

St. Joseph Church
Clayton, MO #75

**Mass Intentions
for the week**

- Monday, December 3, St. Francis Xavier**
6:30 Lenore Murphy
8:00 Mary L. Reilly
12:00 Souls in Purgatory
- Tuesday, December 4, St. John of Damascus**
6:30 Laffin-Kearns Families
8:00 Fr. Liam O'Byrne
12:00 Houlihan & King Families
- Wednesday, December 5**
6:30 Carol Ann McGroarty
8:00 Peggy Connors -- Special Intention
12:00 Poor Souls
- Thursday, December 6, St. Nicholas**
6:30 Virginia Beckwar
8:00 Joe Masella
12:00 Robert C. Dunn, Sr. Family
- Friday, December 7, St. Ambrose**
6:30 Leahy-Wuennenberg Families
8:00 Special Intention
12:00 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pandolfo
5:00 Kerry Cleeton -- Special Intention
- Saturday, December 8, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
8:00 Jim Byrne
12:00 Patti Dean
5:00 George A. Mahe, Jr.
- Sunday, December 9, Second Sunday of Advent**
7:30 People of the Parish
9:00 Angela Vricella
10:30 Giarraffa-Tranchilla Families
12:00 Michael J. Bridge

Next Week's Schedule

Altar Servers

- 5:00 T. Falk, A. Falk
7:30 R. Hackmann, K. Schwetye
9:00 E. Hogue, S. Laux
10:30 M. McMahon, D. Hundelt
12:00 M. Clark, Z. Goldkamp

Commentators/Lectors

- 5:00 Mary Molloy
7:30 Frank Hackmann, Ruth Tredway
9:00 John Gillis, Del Leonardo
10:30 Mary Lee Rovira
12:00 Roger Drone

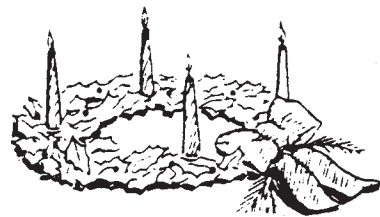
Eucharistic Ministers

- 5:00 L. Falk, A. Ryan, J. Harrison
7:30 R. Chiostri, V. Schroeder
9:00 J. Hunt, R. Albrecht, M. Michelson
10:30 F. Bussmann, J. Goeke, D. Cheverud, S. McGowan
12:00 P. Hagan, B. Tucker

Attention Eucharistic Ministers...

Please pick up a copy of our new schedule from the sacristy.

advent



December 2, 2001 -- First Sunday of Advent

The readings and prayers of Advent refer to three comings of Christ: the historical coming of Christ on earth two thousand years ago, the spiritual coming of Christ to us this year at Christmas, and the second coming of Christ at the end of the world. Some of the people we come face-to-face with in the Advent readings are John the Baptist, Isaiah the Prophet, and Mary the Mother of Jesus. Let us try to make our Advent season a time of calm prayer and let us try to wait until Christmas Day to celebrate Christmas.

PLEASE PRAY for:

Pray that our Father will provide health and comfort for **Clay McBurney, Richard Hanners, Brendan Fitzgerald, Cheryl & Marcus Reece, Sister Eleanor, Linda Wulf, Dana Patterson, David Barry, Joan Niedbalski, Elinor Garesche, Marie Hayes, Bill Hayes, Mary Rose, Almira Forrest, Chris Richter, Joe Quicke, Carol Bartley, Gary Sievert, Georgia Chambers, Mary Slais, Patti Slais, Rick Slais, Anne Marie Reynolds, Mark Albrecht, and in Jesus' name. Amen.**

From the Bulletin Editor...

On January 2, 2002 we will begin a new "Sick List," retaining only the names added during December. Call the rectory at 726-1221 to resubmit other names if prayers are still needed.

**St. Joseph Parish
Endowment Fund**

The "Returning God's Gifts" campaign which the Archdiocese ran a few years ago was very successful. The income from this endowment fund is a lifeline that continues to support many important charitable endeavors throughout the Archdiocese. You may recall that 10% of the donations from a parish to this campaign was returned to each parish. St. Joseph's parish, therefore, has the beginnings of an endowment fund for our own services, ministries, and charitable activities.

Sometimes people prefer to give to an endowment because of its long-term nature; others prefer giving directly to operating expenses so that present needs can be immediately met. If you are interested in contributing to the St. Joseph Parish Endowment Fund, there are a variety of options: planned gifts, bequests, charitable gift annuities, and so on. The Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship is an excellent resource in this matter. For any questions you may have, simply call Monsignor Gardin.

From the Pastor's Desk

December 8 is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** of the Blessed Virgin Mary a **holyday of obligation**. Please note the different schedule of Masses: **Friday - 5:00 p.m.; Saturday - 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.** The Saturday evening Mass is the liturgy of the second Sunday of Advent.) Our country is dedicated to Mary, under the title of her Immaculate Conception. As explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Mary was "full of grace," as told by the angel Gabriel in St. Luke's Gospel. That is, she was redeemed by Christ from the moment of her conception -- free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature. By the grace of God, Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life. To become the mother of the Savior, Mary was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.

Devotion to the Blessed Mother can help deepen the spirit of Advent and Christmas in our lives. This past week we mailed out the schedule of services for the **Advent and Christmas seasons**. We are making available different booklets for spiritual reading, and we will again have an **Advent novena**. This novena will run from Monday, December 17 through Sunday, December 23, at 5:30 p.m. every evening (except on Saturday, during the 5:00 p.m. Mass). After the novena each evening the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available (in addition to our other regularly-scheduled times). Even if one cannot attend the entire novena, participating in one or two nights can help prepare a person spiritually to celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior, despite the commercial distractions that surround us.

This Advent we again have a **Giving Tree**. Placed behind the baptismal font, it has ornaments which suggest Christmas gifts for needy children. Our parish **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will maintain the donation of gifts from **December 1-16. Please do not bring any gifts after December 16**, because sufficient time is needed for distribution to children before Christmas through St. Matthew's parish and Visitation parish in north St. Louis.

Msgr. Gardin

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 2 through December 9, 2001

- Sunday:** Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2,4-9
Rom 13:11-14a Mt 24:37-44
- Monday:** Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:7-8,12-13,17
Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday:** Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a
Mt 7:21,24-27
- Friday:** Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1,4,13-14
Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday:** Gn 3:9-15,20 Ps 98:1-4
Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38
- Sunday:** Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:2,7-8,12-13,17
Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12

Archdiocesan History Display

This colorful exhibit will be on display December 14-18 in the Parish Hall. We will sell copies of the Archdiocesan History books for \$20 at our next Doughnut Sunday, December 16, following the Family Mass being prepared by our 6th graders.



OUR CHOIR COULD USE YOU

Children are needed to sing at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. The children's choir will practice every Monday afternoon from 4:30 - 5:10 p.m., through December in the School Hall (lower level). All children are invited to participate.



Children who want to be in our Christmas play (during the Christmas Eve Mass) should come to the practices on Mondays, 4:00-5:00 p.m. in church (December 3, 10, and 17). If you have questions, call Sue Powers at 725-9988.

Night of Prayer for Life and America

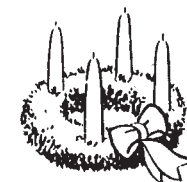
From December 8 at 9:00 p.m. until December 9 at 1:00 a.m. we will celebrate a night of prayer which begins on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and asks that, through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, all life be protected. We will pray for the unborn; we will pray for life and peace, especially in these times of war and conflict. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 9:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. Sign-up sheets are at the entrances of the church. Try to commit to one hour of Eucharistic Adoration. If you have any questions, call Father Jack at the rectory, 726-1221.



Many Thanks

Your most generous donations of groceries were received with hearty thanks from the St. Vincent de Paul conferences of Visitation and St. Matthew's parishes. "We don't know what we would do without you," said Visitation's S.V.de P. president.

In addition, we must acknowledge our continuing gratitude to all of you who fund our St. Joseph's S.V.de P. work through your contributions to the Food & Fuel for Life collections. Through your generosity, we are always able to respond to calls for help. (Our voice mail number is 289-6101, ext. 622#.)



Advent

Blessing for an Advent Wreath

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**From The
Bulletin Editor**

This week, a sales representative from Liturgical Publications will be renewing and setting up the advertising for our bulletin for 2002. Please consider advertising in our bulletin. The revenue from the ads makes our bulletin possible.

Ads can be purchased for a business, or a sponsor ad can be purchased supporting community service organizations like emergency pregnancy counseling, battered women's shelter, etc.

Please give these ideas some thought. WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you are interested -- or know of someone who may be -- or want more information, please call Liturgical Publications directly at 314-983-0095 or 1-800-950-9952, ext. 2554.

Bulletin Board

Clayton Optimist Christmas Tree Lot, 7500 Forsyth, across from the old Famous-Barr store. Hours: Monday-Friday, 2:00-8:00 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. We also have wreaths, stands and pine roping.

Chaminade Christmas Tree Lot, until December 20, 425 S. Lindbergh Blvd., Monday-Friday 3:00-8:00; Saturdays 9:00-6:00; Sundays 12:00-5:00 -- trees, wreaths, tree stands, pine roping, wreath hangers, etc. FREE DELIVERY up to 3 miles from Chaminade.

Christmas Novena, December 3-11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Joseph at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Drive. This novena, celebrated in preparation for the Nativity, dates back to 1772 and features hymns, prophecies, and canticles sung by the Seminary Choir. Come one night or all nine. For details, call Rev. C. Eugene Morris or Peter Maher at 792-6100.

National Rosary Novena II, December 4 to December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In this time of crisis, praying the Rosary every day is more important than before.

Bless the Baby Jesus, December 9, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica, an Advent Liturgical Service will bring Jesus closer to the hearts of young families with children. Families will receive a blessing from the Archbishop and are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus figure from their home creche. A "swaddling clothes" collection (blankets, sleepers, layette items) will also be taken up for newborns by Catholic Charities. A reception will follow in Boland Hall. For details, call Catholic Kids Net at 636-728-1139 or the Office of Laity & Family Life, 314-792-7181.

Christmas at St. Clement, December 16, 7:00 p.m. at St. Clement Catholic Church, 1510 Bopp Road, Des Peres. FREE concert of carols for Advent and Christmas will be presented by the choirs of St. Clement. Questions? Call 314-965-8820.

Christmas Seminary Collection - Kenrick-Glennon Seminary has formed the men who will serve as priests in the Archdiocese of St. Louis since 1893. Some of our graduates have become bishops, some missionaries, and others theologians. Most have served as parish priests and have spent their lives for our Catholic community. To ensure the best formation of good parish priests who will serve in the future, please be generous when giving to the Christmas Collection for the Seminary.

St. Joseph's Progressive Dinner Saturday, February 9, 2002. If you'd like be part of the team, please call Joe Orso (725-2880), Sue Hackmann (726-2970) or Betty Tucker (994-0193).