

Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent B 1
Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

A Christmas Wish List

Young children sit on Santa's lap to answer the question that consumes them these days: What do you want for Christmas?

The child in each of us still wants stuff like toys and new clothes. But deep inside us we have more basic needs. We need security, fairness, and love. We want something huge for Christmas. We want peace on earth and justice for the oppressed. We want poverty eliminated and wars ceased.

Isaiah promises we will not be disappointed. He promises that God will do such wondrous things that justice and praise will spring up in every nation. When God is the joy of our soul, Isaiah says, a robe of salvation clothes us and a mantle of justice enfolds us. When God is our joy, we feel as rich as royalty, no matter how poor our state.

What does the earth want for Christmas? It wants good news for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, liberty for captives, and release for prisoners. The earth wants what God alone can provide.

What do you want for Christmas? Is it something for you or something for the earth? Will it hinder or help the earth get what it needs?

Readings For Next Sunday December 18, 2011

1st Reading...2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b -12, 14a, 16
2nd Reading...Rom 16: 25-27
Gospel...Lk 1:26 -38 (11)

MASS INTENTIONS Week of December 12, 2011

Monday	Noon	Lewis Michael Wedlington
Tuesday	Noon	John "J.R" Finn
Wednesday	Noon	Loraine Zoeller
Thursday	Noon	Irene Moosmann
Friday	Noon	John & Peggy Hancock
Saturday	4:00pm	Ozzie Denham
Sunday	8:30am	Patricia Hoeck
	10:30am	St. Raphael Community

Stewardship Reflection

"Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16

The opposite of stewardship is self-pity and ingratitude. Stewardship is about gratitude and rendering constant thanks. We can't give what we don't have. Stewardship means being aware of how much we've received. After that realization, giving is a mandate.

ALTAR SERVERS Week of December 12, 2011

Monday	Noon	J. Gates, J. Grieve, M. R. Raque
Tuesday	Noon	W. Wells, J. Bonafede
Wednesday	Noon	J. Bowen, Em. Boyce
Thursday	Noon	S. Sternberg, El. Boyce, H. Korfhage
Friday	Noon	A. Brown, S. Buck
Saturday	4:00pm	R. Gates, S. Meyer, E. Azzara
Sunday	8:30am	K. Haas, N. McGrath
	10:30am	A. Miles, J. Penezic C. Helgesen, J. Wessling C. Buchart, A. Halvarson

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION December 17 & 18

4:00pm...Team B	Jim Gates, Capt., Corrie Orthober, Bob Massey, Elizabeth Auffrey, Patrick Auffrey,
8:30am...Team B...	Jeff Spoelker, Capt., Pat Lally, Elaine Fernandez, Dennis Cowhig, Tony Creed, John Werkman
10:30am..Team B...	Karen Willinger, Capt., Maureen Gibson, Carolyn Bell, Angela Dutton, Katie Taliaferro, Ryan Taliaferro

LECTORS December 17 & 18

4:00pm...	Tony Nall, Sheila Kaelin
8:30am...	Lisa Hartung, Paul Tichenor
10:30am...	Tom Lane, Bill Stangel

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS December 2011

4:00pm...	David Worland, (Capt), Joe O'Toole, Joe and Marian Ackerman
8:30am...	Lisa and Chris Hartung (Capts), Pet and Mike Markwell, Mike and Kyle Haas
10:30am...	Frank, Anne (Capts), Chris Raymond, Pat Wessel, Carolyn Bell, Gerry Cambron

GIFT BEARERS December 17 & 18

4:00pm ...	Pat & Robert Sheehan
8:30am ...	Michael & Perpetua Markwell
10:30am ...	Kiesler Family

Youth News

2012 High School Mission Trip: The Youth Ministry Program is currently discussing the dates and location for their 2012 Summer Mission Trip. This past summer, six high school youth went on a mission to Philadelphia. Please contact Nick Cummins if you are a High School Student interested in attending.

Providing Meals for Ronald McDonald House

St. Raphael is participating in a new social concerns outreach program. We have teamed with the Ronald McDonald House to provide a meal on the 4th Sunday of every month. The Ronald McDonald House provides lodging to those families who have children staying at Kosair Children's Hospital for prolonged periods of time. These families are from the surrounding counties and beyond in Kentucky and elsewhere. We will provide a meal to be served by our parishioners. If you provide part of the meal and are unavailable to stay to serve, you can deliver the item(s) to the Ronald McDonald House or drop it off to another parishioner that will be serving. At this time we are looking for volunteers to sign up in advance for the upcoming months. We will need 3 members to serve with a total of 5 providing parts of the meal. The following are dates of need: January 22, February 26 and March 25. Please call or email Beth at 459-3829 or elizabethdels@hotmail.com for more information to sign up. (Please note the number in last weeks bulletin was incorrect.)

2011 End of the Year Contributions / Tax Statements

Please be sure and have your 2011 contributions turned in to the Parish Resource Center no later than **December 31, 2011**. Tax statements will contain any donation made through your monthly contribution envelopes. These include: Sunday, Holyday, and Archdiocesan collections for which envelopes were provided in your packet. Gifts of stock to the parish will be listed separately on your statement listing the type and number of shares.

Christmas Party For Sarafun Members

Don't forget the Christmas party for Sarafun Members on Sunday December 11th. Social hour 5:30 pm and Dinner 6:30 pm in the Blue Room.

Retired Religious Need Your Support

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps insure that elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests receive the care they so richly deserve, now and in the future. Please give generously to today's second collection.

The Art Beck St. Vincent DePaul Christmas Food Program

The St. Vincent DePaul Society will be assembling food baskets after the 10:30 mass. If you would like to help, please come to the school and enter through the doors across from the cafeteria. Baskets will be delivered on Saturday, December 17th and we need your help. If you can assist in delivering please be at St. Raphael by 8:00 am on the 17th. We will provide maps/directions for the deliveries. If you have any questions contact Mark or Donna Kaelin at email address donna-kaelin@bellsouth.net or call 459-7273. The St. Vincent DePaul Society would like to thank everyone for their generous support of The Art Beck Food Program.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS: This week our sponsor is: **MORRIS DELI** formerly Karem Deeb's Liquor & Deli. 2228 Taylorsville Rd, 502-458-1668.

Early Bulletin Deadline

Information to be published in the Dec. 24th & 25th bulletin must be in the Parish Resource Center no later than Tuesday December 13th at 10:00 AM.

Upcoming Holiday Mass Schedules

Christmas Eve - 4:00pm Children's Mass
10:00pm Mass
Christmas Day - 10:30 am
New Years Eve - 4:00 pm
New Years Day - 10:30 am

New Members Needed

If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, the next training sessions are scheduled for Monday, February 6th, 2012 and Monday, February 13th, 2012 at St. Albert the Great Church. The sessions are from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Please contact John Raque for additional information at 459-0841 or email johnraque@officemax.com. Please consider this ministry as we are in need of new members.

LAX SIGNUPS ARE OPEN!

Lacrosse signups are open from Dec. 5th to Dec. 17th. The online signup link is <http://straphael.theathleticengine.com>. LAX is open to all 5th -8th grade boys.

BASKETBALL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We are hosting CSAA basketball leagues again this season and need volunteers to make this a successful fundraiser. The link to sign up is www.mysignup.com/2011basketball. We are also hosting our Annual Holiday Basketball Tournament from Dec. 21st - 23rd and Dec. 26th -28th. We also need many volunteers for this annual fundraiser! The link to signup is www.mysignup.com/2011bballtourney.

NEW GYM EQUIPMENT!

The Giants Club has purchased new telescopic bleachers and a new court divider net for the gym. They will be installed next week!. Come check them out!

Prayer Requests

Mary Lee Anderson, Dorothy Baker, Sue Anna Barrett, Helen Bethards, Charles Bauer, Debbie Best, Mary Rose Brizendine, Cynthia Burkhead, James Caudill, David Charmoli, Mildred Cox, Robert Coury, Connor Day, Daniel Flynn, Catherine Fogarty, Allison Frye, George Gates, Frances Gibson, Jay Gibson, Jeanne Gravatte, Sue Harris, Anita Hertelendy, Dolores Heuser, Marietha Higdon, Vic Higdon, Jennifer Hood, Ben Hull, Bob James, Rose Marie Johnson, Juanita Jonczy, Karl Kalbfleisch, Lessie Kiesler, Damion Kline, Henry Krebs, David Lawalin, Maureen Lawless, A.C. Leonhardt, Tina Lomax, Charles Lucas, Cathy Marcum, Andrew McKinley, Deanna McKenzie, Tom Meyer, Juanita Moore, Martha Neimann Malinda O'Daniel, Nell Oldiges, John J. Orthober, Ron Parrino, Connie Peters, Dr. Richard Phelps, Flaget Raby, Jean Reinstedler, Griffin Rose, Cecelia Sauter, Jim Schneider, Elfriede Smith, Dorothy Steedeley Mary Anne Storch, Marie Sweeney, Dorothy Thomas, Anna Maria Verwest, Jane Wagner, Carol Walls, Patty Neil Weikert, Joe Welch, John Werkman, Sarah Westerfield, Dorothy Wimsatt, John Wolfe and Dorothy Wulf. . Please notify the Parish Resource Center of any additions or deletions.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Year to date	TYD Budget	Variance of YTD
07/2011-10/2011		
\$240,453.78	\$257,666.66	(\$17,212.88)
	Tithing for December 4th	20,534.32