

The people approaching John the Baptist in today's Gospel ask him, "What should we do?" On this joyful Third Sunday of Advent, let us ponder that question and what it means for our preparation for the coming of the Lord among us. **In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, can we make the time we need to repent and turn to the Lord?** Let us pray today for the grace to do just that.



Liturgy Of The Word

CRY OUT with JOY and GLADNESS; for among you is the great and HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.

Readings for the Week of December 13, 2009

- Sunday:** Third Sunday of Advent
Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
- Monday:** Saint John of the Cross, priest, doctor
Nm 24:2-7,15-17a; Ps 25; Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34; Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8,18, 21b-25; Ps 85; Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Mt 1:1-17
- Friday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; Mt 1:18-25
- Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25
- Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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



SPECIAL OFFERING

The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be this weekend, Dec 12th - 13th. This retirement fund helps support the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please pray for all religious and consider making a generous donation for this annual appeal.



Penance Service

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

7:00 p.m.

- Weds Dec 16th - Most Holy Trinity, Angleton
Thurs Dec 17th - Sacred Heart, Manvel
Thurs Dec 17th - St. John's, West Columbia
Mon Dec 21st - St. Michael's

Eucharistic



Adoration

Eucharistic



Adoration

Eucharistic



Adoration

The Adoration Chapel at St. Michael's is a beautiful, quiet place where you can come and sit with our Lord Jesus Christ in quiet adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:00 a.m. to Midnight, 7 days a week. There is an open Adoration Chapel hour Sundays from 9-10 a.m. Please call Mary Ann Longoria, 297-4109 if interested. We also need someone for Thursday from 4-5 p.m. and from 7-8 p.m. Please contact Cheri McBurnett, 297-8874.

Mass Schedule

DECEMBER 12 through DECEMBER 20

- SATURDAY** 7:00 A.M. †Deceased Priests of Arch G-H
5:30 P.M. †Kirk Rutkowski
Sherry Aaron
- SUNDAY** 8:00 A.M. †Donald & Remedios Young
Sherry Aaron
Julius Haas
9:30 A.M. †James Seidler
†Brian Baker
11:00 A.M. †Jeanne Hecker
†Danny Hecker
†Johnnie McGregor
David Cromeans
- TUESDAY** 5:30 P.M. †Alfred & Joe Dale Psencik
†Brian Baker
- WEDNESDAY** 8:30 A.M. Pres Obama & VP Biden
Sherry Aaron
- THURSDAY** 5:30 P.M. †Clarence Forse
†William Stevens
- FRIDAY** 8:30 A.M. †Helen Conley
Sherry Aaron
- SATURDAY** 5:30 P.M. †Helen Conley
Sherry Aaron
- SUNDAY** 8:00 A.M. Pres Obama & VP Biden
Sherry Aaron
9:30 A.M. †Zigmund J. Chernoch
†Hattie Richter
11:00 A.M. †Carl Sam
†David Delarosa

Please pray for

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

Please pray for the repose of the souls of :

- †Louis Russek, father of Paulette Russek and Mary (George) Arrants, grandfather of Michelle, Jason, Johathan, Justin, and Jacob.
†Lou Raben, mother of Kathy Hogan, grandmother of Charlie and Sean



SEASON OF ADVENT

Our Advent Journey



- 12/13 3rd Sunday of Advent
Vespers 6:30 p.m. F-Wing
- 12/20 4th 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)

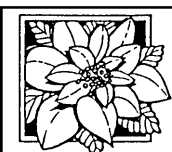
Let's Open the Word Together!

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!



Dates to Remember

- Discernment for the **2010 Pastoral Council** will be held on **Sunday, December 13th 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. Deacon David Mitchell will facilitate this day of discernment through prayer as the new members for the 2010 Pastoral Council are selected. 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.
- The Knights of Columbus will host a **Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 10th** to benefit the 2010 Youth on a Mission. Please come by the Hall in the FLC after 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Masses for breakfast!
- **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!



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.

ADVENT TRADITIONS

Vespers will be celebrated each Sunday evening in Advent. 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!

TAMALES

The ladies of our **Hispanic Ministry** will be taking **ADVANCE ORDERS** for **Tamales** after all Masses this **Sunday Dec 13th**. Chicken, Pork, or Beef Tamales are available, spicy or regular. **\$8.00 per dozen**. Tamales can be **picked up after Mass on Sunday, Dec 20th**. Make sure you order on 12/13 to get your delicious Christmas Tamales!

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.
- 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



Altar Care



Ladies, please join us for a **Women of Faith 12 week Bible study** entitled "**Cultivating Contentment**" beginning on **Thursday, January 7th, 9:15 a.m-10:30 a.m.** in the "**F**" Wing. TLC for your little ones. **Please RSVP to Jeanne Schroll** at schrollj@hotmail.com or 297-5860. If you need to use the nursery, please indicate number/ages of your children. **Books are on order at Sonshine.**

Women of St. Michael's Christmas Field Trip: Please come join us as we caravan to Sugarland to hear the **St. Laurence Chamber Singers Fall Christmas Concert** on **Thursday, December 17th**. The main work of the concert is Conrad Susa's Carols and Lullabies, an arrangement of various Spanish carols in a new refreshed / 20th c. style! Admission is free. Reception following in the Parish Hall. **We will carpool from our front church parking lot at 4:45pm and eat dinner at a nearby restaurant before the 7:30pm concert. RSVP to Susan Lacy at 236-8304.**

awaken

Youth Ministry 7th – 12th Grade

DECEMBER

Dec 13th

CLASS 6:30—8:30 p.m.

Dec 13th

Las Posadas reenactment

Dec 20 - Jan 3

NO CLASS - Christmas Holiday

Dec 24th

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

JANUARY

Jan 10th

VOCATIONS presentation 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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!



Pancake Breakfast SUNDAY



Proceeds to benefit the Youth Ministry Toy Drive on Sunday, Dec 13th in the Hall of the Family Life Center after the 8:00 & 9:30 a.m. Masses. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Advent wreath

Paul Turner



An Advent wreath symbolizes our longing for the coming of Christ. The wreath is a circle of evergreen branches into which are set four candles. Traditionally three candles are violet and one is rose, but four violet or four white candles may also be used. The wreath symbolizes many things. Evergreens signify God's enduring promise of redemption, evident like green branches in the midst of snow. The circle signifies our hope for the return of Christ, whose kingdom will have no end. The colors of the candles match the traditional colors of the vesture for the four Sundays of Advent. Violet garments signify our penitent hope for salvation. The rose color, which may be worn on Advent's Third Sunday, signals that the season is nearly over – joy is at hand!

The wreath's most luminous symbol is its growing light. One candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent; two on the Second, three on the Third and all four on the Fourth. In the northern hemisphere, Advent comes at a time when the days decrease to their shortest length. As the hours of darkness increase, we light more candles on the wreath. The wreath, which symbolizes the coming of Christ, grows in intensity as the anniversary of Jesus' birth draws near. The Advent wreath may be used at home or at church. It should be blessed on the First Sunday of Advent after the homily at Mass, at evening prayer Saturday night, or during a prayer service including biblical readings and Advent songs. At home, the wreath could be blessed by a family member and lit during the evening meal, to remind everyone of the true meaning of this holy season.

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Posadas -- Paul Turner

Las posadas means "the inns" in Spanish and refers to a Mexican Christmas custom. Beginning Dec. 16, family and friends or communities recreate the experience of Mary and Joseph searching for a place to stay in Bethlehem. The celebration takes place in streets and homes with a powerful message. In the incarnation, God offered salvation to everyone, even the poor and homeless. A couple dressed as Joseph and Mary is accompanied by members of the community bearing candles. They walk in procession and approach a house in the neighborhood, praying and singing Christmas carols. They knock on the door and sing a special song for the celebration of Las Posadas. In this song Joseph, outside the house, requests lodging for the night because his wife is weary from the journey. Those inside sing back that they do not know the visitors and there is no room; the couple must go to another place. The candlelight procession continues to house after house. Finally, the residents of one home offer them shelter. All enter joyfully and celebrate a fiesta, complete with piñata. This liturgical drama takes place every night until Christmas Eve. The custom allows all to express their faith in Jesus, to tell the story of Christmas for the benefit of children, and to keep their hearts fixed on the true meaning of the season. It connects the present generation with the past and binds a neighborhood into a stronger community.

WEDNESDAY BLOOD DRIVE!

Give Blood. Our final 2009 BLOOD DRIVE
Give Life. will be held on Wednesday, Dec
16th from 3:00 until 8:00 PM in

the Hall of the Family Life Center. Since this is not a Sunday drive, we would like for our donors to make an appointment. You can do this easily on-line at giveblood.org (church id is 0628) or you can call Gilbert Bohuslav (297-6800) and he will do that for you. Walk-in's are welcome of course, but appointments have first priority. Christmas Season is the time of greatest need for blood, plus what better gift than the GIFT OF LIFE -- your own blood.

Come by to donate and you can:

- Get a FREE LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRT
- Have a HOT DOG on us! Hot Dogs for ALL Current Donors and Past Donors.
- Help to REPLENISH THE BLOOD USED BY Parishioner WELDON (PETE) ERMIS. The doctors gave our friend Pete 28 units of blood in his surgery before he passed away. This is our way of telling Pete's family how much we miss him and how much he meant to our Parish.

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.



In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

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.

November 2009: 97 home visits assisting 300 adults and children, providing 130 bags of food. Financial assistance for rent, utilities, etc. was \$4,315.33. Individual contributions \$2,911.36.

Thanksgiving Baskets: 66 Thanksgiving baskets providing for 309 adults and children. Individual contributions \$9,001.00. Awesome!

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