

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

KEY VERSE: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" (v 23).

READING: John made his appearance in the desert announcing the coming of the Messiah. John came to testify, not to himself, but to the light that was coming into the world. A deputation of religious leaders came to interview John asking who he was.

Rather, John declared who

he was not. John was not the Messiah, but one who bore witness on his behalf. Neither was John the prophet Elijah who was expected to precede the coming of the Lord (Mal 3:23). Nor did John claim to be a prophet like Moses (Dt 18:15). John explained who he was by saying that he was simply a voice crying out: "Make ready the way of the Lord" (Is 40:3). But they asked John what right did he have to baptize? Baptism was not for Jews; it was proselytes from other faiths. John answered that we was only baptizing with water. But there was one among them that they did not recognize. John declared that he was not worthy to untie the straps of his shoes, the menial work of slaves. John's function was to prepare the way for one who would baptize with the fire of the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:11).
REFLECTING: Do my words and actions give testimony to Jesus' coming?

PRAYING: Lord Jesus, help me to bear witness to you in my words and deeds.



Gaudete Week

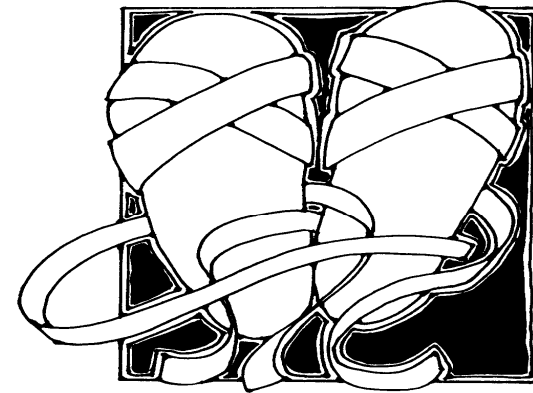
Our week begins with "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Introit "Rejoice in the Lord always!" The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, "The Lord is near." This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestment used at the Eucharist during Mass.

Holy Family Parish
National Catholic Church
1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport, Pa. 15132

412.678.0566 Rectory; Auditorium 412.664.7009

www.hfpncc.org

THE ONE WHO IS
COMING AFTER ME



I AM NOT WORTHY
TO UNTIE THE THONG
OF HIS SANDAL. JOHN 1:27

December 14, 2008

Third Sunday of Advent

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements, please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.276.5562 or 412.678.0566. **Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Father by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at BSleczkowski@aol.com

Parish Staff:

Fr. Bruce Slezczkowski, Pastor 412.276.5562
Ted Gibala, Committee Chairman 412.678.7347
Dr. Donald Mushalko, Chopin Choir Director 412.678.4437
Wendy Blotzer, Organist, Bell Choir 412.673.4495
Deborah Parknavy, SOCL Coordinator
David Kost, Lector Coordinator
Parish Custodian 412.678.7347



OPENING HYMN "There's A Voice in the Wilderness" Pew Hymnal, Song 11
 ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING Sheets in Pews
 INTRODUCTORY RITE Page 63
 INTROIT Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm 119:151,162
 P: Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.
R: You are near, O Lord; by Your edict give me life. I rejoice at Your promise, as one who has found rich spoil.
 P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end.
 THE KYRIE Page 67
 OPENING PRAYER
 LITURGY OF THE WORD
 First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
 Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 61:10
L: My soul rejoices in my God.
R: My soul rejoices in my God.
 Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 Alleluia Verse
 C: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
 C: The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me: He sent Me to bring Good News to the poor.
R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
 Gospel John 1:6-9, 19-28
 NICENE CREED Page 71
 HOMILY
 GENERAL INTERCESSION
R: Lord, Hear our Prayer
 PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS
 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
 SANCTUS Page 76
 CANON Eucharistic Prayer 1 Page 77
 THE LORD'S PRAYER All Sing Page 95
 LAMB OF GOD Page 97
 COMMUNION Page 98
 POST COMMUNION PRAYER
 BLESSING Page 100
 CLOSING HYMN "O Come Divine Messiah" Pew Hymnal Song 15

The Children of our Nursery School under the direction of Kristen Korenoski will light the Advent wreath each week. Please use the Advent Liturgy Booklet in pews.

Christmas Oplatki is available in the rear of the Church

Advent Meditation Booklets are available in the Book Rack in the Narthex

Wigilia Dinner Wine

For a \$10.00 donation to the Chopin & Annunciation Bell Choir, the choirs will give you a gift of sacramental wine of your choice for your Wigilia Dinners. Donations will be accepted during the coffee hour after Mass or through the parish office.

Hall & Church Decoration

The SAMBS ladies will be decorating the hall all day Tuesday, December 16th for the annual Wigilia Dinner. Church decoration will be on Saturday, December 20th at 9:00 A.M. Everyone is invited, young and old.

2009 Special Intentions Reservations

If you would like to reserve special dates for Mass Intentions or special events during the 2009 year, please see Father Bruce and he will mark these dates in the parish Ordo.

Eucharist Visit for Shut -Ins

Please call 412.276.5562 to make arrangements for Christmas Eucharist visitations for our home bound parish family members. The Christmas Schedule has been sent to all parishioners. If you have not received yours, then we may have a wrong address. Also, extra Christmas Schedules will be available in the book stand located in the Narthex.

Christmas Projects

This is the season of giving. Help support the many charitable organizations that the community sponsors; Salvation Army; American Red Cross; Local Food Banks; Toys for Tots; Department Store and Business Angel Trees. There are so many worthwhile projects to help make the season of Christmas better for those less fortunate in the community.

Christmas Trees

The parish will be purchasing several permanent Christmas Trees to be used in decorating the Church. Donations will be gladly accepted. Please make check payable to Holy Family Parish and give to Fr. Bruce.

Tri County Choral "Advent Meditations"

An Advent concert will be performed on Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 P.M. by the Tri County Choral Institute's "Village Singers" here in Holy Family Parish. This group is composed of 60 auditioned singers from the surrounding counties in western Pennsylvania and will present traditional and contemporary songs of the Advent/Christmas season. Come and be inspired as we wait for the coming of the Lord. A free will offering will be taken after the concert.

Parish Wigilia Dinner

Sunday, December 21, 2008 5:30 P.M.

Adults \$15.00 Child (under 12) \$7.00

For Tickets and reservations call Barb Tadajski 412.953.7823

or Karen Bongiorno 412.754.1411

Come & enjoy good traditional food, music and koledy.

Youth Annual Poinsettia Sale

Orders are now being taken for the annual poinsettia sale. This year's donation is the same as last year's, \$10.00 a flower pot. Flowers can be purchased for blessings received or for memorials to loved ones. Angie Jobes will once again coordinate the sale this year.

2009 Parish Envelopes are in the Church Narthex. Envelopes this year will include the mandatory obligations: General Church Fund, Diocesan Development, 6% Fund. Our parish Stewardship program includes only the funds that remain in our parish and not the special envelopes that go to special programs of the Church. Please take yours home. If there is no envelope with your name, contact the parish office. For any questions, speak with Father. 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 — "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."



"For in God our hearts rejoice; in Your holy name we trust. May Your kindness, Lord, be upon us; we have put our hopes in You!

Psalm 33:22

THEME: What way can I bring joy to someone?

The prophet Isaiah announces glad tidings to the dispirited and broken hearted. God who is mighty does great things for us! God frees all those bound in physical, emotional, and mental prisons. God is a faithful bridegroom who has not forgotten his beloved bride. God is a gardener who makes justice spring forth from the barren ground.

"Rejoice always and in all ways!" Paul entreats. As we await the Lord's coming, we should never stop praying, and giving thanks to God. The Spirit invites us to grow and change, perfecting us in every way to make us a holy and whole people so that we can greet the Lord with joy when He comes.

John announces the glad tidings of the coming of the Lord. John is not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophets. He is simply a "voice" crying out in the wilderness: "prepare the way of the Lord!" Like John, we are called to be messengers of good news. To a sad and weary world we proclaim: "my soul rejoices in God my Savior."

Sunday Ministry Schedules

<u>This Week</u>	9:00 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Lectors	Youth	B. Zaucha
Greeter	J. Gibala	S. Kish
Ushers	Youth	T. Zaucha
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers

<u>Next Week</u>	9:00 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Lectors	Blue Team	B. Zaucha
Greeters	H. Albeck	A. Fioravanti
Ushers	H. Matczak & N. Rushnock	J. Wagner
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers



This Week

Sunday, December 14, 2008

Advent 3

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Holy Mass	9:00 A.M.
+ <u>Dorothy Gibala</u> Int. M/M Ted Gibala & + <u>Josephine Kijowski</u> Int. M/M Anthony Palko.	
Nursery School	9:00 A.M.
SOCL	10:15 A.M.
Coffee Hour sponsored by Chopin Choir	10:15 A.M.
SAMBS Monthly Meeting	10:30 A.M.
Holy Mass	11:30 A.M.

Monday, December 15, 2008

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Frederic Chopin Choir Rehearsal 7:30 P.M.

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Parish Council Meeting 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 20, 2008

Church Decoration	9:00 A.M.
First Communion Class	10:00 A.M.

Sunday, December 21, 2008

Advent 4

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Holy Mass	9:00 A.M.
+ <u>Tom Tondera</u> Int. wife Kay & + <u>Omar Craig</u> Int. M/M David Kost and family.	
Coffee Hour sponsored by Chopin Choir	10:15 A.M.
Holy Mass	11:30 A.M.
Village Singers Advent Meditation Concert	3:00 P.M.
Parish Wigilia Dinner	5:30 P.M.

There will be no SOCL Classes next Sunday

SOCL Sarris Candy Orders

Can be picked up after Mass today. See Carol Popovic.

Enjoy Books

The 2008-2009 Enjoy Books have been reduced to \$25.00. See Ted Gibala after Mass to purchase the Enjoy Book. Using just two/three coupons pays for the price of the book and offers you various restaurants and events at discount prices throughout the year to enjoy with someone you love. The Enjoy Book is a great Christmas gift

Holiday Cooking

The season's approaching when we will be spending time preparing festive meals in our homes. Need ideas or a special recipe? No problem, our SAMBS has "Feasting with Traditions II" cookbook available now reduced at \$5.00. See any SAMBS Member for a copy. These cookbooks make great gifts for family and friends

God's Field

A reminder that payments for subscriptions to the Church publication God's Field (Rola Boza) are now due. Rates have increased to \$20.00 due to postal rates. Every member should receive this bimonthly newspaper filled with religious articles, church doctrine and parish events. Don't forget to subscribe via the parish envelope system today.

Parish Family Tree

A special Christmas Tree will be set up in the Church Narthex designated as the Holy Family Parish Family Tree. It is requested that all families of the parish bring an ornament from home and place it on the tree representing the relationship that we all share as one Church Family of God through Jesus Christ.

