

*To You, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.*

The first Sunday of Advent features an exhortation by Paul to the Thessalonian Christians on how to prepare for the coming of Christ (1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2). In a nutshell, Paul claims that nothing provides welcome like a loving environment.

This is the advice and help that Paul gives, then, in order for the Thessalonians to create such an atmosphere. First, Paul prays for their love, showing that love is foremost a gift for which people do well to look to God to provide. Prayer for others should not neglect the appeal for this special virtue in their lives.

Second, Paul provides himself as an example of love; people learn by emulation. Throughout this letter Paul has indicated the extent of his love for the Thessalonians. Thus, he and his companions took care of the spiritual needs of the Thessalonians without imposing on them. Rather, they worked night and day to support themselves while establishing the Thessalonian church (2:9). Moreover, Paul and his coworkers gave as unstintingly of themselves as a mother nursing a child or a father caring for his children (2:7, 11).

Third, the apostle claims that love transforms character. If people wish to enter into a relationship with Christ, their characters need to be reformed. The interpersonal is the engine that drives the intrapersonal; love remakes and renews people (3:12-13).

Finally, Paul clarifies for the Thessalonians how love is expressed. He takes pains to make clear that this virtue is expansive; it attempts always to do more (3:12; 4:1). This largesse of love is shown by what one does and does not do. Love attempts to grow both in refraining from immoral acts and in concentrating on the work each has been given to do (4:3-12). Love is the generous and focused attempt to do what a person has been given to do for others rather than exploiting them or being a busybody.

Commentaries by Dennis D. Sylva and Rev. James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R

Readings for the Week of November 29, 2009

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25; Thes 3:12—4:2;
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Saint Andrew, apostle
Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Saint Francis Xavier, priest
Is 26:1-6; Ps 118; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Saint John of Damascus, priest, doctor
Is 29:17-24; Ps 27; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-36; Ps 147; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

First Friday
Friday, December 4, 2009
5:30pm confession, 7:00pm Mass
Following Mass –
First Friday Devotions
(Exposition, First Friday devotional Prayers,
Benediction)
Advent Penance Service
Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.

The Giving Tree is now up in the front of the church on the Hooven Avenue side. This is a great way to help someone in need this Christmas. The red tags are for needy students at the combined Harrison/Jefferson Elementary School. The green tags are for St. Ann parishioners and the white tags are for the shut-ins. Please wrap gifts or put them in a gift bag and cut off the gift description at the bottom and make sure the original tag is firmly taped to the package. No bows, please. Please return all gifts to the church by Sunday, **December 13th**. Thank you!

From someone who had an abortion... “[The abortion] gave me grief and sorrow beyond expression. I was petrified to tell anyone. I have committed the most heinous of all crimes. Yet, the Lord forgave me, just as he forgave Paul. Yet I will always regret what I did and will probably always feel grief. But I pray that my experience can somehow prevent other women from making the same fatal mistake. I’m a nurse now, so I wear my uniform to all the pro-life things I do! It helps.” Forgiveness and healing are available. Visit www.RachelsVineyard.org. *Priests for Life Liturgical resources*

*University of Dayton at Mason
School Counseling and Community Counseling
Graduate-Level Programs*

University of Dayton offers a program with a holistic approach, flexibility, and faculty who are experienced, active practitioners. Our school counseling program is NCATE-accredited and our community counseling program is approved by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapist Board. For more information or to start the application process, contact: Michelle Flaum at (937) 229 - 5325

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN for HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your support of last week's Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! Because of your generosity, more low-income people in the United States will be able to break the cycle of poverty and improve their communities. In these times when everyone's budget is stretched, we are especially grateful for your support.

ST. ANN BRICK MEMORIALS We are taking engraved brick memorial orders again just in time for Christmas. One engraved brick cost \$40.00. Be sure to check out the bricks along the parking lot side of the church. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones. This is also a great Christmas gift idea for those hard to buy for. To get more information, you can call the Parish office or find an order form online at St. Ann's website: www.stanncc.org.

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT



This Week in our Parish

Sunday, November 29th
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9:00 a.m. CCD Classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass
Tuesday, December 1st
 7:00 p.m. Rosary Society meeting at Shirley Martin's
Wednesday, December 2nd
 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction
 7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A.
 8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul
 6-8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
Friday, December 4th
 5:30-6:30 p.m. First Friday Confessions
Saturday, December 5th
 3:30-4:30 p.m. Confessions
 4:40 p.m. Rosary before Mass
Sunday, December 6th
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9:00 a.m. CCD Classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass

ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

December Meeting - The December meeting of the Rosary Society will be on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00 PM at Shirley Martin's home at 86 Scott Lane. (Please note the change in the place). Please bring a small wrapped gift and cookies to share. If you need a ride, call 863-1700. Mark your calendar today. See you on the first of December.

OUR LADY of the HOLY SPIRIT CENTER

Advent Concert by Regina Caeli Schola Cantorum! A beautiful collection of hymns and readings to point us to the birth of Our Lord sung by a talented youth a cappella group dedicated to restoring Gregorian chant. A wonderful way to begin the Vatican International Exhibit. December 6th, 7pm, Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, 5440 Moeller Ave, Norwood, 513-351-9800. Free will donation.

Vatican International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit comes to Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, 5440 Moeller Ave., Norwood. Visit this extensive photographic essay – more than 140 panels detailing manifestations of the True Presence from throughout the world. December 7th through January 2nd, 8am to 8pm M-F, 8am-2pm Saturdays. Free will donation.

Just in time to stuff those St. Nicholas Day stockings on Dec. 6!

Fr. Mark Burger will be autographing copies of his new book, "Hearing God's Voice" from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at InnerVisions Religious Books and Gifts Shop; 8556 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati 45255.

Fr. Burger, a popular preacher, retreat master and spiritual director, offers in this book a brief meditation – a kind of mini-retreat – for each day of the year drawn from his vast reading and life experience.

Hosts/Hostesses

St. Raphael's needs adults to be hosts and hostesses from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.,

Monday through Friday, welcoming individuals and families who come to St. Raphael's for help. If you can help, please contact us at 513-981-4207 (Sr. Adelaide) or 513-382-2370 (Carrie).



Saturday, November 28th First Sunday of Advent
 5:00 p.m. Holly Marie Thompson (John & Pam Thompson)
Sunday, November 29th First Sunday of Advent
 8:00 a.m. John Glover (Mom)
 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People
Monday, November 30th Andrew, apostle
 7:15 a.m. Tom Eichhold (Respect Life Committee)
Tuesday, December 1st Advent Weekday
 7:15 a.m. For the Intentions of Charlie & Mary Harper
Wednesday, December 2nd Advent Weekday
 7:15 a.m. Richard Thomas
Thursday, December 3rd Francis Xavier, priest
 7:15 a.m. Communion Service
 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton
Friday, December 4th First Friday
 8:00 a.m. Paul Westbrook (James Durrrough)
 7:00 p.m. Charles Robertson (James Emmons & Susan Emmons)
Saturday, December 5th Second Sunday of Advent
 7:30 a.m. For the Intentions of Barney Landry
 5:00 p.m. Deceased members of the Fontaine & Emmons Families
Sunday, December 6th Second Sunday of Advent
 8:00 a.m. Deceased members of the LoBuono & Tenore Families
 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People

** Figures not available at the time of this printing.*

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
11/22/2009	\$
Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 241,440.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 184,897.61



- *Jesus, our Lord and Savior*, wants you to visit with Him for one hour on this day. Beginning Wednesday, December 2nd, and continuing on Wednesdays, Fr. Mondiek will be exposing the Blessed Sacrament on the Altar from 8 a.m. until Benediction at 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas giving is made easy with the St. Ann Grocery / Gift Card fund raiser. *We even deliver!*
- Sunday, December 6th: Dine to Donate at the Applebee's in Fairfield. Proceeds benefit St. Ann Church. *Be sure to bring your flyer.*
- Donate your inactive cell phones, **no** chargers or accessories. Proceeds benefit the St. Ann Respect Life Committee. Boxes for used phones are at all the church doors. *Thank you!*
- We continue to sell LaRosa Buddy Cards....call the parish office at 863-4963 for yours (\$10).
- St. Ann Advent Penance Service – Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.