



"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28

Readings for the Week of December 3, 2006

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday: Is 2:1-5/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: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Religious Education News

Question of the Week

Adults: What stumbling blocks might keep me from being ready to meet the Lord should he return today?

Children: How will I choose to live more fully as a Christian this week?

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS: Please mark your calendars. Celebration of First Reconciliation is scheduled for **6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11th in St. Ann Church.** Please be prompt so we can begin on time!

CONFIRMATION PICTURES are in and can be picked up in the parish office during business hours.

YOUTH GROUP

Many thanks to those who supported the student pie sale. We hope everyone enjoyed them!!

December 10th: Jr. High and High School students are invited to celebrate an evening in Advent with Jesse Manibusan, a Catholic musician who uses music, comedy, and stories to connect young people with their faith. He will be at the Immaculate Conception Church in Malden. We will leave Gloucester at 4 p.m. to attend the 5 p.m. Mass, refreshments, and concert. **For permission slips please contact Dawn Alves at the parish office (978) 281-4820 x0119.**

Advent Candles: This first Weekend of Advent the Youth Group will be selling Advent Candles for your wreaths. The cost for four candles is \$7. All proceeds will go towards the February Cevicos Mission trip.

Adult Education

JESUS' GOSPEL OF LOVE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL AND EPISTLES will be presented by Rev. Thomas L. Leclerc, M.S., Th.D., **Sunday, Dec. 10th from 6:30-9 p.m.** in the parish hall at St. Rose of Lima, 12 Park Street, Topsfield.

We are considering offering the **LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY ON INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE** on Saturday mornings at 10:30 beginning in January. We need at least six people to start the class. **If you are interested in participating in this study please call Kathleen McCabe (978) 281-4820 x0121.**

Reconciliation Service

We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, **Dec. 11th at 6 p.m. in St. Ann Church.** This will be the Advent Reconciliation Service as well as the time for 2nd Graders to make their First Reconciliation. Everyone is invited to share in this celebration!

Reflections by Father Bullock

There are some stories so connected with Christmas that their use otherwise makes no sense. When was the last time you picked up Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on July 4th? Other stories are tangentially connected with Christmas but can serve all 365 days of a year. The message is not a "Christmas" message because each day there is a coming, a new birth, if we are open to it.

Marjory Williams' story, "The Velveteen Rabbit" is the story of a Christmas present to a boy, but because it was a special rabbit the boy loved it beyond all the other toys he had received - that is, until his uncle and aunt came to dinner with more toys. Then the rabbit was discarded and lived in a far corner of the nursery where the more expensive toys snubbed him - and the mechanical toys looked down on him - and the only one who was kind to him was the Skin Horse, the oldest and wisest resident of the nursery.

One day, when they were lying side by side, the rabbit asked the Skin Horse, "What is real?"

And the Skin Horse answered, "Real isn't how you are made. It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but really loves you, then you become real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are real, you don't mind being hurt. The boy's uncle made me real," he added. "That was a great many years ago; but once you are real, you can't become unreal again. It lasts forever."

As the story continues, the boy begins to love the Velveteen Rabbit, who becomes more real than any of his other toys. Today, not listening to a story but recalling a fact, we have been made real by the child in the manger. Christ is final and overwhelming proof that God loves us, that His love is for real - that it is true the longest time imaginable - to eternity. He is a living symbol that God loves us, not for what we can do for Him, but for what He can give to us. We are not simply tinsel placed on a universal Christmas tree, used to make a point and then put away when the season is over. Hurt cannot be a denial of the presence of love. In differing degrees, some more, some less we have known hurt. Some of us may now be hurting and most likely we will all experience some hurt in the future. But the love is more lasting and more powerful. The hurts will fade, the love will not.

Near the end of the story the boy contracts a fever. When he recovers, the rabbit which has been in his arms constantly must be thrown out for fear of infection and it is to be burned. But because the boy's love has made it real to him, it has become truly real and is brought to the woods, there to live with all the rabbits.

So the story ends but we have confidence that whenever our days on earth are ended, when the tasks assigned to us are completed, we have been made real by the love of a child will be brought to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, there to be loved and love to be forever.

This is the promise of the child in the manger - the true joy of Christmas must stay with us long after tinsel is stripped from the tree and decorations packed away. It must give purpose to our days and meaning to our deeds as it has given promise to our eternity!



Memorial Benches

We are pleased to announce that the first memorial bench has been installed at St. Joachim Church. It was given in memory of Joseph P LeBlanc Jr. We would like to thank the LeBlanc family for their generosity. Our hope is that we will be able to place additional benches along the walkway. **Anyone interested in obtaining more information should contact John Rosetti at the parish office (978) 281-4820.**

RCIA

RCIA will meet **Monday, Dec. 4th at 7 p.m. in the parish office.**

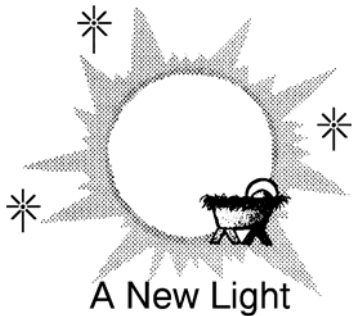
Advent

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and it marks the beginning of our new liturgical year. We invite you to step into this season of preparation by attending the Whole Parish Catechesis today. **LIGHTING YOUR PATH THROUGH ADVENT WITH MARY OUR MOTHER**, will begin at the **10 a.m. Mass in St. Ann Church** and will continue with a gathering in the parish hall. We encourage you to embrace this season with prayer and preparation for the Lord's second coming. Advent is a season of "hope and longing: Advent is an opportunity for the people of God to once again rekindle our hope and longing for the day – the day of Christ's return."

Christmas Giving Trees

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 **Wednesday, Dec. 13th**. **All gifts should be returned to the parish office no later than 12 noon Thursday, Dec. 14th**.

Christmas Concert



On Dec. 17th the Holy Family Choir will perform its second 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! **On Sunday, Dec. 17th, at 2 p.m. in St. Ann Church**, please come and share in this holy seasonal event. We look forward to seeing you!

St. Ann School

Christmas Cards designed and painted by Fr. Gariboldi are on sale for \$10/packet at St. Ann School.. This is a limited edition and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. All proceeds will benefit St. Ann School.

There are still a few Christmas Calendars available at \$15 each. The drawing will be on January 14th. These make wonderful Christmas gifts, call and reserve one ASAP!

Holy Family Parish Guild

The parish guild will hold its next meeting at **6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5th in the parish hall**. The group will celebrate Christmas with a Chinese buffet, \$5 gift exchange, and entertainment. Members are reminded to bring \$5 for the buffet.

Many thanks to the Holy Family Guild and all those who worked on the Christmas Fair to make it an outstanding success this year! Once again, the fair is the biggest fundraiser at Holy Family Parish.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2006 CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE WINNERS:

- Lianne Authier
- Lillian Catalini
- Vincent Ciaramitaro
- Nancy Tarbox
- Beth Williamson



Memorials & Donations

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

- Nina Benson**
MR. & MRS. JAMES BURNHAM
MR. & MRS. JEROME CIARAMITARO
ROSE CIARAMITARO
MR. & MRS. ANTHONY CIOLINO
MR. & MRS. JOSEPH CIOLINO
JOE & GRACE CURCURU
PHYLLIS & JOHN CURCURU
PAULINE DANISH
NINA DANNA
JOE & GRACE FAVAZZA
SARINA FAVAZZA
MARY & FRANK GENTILE
GLOUCESTER PROBATION DEPT.
VINCIE GOUNARIS
VALENTINA & GERALD GUILFOY
JOANNE & SAM INTERRANTE
MR. & MRS. THOMAS LINQUATA
JOE & PAULA MISURACA
SHARON & SAM ORLANDO
MR. & MRS. VINCENZO RUSSO
ANNA & ANTHONY SANFILIPPO
JOHN & JOANNE SENOS

- Arnie Carrico**
MR. & MRS. JAMES BURNHAM
Samuel "Sandy" Curcuru
FAYE CURCURU

- Seamus Densmore**
FRED SALLAH

- Robert Hilshey**
JOE & PAULA MISURACA

- Mary Marcantonio**
PHYLLIS & JOHN CURCURU
SARINA FAVAZZA
MR. & MRS. CARLO MOCERI

- Ambrose Orlando**
SARINA FAVAZZA

- Frank Maino**
MR. & MRS. JEROME CIARAMITARO

Congratulations

to all those who contributed food and/or their presence to help Cape Ann seniors at the annual parish Senior Thanksgiving Dinner. This event is one of the few times that we see all generations working together – truly a visible sign of being family!

Cursillo Ultreya

The Cape Ann Cursillo community will be hosting their December Ultreya at **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec 9th in the Holy Family parish hall, Gloucester**. All who are seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ are welcome! You need not have been on a Cursillo Encounter Weekend to attend. **For more info, please call Al Mitchell (978) 281-0536 or Audrey Brancaleone (978) 281-1083.**

A Cursillo Ultreya pot luck supper is also being held at **5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9th at St. John the Baptist, Essex** following 4 p.m. Mass. Please join us for the festivities! Questions? **Contact Marcia Savory (978) 768-7886 or email: msavory@adelphia.net.**

Host & Wine

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

- Joseph D'Amico**
Lt. Frank D'Amico
From Family



Rest in Peace

We commend into God's care our deceased brothers and sisters who were buried from our Parish recently:

- Michael Gibbons**
Anita Steele



December 2-10, 2006

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006
4 p.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Antonio & Jennie Marino**
From Family

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2006
8 a.m. (St. Ann Church)
Jerome & Ann Marie Loiacano and Anthony "Jike" Parisi
From Family

9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Pro Populo**
10 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Vincie Ciarametaro**
Pat Genest

11 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Joseph J. Laiachino**
From Family

Monday, Dec. 4, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel)
Marvin Wilson, Sr. and Marvin Wilson, Jr.
From Family

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Robert Bedingfield**
Bedingfield Family

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Ann Church)
Salvatore & Grace Randazza and Children

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**John Harold Beaton**
From Family

7 p.m. (St. Ann Church)

Friday Dec. 8, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Pro Popula**
12 noon (St. Ann Church)
Allerio & Fillippa Loiacano and Children Grace, Jennie, & Joseph
From Family

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006
4 p.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Frank Santuccio**
From Wife and Family

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2006
8 a.m. (St. Ann Church)
Capt. Gus Frances & Son Nick Giamanco
From Children

9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Pro Populo**
10 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Salvatore Loiacano**
From Family

11 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)..**Alice & Thomas Walsh and Family**
From Family

Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays – 7 to 9 p.m. (St. Joachim Church)
7:30 p.m. - Chaplet of Divine Mercy
8 p.m. – Rosary

Thursdays – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (St. Mary Chapel)

Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Dec. 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Thursday, Dec. 7th: 7 p.m. (St. Ann Church - Vigil Mass)
Friday, Dec. 8th: 9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)
12 Noon (St. Ann Church - School Mass)

Nursing Home Mass Schedule

Seacoast: 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11th
DenMar: 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12th
Greycliff: 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 18th

Families, friends, and parishioners are welcome to attend!

Last Weekend's Collection

	Attendance	Collection
St. Ann (4 p.m.)	328	\$1,873.40
St. Ann (8 a.m.)	200	1,407.50
St. Joachim (9 a.m.)	173	1,086.01
St. Ann (10 a.m.)	224	1,591.44
St. Joachim (11 a.m.)	177	1,140.61
Office		37.00
Total	1,102	\$7,135.96

December 2005 average weekly collection: \$7,446.00
November 2006 average weekly collection: \$7,915.00

Average amount needed per week to sustain the current level of programs and services \$11,500.00

Grand Annual Total (as of Nov. 28th): \$58,506.87
This is 78.01% of our \$75,000 goal.
Thank your for your support!

Next Weekend's Collection

The Collection for Retired Religious will take place on **Dec. 9-10**. "Remember to Give Thanks" is this year's theme. Please be as generous as possible in helping our retired religious who have generously served in parishes, schools, health care centers, and social service agencies and who continue to enrich our lives in so many ways!

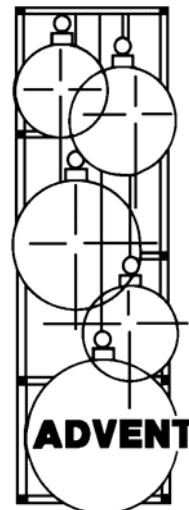
Advent & Christmas Schedule

The Sundays of Advent will follow the regular Mass schedule with the exception of the 4th Sunday of Advent which is the weekend of Dec. 23rd and 24th. Saturday, Dec. 23rd the Mass schedule will remain the same, 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ann Church. On Sunday, Dec. 24th the Mass Schedule will be:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DEC. 24TH
8 A.M. – ST. ANN CHURCH
9 A.M. – ST. JOACHIM CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE – DEC. 24TH
4 P.M. – ST. ANN CHURCH
5 P.M. – ST. JOACHIM CHURCH
6 P.M. – ST. ANN CHURCH
MIDNIGHT – ST. JOACHIM CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY – DEC. 25TH
10 A.M. – ST. ANN CHURCH
10 A.M. – ST. JOACHIM CHURCH



Bulletin Deadline

Please have all items for submission to next week's bulletin in our office by **12 noon on Tuesday**. Items submitted after that time will be considered for the following week. *Thank You!*

Holy Family Parish Registration

If you wish to register as a member of Holy Family Parish, please print the following information and deposit in the offertory.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Comments: _____

We look forward to hearing from you!