

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2009

Exhorting them in many other ways, John preached the good news to the people. Luke 3: 10-18



God Is in Our Midst

Although it's still two weeks until Christmas, celebrations of the feast have already begun in many places. There are carolers bringing joy and cheer to nursing homes and street corners. Cookie exchanges gather people to delight in each other's homemade treats, and, in the background, all varieties of Christmas music fill the air. And most households are in some stage of decorating in preparation for the coming of Christ.

Indeed, in the prophet's joyful words, even God is in a mode of rejoicing, celebrating our pre-Christmas festivals with us. As we prepare for the grand festival of Jesus' birth, God sings mightily and joyfully at our eager receptivity.

Let your prayer today be a joyful rendition of your own favorite Christmas song.

Fr. James Krings - *Living Faith: Ed.*

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday: Nms 24: 2-7, 15-17; Mt 21: 23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13; Mt 21: 28-32
Wednesday: Is 45: 6-8, 18, 21-25; Lk 7: 18-23
Thursday: Gn 49: 2, 8-10; Mt 1: 1-17
Friday: Jer 23: 5-8; Mt 1: 18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25; Lk 1: 5-25
Sunday: Mi 5: 1-4; Heb 10: 5-10; Lk 1: 39-45

Pray for the Deceased

Carol Lovett

Holiday Concert - River's Edge

Join us on Sunday, December 20th at 2:00 PM for a wonderful afternoon of Christmas music for the entire family to enjoy. This performance will feature Xiao-Lei Salovara, harpist; Linda White, flutist; and Cecilia's Song, an A Capella Choir from St. Joseph Academy. A reception and Christmas raffle to benefit the Women's Outreach Center will follow. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 the day of the concert. For more information call 216-688-1111, or go to www.RiversEdgeCleveland.com.

Pot of Gold Winners

(\$25) Jeanne McMaster, George Pindroh, Joe Caco, Sharon Forstchen, Briget Magan, Millie Dutro



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross

5:15 PM Sam DiMauro (Fran Bellomo)

Tuesday, December 15 - Advent Weekday

8:00 AM

Wednesday, December 16 - Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Ted & Bertha Crane (Debbie Westerfield)

Thursday, December 17 - Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Denis Healy (Dorothy McGuire)

Friday, December 18 - Advent Weekday

5:15 PM Ralph & Susan Hesland (Pat Hesland)

Saturday, December 19 - Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Anna Klocek (Joanne Klocek)

5:15 PM Ivanauskas & Roba Families

(Stella Roba & Family)

Lakewood/West Cleveland Advent Communal Penance Service

Thursday, December 17th, 2009

7:30 PM

St. Luke Church - 1212 Bunts Road

What better way to prepare for Jesus' birth!!

Coffee and Donuts

Join the parish family for coffee, donuts, and conversation after all Sunday Masses.

Administrative Change at St. Clement:

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009, Father David A. Novak submitted his resignation as Pastor of Saint Clement Parish to Bishop Richard G. Lennon for personal reasons. Bishop Lennon accepted Father Novak's resignation as our Pastor and has appointed Father Alfred Winters to serve as Administrator of Saint Clement until a new Pastor is appointed.

Please keep Father Novak in your prayers as he prepares for his next priestly assignment.

A Gift of Your Time

The Decorating Committee will be decorating the church this Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 PM. We are asking you to consider volunteering your time and talent to help beautify the church for our Christmas celebration of the birth of Christ. We will also be decorating on Sunday, December the 20th beginning at 1:00 PM.

Help is also needed to unload the Christmas flower delivery truck on Wednesday, December 23rd.

Outdoor Nativity Set-Up - Volunteers Needed!

Ed Grauel and his crew need the help of some men to move and set-up our traditional outdoor Nativity scene. If you can join us, please meet at the church parking lot this Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00 PM.

Recipes & Memories

Still need to purchase a Christmas gift? The St. Clement Church Historic 87th Anniversary Cookbook may be purchased at the rectory office Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, or on Sunday mornings from 10 AM until 12:30 PM. Cost is \$20. It will make a wonderful Christmas gift!



Sharing Grief

The Catholic Cemeteries Bereavement Ministry invites you to spend some special time sharing your grief with others this Christmas season. A bereavement support group session will be held next Sunday, December 20th, from 3 - 4 PM in the following cemeteries: Holy Cross, Brookpark Rd.; Calvary Cemetery, Lorain; All Souls Cemetery, Chardon; All Saints Cemetery, Northfield; and Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron. Please contact the cemetery nearest you for further details.

Tutoring Program

River's Edge and the Sisters of St. Joseph are offering one-on-one tutoring for students currently in 1st through 8th grade. We have certified instructors with many years of teaching experience for basic curriculum areas. Flexible hours can be scheduled at the cost of \$15 per hour. For further information, please contact Sr. Theresine Cregan, Director of River's Edge Tutoring, at 216-688-1111 ext. 198.

Finance Corner:

Collection for weekend of December 6 - \$12,535.00
Envelopes used: 201
Retirement Fund for the Religious \$265.00
St. Augustine Hunger Center \$536.68
Weekly budget to meet December 2009 expenses - \$9,096.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity for the parish.

What's Happening this Week in the Parish

Sunday, December 13: Decorating Committee -
Decorate Church - 2 PM
Confirmation Candidate Session
7 PM - Hall
Monday, December 14: Family PSR - 7 PM - Hall
Tuesday, December 15:
Wednesday, December 16: RCIA - 7 PM - Hall
Thursday, December 17: Scripture Treats 10:45 AM
Advent Communal Penance Service
St. Luke Church - 7:30 PM
Friday, December 18 : AA Gratitude Group
7 PM - Hall

Lakewood/St. Rose Respect Life Coalition...

will meet Monday, December 14th at 7:00 PM at St. Luke Church. All are welcome to attend. For more information, call Toni at 228-4168, or Virginia at 226-6663.

Pre-Cana Day

The Lakewood/West Cleveland Pre-Cana Team will be offering a Pre-Cana Day on March 20, 2010 from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM at St. Luke Parish. Pre-Cana is a great way to prepare for a lifelong marriage. Pre-Cana is a day long "date" that helps fulfill a part of the Diocesan marriage preparation requirements. This will be the only Pre-Cana held in Lakewood for the 2010 calendar year. The cost of the day is \$80.00 and includes 3 meals. Please register as soon as possible, space is limited. Please contact Holly for more information at 216-521-1842, or jzappala@cox.net

Retrouvaille Weekend - January 2010

Someone once said "marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth." Have you become so distracted by outside pressures that you have neglected your spouse? Retrouvaille (Help Our Marriage) can help you put your marriage back on track. The next Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend will be held on January 22 - 24th at the Cleveland Hilton Inn Beachwood. A registration fee of \$50 is requested to confirm a reservation., For information concerning the program, or to register, contact Al or Diane Miskinis at 330-665-3506 or 800-470-2230. You may also learn about Retrouvaille on the web at www.helpourmarriage.com.