



As Advent begins, we are reminded of the three comings of Christ: His coming into human history at Bethlehem, His coming at the end of human history, and His coming into our hearts. In today's Gospel we hear about the events that will take place at the end of time, but that should serve to awaken us to the here and now of Christ in our world. As Saint Paul says, we must conduct ourselves in a way pleasing to God. Let us prepare ourselves this day and all of Advent to welcome the Lord into our hearts and homes.



*To You, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.*



Readings for the Week of November 29, 2009

Sunday	First Sunday of Advent Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25; Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday	Saint Andrew, apostle Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19; Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday	Saint Francis Xavier, priest Is 26:1-6; Ps 118; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	Saint John of Damascus, priest, doctor Is 29:17-24; Ps 27; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday	Is 30:19-21, 23-36; Ps 147; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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

1st Sunday of Advent

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new liturgical year. Advent, which always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, dates back to the fourth century. It is a four-week period of devout and **joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time.** Early in Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on the second coming. After December 16, it shifts our attention to the events surrounding the nativity.

This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

ADVENT TRADITIONS

- We light the candle(s) on the **Advent Wreath** as part of the opening for each Mass during the Advent Season. **We need individuals or families** who would like to process in with the Priest and light the Advent candle(s) at the start of each Mass. Please sign up on the poster in the Narthex of Church to be part of this special Advent tradition.
- **Vespers will be celebrated each Sunday evening** in Advent, beginning on **November 29th.** This service begins at **6:30 p.m. in the F-Wing**, and it is a wonderful, peaceful way to prepare for the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas!



Mass Intentions
Of The Week

NOV 28 THROUGH DEC 6

SATURDAY	5:30 P.M.	†William Stevens Sherry Aaron
SUNDAY	8:00 A.M.	†James Seidler Sherry Aaron
	9:30 A.M.	Pres Obama & VP Biden †Zigmund J. Chernoch
	11:00 A.M.	†Rhonda Clark †Carl Sam
TUESDAY	8:30 A.M.	†Zoila V. Longoria †James Seidler
WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	†Clark Flournoy †Betty Mildner
THURSDAY	5:30 P.M.	†John Ledger
FRIDAY	8:30 A.M.	†Epifania Tellez †Frances Pollock Noelle
SATURDAY	5:30 P.M.	†Bess Ermis †Hattie Richter
SUNDAY	8:00 A.M.	†Charles John Savaso Sherry Aaron
	9:30 A.M.	†C. J. Vitek †Naomi Valdez-Hernandez
	11:00 A.M.	Pres Obama & VP Biden †Brian Baker



PRAYER
REQUESTS

Sherry Aaron, Cierra Allen, Zera Bennet, Kenneth Blanchard, John Campbell, Robert Causbie, Doris Causbie, Kellie Chaney, Ted DiBlasi, Greg Dubec, Tom Elder, Pete Ermis, Ann Foster, Andrew Gore, Bevelyn Granger, Arthur Haas, Paige Haas, Joanna Haswell, Ralph Lewis, Florence Olenick, Jim Pawelek, Paulette Russek, Tiffany Lynn Sanchez, Larry Savant, and Donna Schwertner.



*Upcoming
Liturgical
Celebrations*

11/29	1st Sunday of Advent / Beginning of Year C
11/29	Vespers - 6:30 p.m. F-Wing
12/6	2 nd Sunday of Advent Vespers 6:30 p.m. F-Wing
12/7 (Mon.)	Immaculate Conception Vigil (5:30pm)
12/8 (Tue.)	Immaculate Conception (8:30am & 5:30pm)
12/12	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass 7:00 a.m.
12/13	3 rd Sunday of Advent Vespers 6:30 p.m. F-Wing
12/20	4 th Sunday of Advent Vespers 6:30 p.m. F-Wing
12/21 (Mon)	Advent Penance Service (7pm)
12/24 (Thu)	Christmas Eve – 5:30 & 9:00 p.m. Masses
12/25 (Fri)	Christmas – 10:00am Mass
12/31 (Thur)	Mary Mother of God (Vigil Mass 5:30 pm)
1/1 (Fri)	Mary Mother of God - Holy Day (10 am)

Let's Open the Word Together!

What: Lectionary Bible Study
 When: 9:30- 10:30 am Sunday
 Where: Family Life Center; Room 149-150
 Why: To know Him and share Him with your St. Michael's family.
 Who: You are invited and welcome anytime!



Stewardship Opportunities at St. Michael's

- The **Altar Society** is **DESPERATELY** in need of "**Linen Ladies**" who are willing to **wash and iron small altar linens**. Frequency - Every 6 weeks. **Training provided**. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile ministry and spend a little quiet time (1 - 2 hrs) with our Lord. Please call Kathy Moore, 297-8919.



- Sponsors are needed for the current RCIA program**. A Sponsor gives support to their Candidate or Catechumen by **walking their journey** with them as a companion, personal prayer, and attending the RCIA sessions and Mass with them. The Sponsor becomes a witness to the confirmand's initiation into full Christian life and a role model by sharing their personal faith journey. Contact Orville Bellar, 297-1027.



- Sponsors also needed for Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens (RCIT) program**. Those recently confirmed and other young adults might think about assisting a younger person on their journey. Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Contact Betty Betczynski, 285-9139.

- The **Ministry to the Sick and Homebound** is seeking people to be trained as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Trained volunteers visit those who are sick and homebound, bringing them the Eucharist. **Upcoming training date: Sunday Dec 6th 1 - 4 p.m.** Contact Sherry Bergen, 233-1161 for more information.



- Come Join Us! **Those who have served on a Women's Christ Renews His Parish Team** and wish to share in spreading the joy



that CRHP brings ... The current **Women's Outreach Team** is looking for more members to participate in an outreach to Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Houston, TX. Contact Genie Packard at 297-1888.

- The Women and Men of Christ Renews His Parish** both have **teams in formation** for St. Michaels. **Both groups are seeking a few additional team members**. If you have attended CRHP and would like the opportunity to deepen your faith, please contact David Konvicka, 297-0051 or Tricia Langner, 299-6176



Dates to Remember

- Discernment for the **2010 Pastoral Council** will be held on **Sunday, December 6th at 1:00 p.m.** in the Angelina Room. **All Parishioners are encouraged to be part of this process**, either by discerning to serve a term on Council or participating during the facilitated discernment process. For more information about the process, or if you wish to discern for a position on the Council, please contact Sheri Hanson at 979-285-7434.
- K of C PANCAKE BREAKFAST** will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 13th after the 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Masses**. Proceeds will support the St. Michael's Toy Drive.
- K of C Blood Drive - Weds, Dec 16th, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.** in the Hall of the Family Life Center
- Young at Heart - All Senior Adult Parishioners** Reserve **January 16 & February 13** after the 5:30 PM Saturday Mass in the Family Life Center Main Hall. Presentations, Food, Fun, and Fellowship. More details and sign-up coming in January!

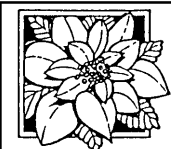
It's time for our annual **Youth Ministry Toy Drive**. We are collecting new toys for Christmas for approximately **200 children at the Memorial Day Care**. We can accept the wrapped and tagged toys **up until Sunday, DEC 6th**. We are asking our parish family for your generous help and support. We invite 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 6th to CCE or Youth Ministry classes**, or to our **collection boxes** outside the Youth Ministry Office. Thanks in advance!



Toy Collection



Interested in singing with the Choir for Christmas? Rehearsals will begin soon. Contact Kay Jones, 297-5147 or Mike Caserta, 297-6054 for more information.



Poinsettias

If you would like to make a donation towards the **Christmas flowers for the church**, please contact the Parish Office at 297-3041. The requested donation is \$15.00 per poinsettia.

Interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? We are in need of additional EMHC at all Masses, as well as individuals who are interested in bringing the Eucharist to the Sick & Homebound. We will have a training session for those wishing to join this ministry on **Sunday, Dec 6th from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Church**. Please bring your Bible. Contact Lynne at 297-3041 for more information. Requirements: Confirmed Catholic, actively practicing your faith, and (if married) married in the Church.



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awaken

Youth Ministry 7th – 12th Grade

NOVEMBER

Nov 29th

NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

DECEMBER

Dec 5th

HS youth Decorate Rectory Christmas Tree after 5:30 p.m. Mass

Dec 6th

CLASS 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Dec 6th

TOY DRIVE - Toys due by today!!!!!!

Dec 13th

Ski Tri Meeting 4:30 p.m. F-Wing

Dec 13th

CLASS 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Dec 20 - Jan 3

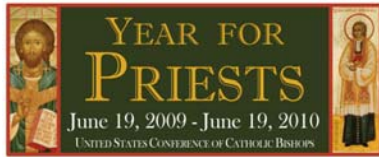
NO CLASS - Christmas Holiday

Dec 24th

Living Nativity at 5:30 p.m. Mass in Church

DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

"Deeper" is a bible study for High School youth, including Prayer and Praise & Worship time, lead by our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Mike Marshall. DEEPER meets every Wednesday night from 6:30 p.m. — 9:00 p.m. in the A-Wing. All High School students are encouraged to attend. Bring a friend!



A STUDY COMMISSIONED by the Knights of Columbus revealed that 75% of Catholic young people who had seriously considered religious life felt they were never encouraged to pursue that goal. **Do you know someone who would make a good priest? Why not tell him so?** Your encouragement may be all he needs.
Serra for priestly and religious vocations

First Reading *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

Hungry for Justice and Peace

The Scriptures of Advent open this year with an appeal for justice and security. Our society longs for a better life the same way ancient Israel and Judah did. We long for safety within our borders. We long for leaders of blameless conduct. We long for these blessings to last. During Advent we want to see the fulfillment of God's promises. God promised peace. God promised safety. God promised good leaders. God promised food, drink, and strength. During Advent we anticipate the fulfillment of God's main promise: salvation. We await the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus, whose name means Savior and whose mission brought redemption. But we still await something more. We need God's presence in our midst now. We need peace in our lives now. We need leaders in whom we can trust, leaders we can admire, leaders who cooperate with the plan of God. And we need them now. Through Jeremiah, we hear God's promise for something unique and wonderful: "a just shoot." God promises a strong sprout of new growth nudging up from the earth. This shoot will flower with justice. The earth and rain will fertilize its seed and make it grow from year to year. This Advent our society yearns for a just shoot, the fulfillment of God's promise.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2

Famous Last Words

What would you like your last words to be? What final instructions would you like to give the ones you leave behind? Enjoy life? Work hard? Play more? We do not know if Paul thought he was sending his last words to the Thessalonians, but it sounds like it as he nears the end of his letter. He believes Jesus is coming soon. He wants this community to be ready, and he does not know if and when he will see them again. His final instructions are these: "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all." Paul wants them to love one another. He realizes it is something they cannot do alone. He asks that the Lord do it for them. He wants the Lord to increase their love. This will make them "blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus." As we begin Advent, our thoughts turn to preparations for Christmas. But Paul wants our thoughts turned toward the second coming of Christ, not the first. He wants us to be blameless in holiness before God when Jesus comes again. This season gives us a perfect occasion to practice love. Let us practice it on those we know best and those we know least. Do these last words sound too hard? God will make it possible for us to love even more.
Written by Paul Turner. Copyright © 2009

WOMEN OF ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

TUESDAY, DEC. 8th – 6:30 p.m.

FAMILY LIFE CENTER HALL



All women are invited and guests are welcome to attend our annual celebration. Reservations are \$15 per person. Dinner catered by Café Annice includes:

Hors D'Oeuvres

Tossed Salad

Pork Loin topped with Roasted Apples and Port Wine Sauce

Wild Rice

Sautéed Vegetables

Dinner Rolls

New York Style Cheesecake

PROGRAM

DOOR PRIZES

LIVE MUSIC PRESENTATION

Reservations to Mary Ann Longoria, 297-4109 by Dec. 4th.

Make check payable to: Women of St. Michael's.

Please include names of all guests.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

100 Oak Drive South Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

Website: www.smlj.org

Pastor - Rev. Msgr. Leo Wleczyk, E. V.
Parochial Vicar - Rev. Marty Pham

Rectory & Parish Office: (979) 297-3041
Religious Education & Youth Ministry: (979) 297-3043

Sunday Liturgy

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.;

Sunday 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance

Tuesday 5:00–5:30 p.m. and Saturday 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Adoration Chapel

Every day 9:00 a.m.—Midnight

Nursery

Available in the Family Life Center during the 9:30 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m. Masses

Baptism Preparation

Call Cindy Hakanson at 299-0690 for information

Visitation of Sick & Homebound

Please call the Parish Office.

As we begin Advent we are called to “await” in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell.

They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.

Your gift to our St. Vincent de Paul Society will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God’s love this Christmas.

August 2009 115 home visits assisting 381 adults and children, providing 145 bags of food, and \$7,316.01 for rent, utilities, etc. Contributions \$3,983.51

September 2009 106 home visits assisting 372 adults and children with 130 bags of food. Financial assistance for rent, utilities, etc, was \$ 4,252.51. Contributions \$2,877.88.

October 2009 98 home visits assisting 368 adults and children, providing 141 bags of food, distributing \$3,719.73 for rent, utilities, etc. Contributions totaled \$4,575.89.

Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

For information, call Dennis Prinz at 979.236.1848

