



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Lk 1:41-42

Readings for the Week of December 24, 2006

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
 Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Religious Education News

Question of the Week

Adults: How can I believe more deeply in God's power to achieve what seems impossible?

Children: What does having trust in God mean to me?

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.

CLASSES for our Religious Education Program, Gr. 1-9 will resume Sunday, Jan. 21st. A blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year to our Religious Education students and their families!

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.

WHOLE PARISH CATECHESIS: Beginning at the 4 p.m. Mass Saturday, Jan. 6th our next Whole Parish Catechesis will focus on the Feast of the Epiphany. Afterwards, we will gather in the parish hall for hot chocolate, refreshments, and a raffle! Don't miss this celebration!

YOUTH GROUP

Jr. High Students: Please join us for a hike at Ravenswood **Saturday, Jan. 6th 10 a.m. to 12 noon.** Meet in the parking lot no matter what the weather. For further information please call Mark/Carol Bedrosian (978) 282-7421 or Andy/Jodi Bertolino (978) 281-1828.

High School Students: Our next gathering will be **Monday, Jan. 8th from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**

RCIA

There will be no RCIA on Monday, Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st. Classes will resume on Monday, Jan. 8th at 7 p.m. in the parish office.

Reflections by Father Bullock

There are many different symbols of the holiday that is Christmas – tree, lights, Santa Claus, gifts, etc. But only one symbol of the holy-day that is Christmas; the stable – a universal and all-encompassing sign; no other needed. It sums up the reason for the celebration, the purpose of God's long-suffering dealing with His people, God's final answer to any question of His concern for us. During the Christmas season it remains a visible reminder.

One of the most famous paintings of all time, DaVinci's "Mona Lisa" hung in the Louvre in Paris, stolen in 1911 and missing for two years. During that time, museum officials noted a strange phenomenon: during those two years more people came to stare at the blank space on the wall where the picture had hung than had come in the previous twelve years to view the picture. Why? Curiosity? Sense of loss? No place else to go?

And for us? When the Christmas season ends, and the stable is dismantled and stored away for another Christmas season, can we still see it; where do we look for it? Where can we find it? Or are we content with blankness?

We can see it, first of all, when we look at every other human being: family member or acquaintance; stranger or alien, with respect and sensitivity precisely because that person possesses that very same human nature that Christ took to Himself by becoming that baby in the stable. He came to redeem that nature by raising it to undreamed of heights; and when we remember this, the stable reappears!

We see the stable every time we see the family, each and every family, as the greatest single force for healthy growth and development. "Not an ideal family", would superciliously sniff neighbors and townsfolk in later years– and they were right: not an ideal family but something far more important; a holy family! Not just a family from a stable, but a stable and striving family. And every time we see, and honor family in that light, the stable reappears.

We see it every time we see the world as God's gift and its resources as treasures to be preserved and not plundered. For the stable scene is a reminder of a gigantic birthday party to which the host, not the guest, contributes the gift. Every time we recall that God gave us this world, and sanctified it by His presence in the flesh, we see again the stable.

And finally, if we are fortunate, and really work at it, we see the stable every time we look in a mirror of the self, because that will mean that no only are we trying to see "Christ in others, but we are realizing that we are called upon to be Christ to others ourselves.

We wish each other Merry Christmas – and may we so celebrate Christmas that we may see the stable, not only during the season, but each and every day of the coming year!



Christmas

A Christmas Gift

Married Couples...want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with romance and excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Upcoming dates are Feb. 9-11 and Mar. 2-4. For more information, call Ray & Beth Ginepro (800) 710-WWME or visit www.wwmeMA.org.



Host & Wine

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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Memorials & Donations

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

Seamus Densmore
MR. & MRS. WILLIAM SELJAK

Alice Kaufman
PADDY BRANCALEONE

Jennie Lucido
GINA CIARAMITARO
ANNIE CURCURU
ELEANOR & ANTHONY CURCURU
MR. & MRS. THOMAS LINQUATA

Sophie Pallazola
MICHAEL & SHARON FIORENTINO

Giuseppe Saputo
MR. & MRS. ANTHONY AIELLO
SANTINA ALOI
MR. & MRS. MOSSIMO BALLARIN
MR. & MRS. JEROME CIARAMITARO, SR.
MR. & MRS. JOSEPH CIOLINO
MR. & MRS. SAM CIOLINO
JOHN CUSUMANO
CARLO J. FAVAZZA

Giuseppe Saputo Cont'd.
PIERINA LOCONTO
SARINA FAVAZZA
NATALE GABRIELE
JACK & PAT JENKINS
ROSALIE LAIACHINO
JOE & MARIA MANNINO
MR. & MRS. ALFONSO MILLEFOGLIE
ELEONORA MORTILLARO
VINCENT MORTILLARO
GASPARE & GIUSEPPA PALAZZOLO
LARRY & JOSEPHINE PAUL
FRANCO PELLICIA
MR. & MRS. VINCENT PIZZIMENTI
CARLO RANDAZZA
SALVATORE RUSSO
MR. & MRS. VINCENZO RUSSO
ANTHONY & ANNA SANFILIPPO
FRANK & MARIE SANFILIPPO
JOSEPHINA & SIMONE SANFILIPPO
JOHN & JOANNE SENOS
MR. & MRS. ALLYN & JEANNE SMITH

Rosemary Virgilio
ELEANOR & ANTHONY CURCURU

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.**



We rejoice in celebration of new life and are happy to announce the following baptisms which recently took place in our parish:

Joseph Frank Aiello
Kaikoa David Birtodaso
Stephen Robert Hale, Jr.

John Ian Harvey
Eve Marie Kirvan-Stanley
Kathryn Marie Johnson

Volunteer Opportunities

Have some time to give to your community hospital? The Addison Gilbert Hospital is seeking adult volunteers for openings in a variety of departments. Of particular need are volunteers in the gift shop, information desk, surgical day care, and senior adult unit. All locations are ideal for anyone interested in working with staff, patients, and their families. Please call the Volunteer Services Department in Beverly (978) 922-3000 x2307 for an application and further information.

Parishioners on Medicare

Information about 2007 Medicare Part D Prescription coverage is available to all parishioners on Medicare through the Catholic Golden Age. Call toll free (866) 825-4210 for enrollment information.

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 | Advil |
| Pre-natal vitamins | Antifungal cream |
| Pediatric chewable vitamins | Antibacterial ointment |
| Adult Tylenol | Selcin Blue shampoo |
| Pediatric chewable Tylenol | |
| Pediatric liquid Tylenol | |
| Prilosec (or any over-the-counter antacid tablets/pills) | |

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



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!

Cursillo Ultreya/Pot Luck Supper

The Cape Ann Cursillo Community will be hosting their January Ultreya on Jan 6th in the St. John the Baptist Church Hall in Essex (across from the Village Restaurant) immediately following the 4 p.m. Mass. The Pot Luck starts at 5 p.m. with the Ultreya beginning at 6 p.m. All are welcome and need not have been on a Cursillo Encounter to attend. **Call Al Mitchell (978) 281-0536 or Marcia Savory (978) 768-7886 for more info.**

Holy Family Parish Guild

The next meeting of the parish guild will be **Tuesday, Jan. 2nd at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.** A game night will follow the business meeting. Members are asked to bring games. New members and guests are welcome to participate in a fun filled evening.

Holy Family Raffle

Tickets are still available – It is not too late to participate in the first annual Parish Sweepstakes. Of the 300 tickets to be sold, more than 150 have been purchased. Each \$100 ticket you buy 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) 283-1601 or (978) 546-7140.

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



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

Holiday Mass Schedule

December 23-31, 2006

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).....*Pro Populo*
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)
4 p.m. (St. Ann Church)
5 p.m. (St. Joachim Church)
6 p.m. (St. Ann Church)
12 midnight (St. Joachim Church).....*Pro Populo*

Monday, Dec. 25, 2006 – CHRISTMAS DAY

10 a.m. (St. Ann Church)
10 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2006

9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)
Maureen, Margaret, and Edward Wade
From Family

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2006

9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel).....*Joseph and Frank Ciaramitaro*
Salvatore Loiacano
From Sisters

Thursday, Dec. 28, 2006

9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)

Friday Dec. 29, 2006

9 a.m. (St. Mary Chapel).....*Salvatore Palazzola*
From Family

Saturday, Dec. 30, 2006

4 p.m. (St. Ann Church).....*Salvatore Storniolo*
Randazzo Family

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006 – NEW YEAR'S EVE

8 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....*Joseph Barbagallo*
From Family
9 a.m. (St. Joachim Church)
10 a.m. (St. Ann Church).....*Thanks for God's Blessings*
Simon Twalipo & Family
11 a.m. (St. Joachim Church).....*Pro Populo*



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)

Parish Office Hours

The parish office will be closed **today, Sunday, Dec. 24th**. Merry Christmas everyone!

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.

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.

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

| | Attendance | Collection |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| St. Ann (4 p.m.) | 304 | \$1,612.03 |
| St. Ann (8 a.m.) | 190 | 1,736.90 |
| St. Joachim (9 a.m.) | 234 | 1,507.25 |
| St. Ann (10 a.m.) | 305 | 1,934.16 |
| St. Joachim (11 a.m.) | 178 | 1,265.01 |
| Office | | 167.00 |
| Total | 1,211 | \$8,222.35 |

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. 19th): \$59,283.20
This is 79.04% of our \$75,000 goal.

Thank you for your generosity!



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

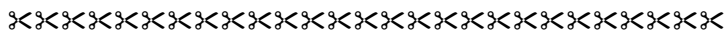
We are pleased to announce that the first memorial bench has been installed at St. Joachim Church. A second bench is on the way. Our hope is that we will be able to place additional benches along the walkway. **Anyone interested in purchasing a bench or obtaining more information should contact John Rosetti at the parish office (978) 281-4820 x0112.**

St. Ann School

The school's new shop "Where Angels Go, an Opportunity Shop" will be closed during school vacation. It will reopen Friday, Jan. 8th. 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.



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!

