



Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2008

Rejoice Always. Pray without ceasing.

We are a Sacrificial Giving Parish, Giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure
Our offertory for this past weekend was \$5,637.00.
(For 2007-2008 our average weekly expenses were \$6,509.00.)

Bulletin Sponsor: In Memory of Mr. Francis Butch Derousselle, Jr.
By: Lasonya, Kirt & Davon Boast & Family

Come Home for Christmas

As Advent approaches, we celebrate the coming of Jesus. During this particular season of the Liturgical Year, we are reminded of our family and friends who have drifted away from the church.

Once again, the Diocese of Lafayette will be sponsoring our annual "Come Home for Christmas Program." We want our brothers and sisters to return home to be with their spiritual family.

Every active Catholic is encouraged to invite someone to accompany them to Mass at Christmas. Offer to pick them up and bring them with you. Please pray for the success of this outreach.

We also encourage you to participate in our parish program by submitting to the Rectory the name of a special friend or family member that you would like to invite to Come Home for Christmas. Please submit the names and addresses by December 14th.

Registration for "Six Steps to Easter" Religious Education Program is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th at 6:00 P.M. in St. Charles Chapel. This program is for students in Jr. High & High School (grades 7-8, 9-10 & higher). Completed form and a fee of \$15.00 are due at registration. Four years of this program are required for Confirmation as a Junior in high school. Parent and child must attend this mandatory meeting. Classes start February 25th.

Please pray for our parish's young people making their **First Reconciliation on December 16th.**

Senior Citizens will gather at Thensted Center on **Friday, December 19th at 10:00 AM.**

A Diamond Anniversary

Mrs. Katherine Sibille is completing Sixty Years (60!!) of ministry as organist in our parish community. We congratulate her for this generous and enduring service to our church. And we give her our blessing and prayers that God will continue to be gracious to her and her loved ones.

Advent 2008 Penance Services Scheduled

St. Leo the Great, Leonville, La.

Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Family Church, Lawtell, La.

Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.

St. Bridget Church, Lawtell, La.

Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Our Lady Queen of Angels Church

Monday, December 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

City-wide Penance Service

GRATITUDE!

Thank You to the Knights of Peter Claver from Christ the King Mission Church, Council #114, for cooking the delicious hamburgers for the confirmation retreat on December 6, 2008.

Activities of the Week December 15-21

M 15	5:00 PM Vigil Mass	Choir Practice
	4:00 PM	Evangelization Comm. Meeting
T 16	6:00 PM	7:30 Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	First Reconciliation
W 17	7:00 PM	ASH Advent Christmas Program
TH 18	5:45 PM	10:30 Mass Choir Practice
FR 19	10:30 AM	St. Ignatius School Christmas Program

Minister Schedule-December 20-21

Vigil -Lector	Al & Dyanne LeBlanc
Communion	Deacon Sam Henry, Margie McClendon, Caro & Shirleen Louviere, Ada Barry
Altar Server	Nicholas Smith
7:30 -Lector	Stephanie Richard & Pemella Williams
Communion	Deacon Herd Guilbeau, Jackie Savoie Warren Norton, Melba Courtney, Sr. Betty Renard
Altar Server	Carlie Pierre
10:30 -Lector	Keith & Ginger Myers
Communion	Deacon Herd Guilbeau, Marie Eaglin Doris Etienne, Nancy Bourque, Barbara Broussard
Altar Servers	Hunter Myers, Andrew Smith, Armand Olivier

Church Cleaners for December 20-21

Denise Baloney Shanda Guidry
Diane Meche Tommie Miller
Natasha & Caitlin Williams
Perry & Brenda Kennerson

You are invited to attend the Christmas Programs that will be presented in St. Charles Borromeo Church this coming week.

Students from the Academy of the Sacred Heart will present a Program on **Wednesday, December 17th** beginning at **7:00 PM**.

St. Ignatius School students will offer their Christmas Program on **Friday** morning, **December 19th**, at **10:00 AM**.

We are planning to designate parking spots in the area located to the east of St. Ignatius School. This is the area extending toward Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House.

As the parking area is being setup, please be careful to follow the signs that will appear and to use the designated spots for parking. Thank you for your cooperation.

Retirement Fund for Religious

This weekend, December 14th, our parish will participate in the collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. About 58% of women and men religious are past age 70; 7% are past age 90. More than 4,900 need skilled nursing care. Most elderly religious receive, on average, a Social Security benefit of just \$4,402 per year, but expenses far exceed their income. Please be generous!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

A form of nativity scene called a manger, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the manger was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double manger, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.

In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a manger in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows--the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at new year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of mangers and crèches honoring the Nativity.

The office of Family Life Ministry is again sponsoring the **DIOCESAN MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CLEBRATION** to honor couples who have been married 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years. Only the above mentioned years will be honored, no between years will be accepted. It will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2009, 2:00 p.m., St. Edmonds Church 4131 West Congress St., Lafayette. Bishop Michael Jarrell will celebrate a special Mass and will give certificates, suitable for framing, to all couples being honored. Couples who wish to be honored must register no later than January 23, 2009. For more information, please call Family Life at 261-5653.

Do you have some familiarity with the Quicken Bookkeeping program? The Thensted Center is in need of a volunteer with basic Quicken skills to help with the bookkeeping of simple checking accounts. Perhaps one afternoon a week for a couple of hours will be required. This task will be very much like the management of a family's home account. Please contact Fr. Lambert if you would like to help