John's in Essex. There will be a pot luck supper at 5pm following the 4pm Mass. The Ultreya will begin at 6pm. Bring a friend, bring a dish. Please join us. You need not have been on a Cursillo Encounter weekend to attend this Ultreya. All are welcome! Please call Al Mitchell 978-281-0536 or Marcia Savory 978-768-7886 for more info.



**Please check all lists of names to insure that each name is on one line (ESPECIALLY MEMORIAL DONATIONS). Also, please be sure section breaks are correct and not cutting off any text and that pictures do not interfere with text/layout. Thank You!END OF BULLETIN  
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