

# *Forever* *I Will Sing* *The Goodness Of The Lord.*

The Gospel today presents the annunciation to Mary in relation to the annunciation to Zechariah and the one much earlier to Abraham and Sarah. It does this in order to demonstrate that Mary's immersion in the scriptural witness empowers her acceptance of God into her life. It is the angel Gabriel who announces to both Mary and Zechariah the birth of a son. Both are troubled by these annunciations, and Gabriel reassures each with the same words: "Do not be afraid."

The major difference is that Mary believes the message of Gabriel and Zechariah expresses disbelief. This is reflected in their questions. Zechariah asks how he can know that what Gabriel says is true, whereas Mary, whose similar words convey a very different meaning, asks how this will be because she does not know man. Zechariah suspends belief until there is further proof. Mary wants to know what she is to do. Thus, the angel criticizes the response of Zechariah, but instructs Mary about how Jesus will be conceived.

The annunciation to Mary requires us to look not only to the annunciation to Zechariah that is beside it, but also to look at an older annunciation that is behind it as well. There is a clear connection to the annunciation to Abram and Sarah that Sarah, although apparently beyond the age of childbearing, would conceive and have a son (Genesis 18: 1-15). The last thing that Gabriel tells Mary is that "nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:37). This is a reference to Genesis 18:14: "Is anything too marvelous for the LORD to do?" Mary's response to the angel, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38), demonstrates her belief in these words about Abram and Sarah to which Gabriel refers. Unlike Zechariah, Mary believed that God would act in the face of her own weakness because she remained rooted in the scriptural witness of God acting in such ways.

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



*Christ The Savior is Born*

Wednesday, December 24, 2008 Vigil of Christmas  
Masses at 5:00 p.m. and Midnight

Thursday, December 25, 2008 Nativity of the Lord  
Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 31, 2008 Vigil of the Mother of God  
Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 1, 2009 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God  
Mass at 9:00 a.m.

## Readings for the Week of December 21, 2008

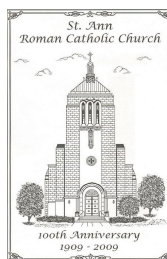
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Monday	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday	Saint John of Kanty, priest Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Lk 1:67-79 Vigil: Is 62:1-5 ; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Thursday	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday	Saint Stephen, first martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22
Saturday	Saint John, apostle, evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Sunday	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**THE GIVING TREE** Thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree. This community outreach program was a huge success. Thank you for your generosity!

**ST ANN SCHOOL NEWS** The last week before Christmas break was quite busy for all the school children. Making presents, finishing class assignments, taking tests, and anticipating the Christmas season has kept all very occupied. Five Badin musicians, including our own Colin Weeks, visited on Monday and gave the students a great concert. On Friday, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade led the school in the last All-school Mass of the year. Later a magician entertained all with many "tricks up his sleeve". The day ended with class parties. May everyone have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**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 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.



## 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!

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### This Week in our Parish

#### 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

#### Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

6:30 p.m. Church decorating for Christmas

#### Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Confessions  
4:40 p.m. Rosary before Mass

#### Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass  
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!

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS for JANUARY

#### 5 p.m. Mass

Lee Conn  
Lois Keller  
Lori Lamb  
Joyce McGrath  
Cliff Poppel

#### 8 a.m. Mass

Harry Epp  
Buell Harris  
Kathy Murphy  
Ron Schermer  
Charlene Von Hagen

#### 10:30 a.m. Mass

Ruth Ann Halpin  
Martha Kugler  
Andy Lampl  
Carol Mulcahey  
Mataia Von Stein

### LECTORS for JANUARY

#### 5:00 p.m. Mass

January 3 - Russell Curley  
January 10 - Mary Margerum  
January 17 - Jerry McGrath  
January 24 - Michelle Wolke

#### 10:30 a.m. Mass

January 4 - Stephen Becker  
January 11 - Matt Higgins  
January 18 - Melody Richmond  
January 25 - Neal Sackenheim

#### 8:00 a.m. Mass

January 4 - Carol Kiep  
January 11 - Paul Fenzl  
January 18 - Sam Patrick  
January 25 - Mike Wolf



#### Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent

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)

#### Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> Late Advent Weekday

7:15 a.m. John Boyle, Jr. (Family)

#### Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> Late Advent Weekday

7:15 a.m. Marilyn Cassano (Family)

#### Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Vigil of Christmas

*No Morning Mass today*

5:00 p.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People  
12 Midnight. For the Intentions of the Celebrant

#### Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. For the Deceased Members of St. Ann Parish  
10:30 a.m. For the Sick & Shut In of St. Ann Parish  
(St. Ann Rosary Society)

#### Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup> Stephen, First Martyr

7:15 a.m. Mariann Williams – Anniversary (Family)

#### Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup> Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:30 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant  
5:00 p.m. Elaine Eichhold (Jim & Marian Zettler)

#### Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People  
10:30 a.m. Leo & Helen Hensler (Robert & Sandy Hensler)

<b>Budgeted Weekly Offering</b>	\$ 12,072.00
<b>12/14/2008</b>	\$ 9,727.85
<b>Shortfall</b>	\$ (2,344.15)
<b>Year to Date Budgeted Offering</b>	\$ 289,728.00
<b>Year to Date Actual Offering</b>	\$ 226,546.93
<b>Shortfall</b>	\$ (63,181.07)
<i>Additional Collection for the</i>	
<i>Immaculate Conception Holy Day</i>	\$524.00
<i>Retirement Fund for Religious</i>	\$ 2,263.00
<b>ABITIBI</b>	\$ 16.41

**ST. ANN MUSIC NEWS** The choir will be singing their Christmas Program at the Neiderman Christmas Farm on December 28th, Sunday evening at 7pm. There is no admission to the farm because they do this as a service to the community so we volunteer to help them out.

**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.  
La Salle High School Sports Stag

**The La Salle 25th Annual Sports Stag** will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2009. Guest speaker will be recent Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee - Goose Gossage. Tickets can be purchased at La Salle from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 741-2687 for ticket information.

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