

DECEMBER 7, 2008

Stepping Stones to Stewardship

Christian stewardship is a broad, encompassing teaching, emphasizing that everything we are and everything we have – all our creation, our Church, our own vocation, personal resources, our talent and even our time – comes as gifts freely and lovingly given to us by God.

Stewardship Live It!



**St. Rita Church Boy Scout Troop #163
CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**

**Between Bill Gray's and Staples
on Hard Road**

**TREES UP TO 10 FT: \$35
TREES OVER 10 FT: \$45**

The proceeds that the scouts raise from this fundraiser will pay for camping gear, scout books, awards, badges and camping/backpacking trips.

BOY SCOUT DAILY HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 6:30 to 9:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am to 7:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am to 5:00pm

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Christmas Gifts Angel Project

This year the agencies and centers that we support are in more need than ever. Please help us supply them with games, toys, art supplies, dolls (of various races) and clothing. **Pick up an Angel Tag from the table in the greeting area in Church and return your gift as soon as possible.** Some tags are for specific centers, others are more general. We understand with the economy, money is tight, but God will never be outdone in generosity when you show love for His poor and needy.

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**Second Sunday in Advent
The Bethlehem Candle is lit**

Luke 2:4-7 *Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Angels appeared to Joseph and Mary, saying “do not be afraid.” Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem, where she gave birth to her son, Jesus. This is the Son sent to the world to show God’s love. That love still shines for us today.

ADVENT CONCERT

Antonio Vivaldi’s “Gloria”

**Sunday, December 7
at 4:00pm in Church**

Antonio Vivaldi’s well-loved *Gloria*, for chorus and orchestra, will be performed at St. Rita’s on Sunday, December 7 at 4:00pm in the Church. This energetic Baroque work will feature the St. Rita Adult Choir, members of the Lyric Chorale, soloists and orchestra. The concert is FREE and all are invited to attend. A reception will follow!

ST. RITA CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

If you are looking for a special way to share at Christmas or wish to make a memorial gift for a loved one ~ here are a few needs of our parish this year:

- New Banners for Church – 4 sets \$250 each
- Bible Study Guide 4 sets for Leaders \$100 each
- New Advent Candles and Holder \$100
- Children’s In-Pew Mass Books \$300
- Instrumentalist music for our Advent/Christmas and Easter Services \$1000

If you are interested in helping with any of the above, or making a partial donation for any of these items, please talk to any staff member or call the parish office at 671-1100 x 12. Thank you.

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**FOR AN UPDATED DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
Please call 671-1100 x 22 anytime! Ask for extension 22 or if the recording comes on you can press 22.**

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**All Are Invited to Share the Christmas Spirit!
ST. RITA SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY**

The first and second graders will be presenting **Wee Three Kings** on:

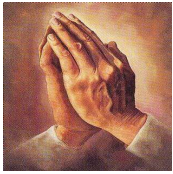
**Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00 pm and
Thursday, December 11 at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm**

This is their special gift to their families, and all of St. Rita Community. We hope that all will be truly inspired with the real spirit of the season.

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2009 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ON SALE

It is filled with great discounts on all types of restaurants and entertainment. Cost is \$25.00 and may be purchased at the parish office or call Mary Jo at 671-1100 x18. All proceeds are used toward youth programs and retreats!



EUCCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
7:00AM EDNA NICKEL – Sylvia Lawless
9:15AM SCHOOL LITURGY – All are welcome!
FOR ST. RITA SCHOOL BENEFACTORS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008
9:15AM VINCENZO ZEGARELLI – Wife

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008
7:00AM TO ST. ANNE FOR FAVOR RECEIVED
9:15AM JOHN POLLE – Wife and Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008
7:00AM FRANCIS TRABOLD – Louise McDonald
9:15AM JAMES KNAPIK – Family & Friends

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008
9:15AM DON GALLO – Wife

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2008
5:00PM JOSEPH HOHMAN – Wife

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008
7:30AM ROBERT NOLAN – Robert & Janet Shove
9:00AM ANN CONGILARO – Family
10:30AM MARY ELLEN SAVERINO & MARGARET CHITTENDEN – Frank Saverino

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This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in loving memory of Dallas Breeden

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CALLING ALL ANGELS and SHEPHERDS (Mary, Joseph and Jesus, too!)



Children are needed to help with the Gospel story on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 (church) and 6:00 pm Masses as follows:
- Mary, Joseph and Angel- 4th grade or older
- Baby - newborn to 3 months
- Parents to help coordinate during those Masses.

There will be one brief rehearsal in church on Saturday, December 20 at 11:00 am. Small children are invited to come to Mass dressed as angels and shepherds and to be part of the Gospel story. Angels and shepherds ***DO NOT*** need to come to the rehearsal. They will be called up during the Gospel reading. Please contact Teri Bucks at 671-0388.

From the Desk of Fr. Hoan . . .

Welcome back to our excursion as we visit the second part of Isaiah.

Most commentators call this part “the Book of Consolation”. Toward the end of the Babylonian Exile (539 B.C), Isaiah preached “Comfort, give comfort to my people.” (40.1). While chapters 40-48 focus on the exiles in Babylon chapters 49-55 deal with the restoration of Zion.

In 587 B.C, Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by Babylonians. The people were deported to Babylon. Yet, Israel kept alive its faith, laws, and identity while in exile. According to Isaiah, Yahweh’s righteous judgment was to purify Israel, a vindication of Israel’s historic faith. He then preached about the glorious triumph of Yahweh and Israel’s liberation from the exile. By *faith and hope*, Israel was able to survive during such a difficult time.

The image of the Servant is highlighted quite often. The chosen Servant in 42.1-4 refers to the nation of Israel that was sent to help the blind and the imprisoned, namely the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 49 introduces the call or mission of the Servant. As called from “the womb”, not only was the Servant concerned with the restoration of Israel but also becomes “a light to the nations”. (49.6). Finally, the Suffering Servant (52.13-53.12) mirrors the model of the prophet Ezekiel, who warned people and led them to reflect on the gravity of their actions.

Read as a whole, Isaiah 40-55 concerning *hope*, especially in times when one feels hopeless and abandoned.

This week, Isaiah words whisper to us:

“In the desert prepare the way of the Lord”
because
“Like a shepherd he feeds his flock
In his arms he gathers the lambs
Carrying them in his bosom
And leading the ewes with care.”
(Isaiah 40)

What do you hear from these words?

*See you next trip
Your travel agent*

Fr. Hoan

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COMPANIONS IN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday, December 10
7:30pm in Room 1

All who have experienced the loss of a loved one through death are invited to attend. All are welcome!

PLANS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 7, 2008

SUNDAY 12/7

8:30-11:00am Breakfast Club – Gym
4:00pm Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" Concert - Church

MONDAY 12/8

4:30-5:30pm Faith Formation Classes – School
 6:30-7:30pm Faith Formation Classes – School

TUESDAY 12/9

9:00am MOMS Group – Rm 3
 1:00pm Recovery – Rm 3
 3:45-4:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 4:30-5:30pm Faith Formation Classes – School
 7:30-9:00pm Lite Choir – Church
 7:00-9:00pm Liturgy Committee – Parish Office

WEDNESDAY 12/10

1:00pm School Christmas Play – Gym
 2:30-3:15pm Children's Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 7:30pm Companions in Grief – Rm 1
 9:00-10:30pm Men's Basketball – Gym

THURSDAY 12/11

9:30pm School Christmas Play – Gym
 7:00pm School Christmas Play – Gym
 7:00-9:00pm Scripture Study Group 2 – Rm1
 9:00-10:30pm Men's Basketball – Gym

SATURDAY 12/13

9:30am Communal Penance Service – Church

PARISH SUPPORT		
For Last Weekend November 29 & 30		
Last Week	Weekly Goal	Variance
\$18,972	\$17,700	- \$1,272
	for Dec. 2008	
Year to Date	Year to Date Goal	Variance
\$326,950	\$338,700	- \$11,750
(Our fiscal year is 7/1/08 – 6/30/09)		
Monthly Parish Center Mortgage Payment - \$2,725		
Mortgage Balance as of November 1, 2008 - \$192,198		
Catholic Ministries Appeal Goal		\$105,051
Pledges Received to Date		\$ 85,454
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!		

BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS!

Join us in the parish center for a delicious breakfast on Sunday mornings! We offer a "Special" and a full traditional breakfast menu as well!

Next Week's special: Western Egg Bake with warm buttered toast and a bottomless cup of coffee for \$4.00.

A Note of Thanks . . . Thank you to St. Rita's Parish Family for your prayers and love you sent to my aunt Shirley Kinsella in her time of need. She was very appreciative of the kindness you showed and prays for you as well. May God bless you, Sue Macann

BIBLE READINGS:

- 7 Sun **Second Sunday of Advent** Is 40:1-5,9-11 Ps 85:9-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8
- 8 Mon **The Immaculate Conception** Gn 3:9-15,20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38
- 9 Tue Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3,10-13 Mt 18:12-14
- 10 Wed Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4,8,10 Mt 11:28-30
- 11 Thu Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1,9-13 Mt 11:11-15
- 12 Fri **Our Lady of Guadalupe** Zec 2:14-17 Jdt 13:18-19 Lk 1:26-38
- 13 Sat **St. Lucy** Sir 48:1-4,9-11 Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19 Mt 17:9a,10-13
- 14 Sun **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

ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
Next Weekend ~ December 13 & 14

- Saturday, 5:00pm:**
Lily Ciszewski, Marisa Vargas, Alex Vargas
- Sunday, 7:30am:**
Michael Hohl, Jack Samuelson, Mike Hansen
- Sunday, 9:00am:**
Lauren Tatanus, Tiffany Riddle, Ashley Sousa
- Sunday, 10:30am:**
Kyle Swovick, Peter Swovick, Brandon Fersaci

SACRISTAN:

Week of December 7 Jane & Dick Casper

LINENS:

Week of December 14 Maureen Morehouse

ST. RITA SOCIETY INVITES YOU ALL!



The Society is happy to host a Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 16
at 7:00pm in the Parish Center

PADRE BEATINI ITALIAN CHOIR

Parish members, family and friends are all welcome to enjoy a beautiful evening of Christmas Hymns sung in both English and Italian.

Society members are asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Also bring an unwrapped health care or toiletry product (shampoo, powder, soap, etc.). These items will be donated to local nursing homes and shelters. Any questions please call Carol Van Atta at 671-7832.

COMMUNAL CELEBRATIONS OF RECONCILIATION	
Saturday, December 13	9:30 am
Wednesday, December 17	7:30 pm