



John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Lk 3:16

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2006

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
 Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
 Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Religious Education News

Question of the Week

Adults: What can I do this week to listen, to see and to act on God's response to the question posed to John the Baptist?

Children: How can I be welcoming and friendly to another child who might be considered different or shy this week?

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

The High School Youth Group would like to extend a warm thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Thanksgiving pie and Advent candle sale. We are well on our way to reaching our fundraising goal for our mission trip to Cevicos.

Adult Education

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.**

RCIA

RCIA will meet this **Monday, Dec. 18th at 7 p.m.** in the parish office.

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.

Reflections by Father Bullock

There are few places more beautiful; I'm touched by a Parisian fall or summer. It is outdoor time and the great square is filled with people rejoicing in the weather and enamored of performers, actors, and the cleverest of the clever and when the act is done they joyfully scoop up the coins, the tribute, and the acknowledgment of skill. But when winter comes, what a difference. The bluster of winds, the swirl of snow and hard it is to find the meagerest coin on such a platform. No talent can compete, and snow and want rule.

One victim was a little man named Barnaby. And when the weather was good he would travel from square to square, spread out a cloth, balance a tin pie plate on his nose while juggling six gold balls in the air and then kneel in thanks for the supply of coin, large or small. But, as happens, a bitter, bitter winter snowed in even the slightest possibility of sustenance.

And Barnaby began traveling with a monk who invited him to stay at the monastery. "We are all ignorant before God," Barnaby was told. And so Barnaby rejoiced and asked to be allowed to work in the kitchen. And so Barnaby put away the tin cup and the gold balls and was happy, so happy...until Christmas came and the brothers began preparing their gifts...Maurice - an illustrated Bible, Jerome - a statue, Ambrose - a new hymn. And poor Barnaby - nothing.

Christmas Eve came and a monk frantically called the Abbott to the chapel. And there from the choir loft looking down at the altar of the Virgin, they saw Barnaby juggling in the old accustomed fashion.

"God forgive him," said the Abbott, "He has gone mad."

But suddenly there was a bright light, the brightest of lights and the statue began moving toward Barnaby and it began to wipe the sweat from his forehead

with the hem of its robe. And the Abbott whispered in awe, "Our Lady has accepted the only Christmas gift he had to offer."

"No one here tonight does not have something to offer."



Advent & Christmas Schedule

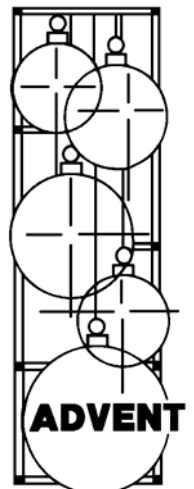
The Sundays of Advent will follow the regular Mass schedule with the exception of the 4th Sunday of Advent which is the weekend of Dec. 23rd and 24th. Saturday, Dec. 23rd the Mass schedule will remain the same, 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ann Church. On Sunday, Dec. 24th the Mass Schedule will be:

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

There will be an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Christmas Eve. There will be a priest available in St. Ann Church from 3-3:30 p.m. and in St. Joachim Church from 4-4:30 p.m.

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



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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Memorials & Donations

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

Nina Benson
ANGIE & ONOFRIO MAGGIORE

Seamus Densmore
SAM & KATY CIOLINO
DAVID & REGINA GIRARD

Jennie Lucido
SAM & KATY CIOLINO
ANNA DANNA
MILLIE & ROSARIO GENTILE
PETER & J.J. PRAMAS

Serafino J. Pallazola
MARY ANN FITTRO
MR. & MRS. THOMAS LINQUATA
MICHAEL & ANN MARIE STANTON

Rosemary Virgilio
VITO & ROSEMARY ASARO
SAM & KATY CIOLINO
PAULINE DANISH
FRANCES PARISI
PAUL & PAT PARISI
PAULINE CATANIA PELOSI

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.

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

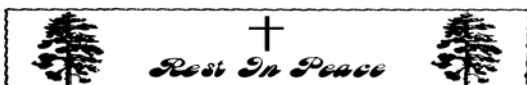
Christmas Concert

Today (Sunday, 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 **this afternoon at 2 p.m. in St. Ann Church. Join us for tree trimming and refreshments in the Rectory following the concert.** We look forward to seeing you!

New Year's Eve Bingo

Game Time: 5:30 p.m./Doors open at 3 p.m.

Fun for all 18+ - A great way to help support our parish and school!



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

Jennie Lucido Rosemary Virgilio

Cevicos Mission

Members of the Holy Family Parish Mission are preparing for our second trip of the year to our sister parish in Cevicos, Dominican Republic on Jan. 13th. Parishioners from Holy Family have always been generous in supporting our continuing need for basic medical supplies. If able, we are in need of the following items:

Adult vitamins
Pre-natal vitamins
Pediatric chewable vitamins
Adult Tylenol
Pediatric chewable Tylenol
Pediatric liquid Tylenol
Prilosec (or any over-the-counter antacid tablets/pills)

Advil
Antifungal cream
Antibacterial ointment
Selcin Blue shampoo

Please leave supplies at the rear of St. Joachim or St. Ann worship sites by Jan. 7th.



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!

Flowers

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

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.



We rejoice in celebration of new life and are happy to announce the following baptisms which took place in October and November:

Justace Marie Allen
Malia Rose Andrews
Abigail Cabales
Bryan Dealdo Hespanhol DaSilva
Lucas Christopher DaSilva
John Ian Harvey

Thomas Michael Hebert
Luke Shawn LaCoco
Jackson Perry Low
Leonardo Austin Vitale
Megan Rose Whelan



Mass Intentions
December 16-24, 2006

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

Monday, Dec. 18, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel)

.....**John and Anthony "Nutzie" Aiello**
From Family

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)

.....**Peter Paul Conti**
From Mother, Dad, and Family

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel)

.....**Marvin Wilson and Capt. Joseph Palazola**
From Family

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)

Friday Dec. 22, 2006
9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel)

.....**Joseph Brancaleone**
From Wife and Children

Saturday, Dec. 23, 2006
4 p.m. (St. Ann Church)

.....**Rose Testaverde**
From Family

Sunday, Dec. 24, 2006 - CHRISTMAS EVE
8 a.m. (St. Ann Church)

9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....**Pro Populo**

4 p.m. (St. Ann Church)

5 p.m. (St. Joachim Church)

6 p.m. (St. Ann Church)

12 midnight (St. Joachim Church)



Coffee & Donuts

Today (Sunday, Dec. 17th) will be the last coffee and donuts in Rockport for 2006. Coffee hour after the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass will resume in early February.

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

Greycliff: 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 18th
Families, friends, and parishioners are welcome to attend!

Evening of Prayer

Evening of prayer, sharing and reflection for Eucharistic Ministers to Nursing home residents, Addison Gilbert Hospital patients, and Senior Housing residents: **Tuesday, Dec. 19th, 7 p.m. parish office conference room.**

Last Weekend's Collection

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Collection</u>
St. Ann (4 p.m.)	256	\$1,728.01
St. Ann (8 a.m.)	216	1,450.06
St. Joachim (9 a.m.)	202	1,143.51
St. Ann (10 a.m.)	296	1,637.89
St. Joachim (11 a.m.)	166	811.60
Office		972.00
Total	1,136	\$7,743.07

Immaculate Conception		
St. Ann (7 p.m.)	86	\$296.00
St. Joachim (9 a.m.)	39	290.00
St. Ann (12 noon)	200	162.00
Office		146.00
Total	325	\$864.00

Second Collection (Retired Religious): \$3,998.16

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. 12th): \$59,023.20
This is 78.70% of our \$75,000 goal.

With your help, we can meet our goal!!

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.

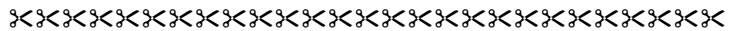


Memorial Benches

We are pleased to announce that the first memorial bench has been installed at St. Joachim Church. A second bench is on the way. 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 x0112.**

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!