

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20TH, 2009

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb...Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Luke 1: 42-45

What Does It Mean To Be Blessed?

Today's gospel tells the wondrous story of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and Elizabeth's recognition that the baby Mary is carrying will be the long-awaited Savior. The passage closes with Elizabeth's declaration of Mary's blessedness. "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." What does it mean to be "blessed?" Some who knew Mary might have thought she was not blessed at all. After all, she was pregnant under what seemed suspicious circumstances, and she was most likely gossiped about and shunned. But Mary's blessedness had to do with something much deeper - with having a heart that was open to God and to God's mysterious ways. In the Bible, the word "blessed" is sometimes translated as "happy." We tend to associate happiness with quite superficial things; however, the biblical association of blessedness with happiness offers us a more meaningful understanding of both words. We also are blessed when, like Mary, we believe that God's promises to us will be fulfilled. As we approach Christmas, let us treasure and draw strength from the most comforting of promises, that God is Emmanuel—"God with us." In all the ups and downs, the trials and joys of our lives and relationships, God is always with us. And our awareness of this can be the source of the most profound happiness. Blessed are we who believe and live our days with this assurance!

Beth Porter - *Living with Christ* - Bayard, Inc, U.S.A.

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday: Sg 2: 8-14; Lk 1: 39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1: 24-28; Lk 1: 46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Lk 1: 57-66
Thursday: Is 62: 1-5; Acts 13: 16-17, 22: 25
Mt 1: 1-25
Friday: Is 9: 1-6; Ti 2: 11-14; Lk 2: 1-14
Saturday: Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59; Mt 10: 17-22
Sunday: Sir 3: 2-7, 12-14; Col 3: 12-21
Lk 2: 41-52

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 \$15. For more information call 216-688-1111, or go to www.RiversEdgeCleveland.com.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 21 - St. Peter Canisius

5:15 PM Martha Cutler (Frank Cutler)

Tuesday, December 22 - Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Marie Cisarik (Marie Birsic)

Wednesday, December 23 - St. John of Kanty

8:00 AM John J. Pollock (Barbara Pollock)

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:15 PM

12:00 AM Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25 - Nativity of the Lord

10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

Saturday, December 26 - St. Stephen

8:00 AM William & Gail Craighead (John Craighead)

5:15 PM Victor Melaragno (Joan Rodemann)

Centering Space - 14812 Lake Avenue

Winter Solstice

Sunday, December 20

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Celebrate God's gift of darkness with light
and feasting!

Reservations required - call 228-7451

Recently Baptized

Jack Anthony Inks



New Pastor Assigned

Bishop Richard G. Lennon has appointed Rev. Joseph G. Workman as the Pastor of St. Clement Parish effective January 1, 2010. Father Workman is currently Parochial Vicar of St. Augustine Church in Barberton. We welcome Father Workman as he begins his ministry with our parish community.

What's Happening this Week in the Parish

Sunday, December 20: Decorating Committee -
Decorate Church - 1 PM

Monday, December 21:

Tuesday, December 22:

Wednesday, December 23: Christmas Flower Delivery
10 AM - parking lot
(Rectory Office Closed)

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve
5:15 Mass
Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day
10 AM Mass
AA Gratitude Group
7 PM - Hall

Calling All Volunteers!

The Decorating Committee is looking for volunteers to help unload the Christmas flower delivery truck on Wednesday, December 23rd, at 10:00 AM. We hope you consider volunteering your time.

Pot of Gold Winners

(\$25) Andrew Miller, Brian Cleary,
Marilyn Martau, Mike Adams,
William J. O'Brien, Susan Butler



Senior Clementines & Friends Need Your Help

Our group receives money once a month to pay for our speakers and entertainment from the coffee and doughnut sale. We are requesting volunteers to sign up to work one hour on the 3rd Sunday, otherwise we will lose this valuable revenue. We can work out a suitable schedule for volunteers. To sign up, or if you have any questions, please call Carol Speer at 228-0164.

Finance Corner:

Collection for weekend of December 13 - \$ 5973.77
Envelopes used: 182
Immaculate Conception - \$570.00
Weekly budget to meet December 2009 expenses -
\$9,096.00

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

Mary's Christmas Dream

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him? I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so happy, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus - not to be wanted at His own birthday party. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.

Author unknown

St. Clement Giving Tree

Thank you for your generous donation of gifts to the St. Clement Giving Tree. The kindness of our parishioners will bring joy and happiness to fourteen people on Christmas Day!

In addition, your gifts of soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream and baby wipes will be used to make bags of personal care items for the men, women and children served by the West Side Catholic Center.

A special thank you to all of those people who made this project possible by making gift tags, sorting presents and loading and unloading deliveries.

Coffee and Donuts

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