

November 29 First Sunday in Advent 2009

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the House of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot, he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days, Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The Lord our justice." Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Christ Will Come Again!

This is a time of great anticipation. Advertisements bombard us with things to buy for Christmas. Children compile lists of toys they hope to receive on that day, and many look forward to New Year's Day as an opportunity for new beginnings, but the Church starts its new year today. The start of the liturgical year also calls us to anticipate what is coming, but with a different emphasis. In our worship together we do not anticipate presents or resolutions for the New Year. Instead, we anticipate the coming of Jesus.

There are three aspects to Jesus' coming in the Advent season. One looks to the past, as we anticipate the celebration of his birth among us, 2000 years ago. The second looks to the present, as we prepare ourselves to receive him anew in our lives today. The third looks to the future, for his coming again.

Today's readings emphasize the third aspect. Jeremiah predicts the coming of the "just shoot," a reference to the Messiah who would save Israel. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of his own return with signs and wonders. But it is not the signs that are important, it is the redemption that Jesus brings.

As we begin the Advent season, let us prepare our hearts not just to celebrate Christmas, but to receive Jesus when he comes again in glory.

John McLaughlin - *Living with Christ*

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday: Rom 10: 9-18; Mt 4: 18-22
Tuesday: Is 11: 1-10; Lk 10: 21-24
Wednesday: Is 25: 6-10; Mt 15: 29-37
Thursday: Is 26: 1-6; Mt 7: 21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29: 17-24; Mt. 9: 27-31
Saturday: Is 30: 19-21, 23-26; Mt 9: 35-10: 1, 5, 6-8
Sunday: Bar 5: 1-9; Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11; Lk 3: 1-6

What's Happening this Week in the Parish

Monday, November 30:

Tuesday, December 1:

Wednesday, December 2: RCIA - 7 PM - Hall

Thursday, December 3: Scripture Treats 10:45 AM

Friday, December 4: AA Gratitude Group
7 PM - Hall

Coffee and Donuts

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



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, November 30 - St. Andrew, apostle

5:15 PM Marie Thompson (Kerrie Sodano)

Tuesday, December 1 - Advent Weekday

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

Wednesday, December 2 - Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Edgar VanHuffel (Rita Loksa)

Thursday, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier

8:00 AM Frank Glatch (Marie Birsic)

Friday, December 4 - St. John of Damascus

5:15 PM Steve Klocek (Joanne Klocek)

Saturday, December 5 - Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Jack Cisarik (Marie Birsic)

5:15 PM Fr. Pax Healy (Dorothy McGuire)

Pot of Gold Winners

(\$25) Marci Hamilton, Jack Curtis,
Tania Gheen, Ed Westerfield,
Carole Leaman, Julie Madison



Finance Corner:

Collection for weekend of November 22 - \$6,499.54

Monthly \$1001.00

Envelopes used: 208

Human Development Collection \$218.00

Weekly budget to meet November 2009 expenses -
\$9,096.00

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

The Season of Advent

The liturgical season of Advent begins a new year for us as Members of the Catholic Church. It signals a fresh beginning rather than just a repeat of last year. It's not the same thing over and over again, it is a fresh start as we look for God to enter our lives.

That is why the Church listens to the prophets who foretold the coming of Christ. We remember his first coming and we look for him to come again. His coming will be at the end of time, but it may be this week, or this Christmas, or this coming year of 2010. The Lord Jesus is looking forward to taking up residence in you and be with you during your life. So when the prophets foretell his appearance among us, the prophets are talking about all of us today, not only sometime thousands of years ago. The Advent, or the coming, or Christ is very soon and in our midst.

Many people clean and prepare their homes for the holiday season. What will you prepare in your own person to welcome the Lord Jesus? This year, listen to the prophets and the scriptures. Listen to what they ask of you. Even though we are surrounded by the news and buzz and noise of our busy lives, listen to what the prophets are saying. Ready or not, the Lord Jesus is coming here to live with us. It is the time of his Advent..

Rev. David A. Novak

Academic Achievement

Mary Grace Cleary, Honor Roll, Holy Name High School
Patrick Murray, Trenton Rivera, Luke Horning, Samuel Kress, Aaron Kovach and Kevin Murray—St. Edward High School. Congratulations!

Sisters of Humility of Mary

invite you to our Peace and Justice Program:
Advent Prayer Vigil
Thursday, December 3, 2009
6:30 to 8:00 PM

HM Ministry Center - 20015 Detroit Rd., Rocky River
Come join us for an evening of prayer, reflection and ritual in this Advent Season.

Breakfast with Santa

The annual Breakfast with Santa event will take place at Magnificat High School on Saturday, December 5th, from 10 AM to Noon. Cost is \$5 per person, with a maximum amount of \$25/family. Bring an unwrapped preschool toy for the toy drive which benefits Villa Montessori. Reservations are suggested by calling the Alumnae Office at 440-331-1572.

Mass Schedule Time Change - Please Note!

Please note that the Wednesday Mass schedule has been changed. We will now be celebrating Mass at 8 AM on Wednesday mornings, instead of 5:15 PM.

Congratulations.....

to Jeanne and Janet McMaster for a successful Thanksgiving Raffle! The church profited over \$20,000 for our annual fundraiser. We appreciate their dedication and hard work for the parish!

There were many volunteers who sold and collected tickets after Masses - and we thank you. Parish Council set-up and cleaned-up for the potluck dinner, enjoyed by all. Thank you to George Birsic for donating the raffle tickets and having them printed. We want to thank those of you who donated raffle prizes and to Clair Able who donated his handcrafted wooden plaques, a favorite by all. Thank you to Shawn Kalyn and St Marys Cement for donation of the Cavs tickets. We thank the people of St. Clement Parish who bought and sold tickets—without you this could not be a successful fundraiser. As we have said, this is fundraiser shouldered by many—not just a few! Now..... for the winners of this years raffle:

\$10,000.00 winner - Karen Hruska

\$1,000.00 winner - Mildred Dutro

\$500.00 winner - Jennie Crittenden

Winners of the Cavs tickets were Jane Dugan and Carm Kelly.

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in this year's raffle and making it a success!

Farewell Party for Fr. John Ocilka

Come join the party! To show appreciation for Fr. John's service to St. Clement, we are planning a farewell party to be held in the church hall on Sunday, December 6th following the 11:00 AM Mass. We are seeking volunteers to assist in this venture. If you are interested in donating your "time, talent or treasure," please call George Pindroh at 941-5304, or Len Elder at 221-4115.

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!!!