



Saint Cecilia Parish



WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS



This week our guest columnist is Pope Saint John Paul II, who offered the following reflection on the Advent Season on December 19, 2002.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this season of Advent, the invitation of the Prophet Isaiah accompanies us: "Say to those who are fearful of heart. Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God ... will come and save you" (Is 35,4). It becomes more urgent as Christmas approaches, enriched with the exhortation to prepare our hearts to welcome the Messiah. The one awaited by the people will certainly come and his salvation will be for all. On the Holy Night, we will again recall his birth in Bethlehem, in a certain sense, we will relive the feelings of the shepherds, their joy and their wonder. With Mary and Joseph we will contemplate the glory of the Word made flesh for our redemption. We will pray that all men may accept the new life that the Son of Man brought into the world by assuming our human nature.

The liturgy of Advent, filled with constant allusions to the joyful expectation of the Messiah, helps us to understand the fullness of the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, we must understand that our whole life should be an "advent," in vigilant expectation of Christ's final coming. To prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, will come one day to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize his presence in the events of daily life. Advent is then a period of intense training that directs us decisively to the One who has already come, who will come and who continuously comes.

3. With these sentiments, the Church prepares to contemplate in ecstasy, in a week, the mystery of the Incarnation. The Gospel recounts the conception and birth of Jesus, and reports the many providential circumstances that preceded and surrounded such a miraculous event: the angel's annunciation to Mary, the birth of John the Baptist, the choir of angels in Bethlehem, the arrival of the Magi from the East, St Joseph's visions. These are all signs and witnesses that highlight the divinity of this Child. In Bethlehem is born Emmanuel, God-with-us. In the liturgy of these days, the Church offers us three outstanding "guides" to show us the proper attitude to assume in going to meet the divine "guest" of humanity.

Three wonderful persons to guide us into the promised land. First of all, Isaiah, the prophet of consolation and hope. Then there is John the Baptist, the precursor of the Messiah, who is presented as a "voice crying in the wilderness," preaching "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (cf. Mk 1,4).

Finally, Mary, who in this novena of preparation for Christmas, guides us towards Bethlehem. Mary is the Woman of the "yes" who, contrary to Eve, makes the plan of God her own without reservation. Thus she becomes a clear light for our steps and the highest model for our inspiration.

Joannes Paulus PP II



Holy, Holy

[Mass for Advent & Lent]

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 2011 by David Lasky.

Mystery of Faith

[Mass for Advent & Lent]

David Lasky

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro -
claim your death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

Great Amen

Cantor:
A - men, A - men, A - - men!
All:
A - men, A - men, A - - men!

Music © 2011 by David Lasky

Agnus Dei

[Chant]

Graduale Romanum, 1974

A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec ca ta mun - di: mi - se - re - re no - bis.
A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec ca ta mun - di: mi - se - re - re no - bis.
A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec ca ta mun - di: do - na no - bis pa - cem.

MUSIC FOR ADVENT

Join us next Sunday,
December 14th at 3:00pm
Right here at Saint Cecilia Church
for

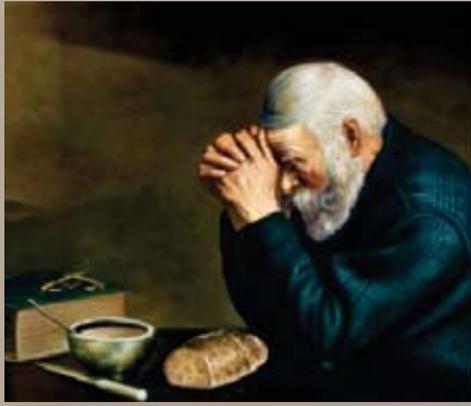
**A Festival of
Lessons and Carols
for Advent**

with

**The Fugue of the
Montachusett Chorale**

in preparation for the coming of Christ
at Christmas!





PRAY WITH US!

Pray for all who are sick, and especially for: Emily, John Richard, Barbara Casey, Al Lamoureux, Connie Aubuchon, Ann Murphy, Helen St. Germaine, Janet Baron, Rosemarie (Albert) Orr, Mark Rohoc, Lisa Stacy, Steve Augat and Lindsey Booth.

Join us in praying for those who have died recently. Pray for their families, as well, that they may be consoled by the promises of Christ.

If you know someone who needs prayers, call the rectory or email office@stceciliachurch.net and we will add them to our prayer list for the next several weeks.



A reminder to all who took tags from the Giving Tree:

Please return your gifts no later than next weekend, so they may can be distributed to the families in plenty of time for Christmas. God bless you for your kindness and generosity.

thank you!

**Last Weekend's
Parish Collections
totaled \$8,841!**



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Patronal Feast of the United States of America
and a Holy Day of Obligation

Next Monday, December 8th, we will celebrate the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated at **9:00am and 6:00pm** in the main church.

Two hundred and thirty-one years ago today, just fifteen years after the founding of this nation, the first Catholic Bishop of America wrote his first Pastoral Letter on the topic of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, declaring her as the patron of America. In that letter, he recommended to every loyal son of these recently United States "...a fervent and well-regulated devotion to the Holy Mother of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; that you will place great confidence in her in all our necessities." Bishop Carroll went on to recommend "a zealous imitation of her virtues and a reliance on her motherly superintendence."

We look forward to joining with you on Monday as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother and our inspiration!



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!



With the rectory and convent replaced, Monsignor Gravel decided to make some upgrades in the school. The basement kitchen and bathroom areas had not had any major renovations since the rebuilding of the school in 1926. A new kitchen and cafeteria (as we know today) were installed in the late 1960s. Amazingly many of the original appliances are still in operation today. After 18 years as pastor of St. Cecilia Parish, Monsignor Gravel was forced to retire due to health reasons. Monsignor Gravel had guided his parish into modern times and left with the affection of all his parishioners.

MORE CHRISTMAS IN ACADIA RAFFLE WINNERS

ACADIAN AUCTION BOOTH

*Watermelon Necklace and Earrings: Brenda Sheridan
Twister Air & Candy Land Games: Kendall R. • Snap-on
Beach Towel & Socks: Jenn Cavanaugh • Celtics Mug:
Tim Buckley • Smore's Maker: Kim McDonald • Lego City
4 in 1 Fun Pack: Kim Cole • Purple shower Bath Set:
Carrie Anne Cormier • Christmas Bulbs: Heather Koll
Baseball, Bat & Blanket: Sandy Ricciutti • Dessert
Dishes: Kim McDonald • Lego Star Wars Ship: Isis
Charette • Dog Themed Bed Set: Margaret Sargent •
Heated Blanket: Christine Deane • Fishing Pole &
TackleBox: Allison Dea Marinelli • Marvel Avengers
Helicopter: Kim Cole • Lego Batman: Janet Anderson • Gaming Throw Blanket:
Erica Correia • Princess Set: Heather Koll • Mini Sports Balls Bundle: Margaret
Sargent • Journal Baskets: Joanna Nolan & Ann McGee • Baby Drum Set: Kathy
Daelhousen • Bostanten Purse, Glove & Scarf: Mary Jane Thomas • Garden
Tool Kit: Tina Leger • Christmas Kitchen Hand Towels & Soap: Ashley
Lamoureux • Connect 4 Game: Lexi Dupuis • Bluey Lego Set: Katie Boudreau •
Travel Battleship Game: Dawn Coleman • \$25 Gift Card & \$5 Scratch Ticket:
Jessie Notaro • \$25 Hannaford Gift Cards: Rose W. & Lisa Dugas • \$75
Brady's Gift Card: Cindy Trainque • \$30 Daily Bagel Shop: Rebekah
Domenichella • Wine Box: Anna Farwell*



THEME BASKETS

*Fire Truck: Adam Zelent • Mitten Mix Fun: Helen Saball • Dog: Stacey P. •
Tri Sum: Michel Vanderbe • Stationary: Maureen Bilodeau • Cat Fun: Becky
LeBlanc • Games: Adam Zelent • Peter Rabbit: Kelly McKenna • Soap Mix:
Maureen Bilodeau • Toy Trucks: Carla McGrath • Candy Land & Scratch
Tickets: Ronald Pierce • Golf: Kelly McKenna • Boston Crawl: Linda Demego •
Holiday Blanket: Stephen Comerford • Crafts with Yarn: J. Rivard •
Ornaments & Home Décor: Ryan Dupuis • Christmas Bake: Bonnie White •
Wristlet Girl: Lisa Comerford • Bathroom: Sue Pelletier • Tri Sum: Marie •
Big Christmas: Don LeBlanc • Spa Day: Marcia Harris • Movie Night: Kevin
Corria, Jr. • Holiday Assortment: Annette Ingel • Cozy Night Books: Iris
Charette • Baby Adventure: Anne Marie • Joy, Joy: Kath Arpone*

MORE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN



THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday December 6 Vigil *Breaking Bread, page 33*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for John and Victoria Daelhousen, by Kathy (Church)

Sunday December 7 Second Sunday of Advent *Breaking Bread, page 33*

7:00am Mass for Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gallant, by Richard and Cheryl (Church)
 9:30-11:00am OCIA Group Meeting (Rectory)
9:45am Mass for Rita Richard (10th anniv.), by her daughter and family (Church)
 9:45-11:00am Religious Education for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through Grade 6 (Parish Center)
11:15am Mass for Jean Leger (8th anniv.), by his wife and children (Church)
 12:30pm Ladies of St. Anne Christmas Party (Parish Center)
 1:00pm Baptism of Avery Ngoc-Lan Harkins and Vivienne Emory Carlson (Church)
 6:00-8:00pm Sunday Night Card Players (Parish Center)

Monday December 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00am Mass for Gerard Vincent (46th anniv.), by Nicole and Val Goguen (Church)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Father Thomas F. Egan (Church)
 7:00-8:15pm Religious Education for Grades 7 through 10 (Parish Center)

Tuesday December 9 Advent Weekday

9:00am Mass for Bertha Gauthier (3rd anniv.), by Anne Marie and Jean Noel Bernard (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

Wednesday December 10 Advent Weekday

9:00am Mass for Norman Vautour, by Yvon Martin (Chapel)
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass - Benediction at Noon (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
6:00pm Mass for Father Peter H. White (Chapel)
 6:30pm Confessions (Church)
 7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)

Thursday December 11 Advent Weekday

9:00am Mass for Claire and Kathleen Friel, by Carol (Chapel)
 9:30am Confessions (Church)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
 7:00-9:00pm Haitian Prayer Group (Chapel)

Friday December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00am Mass for Wayne Gariepy, by Anne Marie and Jean Noel Bernard (Chapel)
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass - Benediction at Noon (Chapel)
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)
 6:30pm BINGO Doors Open at 4:00pm; Games start at 6:30pm (Parish Center)

Saturday December 13 Advent Weekday

9:00am Mass for Bert LeBlanc, by his wife (Chapel)
 9:30am Confessions (Church)
 10:00am Children's Reconciliation Service for Grades 2 through 10 (Church)
 2:00pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Church)

Saturday December 13 Vigil

Breaking Bread, page 40

3:00pm Confessions (Church)
4:00pm Mass for Sick and deceased members of the Poirier and Leger families, by Annette and Marcel Leger (Church)

Sunday December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

Breaking Bread, page 40

7:00am Mass for Gerald Allain, by Lisa, Christie, Gail and Ray (Church)
 9:30-11:00am OCIA Group Meeting (Rectory)
9:45am Mass for Alfred Bernard (27th anniv.), by Anne Marie and Jean Noel Bernard (Church)
 9:45-11:00am Religious Education for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through Grade 6 (Parish Center)
11:15am Mass for Bertha Gauthier (3rd anniv.), by Rene and family (Church)
 With the Christmas Pageant at the end of Mass
 1:00pm Baptism of Isabelle Tobin Quill (Church)
 3:00pm Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent with The Fugue of the Montachusett Chorale (Church)
 6:00-8:00pm Sunday Night Card Players (Parish Center)





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