

Prepare the way of the Lord

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

## December 11, 2011




### From the Pastor's Desk...

In the first reading today, Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah about His mission. The prophet declares that the spirit of God has anointed Him to be a bearer of glad tidings, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners, to announce God's favor to the world.

Like Isaiah, we have been sent by the Lord to be prophets in our own time, announcing glad tidings to those whose lives are lived on the margins of society through loneliness, alienation, rejection, uncertainty, or hopelessness. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be attentive to and serve the needs of those around us.

Imagine Jesus calling all of us to rejoice in Him and do His work.

*Fr. Capitani*

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>SAT.</b>	5:00 PM	<b>Ray &amp; Rosena Itzoe</b> <i>(Bequest)</i>
<b>SUN.</b>	7:30 AM	<b>Sheryll Atkinson</b> <i>(Barb &amp; Dick Zimmerman)</i>
	9:00 AM	<b>Parishioner's Intentions</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>John Langrehr</b> <i>(The Yokemick Family)</i>
<b>MON.</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Sr. Irene Bushman, OSF</b> <i>(The Robert Bushman Family)</i>
<b>TUES.</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Charles Hooper</b> <i>(Mary Jane, Kathy, Shelley)</i>
<b>WED.</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Ruth Schaeffer</b> <i>(Leroy &amp; Regina Jordan)</i>
<b>THUR.</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Joseph Anderson</b> <i>(Meredith Anderson)</i>
<b>FRI.</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Joan Marchildon</b> <i>(Mom &amp; Dad)</i>
<b>SAT.</b>	9:00 AM	<b>Mary Nambozo</b> <i>(Bill &amp; Peg Nine)</i>
	5:00 PM	<b>Paul C. Schaeffer</b> <i>(Leroy &amp; Regina Jordan)</i>
<b>SUN.</b>	7:30 AM	<b>Parishioner's Intentions</b>
	9:00 AM	<b>In Memory of Gordon Rohr</b> <i>(The Rohr Family)</i>
	11:00 AM	<b>Ken Nelson</b> <i>(Evelyn Nelson)</i>



#### NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16      Rom 16: 25-27  
Lk 1: 26-38



Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

**ALTAR FLOWERS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD** (\$60 for one large bouquet or two small) In Memory of the Precious Souls of Abortion

**CORPUS CHRISTI CHAPEL** (2 Arrangements \$40)

**JESUS and CHILDREN STATUE** (Atrium) (Cost \$20)

**ST. JOHN NEUMANN STATUE** (Cost \$20)

**BLESSED MOTHER BOUQUET** (Cost \$20)

**MARY and JESUS STATUE** (Cost \$20)

**VOTIVE CANDLES** Special Intentions 12/5; In Loving Memory of Danny Sciarretta 11/27 & 12/4



**VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Please notify the parish office when a parishioner is in the hospital or is unable to attend mass, and wishes to receive Holy Communion.

### We are a Tithing Parish

#### Following God's Plan for Giving

<b>Total Collection 12/4/11</b>	\$ 20,136
<b>Total Collection 12/5/10</b>	\$ 17,993

#### Weekend of 12/3 & 12/4/11

<b>Envelope Collection</b> <i>(532 Env. \$36.01 Avg. Gift)</i>	\$ 19,159
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Debt Reduction</b>	\$ 5,142
<b>School Fund</b>	\$ 753

**From the Pastor:** In this season of gift giving, please remember to give to the Lord, through your tithing to St. John's. Thank you for your generous giving.

**From the Pews:** Tithing has helped me to appreciate what I have instead of complaining what I would like to have. I am most grateful for the blessing of this new attitude.

#### NEXT WEEKEND'S ALTAR SERVERS

**DEC 17** 5:00 PM Brendon Kroner, Rose Pence  
Hannah Fletcher

**DEC 18** 7:30 AM Emily & Jenni Ferg, Julien Sherman  
9:00 AM Claire & Miriam Gamache  
Kim Anderson  
11:00 AM Brett & Chris Casserly, Greg Howell

### Changes to the Mass

**PLEASE NOTE:** The parish has several DVD copies of Fr. Brommer's presentation on the mass changes "**Holy Words for Holy People**" available on loan. If interested in borrowing this DVD, please contact the parish office.



**REDUCED GLUTEN HOSTS** For any parishioner that is allergic to wheat, we are now able to offer *reduced gluten* hosts. Anyone needing these special hosts **MUST** contact the parish office prior to the weekend, to notify the clergy as to what mass they will be attending.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Each Sunday this column will contain reflections on the first and second readings of the mass.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

#### A Christmas Wish List

Young children sit on Santa's lap to answer the question that consumes them these days: What do you want for Christmas?

The child in each of us still wants stuff like toys and new clothes. But deep inside us we have more basic needs. We need security, fairness, and love. We want something huge for Christmas. We want peace on earth and justice for the oppressed. We want poverty eliminated and wars ceased.

Isaiah promises we will not be disappointed. He promises that God will do such wondrous things that justice and praise will spring up in every nation. When God is the joy of our soul, Isaiah says, a robe of salvation clothes us and a mantle of justice enfolds us. When God is our joy, we feel as rich as royalty, no matter how poor our state.

What does the earth want for Christmas? It wants good news for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, liberty for captives, and release for prisoners. The earth wants what God alone can provide.

What do you want for Christmas? Is it something for you or something for the earth? Will it hinder or help the earth get what it needs?

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

#### Lighten Up

Christmas is serious business, but it shouldn't be taken too seriously. Christmas will be a time for joy, as we gather with family and friends, and as we worship at church to celebrate the good news that Christ is born for us. All this celebrating demands hard work. Work is rarely fun, but the preparation for Christmas brings along with it some of the enjoyment of Christmas Day. This work helps us think about the love we have and the hope we share.

Even Advent can get too serious. True, this is a time of preparation. We confess our sins and mend fences so that Christmas will have more meaning for us. But Advent aims to keep us joyful all the way to Christmas. "Rejoice always," we hear Paul say today. "In all circumstances give thanks."

Paul was addressing the Christian community in Thessalonica. He reaffirmed their belief that the second coming of Christ was very close. He prayed for them, that they "be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

One sign of their blamelessness would be their joy. Rejoice always, Paul says. Always.

Throughout Advent, we get distracted. We have many duties in the weeks ahead. There isn't much time to get everything done. But even this time of preparation is a time to lighten up. Let us not lose sight of where we're headed: Christmas Day! Rejoice!

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## Perpetual Adoration

Open hours that need to be filled:

**WED Mid. – 1:00 AM Adorer Needed**  
**THUR Mid. – 1:00 AM Prayer Partner Needed**  
**THUR 11:00 AM - NOON Adorer Needed**  
**THUR 11:00 PM – Mid. On Call Substitute Needed**  
**FRI 6:00 – 7:00 PM Adorer Every Other Week**  
**FRI 10:00 – 11:00 PM Adorer Every Other Week**  
**SAT 7:00 – 8:00 PM Adorer 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Month**



If interested in helping with this most important devotion, please contact: Julie Whitmore 443-491-3120 E-mail [sheepnamedcoco@yahoo.com](mailto:sheepnamedcoco@yahoo.com) or Rick Winkelman 235-7115. Also, if you are able to help only one or two hours a month, please let us know!

#### TV MASS AND FREE WORSHIP GUIDE AVAILABLE

Catholics unable to participate in parish Mass because of illness, frailty, inclement weather and other circumstances find spiritual bless through **MY SUNDAY MASS** on television. "Heart of the Nation" provides weekly TV Mass and a free large print Prayer and Worship Guide for use during Mass. To order call 1-855-6277.

- Digital Cable and Comcast (channel 62) 9:30 AM
- Satellite and Direct TV (channel 305) 9:30 AM
- Dish Network (channel 216) 9:30 AM



#### Christmas Wafers Available

Christmas wafers also known as Oplatek traditionally used by Polish, Slovak and Lithuanian Catholics on Christmas Eve are available in the Parish Office. The suggested donation for each packet of 4 wafers is \$3.00. They include traditional prayers and may be used by anyone.

#### Knights of Columbus Scholarship

Council #8891 will award a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Paul V. King to a graduating senior in the Class of 2012, or its home-schooling equivalent, who is a member of St. John the Baptist Parish. Applicants need not be Knights or have family members who are Knights. Grades, involvement in school and community activities, and (most important) your response to the listed essay question will determine the winner. Interested seniors may obtain the application form from the parish office or your high school guidance office. **All applications MUST be received no later than January 31, 2012.** Please contact Richard Corriveau by phone 227-2728 or E-mail [rickerivo@verizon.net](mailto:rickerivo@verizon.net) if you have questions.

**Volunteers Needed** Volunteers are needed to straighten the books and pamphlets in the pews of the Main Church following the 11:00 AM Mass. This may be done immediately following mass or Monday morning. If this is a task that you or your family would like to assist with, please contact the parish office. This would be a great opportunity for the youth of our parish to earn required service hours for confirmation or school. **ALSO NEEDED...** Volunteers are needed to wash and press the liturgical linens and return in a timely manner. Also contact the parish office if you are able to help with this task.



**The Peace and Justice Committee** would like to thank everyone that gave so generously to the recent Blanket Drive. There is always a greater need during the winter months to assist those less fortunate. Please remember that blankets and sheets may be donated to the clothing bank year round. Please mark the sizes when dropping off donations.



## Ireland Trip 2012

*It's not too late to sign up for this trip. Fr. Capitani still needs a few more pilgrims to join him. Contact the parish office ASAP!*

Fr. Capitani will be leading a trip to Ireland which will feature a Navy vs. Notre Dame Football game in Dublin Ireland. The trip is scheduled for

**August 30 to September 7, 2012.** The game is on September 1<sup>st</sup>. **\$2,975 per person from Philadelphia.** Bus trans. From New Freedom included. The trip will also include the following sites in Ireland:

- ♣ Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Knock
- ♣ Visit to Jameson Whiskey Co.
- ♣ Medieval Dinner at Bunnatty Castle
- ♣ Blarney Castle
- ♣ Shopping at "famous" Blarney Woolen Mills

Complete information is available on the tables at the side entrance doors. **Please note that although the trip is not until August 30, 2012, a deposit of \$650 is due when registering to reserve your spot.** Also 45 people are needed to keep the cost for the trip just under \$3,000.

### BOY SCOUT BLOOD DRIVE

Following Masses on December 17th and 18th, Cub and Boy Scouts will be in the atrium signing up donors for the upcoming Scout Blood Drive. Donors may sign up for **Thursday, January 4th from 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM at the New Freedom Community Center** or for **Saturday, January 7th from 8:00 AM – 2:00PM in our Parish Center.**

Alternately, **for the January 7th drive only,** donors may schedule their own appointment on-line at [www.redcrossblood.org/boyscouts2012](http://www.redcrossblood.org/boyscouts2012) and click on "schedule an appointment." Then enter the New Freedom zip code (17349) and scroll down to the Jan 7th date at St. John the Baptist. Those not already registered with the Red Cross will need to create an account in order to schedule an appointment. Feel free to "walk in" on either donation day, but you could experience a slightly longer wait. Contact Scott Snyder with any questions at 227-3829 or [amsnyder6@earthlink.net](mailto:amsnyder6@earthlink.net). Please consider participating in this life saving effort.



### GIFT CARD PROGRAM

**Holiday Gift Giving Season is Upon Us!** Retailers such as Ruby Tuesday, Wal Mart, Target, CVS, Starbucks, Kohls, Bon Ton and more

are kept on hand for immediate purchase! Order forms with the list of retailers and information are available in the racks outside the parish office. Contact **Sally Beck at 235-2156 Ext. 214** or [sbeck@stjncath.org](mailto:sbeck@stjncath.org) with questions or to place orders. **GIANT FOOD** cards are *also* available in the parish office after Sunday masses. **Remember 5% of every Giant card sold goes directly to St. John's, and many of the other retailers give an even higher percentage!**

**Circle of Friends** A social network for singles, divorced, separated and widowed of all ages and faiths, this group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 PM usually in the Library of the Main Church. For additional information, contact Shirley at 235-6709. **Please contact Shirley at least 7 days prior to each event if you plan to attend.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 13 Christmas Magic at Rocky Ridge Park (York)  
(Rain/Snow Date 12/15)
- Dec 6 Christmas Party at Nick's House
- Dec. 18 Longwood Gardens - \$18 (Pay by 12/6)
- Dec. 20 Meeting at 7 Sports Bar & Grill – New Freedom
- Jan. 3 Meeting in Church Library 7:00 PM



## St. John the Baptist Catholic School

2011 - 2012 School Year ♦ Pre K - Grade 1  
717-235-3525

## SCHOOL NEWS

### December News

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of St. John the Baptist Catholic School we want to thank all of you for your love and support of the school. So many have given of their time, talents, financial support and individual donations of items for the school. We are and feel truly blessed. Our greatest blessings are the children who are so proud to say, "I am a member of my church family and my home family. We all work together because God loves us and needs us to be together." Now that is a very comforting and energizing thought.

Our 3 days at Ruby Tuesdays was a huge success. We want to acknowledge the exceptional assistance we received from Girl Scout Troop 20470 under the leadership of Adrienne Burgess and Nancy Heiser and 6 students from our 7<sup>th</sup> grade religious education class. These young people provided a night of free babysitting so that parents could enjoy a night out at Ruby Tuesday on Friday, November 18. We are building a strong community of loving and caring people.

**SCRIP SALES** Every scrip sale made at the school benefits a family and funds our scholarship program. We are loaded with great gift ideas so stop in and place your order.

Please continue to use your Giant card for the A+ Rewards and stop in to purchase scrip cards for easy holiday shopping.

**REQUEST** Do you have any colorful computer mouse pads that you no longer use? We could use them in gym classes as colorful bases/home spots for gym classes. Just drop them off at school or in the box near the church office. Thank you!

**GIANT A+ School Rewards Program** has begun and our school needs your help. Our school will earn 1% of your total purchases. At the end of the program in March our school will receive a check for the total amount earned through participation in the program. This does not cost you anything to participate and you can designate two different schools to benefit from this program. You must register your card every year. You can register online at [WWW.GiantAplus.com](http://WWW.GiantAplus.com) with St John the Baptist and school ID 02634 or you can drop the form from the bulleting in the collection basket. Giant gift cards are available daily at the school in \$25, \$50 and \$100. Thanks so much for helping the school earn bonus money.

**YOUNG 3's CLASS OFFERED** St. John's school will be offering a young three's class beginning on January 3rd (for children who are 3 by January 31st). This class will be offered on T/Th afternoons, from 12:45 -2:45 PM. For more information call the school office at 235-3525.



### Women's Council News ANNUAL

**POINSETTIA SALE Dec. 10-11 after all Masses in the Atrium of the main church.** As in past

years, we will be selling 3 different sizes 4" (\$ 5), 6" (\$ 12), 7" (\$ 16). This is a great opportunity to purchase beautiful plants for holiday decorating or gift giving. Please support our fundraiser and thank you for past support.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES...

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
and During ALL Rel. Ed. Classes

2011 - 2012 Class Schedule

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, and Class/Grade. Includes entries for Sun, Wed, and Thurs.

For more information log onto the parish website www.stjncath.org and go to the Religious Education link or call the office at 235-2439.

SUNDAY - 12/11 Third Sunday of Advent

- Second Collection School Fund
Religious Education
Little Flowers Breakfast 10:00 - 11:00 AM (SJNC)
Women's Council Poinsettia Sale After All Masses (A)
K of C Card Social 1:00 PM (PC)
Sons of Italy Christmas Party 1:00 PM (NH)
Parish Penance Service 2:00 PM (MC)

MONDAY - 12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

- School / Pre School
Rosary 8:30 AM (HC)
Moms in Touch 9:00 AM (L)
Bible Study 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (SJNC)
RCIC 5:30 - 7:00 PM (L)
Youth Choir 6:00 - 7:00 PM (MC)
Little Flowers 6:30 - 8:00 PM (PC/RMS 8 & 9)
Spanish Class 6:30 - 8:00 PM (PC/CR)
Youth String Group 7:00- 8:00 PM (Choir RM)
Bible Study 7:00 - 8:30 PM (PC/L)
RCIA 7:00 - 9:00 PM (SJNC)



TUESDAY - 12/13 St. Lucy

- School / Pre School
Rosary 8:30 AM (HC)
Prayer Group 9:30 AM (L)
School Prayer Service 10:45 - 11:45 AM (MC)
Bible Study 7:00 - 8:30 PM (PC/L)
Daystar Rehearsal 7:00 PM (Choir RM)
School Christmas Concert 7:00 - 9:00 PM (MC)

WEDNESDAY - 12/14 St. John of the Cross

- School / Pre School / Religious Education
Rosary 8:30 AM (HC)
Pre School Prayer Service 10:45 - 11:45 AM (MC)
Pre School Prayer Service 12:45 - 1:45 PM (MC)
Confirmation Group Session 6:30 PM (MC)

THURSDAY - 12/15

- School / Pre School / Religious Education
Rosary 8:30 AM (HC)
Parish Staff Meeting 10:30 AM (CR)
Cub Scouts 6:30 - 8:00 PM (PC/Rms 10-12)
Children's Choir 6:15 - 7:15 PM (MC)
Adult Choir 8:00 - 9:30 PM (Choir RM)

FRIDAY - 12/16

- School / Pre School
Rosary 8:30 AM (HC)

SATURDAY - 12/17

- Rosary 8:30 AM (HC)
K of C Christmas Party (PC)
5:00 Mass
Scout Blood Drive Sign Up After Mass (A)

SUNDAY - 12/18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Second Collection Retirement Fund for Religious
NO Religious Education
Children's Liturgy & Choir at 9:00 AM Mass
Respect Life Rosary 10:15 - 10:45 AM (OLC)
Scout Blood Drive Sign Up After All Masses (A)
Choir Practice 12:15 - 1:15 PM (Choir RM)
Parish Baptisms 12:30 PM (MC)
YM Decorating Main Church 5:00 PM



Peace and Justice Ministry

ADOPT A FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM



The Peace and Justice Ministry will again be sponsoring needy families this Christmas season. You are encouraged to take a paper ornament from the board in the Atrium (program begins Nov. 26) and return a wrapped gift labeled with identification tag. Money or gift certificates may be taken to the parish office. Guidelines will be posted on the gift tag board. Please return all gifts NO LATER than Sunday, December 11th.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. You will help to make a brighter Christmas for those less fortunate.



Advent Food Drive

Throughout the four weeks of Advent, St. John's Parish Pastoral Council will be heading up a food drive to benefit the Southern York County Food Pantry, which is housed here at St. John's. Special collection bins will be placed directly inside the entrance doors to the main worship area for you to drop off items. We realize that these are tough financial times for everyone, but leading up to this Christmas Season, we ask you to remember those who are less fortunate. The upcoming winter months are when the pantry has the greatest need for donations. Bringing one or two items each week will help out the pantry tremendously. Please note that the pantry accepts all non perishable food items (not just canned goods) Some of the items that are needed and often overlooked are: Peanut Butter, Pudding/ Pudding Cups/Jell-O, Stuffing/Rice/Potato/Pasta Mixes, Crackers, Snacks, Kid Friendly Lunch Snacks, Fruit Cups, Juice Boxes, Cereals, Pie Crust/Cake Mixes, Paper Products.

We thank you in advance for thinking of those in need during this Christmas season.



NEW YEAR'S PARTY - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

St. John's Women's Council in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus will be holding a New Year's Eve Party on Saturday, December 31, 2011 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM in the Parish Center. Tickets \$35/Couple - Music by DJ Randy, BYOB with snacks and set ups provided. Hats/ Tiaras and Noisemakers, along with small games of chance. For tickets contact Dee Nycz 235-3721 or dnycz@yahoo.com

Party and Ring in the New Year with Friends!