

The Second Sunday of Advent

This weekend's readings -- in fact, all the readings throughout the season of Advent -- invite us to prepare for the second coming of the Lord. The question is how do we do this? Is it through shopping and buying gifts, ordering this and planning that, putting up beautiful Christmas lights and decorating the house to make it look beautiful to the eyes? Or is it through decorating our inner temple -- the temple of the Holy Spirit, as Saint Paul said -- to prepare for the Lord to come, to be born again into our heart, mind and soul? Each Advent season is a time, I believe, for us to examine ourselves to see what is crooked, bent, curved, torn, or broken so as to try to repair it, straighten it, and so prepare for the second coming of the Lord.

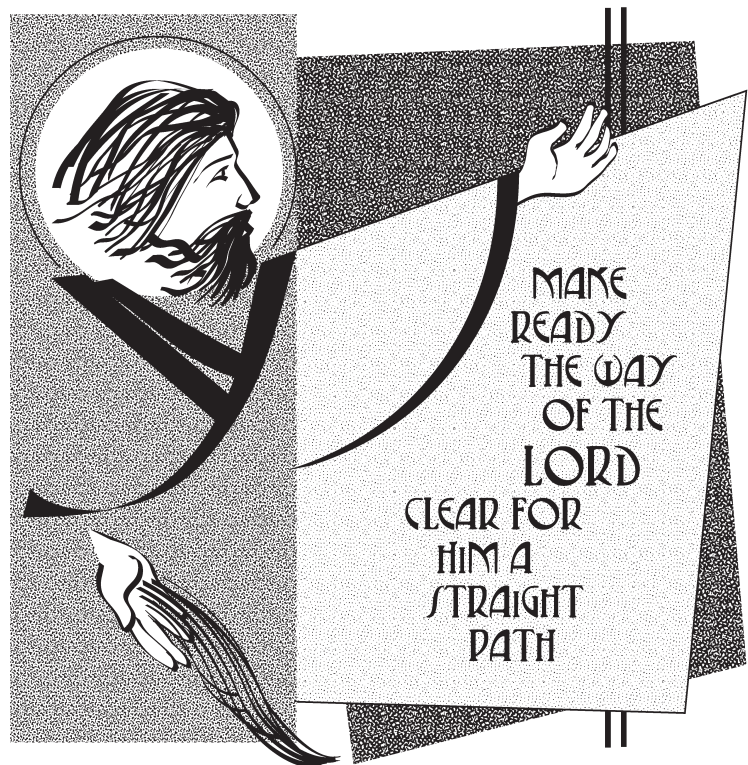
This preparation reminds me of the time of my own preparation for the priesthood. In this preparation, I had three experiences of rejection -- rejections which, I believe, called me to surrender my own will and which eventually helped to lead me to the priesthood.

I experienced my first rejection when I applied to Saint Joseph Seminary in Vietnam to study for the priesthood. I was rejected! Since it was a Communist country, in order for one to be admitted into the seminary, one had to be approved by the government. From the time that the war ended, back in 1975, until I applied to join seminary back in 1989, there was no relationship between America and Vietnam. I was rejected simply because, at that time, I had a brother and a sister living in America!

The second experience of rejection was when, back in 1992, I finally came to America. I came immediately to the Diocese of Corpus Christi to apply for the seminary. Once again, I was rejected, this time because I did not have a High School or GED diploma in America! I told myself that there was no way that I could study for the GED because of my very insufficient English, both in speaking and in writing! I thought that I would just never think about studying to become a priest anymore!

Amazingly, God worked in a mysterious way. I joined Gary Job Corps Center in San Marcos, Texas, my very first school in America! I hadn't committed any crime or done anything wrong. I simply joined that school to study a trade. Because it was run by the government, everything was free. I studied to get my GED because the authorities encouraged us by saying that, if we graduated with a GED, they would reward us with \$250! Miraculously, I passed the GED tests with the exact minimum points that they required! I applied again for the priesthood in the Diocese of Corpus Christi, and in 1995, I was accepted.

My third experience of rejection was my own rejection of God's call. After being accepted by the Diocese, I was sent to Del Mar College to study English since my English was very insufficient for the seminary. After a year of studying at Del Mar, the Diocese then sent me to the Pontifical College of the Josephinum in Columbus,



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OH. While there I discovered I could not adapt to the seminary life style! In addition, the Pontifical College of the Josephinum was not easy for me since my English was not yet adequate for seminary study. I decided, therefore, to leave the seminary after one year of study. This time the rejection was my own.

My experiences of rejection led me to believe that, in preparing for the second coming of the Lord, there are many obstacles, difficulties, challenges that discourage us, make us doubt, and might turn us away from the Church. However, I believe that if we surrender ourselves to the Lord and allow Him to come to us, to help us to fix what is crooked, bent, curved, holed, or broken, He will do so, no matter where the problem lies. It is important to remember this at this time of our anticipating the second coming of the Lord. At this time, this year of faith, or our yearning, we are strengthened by faith in the Lord Jesus to open up our heart, mind and soul to Him. We should fix what is possible for us to fix and invite the Lord to fix what seems impossible for us to do. Then, at the Second Coming of the Lord, he will find us ready and waiting for him.

- Fr. Joseph

Penance Services

Prepare your hearts for the celebration of Our Savior's Birth! We invite you to our Advent Penance Services on Monday, December 17th, at 12:00 noon and on Wednesday, December 19th, at 6:30pm. Several priests from around the Diocese will be available for confessions at each service.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is in the foyer of the Church. This year we have centered our parish giving on The Ark Assessment Center which presently cares for 34 children under the age of 13 and who have been taken from abusive and/or dysfunctional families. The ornaments on the tree represent items that can be used for them and given to them. If you take an ornament, please bring the items back to the church or church office by Friday, December 21st. Thank you for taking a special interest in this project. Your donation will help The ARK in serving these children. We will need a few families to help us take the items to The Ark. If you would like to volunteer, please call Sr. Barbara Netek at 993-9024 or 688-2654.

Rectory Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM

Schedule of Services

Masses: *First Friday: 5:30PM - Anointing of the Sick*

First Saturday: 8:15AM Vigil at 5:30PM.

Sunday: 8AM, 10AM, 12PM, 5:30PM (Youth Mass)

(Babysitting at 10AM and 12 noon Sunday Masses - Ages 6mo-5yrs - in Parish Hall Nursery)

Weekdays: Monday through Friday 8:15AM,

Wednesday & Friday 5:30PM

Holy Days: 7AM, 12PM & 6:30PM (Vigil 5:30PM)

Confessions: Saturdays - 4-5PM and 6:30-7:30PM

Marriages: By appointment only and notice six months in advance.

Weddings take place on weekdays any time and on Saturdays no later than 3:00PM

Baptismal Instruction: Pre-register through the office.

Anointing of the Sick: On request and at the 5:30PM Mass on First Fridays

Retirement Fund for Religious – This weekend

Give to those who have given a lifetime. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for many years for little, if any, pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate savings for retirement. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

Healing Mass this Friday

Our parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at Mass this coming Friday, December 14th, at 5:30 p.m. All who are infirmed, preparing for surgery, or advanced in years are particularly encouraged to join us for this Sacrament of Healing.

Welcome, new parishioners!

Please welcome our new parishioner, Monica Castillo. We invite her to become an active part of our growing faith community!

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

On Wednesday, December 12, 2012, we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the 8:15 a.m. Mass. The children from the school will make a special presentation of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Catholic Daughters will host a taquito breakfast in the parish hall after Mass. Join us in this parish tradition and celebration.

May They Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lily Dixon, Joe Ritch's great-grandmother, who died this past week at the age of 103. Also, for John K. Beauregard who was buried through our church last Thursday.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle gathering is on Wednesday, December 19. We will get together at 11:30 in the Parish Hall. Remember, you are invited to bring a small unwrapped toy to be given to a needy child.

Centennial of the Diocese of Corpus Christi

St. Andrew by the Sea - Located on Padre Island, St. Andrew by the Sea was originally envisioned by Bishop Thomas J. Drury as an outdoor pavilion where island visitors could fulfill their Sunday obligation dressed informally and near their vacation site. The church seats

Comings and Goings

The Week at a Glance



Sunday, December 9

8:00-10:00AM – RCIA – CC#2

Monday, December 10

3:30PM – Ballet – PH

5:00PM – Confirmation – YC

5:30PM – Journey Board – CC#1

8:00PM – Night Angels – CC#2

Tuesday, December 11

7:00-9:00AM – Men's Journey – CC#1&2

10:00AM – Journey – CC#2

12:30PM – MAP – CC#1

6:30PM – Women's Circle – PH

6:30PM – CMSE – CC#1

Wednesday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

7-9AM – Joyful Pillars – CC#2

9:00AM – Catholic Daughters' breakfast - PH

9:00AM-12:00PM – MAP – CC#1

9:30AM – Schola – C/R

12:00PM – Penguin Shoppe setup - PH

6:30PM – CCD – CC#1&2 & Cafeteria

Thursday, December 13

Penguin Shoppe setup - PH

1:00PM – Bridge – CC#1&2

4:30- 5:15PM – Webelos – CC#2

6:30PM – Bell Choir – C/R

7:00PM – Adoration - CH

7:30PM – Adult Choir – C/R

Friday, December 14

8AM – 4PM – School Penguin Patch Shoppe - PH

9:00-11:00AM – Women of Faith – CC#2

4:00PM – Webelos – CC#2

5:30PM – Healing Mass – CH

Sunday, December 16

2nd Collection: Black Bag

8:00-10:00AM – RCIA – CC#2

10:00AM – Scouts at Mass – CH & Cafeteria

1:30PM – Baptisms - CH

4:00-5:30PM – Boy Scouts class – CC#1&2

500 people on pre-cast concrete pews. Carpet squares are available to place on the sometimes too hot and sometimes too cold pews. In a niche behind the altar is a statue of Our Lady of Charity who saved three fishermen at sea during a storm.



YOUTH CORNER



6th-8th Graders

We want to welcome all of the Middle School students to the 1st Annual SPX Awards. Come out to the Youth Center at 6:30 pm to walk the Red Carpet!



9th-12th Graders

This Week - You're mailbox is full and in need of removing junk mail. Come out to Life Teen where Tweeting is the Word, and #JESUS for a special place in the feed. See you at the Youth Center at 6:30 pm.

Next Week - The Christmas season is in full-swing, and what better way to celebrate than with a Posada. It is truly a winter wonderland in Corpus Christi at the Youth Center. See you at 6:30 pm and don't forget to bring a friend for the glad tidings.

Summer Trip 2013: - Steubenville Florida and Universal Studios! Information coming soon.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CCD

PERFECT ATTENDANCE for November 28th! Congratulations to the following classes:

Third Grade—Ms McKenna, Catechist

Sacramental Prep IIb—Mr. & Mrs. Martinez, Catechists

These classes have had perfect attendance two weeks in a row. WOW!



SAFE ENVIRONMENT (CMSE) CLASSES

RE-CERTIFICATION: Please check your blue cards and if it is expired, attend one of the following recertification classes. There are some changes in the certification process and they will be explained to you. Please bring your expired certification card with you.

ALL CLASSES ARE IN CC#1 AT 6:30 pm

Re-certification class dates:

December 11	January 8
February 12	March 12
April 9	May 14

Altar Servers

Dec. 14 Healing Mass 5:30 p.m.

Gareth Purnell
Gabriel Purnell
Timothy Nye

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

MC Jackie Lara
Brianna Salazar
Emily Salazar
Daniel Tindall
Ayden Smith

Dec. 15-16 Sat. 5:30 p.m.

MC Brittany McCarty
Dalton Zawicky
Kyle Pekar

Sun. 12:00 p.m.

MC Sara Rucker
Ranger Quintero
Charlie Uecker
Sarah Calaway

Sun. 8:00 a.m.

MC Andrew Shull
MC Toby Shull
MC Tori Shull
Christian Ramos

Sun. 5:30 p.m.

MC Hannah DeGaish
Taylor Skrobarczyk
Amy Ayala
Noelle Apolinario

Lectors

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DEC 15	SAT 5:30	P.M.	Bud Colwell
DEC 15	SAT 5:30	P.M.	Harold Lee
DEC 16	SUN 8:00	A.M.	Norman Paris
DEC 16	SUN 8:00	A.M.	Carole Zanetti
DEC 16	SUN 10:00	A.M.	Kathy Clark
DEC 16	SUN 10:00	A.M.	Ralph Rodriguez
DEC 16	SUN 12:00	NOON	Clay Thompson
DEC 16	SUN 12:00	NOON	Margaret Thompson
DEC 16	SUN 5:30	P.M.	Simon Purnell
DEC 16	SUN 5:30	P.M.	Alma Tamez

Around the Diocese

"Third Saturday" Pro-life Mass & Rosary

Please join Fr. James Kelleher for the monthly Pro-life Mass this coming Saturday, December 15 th at 7:30am at St. Joseph's Church, 710 S. Nineteenth Street.

After Mass (about 8:30am) we leave the church while praying a rosary on a 20 minute walk with a safety escort to the corner of Crosstown & Morgan Street. There we pray a second 20 minute rosary, followed by a third rosary during the 20 minute walk back to St. Joseph's Church. There's an informal meet-&-greet gathering afterwards at a nearby restaurant.

Everyone's welcome to the Mass and/or any part of the event. NO RSVP needed, just show up—dressed for the weather. If details needed, call parishioner Ruben Rodriguez 779-3599.

School News

By Principal Kathy Clark



If you were to ask any of our students what they did last week in school, they would probably answer that they did a lot of practicing... practicing for the Christmas Program that will be presented on December 18, or practicing for the play that the 5th graders will present for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. They have also been practicing the Christmas songs in their music classes with Mrs. Bryan. But as we all know the old saying is true, "Practice makes perfect." By the time they present their plays and sing their songs, they will do it perfectly, I am sure. If anyone is interested in attending either of our plays, know that you are welcome. The Guadalupe play will take place during the 8:15 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, December 12. Afterwards, parishioners are invited to go over to the Parish Hall for tacos and tamales. Our Christmas Program will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the church. All of the students will be performing in that one. Our Christmas plays are always special because they are all about the Nativity, the real reason for the season.

Our 2nd graders took their Christmas songs on the road last week when they visited Villa Assisted Living Home and sang songs to the residents there. Afterwards they went to see the Christmas Tree Forest at the Art Museum. It was a fun, rewarding field trip for them, for they got to eat at Whataburger afterwards! Thanks, Peeps in Mrs. Daehne's class!

Our students will get to go shopping at the Santa's Secret Shop this week. There will be gifts to buy for every member of the family. A list of the items and their prices will be sent home on Monday. The children will preview the items on Wednesday, and then do their actual shopping on Thursday and Friday, December 13 and 14. Their gifts will be wrapped for them and ready to place under their Christmas tree. This is a project that our PTO has taken on in the past few years. It is always a big hit with the students.

Our school was presented with a check for \$150 from the KJT Society last weekend. Two other Catholic schools, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Incarnate Word Elementary also received donations from this fraternal organization. We appreciate the KJT Society for supporting our school and Catholic education in general.

We recently received word that 23 of our 5th and 6th graders will become published authors! They all entered an essay contest sponsored by Creative Communications.

Their English teacher, Mrs. Urbis, does a great job of teaching these young writers the basics of good writing, a good skill to have for the future. She encourages them to use their imagination as well as good descriptive words when writing. It's no wonder that we have winners every year from these two classes. Congratulations, students!

Rise up
JERUSALEM
stand upon
the
heights



Our fabulous PTO presented the school with a check for \$50,000 last week. This is a result of their hard work and dedication to our school. The two fundraisers, the Fall Fundraiser and the Halloween Carnival and Silent Auction, were both very successful. There seems to be no limit to what these go-getters can do under President Jackie Heath's directions. We are blessed to have them at our school.

Have a blessed week!



Mass Intentions



- Sat. 12/8 8:15AM John Ley by Ellsworth & Ley families
 10:00AM Mary Fitzgerald's Anniversary by the Fitzgerald girls
 5:30PM Nancy T. Rodriguez by Ruben Rodriguez
- Sun. 12/9 8:00AM Betty Schacherl by the Didear family
 10:00AM Robert Conwell by the Conwell family
 12:00PM Renato De Los Santos' Anniversary by family
 5:30PM For the Parishioners
- Mon. 12/10 8:15AM Clarice Ditommaso by the Didear family
 Paul Irvin by John, Debra & Brian Janosek
- Tue. 12/11 8:15AM Mireille Smith by Vernon Smith
- Wed. 12/12 8:15AM Sarah Pigott's Anniversary by the Pigott family
 Arturo Vasquez, Sr. by Marie Vasquez
 John Kelly by Kathleen Horne
 Mary Kelly by Kathleen Horne
 The Thise Family by Ardeth Weed
 5:30PM Frances D. Guerrero by the Ramirez, Leal & Hinojosa families
 Emil Krnavek's Anniversary by Theresie Krnavek
 Ricardo Perez by M/M Jorge Perez
 Virginia Saenz by family
 Filiberto Martinez by Carolyn Canchola
 Ruben Landin by M/M Brent Ocker
 Jonathan Palacio by Mom & Dad
- Thu. 12/13 8:15AM Jennie R. Achee by Anna Vrazel
- Fri. 12/14 8:15AM Michael Pacheco, Jr. by Penny Pacheco
 5:30PM Higinio F. Perez & Arnold Perez by Zoila Perez
 Alicia T. Hinojosa by Berta T. Guerrero & family
- Sat. 12/15 5:30PM Evalyn Morrison by Bonnie Heinz
- Sun. 12/16 8:00AM Robert Ollech by Mary & Earl Saylor
 10:00AM Sig Black by Isabel Black
 12:00PM Chester Zablocki by Aneda Zablocki
 5:30PM For the Parishioners



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Please Pray for our Sick & Shut-Ins:

Manuel Balbin, Madison Beckwith, Don Birt, Sgt. 1st Class William Boone, Bill Brumback, Bob Byrd, Stella & Michael Campos, Ashley Carroll, Reana Carter, Riana Carter, Sherry Coveyou, Jason Cox, Alicia de Boza, Florinda De La Garza, Mark DeGaish, Sandy DeGregorio, Minga DeLosSantos, Samantha Didear Deste, Liz Elovitz, Yolanda Escobar, Juan A. Flores, Bobby Floyd, Raymond Garcia, Jr., Elida Gonzalez, Bobby Gough, Glenda Graham, Vickie Grainger, Maria Griffin, Charlotte & Tommy Groner, Jared Groner, Terry Groner, Coleen Habeeb, Marie Habeeb, Rose Marie Hand, James Hartman, Corina Herndon, Cathy Hervey, Chris Holland, Lucas Jean-Baptiste Ramirez, Matteo Jean-Baptiste Ramirez, Elizabeth Johnson, Martha Kaler, Mary Kelly, Dorothy Krause, Arlene Leep, Ed Lewis, Alois Lup, Arlene Lup, Cynthia Lup, Dorothy Mathews, Michael McCloskey, Jean McCullough, Virginia Medrano, Robert Miller, John Morgan, Dan Murray, Patricia Paris, Phil Perabo, Robert M. Pope, Ron Randolph, Raymond Richter, Marguerite Ross, Luis Salazar, Tim Salch, Janie San Miguel & children, Amber Saylor, Terry Schacherl, Josephine Sheldon, Tina Shepherd, Msgr. Richard Shirley, Willie Mae Shirley, Mary Pat Slavik, Maxine Sommers, Adrian Sosa, Lydia Tey, Idolina Vela, Luz Villarreal, Melva Walet, Mary Lois Webster, Bea Wilson, Dolly Zihelli, Sarah Zuniga and all those who asked for and need our prayers.

Financial Report for week ending 12/2/2012

Operating Revenue:

Sunday Collection.....	\$ 26,577.01
Other Income.....	\$ 1,133.00
Restless Heart Ticket Sales.....	\$ 795.00
Total Operating Revenue.....	\$ 28,505.01

Other Contributions:

Acts of Charity	\$ 55.00
Janosek Scholarship	\$ 25.00
Retirement Religious	\$ 6.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 50.00
Total Other Contributions.....	\$ 136.00
Total Contributions 12/2/2012	\$ 28,641.01

Loan balance on Youth Bldg

as of November 30, 2012 \$ 971,135.00

