



"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Lk 3:5-6

Readings for the Week of December 10, 2006

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
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: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Religious Education News

Question of the Week

Adults: As I prepare to celebrate Christmas, how do I show that God's salvation is around us?

Children: How can I prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas?

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.

NEW CONFIRMATION CLASSES for High School students will start Sunday, Jan. 21st from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. following the 10 a.m. Mass. Late registrations can be picked up in the parish office.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY: We are seeking students for the upcoming Epiphany Procession which begins our liturgical celebration of the Solemnity Of The Epiphany Of The Lord. Students grades 4 - 12 are requested for non-speaking roles such as angels, wise men, shepherds, and a servant. We are also looking for an infant, 2-8 months of age, to play the Christ Child. This event is scheduled for the feast day, Saturday, Jan. 6th at 4 p.m. If you are interested, please call Mrs. Susanne Demetri (978) 283-5096 for rehearsal dates and permission slips.

Youth Group

HOLIDAY GATHERING (Jr. High & High School students): Join us for a holiday celebration with music, refreshments, and an old fashion Yankee Gift swap at 1 p.m. Sunday Dec. 10th in St. Ann School Gym. Gifts should NOT exceed \$8

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (grades 6-8) will be caroling to residents of Riverdale and also the SeaCoast Nursing on Dec 16th from 2 to 4p.m. Please call Carol/Mark Bedrosian (978) 282-7421 or Jodi/Andy Bertolino (978) 281-1828 if your child is interested in participating and sharing the Christmas spirit. As always, we welcome any friends or parents to help out.

RCIA

RCIA will meet Monday, Dec. 11th at 7 p.m. in the parish office.

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

A business executive was running late for a meeting – and the traffic was helping neither his schedule nor his mood. Stopping for a red light at a busy intersection, he thought to himself, "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 couple – both blind – crossing the street. The woman was carrying a baby and the man was using his white cane to navigate them all across the street. To the executive's horror, the couple was not walking in the crosswalk but was, instead, veering diagonally, directly into the intersection and traffic. Without knowing the danger they were in, the couple was walking right into the path of oncoming cars.

But the executive's annoyance and fear gave way to a sense of wonder as a miracle unfolded before his eyes: every car in every direction came to a simultaneous stop. There was no angry honking and beeping of horns, no screeching of brakes, no screams or shouts of "Get out of the way! Are you Crazy?" The traffic just stopped. In that moment, time seemed to stand still for this family as they made their way safely across the busy intersection. It was as if, for a moment, God had broken into the executive's world, telling him to look around and behold God's presence in his midst.

(From The Light of the Lantern by James L. Henderschedt)

Every Mass, but especially every Christmas Mass, is like that street scene described by the executive. As we gather, everything else is standing still because a Family is crossing the vision of our faith. And we are called to reflect on just who that Family is, and 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, of allowing a pattern of passing? Or did matters revert back to what is too often the traffic norm: the honking horn, the screech of brakes, the voice and the gesture? We will 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 misadventures and the hymnals? Will the rest of the day (the evening) 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.

May our wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year carry the codicil of a more deeply experienced Christmas and an abiding and really New Year!



Holy Family Raffle

It is not too late to participate in the first annual Parish Sweepstakes. Of the 300 tickets to be sold, more than 100 have been purchased so far. Each \$100 ticket you purchase enters you into a drawing for a chance to win one of 8 prizes totaling \$15,000. There will be one \$10,000 first prize, three \$1,000 second prizes, and four \$500 third prizes. Prizes will be awarded on Sunday, Jan. 7th from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Gloucester House Restaurant. Festivities will also include hors d'oeuvres and door prizes. Your \$100 ticket will admit two to the event, but you need not be present to win.

Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office, the Building Center, the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, or from members of the Parish Women's Guild. Sweepstake forms are also available near the church doors. If you are interested in helping with the sale of tickets, please contact Committee Chairman, Mike Costello (978) 281-1601 or (978) 546-7140.

All proceeds benefit church programs and services here on Cape Ann.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Adult Education

JESUS' GOSPEL OF LOVE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL AND EPISTLES will be presented by Rev. Thomas L. Leclerc, M.S., Th.D., **tonight (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.**

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.**



Secret Santa

Secret Santa is making an appearance at the Thrift Shop again this year. Drop by and pick up that jacket, sweater, coat, or other items of clothing that you might need as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Santa. This special act of kindness from two of our parishioners can be received when the shop is open on **Wednesday, Dec. 20th from 6 to 8 p.m.** or **Saturday, Dec. 23rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** A special thank you to all who support the Thrift Shop throughout the year!

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! Please come and share in this holy seasonal event **on Sunday, Dec. 17th, at 2 p.m. in St. Ann Church.** We look forward to seeing you!



St. Ann School

The school's new shop "**Where Angels Go, an Opportunity Shop**" opened last week and was very successful. Store hours for the public are Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for school families only, Fridays 1 to 3 p.m.

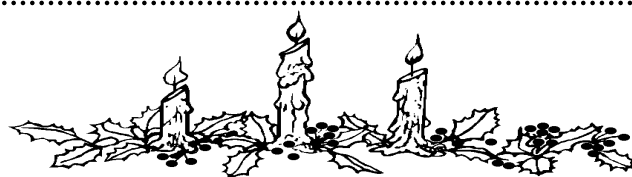
We need donations of vintage items including furniture, working lamps, chairs, dishes, glassware, and other "too good to throw out" pieces on an ongoing basis. **Drop-off hours**

are Monday mornings and Friday afternoons only.

PTO Christmas Calendars are available in the school office for \$15. Prizes will be drawn Jan. 14, 2007.

Parish Office Hours

Beginning Thursday, Jan. 7th the parish office will close at **5 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. on Thursdays.** Other office hours will remain the same.



Memorials & Donations

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

Nina Benson
GINA & ZACK CIARAMITARO
ELEANOR CURCURI

John Flibotte
GUS & FLORRIE SURRETTE

Seamus Densmore
MARY GIBRAN
MADELINE SAROFEEN
ALLYN & JEANNE SMITH
JEAN WILSON

Church Parking

Parking maps, with six suggested sites around St. Joachim Church in Rockport are available in the back of St. Ann Church, in the parish office, and on our website www.holyfamilycapeann.org. Parking maps for St. Ann Church are also on the website.

Christmas Flowers

Flower envelopes are in the back of church for you to make a Christmas flower donation in memory of your loved ones.

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



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.**



Rest in Peace

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

George Cunningham Seamus Densmor
Richard Williamson

Cursillo Ultreya

The December Ultreya of the Cape Ann Cursillo community planned for **Saturday, Dec. 9th** has been **cancelled in Gloucester.**

A Cursillo Ultreya pot luck supper will be 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.**



Mass Intentions

December 9 - 17, 2006

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 and Son, Nick Demetri
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

Monday, Dec. 11, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel)
Capt. Lawrence Scola and Son, Lawrence Scola
From Family

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Gail Randazza**
From Godmother & Godfather

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Joseph Parisi**
From Wife Nancy and Children

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Neil G. Ramsden**
From Family

Friday Dec. 15, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Anthony Militello**
From Parents

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006
4 p.m. (St. Ann Church)
Ciluffo, Romeo, and Giambanco Families
From Family

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006
8 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Sis Rose**
From Family

9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Pro Populo**
10 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....**Angela A. Vitale**
From Grandmother

11 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Joseph Morrissey**
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)

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!

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!*

Last Weekend's Collection

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Collection</u>
St. Ann (4 p.m.)	225	\$1,189.05
St. Ann (8 a.m.)	198	1,737.00
St. Joachim (9 a.m.)	168	1,614.76
St. Ann (10 a.m.)	534	2,128.55
St. Joachim (11 a.m.)	137	793.26
Office		100.00
Total	1,262	\$7,562.62

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 Dec. 6th): \$58,631.87
This is 78.18% of our \$75,000 goal.

Christmas Fair 2006 (NET): \$13,228.16
Once again, thank you to the Holy Family Guild and other volunteers for all your hard work!

Your contribution means a lot!!

Christmas Collections

As is the case every year, all donations made at Christmas Masses or given in Christmas envelopes are sent to the Archdiocese as a way of funding the retirement, medical, and financial needs of retired priests. 10% of this collection remains here at the parish. All donations from Dec. 23rd/24th Masses or in envelopes dated for that weekend are treated as any other weekend collection, remaining here at the parish.

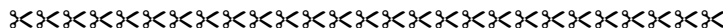
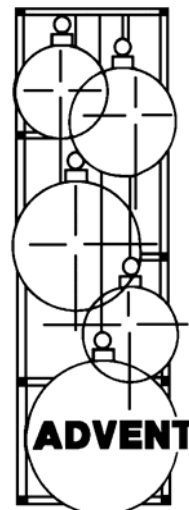
Advent & Christmas Schedule

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



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!