

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2008

Advent begins with a trumpet blast: Wake up! Watch out! The call to be watchful and alert is a call to readiness, not to let our spirits get sluggish and slip off into a state of un-consciousness. But it is hard at times to stay up, to keep watch. Is Jesus being unreasonable here?

Today the Church begins the Holy Season of Advent, a time of watchful preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and at the end of time. In a world permeated by bad news, these next four weeks offer to all of us - GOOD NEWS. Even though the days are darker and temperatures are colder, there is a special excitement to this time.

This excitement, which will intensify each week with the lighting of another candle on the Advent wreath, is summarized succinctly in one word, namely, HOPE.

This time of expectation and anticipation is all about hope. In these days we will watch with great hope the Advent wreath become brighter. We will hear with great hope the prophecies of old which yield hope and something new. From Isaiah to John the Baptist to one another, we will witness the living out of hope.

Advent Meditations by  
HENRI NOUWEN



In that same stance, we are providing everyone with a book of Advent Meditations from the writing of Henri Nouwen entitled "Living In Hope". I hope that you will find the reflections that Henri Nouwen provides for us a means of allowing this all too busy hectic time of year to be graced with a sense of hope in our God, in our family and in a particular way, a sense of hope in ourselves.

HOLY HOUR  
DECEMBER 3, 2008  
7-8 PM

As most of you are aware, we as a parish have Holy Hour, which includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, weekly on Wednesday. This week as an effort to make the Advent Season special, we will also have with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction. Fr. Dave Bonnar will join us this evening and will lead holy hour. I hope you are able to take some time and join us in prayer.

NEW BEGINNERS CHRISTMAS  
GATHERING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008  
6:30 PM

Call Sister Dorothy @ 412-242-3374 to let us know what you are bringing.

Also, 3-\$1.00 wrapped gifts for our traditional game.

*Have a Blessed Week*  
*Sister Dorothy*

No School

There will be no school on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Extended care WILL NOT be offered on this day. School will resume on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

PTG Meeting

Please join the PTG for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm in the school library. Many upcoming events will be discussed at this meeting. We encourage everyone to join us.

Field Trip

Please keep our kindergarten and first grade students in your prayers on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our students will be going to the Zoo for a field trip.



Mass

Please join Mrs. Eggan and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class for mass on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The students have worked very hard to prepare for this mass.

Market Day

If you are looking for quick meals during the hectic month ahead, we have the answer for you. Market Day provides quick and delicious meal choices. Orders can be placed online or by calling the school office.

Pie Shoppe

Our school will be selling Pie Shoppe pies for the holiday season. Pies will be ready for pick up on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in buying pies or nut rolls for the holiday, please call the school office at 412-242-2511.



**ADVENT RETREAT AT ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS RETREAT CENTER  
December 14th - 10 am—4 pm**

The Women's Group of St. Bart's Parish would like to invite everyone in the parish to participate in an Advent day of prayer at St. Paul's entitled, "Preparing Our Hearts to Welcome God's Love".

*"The Advent Season sets us on a course to renew our appreciation for God's Love in our midst. God reached across the created universe to do the unthinkable, to become one of us. Prepare your heart by joining us for a day of recollection."*

For \$30, the day includes prayer, two conferences, Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation, lunch and concludes with Evening Prayer.

If you are interested in attending, we would like to carpool from St. Bart's. Please call the rectory and let us know if you are interested and we will register as a group.

**Annual Giving Tree**

In anticipation of this remembrance of God's greatest gift to us, Jesus His son, we too extend this deep expression of love to those less fortunate than ourselves in our Annual Giving Tree. If possible, please take a request from our tree to give hope to someone who may not see hope for themselves. These gifts are to be returned **no later than December 14th** so that they can be distributed before Christmas. Please place the tags on the outside of the gift. May God reward you for your generosity and for being beacons of hope.

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December Life Teen events will be at Saint Joe's in Verona on December 6th, and St. Susanna's on December 20th.

#### CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Bishop David Zubik has asked all parishes in the Diocese to sponsor a second collection for Catholic Charities, December 6-7. As a primary social service agency for the Diocese, they serve all, regardless of religious affiliations at their time of greatest need. The agency is currently experiencing a 40% increase in the number of calls from people who are challenged by the current economic conditions. Please support Catholic Charities and help your neighbors in need. Thank You.

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS

After all masses they will be a representative from our parish selling Christmas Cards. These beautiful cards depict our altar and crèche from photos taken last year by parishioner Janet Boyle. The are six cards to a set and foil lined envelopes are included. What a great way to showcase our beautiful church to your special family and friends.



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- MON., December 1, Advent Weekday**  
10:00 AM Jack & Marie Conley (Family)
- TUES., December 2, Advent Weekday**  
8:00 AM St. Irenaeus  
9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph
- WED., December 3, Francis Xavier**  
8:00 AM St. Irenaeus  
9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Susanna  
7:00 PM **HOLY HOUR w/Benediction**
- THURS., December 4, Advent Weekday**  
10:00 AM Margaret DeMine  
(Patti Diamond)
- FRI., December 5, Advent Weekday**  
10:00 AM Rocco & Antoinette Giallorato  
(Daughters, Theresa, Diane,  
& Linda)
- SAT., December 6, Vigil, Second Sunday  
of Advent**  
4:00 PM Confessions  
5:00 PM People of the Parish
- SUN., December 7, Second Sunday of  
Advent**  
8:00 AM Mary C. Techmeyer (Mary  
Mueller)  
10:30 AM Deceased King & Brutschner  
Families (Betty King)

*Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of our parish; also the departed members of our Parish Family, especially*

*Leonard Collette, Henry Kwiatak,  
Mary Kurminsky*

