Second Sunday of Advent
December 9-10, 2006

Sunday Lectionary Readings
This Week’s Readings: Baruch 5: 1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6
Next Week’s Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

Scripture Reflection
In today’s Gospel, we hear about John’s early days in ministry, as he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. This reminded the Gospel writer of the words of Isaiah: “Prepare the way of the Lord…” If we think that these words refer only to John or other great prophets, we are mistaken, for each one of us is called to prepare the way of the Lord in our world. We do so by living lives that resonate with God’s dream for humankind. We love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. In such a way, we bring peace to ourselves and our own circle of family, friends, and acquaintances. By such living, we witness that we belong to God and, in doing so, we prepare the way of the Lord in a culture that is oftentimes hostile to the very idea of God. Preparing the way of the Lord is not just the role of prophets; it’s the role of every believer. If we don’t prepare the way of the Lord, who will?

Let Us Pray For Those in Need of Prayer
Shirley Kinlaw, Jacob Brown, Bob Hartman, Mary Medved, Scott Borden, Mary Lou Fanelli, Julie Buchness, Joseph M Garvey, Jr., Ann Lafferty, Mary Alice Christophersen, Harry Rogucki, Elvia Patricia Flores, Frank Styka, Mary Dreisch, Paula LaSalle, George Danek, Brother Benedict Simmonds, Colette Danek, Barbara Cheles, Mary Smith, Earl Smith, Ruby Strawberry, Anthony Caserta, Bob Twynham, Marionette Plummer, Edith Beard, John Garvey, Mary Kane, James Kane.
(Names will be listed for 6 weeks. If you would like a name listed for an additional 6 weeks, please notify the rectory.)

This Week’s Mass Intentions
Saturday, December 9, Jane Stanton Vay, deceased
Friday, December 15, Andrew Bozzelli, deceased
Sunday, December 10, Bud Myers, deceased
Saturday, December 16, Donald Dunn, deceased
Monday December 11, Cpt. Charles B. Carroll, deceased
Sunday, December 17, Jeanne Hodges, deceased
Wednesday, December 13, Angela Ambrosio, spec. intent

Collection Update
Last Weekend’s Offertory: $4,768.77
Last Weekend’s 2nd Collection to benefit our Community Center and outreach ministries: $841.45
This Weekend’s 2nd Collection will benefit Retired Religious
Next Weekend’s 2nd Collection will benefit our Community Center and outreach ministries

This Week at Corpus Christi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Dec 10, 9:00 am</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>Rectory &amp; Midtown Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, Dec 10, 9:00 am</td>
<td>Parent Meeting</td>
<td>School Cafeteria</td>
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<td>Sun, Dec 10, 9:00 am</td>
<td>RCIA</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<td>Sun, Dec 10, 11:30 am</td>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<td>Sun, Dec 10, 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Adult Education Series – The Mary of Dogma</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<td>Mon, Dec 11, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Liturgy Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Dec 12, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Adult Education Series – The Mary of Dogma</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Dec 13, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Advent Reconciliation Service</td>
<td>St. Vincent dePaul Church</td>
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<td>Sat, Dec 16 &amp; Sun, Dec 17</td>
<td>Gift Bags for the Church’s Center Needed</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, Dec 17, 9:00 am</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>Rectory &amp; Midtown Academy</td>
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<td>Sun, Dec 17, 9:00 am</td>
<td>Coffee Café</td>
<td>School Cafeteria</td>
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<td>RCIA</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, Dec 17, 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Adult Education Series- The Mary of Devotion</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon-Fri, Dec 18-22, 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Misa de Gallo (Christmas Novena Masses)</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<td>Mon, Dec 18, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Pastoral Council Exec Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<td>Tue, Dec 19, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Adult Education Series – The Mary of Devotion</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Dec 20, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Finance Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<td>Sun, Dec 24, 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Family Christmas Mass</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<td>Sun, Dec 24, 10:00 pm</td>
<td>“Midnight” Mass</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<td>Mon, Dec 25, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Christmas Day Mass</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<td>Monday, Dec 25 thru Monday, Jan 1</td>
<td>Parish Office closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Wed, Fri, Dec 25-29</td>
<td>No Weekday Mass</td>
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Coming Up:

Mon-Fri, Dec 18-22, 6:00 pm
Mon, Dec 18, 7:00 pm
Tue, Dec 19, 7:00 pm
Wed, Dec 20, 7:00 pm
Sun, Dec 24, 4:00 pm
Sun, Dec 24, 10:00 pm
Mon, Dec 25, 10:30 am
Monday, Dec 25 thru Monday, Jan 1
Mon, Wed, Fri, Dec 25-29
**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Approximately 38,500 religious women and men over the age of 70, and their religious institutes, must provide for their own retirement costs. Your donation helps them meet the spiraling costs of health care. Please give generously to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

**Corpus Christi’s Christmas Choir**

Volunteers Needed! Corpus Christi’s Christmas Choir, that sings the Christmas liturgy, will rehearse after the 10:30 a.m. mass each Sunday of Advent. Please join us! Contact Don Boomgaarden at drboomgaaren@loyola.edu or simply come to the rehearsal.

**Mary: A Many-Faceted Jewel**

Join Fr. Rich for the second of a three-part series entitled “Mary: A Many-Faceted Jewel.” This week’s session – The Mary of Dogma – will be held in the rectory after Sunday mass and, again, on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 7:00 p.m.

**Advent Reconciliation Service**

Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Vincent de Paul Church (120 Front Street, at the foot of the JFX). Fr. Rich will be preaching.

**Gift Bags for the Parish Center Meal Guests**

Small bags to be filled with new toiletries etc. are in the church vestibule for you to pick up and fill. These bags will be given out to our center meal guests on Tues, Dec. 19 and Thurs, Dec 21. Please bring your filled bag to church by Sunday, Dec 17. There is a list attached to each bag of the items needed. Thank you for donations.

**Parish Center Update**

Our Center in Reservoir Hill will be serving special Christmas meals to guests during the week of December 18. We would like to end those meals with a Christmas treat. Please consider bringing a plate of cookies to church on the weekend of December 16-17. We will get them to the Center in time for dinner on the 19th and 21st.

Many thanks to those who joined us in Reservoir Hill last Sunday. Parishioners serenaded residents of Lakeview Towers and returned to the Center for hot chocolate and cookies. Thanks, Jan Danek, for leading everyone in song.

**Children’s Song Practice**

Reviving a Corpus Christi tradition, the children of the congregation (including visitors) will be invited to sing a post-communion hymn at the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. The younger children are spending a few minutes learning the song during Children’s Liturgy of the Word on December 3 and 10. On December 17, the entire Sunday School will be dismissed to the church at 10:00 to practice the song with Dr. Boomgaarden and the piano. If your child/ren would like to sing on Christmas Eve, please plan to arrive at church by about 3:30 so that we can practice once more before Mass. Please contact Kathy Hoskins (410-366-1918) or George Steinrock (410-225-9535) if you have any questions.

**Christmas Liturgy Memorials**

We would like to offer our Christmas liturgies, including their environment, flowers, decorations, and programs, in memory of loved ones who have passed away. A special Christmas Memorial Bulletin will be distributed listing the names of the individuals remembered and the donors. We request a $5 donation for each individual remembered. If you would like to participate, please fill out the envelope, found on the table in the back of church, and drop it in the collection basket or rectory mail slot not later than Monday, December 18.

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Mark your calendars for the schedule of masses for the celebration of Christmas: Sunday, December 24, 4:00 pm (Family Mass); Sunday, December 24, 10:00 pm (“Midnight” Mass); Monday, December 25, 10:30 am.

**“Misa de Gallo” Novena**

The Filipino teachers who have joined Corpus Christi share a Filipino custom with us called “Misa de Gallo” (in Spanish), “Simbang Gabi” (in Filipino), or “Mass at Night.” All are invited to attend mass each day for the nine days leading up to Christmas. Starting Saturday, December 16, at the 4:00 p.m. mass, and continuing up to Christmas, we will celebrate an additional weekday mass (Dec 18-22) at 6:00 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday we will observe the usual mass schedule. Mass will be one half hour and will offer a wonderful opportunity for you to end your workday. Consider joining us!

**Lay Ministerial Leadership in Liturgy**

In furtherance of its decision “to study and promote ministerial leadership among the laity [in liturgy], with special attention to women’s roles,” the Pastoral Council will be forming an ad hoc committee of parishioners. If you would like to be considered for membership on this committee, please contact Avendui Lacovara, 410-523-6847, or Fr. Rich, 410-523-4161. The Council will try to keep membership to a workable number, so there may need to be some selection from among those who wish to be considered.

**New Requirements for Charitable Giving**

New restrictions on charitable contributions require that, beginning January 1, 2007, all cash contributions must be supported by a dated bank record or a dated receipt. In short, this means that if you are deducting contributions made in the form of cash you must now have a dated receipt to support your deduction. The easiest way to comply with the new restriction is to make all your contributions by check, by automated bill pay, or by envelope if you continue to use cash. Please call Bob Wissmann at 410-523-4161 to request envelopes or to discuss automated bill pay.
St. Ambrose Homesharing

Are you looking for affordable housing and would enjoy the company of other people? Would you enjoy the comfort of a home rather than an apartment? St. Ambrose Homesharing may be for you! We screen and check references, and tailor each match accordingly. For information, call Annette Brennan, 410-366-6180, annetteb@stambros.org.