

**The Lord
Has Done Great
Things For Us;
We Are Filled With Joy.**



Luke's account of the ministry of John the Baptist continues to provide preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. In Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist, as an emissary of the heavenly King, demonstrates by way of contrast to more worldly representatives how to live as an agent of God's rule.

Only Luke situates the coming of John in relation to the political and religious leaders of the day. Luke tells us in what year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius John began preaching, who were the various regional government leaders, and who were the high priests (Luke 3:1-2). Matthew, Mark, and John do not provide this background against which to show the significance of the Baptist. Only Luke claims that "the word of God came to John" at this time (3:2). In other words, John is portrayed as a prophet who acts as a representative for God in a manner similar to the way the regional political leaders represent the emperor.

Unlike these governmental functionaries who preside over particular areas, however, John journeys "throughout the whole region of the Jordan" proclaiming baptism and repentance (3:3). This is the only place in the Gospels where we see John taking the message out to different areas instead of staying in one neighborhood. John not only preaches that people should "prepare the way of the Lord" but also goes out on the way to aid in this preparation. Later, the Lukan Jesus will contrast those who live richly in royal palaces with John, whom Jesus calls the greatest person "born of woman" (7:25, 28).

By these similarities and contrasts between John and political representatives of the emperor, Luke shows that the reign of God comes through people who are willing to engage in the rigors of moving out beyond their comfort zones for the sake of preparing "the way of the Lord" in others (3:4).

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

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2009

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

Monday: Saint Ambrose, bishop, doctor
Is 35:1-10; Ps 85; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Saint Juan Diego, hermit
Is 40:25-31; Ps 103; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Saint Damasus I, pope
Is 48:17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 80;
Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Advent Penance Service
Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.

All Giving Tree gifts must be turned in by next Sunday, December 13th. This way we can be sure that each person has their gift by Christmas. Please remember to cut off the gift description off the bottom and firmly tape the original tag to the gift. This is our only way of identifying who should receive the gift. Thank you for your generosity.

You are invited! The Respect Life Committee will be celebrating the Christmas season with a gathering on Monday, December 7th following the Immaculate Conception Mass. If you are currently a member of the committee or are interested in more information about our group, please join us in the parish center following Mass. Please bring a side dish to share. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Tracey Hingsbergen at 856-8945.

The pain of abortion – from one who knows... "When I found out I was pregnant, I was so scared and felt like I didn't know where to turn. I felt like I had no other choice. After I had my abortion I felt relief at first. But after 7 years of denial it finally hit me. I was so scared when I found out what an abortion really [is]. I was so angry at my family and boyfriend (now husband). I felt like nobody was there for me. I was angry at the clinic personnel for saying everything would be fine. I found Project Rachel and they helped me start to grieve [for] my child. So many women feel that if they had more support and truth during their crisis pregnancy many lives would have been saved." Help is available: Call 1-800-395-HELP.

Priests for Life Liturgical resources



- *Jesus, our Lord and Savior*, wants you to visit with Him for one hour on this day. We began Wednesday, December 2nd, and will continue 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).
- **SOS Salute Our Soldiers** program continues. The goal is to connect families with our military. For more information or to participate please contact Emily Schellenbach at: schellenbache@xavier.edu or 513-680-0113.

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT



This Week in our Parish

Sunday, December 6th

7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9:00 a.m. CCD Classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 6:30-8:30 p.m. Game Night – Youth Ministry

Wednesday, December 9th

8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction
 7:00 p.m. Basic Catechism Class
 7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A.
 8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul
 8:00 p.m. P.A.C. meeting

Thursday, December 10th

6-8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
 7:00 p.m. Advent Penance Service

Saturday, December 12th

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

Sunday, December 13th

7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9:00 a.m. CCD Classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass

Retirement Fund helps senior religious. "As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to next week's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. www.retiredreligious.org

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.

Your spiritual and financial sacrifices you made on World Mission Sunday are deeply appreciated by our sisters and brothers in our 1,150 mission dioceses around the world. The donations you made to the Holy Father's Society for the Propagation of the Faith helps: lay catechists to buy Bibles for students, sisters to keep orphanages open, priests and bishops to train seminarians, etc. *ALL IN THE LILBERATING NAME OF JESUS!* For more information visit www.onefamilyinmission.org or visit our Mission Office website at www.catholiccincinnati.org/mission.

OUR LADY of the HOLY SPIRIT CENTER

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.



Saturday, December 5th Second Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, December 7th Ambrose, bishop & doctor

7:15 a.m. Tom Eichhold
 6:30 p.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People

Tuesday, December 8th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 a.m. Mary Belle Campbell (The Conn Family)
 10:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Fr. Mondiek (Grade 7)

Wednesday, December 9th Advent Weekday

7:15 a.m. Harry Brockman (George)

Thursday, December 10th Advent Weekday

7:15 a.m. Communion Service
 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton

Friday, December 11th Damasus I, pope

7:15 a.m. To End the Assault on All Innocent Human Life (St. Ann Respect Life Committee)

Saturday, December 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30 a.m. Betty Simpkin (St. Ann Rosary Society)
 5:00 p.m. Margaret & William Connaughton (Family)

Sunday, December 13th Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. John Glover (Kathy Michael)
 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
11/22/2009	\$ 6,988.68

Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 253,512.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 192,711.29

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
11/29/2009	\$ 7,248.80

Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 265,584.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 200,720.09

Thanksgiving Collection for St. VdP	\$ 1,475.00
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN for HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	\$352.05

WANTED – FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSON/PEOPLE

Experience not necessary. All you have to do is follow easy to read instructions. Be willing to make several phone calls in preparation of the big event starting in January. Be willing to have lots of fun meeting new people and sharing stories of the behind-the-scene events leading to the festival. Do it yourselves or gather a group to partake in the planning and execution of this GREAT event!

Past chair people are always willing to give advice when asked and available for any questions that you may have. Please call Susan McAbee at 863-4963.

PLEASE JOIN US TAJI, international singer/songwriter will be at Queen of Peace 2550 Millville Ave., Hamilton on Wednesday, December 9th @ 7:00PM to perform her concert EMMANUEL the Story of Christmas. More information is available @: Idobelieve.com.