

# Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low."

Luke 3: 4-5

## What Does Truly Matter In Life?

With the approach of the Christmas party season, we can get lost on such trivialities as what to buy or how we look. The readings today, however, encourage an interior transformation that will make us attractive to everyone, regardless of what we wear.

Baruch calls for Jerusalem to be joyful because the reason for her sadness is over - her children are returning home from exile. The psalmist, like Baruch, also encourages the people to change their attitude from hopelessness to hope and to have confidence in God because he will make them happy again.

Paul's letter also calls the people to adjust their behavior to ensure that they are doing what truly matters in life and that Christ is essential, as John the Baptist proclaims in the gospel today. Change is necessary and the Advent season calls us to change.

The readings show us that we can change when our desire is sincere, for we can count on the help of God. At this Sunday's Eucharist, let us thank God for the opportunities of change that God gives to us, so that we may become, this Advent season and always, signs of joy and peace for those whom we encounter.

Caroline Nolan - "Living with Christ"

## Sr. Margaret Mach, SC, to Speak

The Lakewood/West Cleveland Cluster Team presents "Kindling the Fire for Evangelization", featuring speaker, Sr. Margaret Mach, SC, from the Office of Evangelization, the Diocese of Cleveland. Please join us for Sr. Margaret's compelling message on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30 PM at St. Clement Church. Even in the face of great change for parishioners in our cluster, we are called today by our baptism to be disciples of Jesus, to be evangelizers. Sr. Margaret will provide the spiritual underpinnings of evangelization and an understanding of what it is and is not. She will help us explore practical ways to share the Good News and be more welcoming and inviting as a vibrant faith community. Come rekindle your fire! All are welcome.

### Installation of

### The Reverend David A. Novak as Pastor

On the Third Sunday of Advent, 13 December, Auxiliary Bishop A. James Quinn will install Father Novak as Pastor of St. Clement Parish at the 11:00 AM Mass. A reception will follow in the parish hall following Mass. Remember in your prayers all the bishops, priests and deacons of our Diocese of Cleveland as they continue in their ministries.



## 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!!

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 7 - St. Ambrose

7:00 PM Vigil Mass – Immaculate Conception

Michael Prusak (Irene Prusak)

Tuesday, December 8 - The Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM Holy Day Mass

Wednesday, December 9 - St. Juan Diego

8:00 AM Joseph Bianco (Ed & Ceil Bianco)

Thursday, December 10 - Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Sheila McGuire

Friday, December 11 - St. Damasus 1, Pope

5:15 PM Ann Allen (Ann M. Allen)

Saturday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 AM

5:15 PM John & Anna McGinness (Mary Anne McGinness)

## Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 35: 1-10; Lk 5: 17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3: 9-15, 20; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12;  
Lk 1: 26-38

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: Zec 2: 14-17; Lk 1: 26-38

Sunday: Zep 3: 14-18; Phil 4: 4-7; Lk 3:10-18

## Coffee & Donuts – Cancelled

Please note we will not be serving coffee & donuts this Sunday because of Fr. John's party.

## **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

When the Church celebrates a great event as a 'Solemnity' it is a sign that it leads us in a particular and essential way to Christ. The event of the Blessed Virgin Mary's conception is such a Christ event. Because she was destined to be the Mother of God and contribute her entire humanity to the event of Christ's Nativity, she was preserved from the Original Sin which we all inherit from our first parents, Adam and Eve. In other words, the Virgin Mary is the new Eve, the Mother of humanity redeemed by the love of God. Her life and example, even her conception, point us all to the extravagant love of God that has the power to forgive us and heal the world.

Her life was not made easy because of this privilege. Well did she know the sorrows we experience in our lives. She lived a life of great simplicity and rigor. She had to flee with the child Jesus to Egypt to save his life, and then return home. She witnessed persecutions, death and burial. But her faith in God never faltered. Her words and example continue to enlighten the Church. "Do whatever he tells you", was her instruction to the servants at the wedding in Cana. It remains the best advice for us today.

At St. Clement Parish we will keep this Solemnity with a Vigil Mass at 7:00 PM on Monday, 7 December (so that those who work can participate more easily), and on the Feast, 8 December at 8:00 AM. This Holy Day is a day of Obligation to participate in the Eucharist because of the importance of Mary's life and example. What God has done for the Virgin Mary he desires to do with all of us - to have us live with him forever in Paradise.

Rev. David Novak

## **Farewell Party for Fr. John Ocilka**

Come join the party! Fr. John will greet well wishers in the church hall this Sunday, December 6th, following the 11 AM Mass. Join the fun!

## **St. Vincent de Paul - Thank You.....**

The Thanksgiving Mass collection totaled \$416.00 for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you to the parishioners for your generosity!

## **A Gift of Your Time**

The Decorating Committee will begin decorating the church on 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. We look forward to your presence with us.

## **Finance Corner:**

Collection for weekend of November 29 - \$ 5,691.50  
Envelopes used: 187  
Weekly budget to meet November 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 6: Confirmation Candidate Session  
7 PM - Hall

Monday, December 7: Family PSR - 7 PM - Hall

Tuesday, December 8: "Kindling the Fire for  
Evangelization" - Speaker Sr. Margaret Mach, SC  
7:30 PM - Church

Wednesday, December 9: RCIA - 7 PM - Hall

Thursday, December 10: Scripture Treats 10:45 AM  
Senior Clementines  
1 - 3 PM - Hall

Friday, December 11: AA Gratitude Group  
7 PM - Hall

## **Senior Clementines and Friends**

All older adults are invited to join the Senior Clementines and Friends on Thursday, December 10, from 1 PM - 3 PM at St. Clement Church hall. This month we will be relaxing and having fun playing bingo. We will also have a 50/50 raffle. All are welcome to join us for fun and good company. If this will be your first gathering, please call Jeanne Lombardo at 226-5878.

## **Pot of Gold Winners**

(\$100) Ethan Williams  
(\$25) Carole Leaman, Janet C. Nekl,  
Alyssa Savoca, Terry Maskal,  
Beth Ann Curtis



## **Applebee's Dining to Donate**

Lakewood Catholic Academy will be participating in the Applebee's Dining to Donate on Tuesday, December 8th from 11 AM - 9 PM at the Westgate Applebee's, 20705 Center Ridge Rd. Applebee's will donate 15% of your check to LCA. Flyers have to be presented to the server at the time of your order for LCA to get credit. Flyers are available at the back of the church, or in the rectory office.

## **Free Concert - St. Ignatius of Antioch Church**

St. Ignatius of Antioch Church will be hosting *CityMusic Cleveland*, with Joel Smirnoff, Conductor, presenting a free concert of music by Mozart, on Friday, December 11th at 7:30 PM. Families with children are welcome to attend. A free-will offering will be taken at the conclusion of the program. For further information call 251-0300 ext 123, or [www.CityMusicCleveland.org](http://www.CityMusicCleveland.org).