

Thoughts Along the Way

Advent – Preparing our Hearts to Welcome the Lord

We are now into our Second Week of Advent. For many generations, Thanksgiving has been the gateway into the Christmas Season, and Christians have struggled to keep the Season of Advent.

Times change things. Now the Friday after Thanksgiving is called “Black Friday” for its significance to the Christmas *shopping* season. Peace, gratitude, and rest now give way to hustle, bustle, and greed.

Last Friday after Thanksgiving once again witnessed appalling scenes around the country. That greed is as far removed from the spirit of Christmas as evil King Herod’s slaying of the Innocents! That greed is what happens when God disappears from the picture! That greed is precisely what we are here to smother with the love of God and melt away with the light of Christ!

When faced with the materialism and greed of this time of year, how differently we as Christians can respond! We look at Thanksgiving as leading us into the Season of Advent—preparation, expectation, and waiting for the coming of Christ.

Yes, we will celebrate with joy his first coming among us at Christmastime; but we are also redirecting, reordering, and reprioritizing our lives in anticipation of his coming again in Glory to draw all the world—including us—into himself.

Take a little extra time for prayer and reflection this Advent Season. How appropriate are these words from Blessed Theresa of Calcutta to help us prepare our hearts by prayer:

The fruit of Silence is Prayer.

The fruit of Prayer is Faith.

The fruit of Faith is Love.

The fruit of Love is Service.

The fruit of Service is Peace.

Mother Theresa

Let’s also make some additional time to build the bonds of family and community. Last week I offered a challenge to make special time this Advent for a Family Night. I repeat the challenge:

Advent Challenge to Families:

PLEASE TAKE ONE NIGHT A WEEK each week of Advent FOR A FAMILY NIGHT.

Have Dinner together + Pray together

Light your Advent Wreath together + Talk with each other

Spend time together

Single and widowed parishioners can support families! Reach out to a family, help a family, and pray for a family.

Let’s let the Lord make this a blessed Advent,

Fr. Matthew O’Leary

Pastor

Our Saints

December 6—ST. NICHOLAS was a fourth century bishop of Myra (now in southwestern Turkey), known for his holy life, pastoral skills, and legendary charity, especially toward poor children. In America, he became popularized as Santa Claus, after seventeenth century English settlers heard Dutch speakers say *Sinterklaas* for St. Nicholas. He is the patron of Russia, Greece, children, sailors, and bakers.

December 9—JUAN DIEGO was a native convert who in 1531 received two visits from Our Lady at Tepeyac, near Mexico City. Thereafter, Juan Diego devoted himself to the pilgrims who came to see the miraculous image of Mary imprinted on his cloak. He was canonized in 2002.

Coming Events this Advent

GOD & COFFEE

CATHOLICISM – The Series – “The Teachings of Jesus”

Ground-breaking program by internationally acclaimed teacher Fr. Robert Barron uses the art, architecture, literature, music, and all the treasures of the Church to help us achieve a greater understanding of the Catholic Faith.

Fr. Matthew will host the hour-long episode, and lead discussion afterward. This is one of the best presentations of the Catholic Faith in modern times!

All welcome.

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Holy Day of Obligation

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 PM

Holy Disciples—Thursday, December 8, 7:30 PM

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Holy Disciples

Saturday, December 10, 10:00AM

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Saturday, December 17, 10:00AM

Advent Simple Potluck

After 5:00PM Mass Saturday December 17th.
Bring a dish to share, you own place setting and a drink.
Share the season with your Parish community

“WORK OF HUMAN HANDS” SALE

December 3rd and 4th

After Masses

Unique gifts crafted by artists from around the world.

Catalogs are available to order additional items.

This is a Fair Trade project through

Catholic Relief Services.

Sponsored by Holy Disciples

Justice in Action Commission

Widow & Widowers Dinner

Friday, December 9, will be the next dinner sponsored by the Grief Ministry for widows and widowers. Meet at Northwest Vintage Restaurant, 10404 156th St. E near the Sunrise Target, at 5:30PM. For more information, call Barbara Smith at 253-262-2047 or Maryanne King at 253-847-9763.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY DISCIPLES
PARISH

Monday, December 5

Mom & Tot Group in Church Nursery-9:30AM-

Breakfast Potluck

Silver Threads Exercise Class-10:30AM

HAP -6:30PM

Monday Night Bible Study-7:00PM

SVDP Council Meeting-7:00PM

Novena-7:00PM

Tuesday, -December 6

HAP-3:30PM

Junior High-6:00PM

Hospitality-6:30PM

8:30AM Choir-7:00PM

Bible Study-7:00PM

Novena-7:00PM

Wednesday, December 7

Rosary-8:40AM

Mass-9:00AM

Bible Study-10:00AM

Silver Threads Exercise Class-10:30AM

New Creation Choir-7:00PM

Novena-7:00PM

Thursday, December 8

Rosary-8:40AM

Mass-9:00AM-Holy Day of Obligation

Many Faces of Holy Disciples-9:00AM

Senior High-6:00PM

Novena-6:00PM

Mass-7:00PM-Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, December 9

Rosary-8:40AM

Mass-9:00AM

Silver Threads Exercise Class-10:30AM

Martial Arts-7:30PM

Novena-7:00PM

Saturday, December 10

Facilities Commission-9:00AM

Penance Service-10:00AM

Faith Formation-3:30PM

Mass-5:00PM

K of C Family Potluck-6:15PM

Novena-7:00PM

Sunday, December 11

8:30AM-Mass

New Creation Choir-9:00AM

Mass-10:30AM

Confirmation for Youth-12:00PM

Vigil for Our Lady of Guadalupe-7:00PM

Scrip Fundraiser after Masses

July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012

Total FY Offering Budget:
Week 22 November 27, 2011
Our Financial Stewardship

Year To Date:

Offerings Received Nov. 26/27, 2011	\$ 13,701.92
FY '11-12 Year To Date Budgeted:	\$ 309,775.62
FY '11-12 Year To Date Received:	\$ 278,691.92
FY '11-12 Year To Date Surplus:	\$
FY '11-12 Year To Date Shortage:	\$ (31,083.70)

Parish Mortgage Loan & Payment Status

Total Loan Amount:	\$ 2,836,486.44
FY '11-12 Interest Paid To Date:	\$ 27,135.36
FY '11-12 Principal Paid To Date:	\$ 0.00
FY '11-12 Total Payments:	\$ 27,135.39
Interest Past Due (as of 10/31/11):	\$ 218,713.39

Other Donations:

Food Bank	\$ 700.74
SVDP	\$ 40.00
Other	\$ 55.00

Thank You To All For Your Stewardship Support!
Let us know if you have any questions.

The Members of Your Finance Council are:

Denny Woyak (Chairman), Susie Brown (Bookkeeper),
Bob Lorenz, Chuck Nicholas, Walt Kuehlthau,
Janice Melodia, Kory Pederson
Fr. Matthew O'Leary (Pastor)



MANY FACES OF HOLY DISCIPLES

Immaculate Conception Novena

When: Continues through Dec. 7th at 7:00PM, on the Dec. 8th the novena will begin at 6:00PM prior to the start of Mass.

A novena was begun on Wednesday, Nov. 30 in preparation for the holy day of obligation for the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. Special prayers will be shared along with praying the Rosary each night. Everyone is invited to attend.

Vigil for Our Lady of Guadalupe

When: Sunday, Dec. 11 from 7:00-10:00PM
Following the prayer vigil, all are invited to stay for a brief reception.

LITURGY-December 10/11

Sacristans:

5:00PM-Mimi Lampert

8:30AM-Sheri Hodson

10:30AM- Jan-Marie Glaze

Linen Warrior-Ann Stumpf

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00PM-Juan Guzman, Mimi Lampert, Tim Maguire, Ken & Marcia Maertens, Julie Wiesen, Ivonne Martinez, Mary Jo Risse, Sharon Rothwell

8:30AM- Dee Craig, Peggy Hager, Michael Hodson, Michelle Jacobs, Walt Kuehlthau, Joanne Maitrejean, Charlie Nicholas, Don Fouraker, Gloria Jean

10:30AM- Pam Nelson, Lucy Phillips, Adriana Posada, Oscar Rodreguez, Maria Rodreguez, Barbara Smith, Susan Taylor, Mary Tillman, Karon Manisco

Lectors:

5:00PM-Colleen Herzog, Lori Marchetti

8:30AM-Sheri Hodson, Margaret Kinsey

10:30AM-Mary Ann Carr, Julie Wals

Altar Servers:

5:00PM-Amanda, Duncan, Jack C.

8:30AM-Sean, Diana, Mikey

10:30AM-Zaid, Sulemma, Ximena

Coffee & Donut Fellowship:

8:30AM Mass:

10:30AM Mass:

LITURGY

Readings for the Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-14; Mark 1: 1-8

Readings for the Immaculate Conception-December 8

Genesis 3: 9-15, 20; Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12;
Luke 1: 26-38

Readings for the Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24;
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

December 4: Second Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Junior High-We gather on Dec. 6 at 6:00PM to decorate cookies for the holidays. Friends are always welcome! We will have a Christmas celebration on Dec. 13, details will be available at this week's meeting.

Senior High-We gather on Dec. 8 at 6:00PM to decorate cookies for the holidays. Friends are always welcome! We will have a Christmas celebration on Dec. 15, details will be available at this week's meeting.

SACRAMENTAL PREP FOR 7TH-12TH GRADE

Our next gathering is Dec. 18 following the 10:30AM Mass.

Altar server training for baptized Catholics ages 10 and up is scheduled for this Sunday, Dec 4th, 2-5pm-ish (may finish early), in the main worship space at Holy Disciples Catholic Parish. Interested please see Carmen!

DEPLOYED PARISHIONERS

Aaron, Alex, Anthony, Bill, Bryce, Conrado, Damian, Dave, Denise, Dennis, Dominic, Don, Donald, Eric, Greg, James, Jeff, Joe, John, Joseph, Kim, Mark, Matthew, Noel, Richard, Rick, Ryan, Sara, Sam, Thomas.

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as you protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need. Amen."

Please remember these individuals in your prayers:

Sue Ford, Monica Harvey, Delores Reed.

When the names of the ill have been in the spoken Prayers of the Faithful for a month or more, they will then be remembered in our prayers from this list in the bulletin.

SILVER THREADS

We will be going to McGee's to do our Christmas caroling and handing out the "Goody Bags" filled with homemade cookies, candy and fruit on Tuesday, December 13, at 12:15PM. We will meet at the church on Monday, December 12, at 1:00PM to put the gift bags together. After our trip to McGee's, we will go to Rock Wood Fired Pizza (all you can eat) to have lunch together. Please sign up on the Silver Threads board at the back of the church. **HOMEMADE COOKIES GLADLY ACCEPTED**

Religious Education Faith Formation Kindergarten thru Grade 6

Classes are on regular schedule this weekend and next!

Christmas break begins December 17th.
Classes then resume January 7th.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated
Friday, January 13th 6:30PM
& Saturday, January 14th at 10:00AM

Adult Education Opportunities

Advent Little Blue Books are available!

The Little Blue Books that we have offered for the past several years are once again available in the back of the church. Please take one home to assist you in your spiritual preparations for the Christmas season.

Warning!!!

This Advent season, a six minute a day commitment to prayer may be life changing!

The Many Faces Ministry of Holy Disciples invites everyone to the Simbang Gabi mass on December 16 @ 7:00PM, Friday.

"SIMBANG GABI translated as "Night Mass." Also known as "Misa de Gallo" it is because the Mass takes place at dawn when the "gallo" or cock crows. It is a nine-day novena to the Blessed Mother as we wait for the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ. In the Philippines, the novena begins December 16 as early as 4 in the morning and ends on Dec. 24."

There will be a Commissioning Mass on December 10, 2011, Saturday @ 11:00 AM at St. James Cathedral. To make this mass successful, we need your attendance and participation in the potluck that follows the Mass. Sign up sheets for those who wish to attend and bring a potluck dish are available in the back of the church.

For more information please call the following contact person: Carmen Bryant@ (253)8756630, Susan Taylor (253)847-0388, Bernie Estibal (253)845-4018 or Wanda Hays at 253-232-3280.