



The holy season of Advent opens before us today. Christmas stands four weeks away, shining as a beacon, summoning us to walk through this sacred time of waiting with hearts awake to and alert for the coming of the Lord. Let us begin this season with eager

longing for the manifestation of the Lord Jesus.

#### Readings for the Week of November 30, 2008

Sunday	First Sunday of Advent Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
Monday	Is 2:1-5; Ps 122; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Saint Francis Xavier, priest Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	Saint John of Damascus, priest, doctor Is 26:1-6; Ps 118; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	Is 29:17-24; Ps 27; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday	Saint Nicholas, bishop Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Daily readings: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/index.htm>



The first Advent Candle urges you to be hopeful. FULL of hope. Hope is not wishful thinking, nor a pipe dream. Hope is more. It

bespeaks a confidence that what you yearn for WILL happen...is, in fact, happening. God is coming! Really. Be hopeful.

“HOPE does not disappoint us...” Romans 5:5

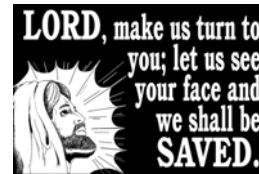
**Reminder: Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (first Tuesday of the month). There will be no confessions heard Tuesday evening and no Mass will be celebrated.**



Catholic Daughters of the Americas #2364 will meet on **Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in the F-Wing. (Please note date change!) The program will include installation of officers & new members, approval of the 2009 – 2010 budgets, and a SOCIAL. Please join us for this final meeting of 2008.

**Loving Beyond Our Fears: *Rejoicing in what we have & who we are together***

The next Women's Retreat is Dec 5 – 7, 2008. Contact the Retreat Center directly for information and to register. Cost \$180 per person. Catholic Women's Retreats at the Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center, 430 Bunker Hill Road, Houston, TX 77024, 713-464-0211



## DECEMBER 2 THROUGH DECEMBER 7

Masses For The Week



<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>8:30 A.M.</b>	✠Anthony Godinho
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>8:30 A.M.</b>	✠Alfred & Joe Dale Pscencik ✠Irene Dirba
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>5:30 P.M.</b>	✠Louis Lippman
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>8:30 A.M.</b>	✠Ralph (Buddy) Rogers, Jr.
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>5:30 P.M.</b>	✠Charles John Savaso
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>8:00 A.M.</b>	✠Mary Kubesch
	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>	✠C. J. Vitek ✠Guadalupe Artasanchez
	<b>11:00 A.M.</b>	✠Ralph (Buddy) Rogers, Jr.

**Beginning Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, names submitted for the prayer list will remain in the bulletin for one month.** Please call the parish office with an update if you would like the name to remain on the prayer list for an additional period of time.

Karen Abdelkader, Carolyn Sue Allen, Arnold Areson, Natalie Barron, Brenda Bartlett, Ann Bomba, Paul Bono, Michael Brown, John Buettner, Doris Causbie, Robert Causbie, Kellie Chaney, John Henry Cook, Cecil Cromeans, Charlie Dirba, Lenora Duval, Leada Fecanin, Marcia Flournoy, Margaret Flournoy, Ann Foster, Betty Lou Furlong, **Emil Galetka**, Ashton Garrett, Michael Gillman, Arthur Haas, Paige Haas, Belia Hardesty, Maury Havlik, Pat Havlik, Dennis Heinroth, Jose Hernandez, Alice Jasek, Vickie Kaatz, John Karacostis, **Emily Krell**, Willie (Bill) Kubala, Mary LaCoume, **Julie Lange**, Sarah Langston, **Pat Latkovich**, **Juan Longoria**, Delia Luna, Bobby Marshall, Gene Matus, Paula Matzke, Otis Mayes, **Cheri McBurnett**, Myra Lee McFarling, Ora Meritt, Raymond Muniza, Marty Murphy, Heloise Murray, Charlene Burrige Paschall, **Cindy Patlik**, Jim Pawelek, Mary Pelliccia, Lea Marie Perez, Doris Perryman, Cecelia Peterson, Marilyn Pikas, Joe Ragland, June Ragland, Kenny Rentrop, Ellen Rice, **Celeste Rohde**, Vince Rowan, Prudencia Sanchez, Catherine Schoppe, **Donna Schwertner**, Jim Seidler, June Stanke, Bill Stevens, Bud Stover, Edward John Thigpen, Tommy Tumlinson, Ernie Valdez, Loyd Wainscott, and **Jack Yonge**. (Bold denotes new on prayer list or in crisis.)



PRAYER REQUESTS

### Archdiocese of G-H Hurricane Ike Relief Effort

We have all been challenged by the aftermath of Hurricane Ike along the Texas Gulf Coast. As we recover we begin to recognize the blessings and strength of endurance we have received through Christ's merciful love. We also become more aware of the needs of those still enduring the after effects. In Christ we seek to bring assistance to those in need and the question comes to mind, "How can I help?" As His children we are called to return God's love with a grateful heart and we can do this very simply by our prayers, our time and through a financial gift ...

**What you can do:**

- 1) Pray for all affected by this tragedy.
- 2) Help your neighbor - give of your time and talent.
- 3) **Make a donation to recovery efforts through the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.**  
**Contributions can be placed in the basket at the back of Church weekend of Nov 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.**

# awaken

Youth Ministry 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**NOVEMBER**

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> NO CLASSES

**DECEMBER**

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Jr HS decorate Rectory tree - after 5:30 Mass

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> CLASS, 6:30-8:30

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> CLASS, 6:30-8:30 - Bring back wrapped and tagged toy by TODAY!

Dec 21<sup>st</sup> NO CLASS, Christmas Holiday

Dec 28<sup>th</sup> NO CLASS, Christmas Holiday

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> NO CLASS, Christmas Holiday

**JANUARY**

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> NO CLASS, Christmas Holiday

Jan 11<sup>th</sup> CLASS, 6:30-8:30 - Vocation Night

**Youth Ministry "SAVE THE DATE"**

Jr High Youth Rally will be held on Saturday, Feb 21, 2009

It's time for our **Annual Youth Ministry Toy Drive**. To ensure that all children receive a toy, we will accept only wrapped and tagged toys **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**. We are asking our parish family for your generous help and support.



Toy Collection

We invite you to take a tag identifying an age and gender of child, which you will find in the narthex of the church. Please bring back wrapped and tagged toy anytime **before DEC 7<sup>th</sup>** to CCE or Youth Ministry classes, or to our collection boxes outside the Youth

Ministry Office. Thanks in advance for your participation.

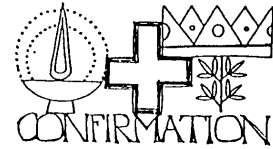


**We are in need of Sponsors for our current RCIA process.** You don't need to know all the answers -- you just need to be a practicing Confirmed Catholic, over the age of 18, who is ready to make a new friend and share your personal faith journey

with them. A Sponsor gives support to their Candidate/Catechumen by walking their journey with them as a companion, by personal prayer, and of course attending the RCIA sessions and Mass with them. Sponsors also attend the different Rites with their Candidate/Catechumen.

**This is a ministry where you get much, much more than you give.** This is an opportunity to grow in your faith as you help someone else grow in theirs. Please prayerfully consider making this spiritual journey with someone who is interested in coming into the Catholic Church. For more information, contact Orville Bellar 292-6750.

**The Women of St. Michael's** invite all women of our parish to our **annual Christmas dinner, Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Family Life Center**. Dinner is catered from Cafe Annice at **\$15.00 a person**. Fashion Show by Elaine's Fashions. Please call Linda, 292-0954 to register by the deadline - **Thursday, Dec. 4. Bring a guest!**



**Did you miss receiving your Confirmation as a teenager or young adult?** If so, now is the time to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Contact Tommie Holt at 265-4685 for more information.

**SVDP needs your help.** There will be envelopes in the pews next weekend Dec 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> for those wishing to assist **the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in their work with those in need of assistance in our local area**, especially after the economic disruption caused by Hurricane Ike. **Please donate generously to help those in need.**

Are you curious about our **Parish Pastoral Council**? Want to find out how Council members are chosen, or perhaps you would like to serve on the Council? The **St. Michael's Pastoral Council is a consultative body** through which members use their God-given gifts to support Father Leo as he evangelizes and leads the family of St. Michael's to be a strong community of faith, hope and love. Council members are chosen to serve by interested members of the Parish using a process of prayer, reflection, and discernment. **We invite all caring and concerned members of St. Michael's, 18 years and older and Confirmed, to consider a 2-year term on Pastoral Council.** If you are interested in considering discerning for Council, please contact Ken Prochaska at 297-4139. If you are not interested in serving on the Council at this time, but are interested in learning about what the Council does, please come, listen, and take part in the discernment process. **The next St. Michael's Parish Pastoral Council Discernment will be held on Sunday December 7, 2008.** We will meet in the **Angelina Room at 1:00 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend.

**UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

- ❖ St. Anthony of Padua, Danbury, will be having a Healing Mass on Saturday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Healing masses are set for the first Saturday of each month.
- ❖ The Cenacle Retreat House is proud to present three wonderful Spiritual programs during this special season of Advent-Christmas:
  - ❖ Advent Mini-Retreat – Sunday, December 7, 2008, from 2-5 p.m.
  - ❖ Doing December Differently – Recovering a Spirituality of Advent, December 12-13, from 7 pm Friday to 5 p.m. Saturday
  - ❖ Keeping Christmas Merry with the 12 Steps, Sunday, December 14, from 2-5 p.m.

Come Discover Advent-Christmas at the Cenacle Retreat House! For registration information on these programs and a full listing of all Cenacle programs, please call the ministry office at 281/497-3131, or visit our website at [cenacletreathouse.org](http://cenacletreathouse.org).