



*John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. - Mt 3:4-6*

**Readings for the Week of December 9, 2007**

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12  
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14  
Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15  
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19  
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**Stewardship Reflections**

“...A voice of one crying out in the desert...” Matthew 3:3  
Jesus is ready to give us the fire of his Spirit that we may radiate the joy and truth of the gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. Lord, let your light burn brightly in my heart that I may know the joy and freedom of your kingdom. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to witness the truth of your gospel and to point others to Jesus Christ.

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**

**Adults:** What can I do this Advent to make Jesus better known to others?

**Children:** How can I treat my friends so that they come to know Jesus better?

**Religious Education News**

We are seeking children to play shepherds in The *Christmas Eve Shepherd's Tale* event with Fr. Gariboldi (taking place prior to our 4pm Mass on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>). Interested students should come to practice every Saturday until Christmas at 3pm in St. Ann Church.

There will be no Religious Education on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. We will return on Sat. Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, the Eve of the Epiphany, beginning the 4pm Mass with the Epiphany Procession. This Mass will be followed by our Whole Parish Catechesis in our Parish Hall. (Please remember to bring a covered dish to share— labeling ingredients for those with food allergies.) We will continue our Theme of the Sacraments, focusing on the sacraments of Holy Orders and Marriage. We will also look at other vocational callings – the single life & vowed religious both of which reflect the presence of Jesus in a different way.



*In Loving Memory*

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

*Winifred Nason & Richard J. McGlauffin*

**RCIA**

RCIA will meet Monday evening, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Parish Office.

**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.*

A businessman was running late for a meeting, and the traffic wasn't helping his schedule or his mood. Stopping for a red light, he thought, "All right, I can beat the next light if I can get ahead of the pack." He was ready to take off the instant the light turned green. But then he saw a young blind couple crossing the street. The woman was carrying a baby, and the man was using his white cane to navigate them across the street. To the executive's horror, the couple was not walking in the crosswalk but was veering directly into the intersection and traffic. The couple was walking right into the path of oncoming cars. The executive's annoyance and fear gave way to a sense of wonder as a miracle unfolded before his eyes. Every car came to a stop. There was no angry honking of horns, no screeching of brakes, no shouts of "get out of the way!" The traffic just stopped. In that moment, time seemed to stand still for this family as they made their way safely across the intersection. It was as if God had broken into the executive's world, telling him to look around and behold God's presence in his midst.



Every Mass, especially every Christmas Mass, is like that street scene. As we gather, everything stands still because a Family is crossing the vision of our faith. We are called to reflect on that Family, why that Child is coming, and what it means to us. Time has to stand still because we are getting a little peek of eternity.

The executive's experience has ended; this Mass will end at its appointed time. So what happened when the blind family had finally reached the safety of the sidewalk? Was there a residual burst of courtesy, of sharing the road? Or did things go back to what is too often the traffic norm: the honking horn, the screech of brakes, the voice and the gesture? We'll never know the answer to that!

What will happen when we leave Mass? Will the memory of that Family and that Child come with us, or will it be shelved with the missalettes? Will the rest of the day be a little different, or will everything revert back to normal? We can know the answer to that because we will fashion the answer for ourselves.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

*Robert Horne*

Allyn & Jeanne Smith

*Marjorie Mondello*

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph  
Lombardo

### 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*



### Nursing Home Mass Schedule

Seacoast – 3 pm Monday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>

Golden Living Center – 3 pm Monday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>

DenMar – 3:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

### Faith and Hope: A Mothers Story

*Faith and Hope: A Mother's Story* is a one-woman play for the Advent season. Written and performed by Olivia Woodford, it is a powerful drama that brings to life the events leading up to the birth of Christ through the eyes of the women who surrounded Mary. 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. Join Mary, her mother Anna, her cousin Elizabeth, Leah of the House of David, a shepherdess, and Anna, the seeress in the temple. Experience the doubts, disbelief and joy of each of these women as her faith is rewarded in God, life and herself. Join us **Sunday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at St. Ann Church** for this moving performance.

### Advent-Christmas Concert

On Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in St. Ann Church, the Holy Family Parish Choir will perform its 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

### "Secret Santa" Visit

Santa is extra excited this year as he is giving away free clothing from the new St. Vincent de Paul Clothes Closet. The new clothes shop is located in the basement of St. Ann School and the special gift can be received on either Wed., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm or on Sat., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am-1pm. Stop in and maybe we can add to your winter wardrobe through the generosity of our special Secret Santa.

### Parish Tree-Trimming

On Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, parishioners of Holy Family Parish are invited to the Rectory **following the 4pm 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>.**

### 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



### Cell Phone Courtesy

**A gentle reminder;** Please silence all cell phones and PDA's before the start of Mass as a simple matter of courtesy to one another. Thank you, we appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

### Holy Family Raffle

Holy Family Parish is delighted to sponsor the second annual Parish Sweepstakes on **Sunday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008.** at the Gloucester House Restaurant. The festivities will include hors d'oeuvres, great door prizes and the chance to be one of eight winners who will share \$15,000 in prizes, (a \$10,000 first prize, three \$1,000 second prizes, and four \$500 third prizes). Proceeds will benefit church programs and services on Cape Ann. Although you do not need to be present to win, the party itself will be one of the social highlights of the year and will be part of the third anniversary celebration of the formation of Holy Family Parish. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at the Parish Office, Building Center, Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce and from members of the Parish Women's Guild.

**Raffle Co-Chairs Michael Costello and Martha Crowley are looking for help with the sale of tickets. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office 978-281- 4820.**

## Thank You



Many thanks to the Holy Family Guild and all those who worked on the Christmas Fair. Their tireless efforts made this years fair an outstanding success!

**Congratulations to our 2007 Raffle Winners**

**Phyllis Mondello**

**Janice Broghamer**

**Sean Costello**

**Dennis Corkery**



**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  
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE  
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