

## My soul REJOICES in my God.

The Gospel today begins the Johannine portrayal of John the Baptist as a figure who points the way to true witness.

The portrait begins by looking through John rather than at John (John 1:6-8). As soon as the Baptist is mentioned we hear of him repeatedly in terms of his connection to God and Jesus. John is a relational figure who is defined (and who defines himself) by his relation to the divine. Thus, we first read that God sent him, even before we hear his name. Next, there are three notices that John testifies to the light. The conclusion of this introduction to John's character states what he is not (the light) but rather what he does (testifies to the light-1:6-8). Thus, the narrator describes John the Baptist as a figure whose personality points away from himself and toward Jesus.

This initial sketch is confirmed and developed when next we read the account that John gives of himself (1: 19-23). Leaders from Jerusalem send representatives to find out his identity, showing that John has achieved enough visibility to appear on their radar. Five times the delegates ask him who he is. He responds to their first three queries in terms of who he is not, and each response becomes shorter and shorter (five words, three words, one word). This is a man who is not about to promote himself when he is presented with the opportunity to do so. He becomes expansive, however, when he speaks about who Jesus is. At this point, he also defines himself in relation to Jesus as simply a voice announcing Jesus' coming and as one who is unworthy to untie the strap of Jesus' sandal (1:23, 26-27).

Given these observations, we can say that the portrayal of John the Baptist in the Gospel of John conveys the message that witness involves defining oneself in relation to Jesus, consistent refusal to seek personal renown, and acclaiming Jesus as the one in whom eternal life and light reside.

*Scripture Reflections and Commentaries by  
Msgr. Ralph Kuehner and Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis*

### Readings for the Week of December 14, 2008

Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday	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	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72; Mt 1:1-17
Thursday	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; Mt 1:18-25
Friday	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25
Saturday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

### RETIREMENT FUND for RELIGIOUS Share in the Care

About 58% of women and men religious are past age 70; 7% are past age 90. More than 4,900 elderly religious need skilled nursing care.

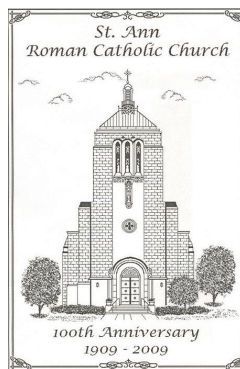
Most women and men religious receive, on average, a Social Security benefit of just \$4,402 per year; the average U.S. beneficiary receives \$12,948 annually. Though community living provides economies of scale, health care and living costs in most religious communities far exceed income from investments, from government programs, and from compensated ministries. Even at advanced ages, those religious who can do so continue to work at compensated or volunteer ministry that benefits others. *Please give generously.*

**ST. ANN GIFT CERTIFICATE FUND RAISER** Still looking for that perfect gift for Christmas? Look no further. The St. Ann Gift Certificate program is your answer. There is a gift card for everyone on your list! Thanks to all who load their Kroger cards. Your support of the gift card fund raiser helps to raise needed funds for the parish.

**ST. ANN CCD NEWS** To benefit St. Ann's CCD children, a ham raffle will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The raffle will be for a \$50 gift certificate for the Honey Baked Ham Company. The tickets cost \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. This fund raiser will help defray book costs and purchase religious items for our CCD students. Please consider purchasing a raffle ticket after the masses this weekend, December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> or call Holly Moran at 896-7360.

**ST. ANN P.A.C.** New Year's Eve Dance will be Wednesday December 31st. The dance will be held in the school cafeteria from 7:00 pm to 1:00am. Happy hour will be from 7:00-8:00. Tickets will be \$40.00 a person which includes appetizers, beer, party favors, and champagne at midnight. For tickets and information call Jim Kreke at 910-0857 or Phil Kreke at 887-0146.

**THE GIVING TREE** Thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree. This community outreach program was a big success thanks to your generosity. Don't forget all gifts are due by December 14<sup>th</sup> in ensure delivery to the recipients by Christmas.



### CENTENNIAL BLANKETS

A great way to commemorate the St. Ann Centennial. We have a few left and the cost is \$40.00. You can pick them up at the parish offices during regular business hours. They make nice Christmas gifts!

**Centennial T Shirts** are also available for \$10.00 each.

### FREE HOLIDAY MUSIC CONCERT BY BRASS QUINTET

The Midday Music in Oxford series presents the 4th annual program of holiday music by the award-winning Canterbury Brass quintet at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17 at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street. Members have or currently perform with such ensembles as the Cincinnati, Dayton and Pittsburgh symphony orchestras and the Cincinnati Pops. Information: 523-6969.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**This Week in our Parish**

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass  
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes  
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass  
**Monday, December 15**  
 7-8:00 p.m. Pack 907  
**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:15 p.m. Choir  
 7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A.  
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts  
 8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul  
**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:00 p.m. Pack 907  
**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Confessions  
 4:40 p.m. Rosary before Mass  
**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass  
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes  
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass

**ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS**

The Church has been reserved for December 23, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. to decorate for Christmas. Everyone and anyone who would like to help are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

**PACK 907 WANTS YOU!** America is returning to values, come join the Boy Scouts of America, where values never left. Cub Scout Pack 907 is looking for men and women that have benefited from Scouting in their youth or those who want to help mold the boys of today into the men of tomorrow. Scouting provides many exciting opportunities for the boys including, fishing, camping, space derby, the rain gutter regatta, and of course the pine wood derby. Your leadership skills and character will be part of their development. We NEED your help, without adult leadership there can be no Scouting and no Pack. You have so much to offer these boys through your life experiences, pass on your wisdom and memories to our youth. Chartered by St. Ann Catholic Church this 53 year old Pack welcomes boys and their families of all faiths to join and enjoy an established Scouting program. Our Pack is comprised of 1st-5th graders from our local community including St. Ann, Hayes, and Pierce Elementary Schools. The boys will have the opportunity to participate in earning religious emblems, which will be offered for all faiths. Just a note of interest our Priest, Father Mondiek is an Eagle Scout. If you are interested in becoming a Scout Leader or want more information about helping our youth as a volunteer in any capacity, please contact Pack 907 Committee Chair Troy Schwable or Cub Master Kathy Kelley at 896-9858.

**THE MUSIC MINISTRY** of All Saints and Friends Church presents "Come and See"...A Choral Christmas Concert. **Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM**, All Saints Church. Enjoy an evening of music celebrating the Christmas season. Singers and musicians of all ages combine to present this gift to the community. You won't want to miss it! 8939 Montgomery Rd.



**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent**  
 5:00 p.m. Marguerite Baynes (Merle)  
**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 a.m. Ted & Betty Vidourek (Dick & Claire)  
 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People  
**Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> Advent Weekday**  
 7:15 a.m. George Konrad (Robert & Sandy Hensler)  
**Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> Advent Weekday**  
 7:15 a.m. Lois Ventre (Francis Hiller)  
**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> Late Advent Weekday**  
 7:15 a.m. Margaret Connaughton (Family)  
**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> Late Advent Weekday**  
 7:15 a.m. Communion Service  
 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton  
**Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> Late Advent Weekday**  
 8:00 a.m. Shirley Poppel – 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Family)  
**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 7:30 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant  
 5:00 p.m. Ray Harris – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People  
 10:30 a.m. Leroy Renners – Christmas Remembrance (Family)

<b>Budgeted Weekly Offering</b>	\$ 12,072.00
<b>12/07/2008</b>	\$ 9,370.93
<b>Shortfall</b>	\$ (2,701.07)
<b>Year to Date Budgeted Offering</b>	\$ 277,656.00
<b>Year to Date Actual Offering</b>	\$ 215,850.08
<b>Shortfall</b>	\$ (61,805.92)
<b>Immaculate Conception Collection</b>	\$ 1,168.75

**PARISH SUPPORT**

The regular use of envelopes with a donation justly related to your means fulfills the obligation of church support. It is also one indication of your appreciation to God for what has been given to you.

For information regarding wills and bequests for St. Ann Parish please call the Parish office.

**St. Nicholas Church, Sunman, Indiana**, will be hosting a monthly Pro-Life Mass beginning December 9th at 7pm. Following each Mass, we will meet for a short presentation and discussion on pro-life matters. Here is the 2009 Pro-Life Mass schedule: (Most will be on second Tuesdays):

Jan. 27, Feb. 10, March 24, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8.

Visit St. Ann Church on the web at:

[www.stanncc.org](http://www.stanncc.org)