

Third Sunday of Advent

MASSES THIS WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Psalter III

MON. Dec. 17

12:05 PM † **TOM LEGUARD**

-Joe, John & Greg Leguard

TUES. Dec. 18

12:05 PM † **CARMELA PEDOTA**

-The Pedota Family

WED. Dec. 19

St. Mary's High School Mass –at the school (by Fr. Claire)

9:30 AM Special Intentions of **THE STUDENT BODY of**

St. Mary's

WED. Dec. 19

12:05 PM † **JOANNE CLEARY** –*Therese & Barry May*

THURS. Dec. 20 *at Golden Plough*

10:00 AM † **JOSEPH & PAUL NOEL**

-*The Family*

FRI. Dec. 21

12:05 PM † **GORDON KELLY & JANE RAUEN**

-*The Kelly Family*

▶ **Eucharistic Adoration** following 12:05 Mass to 1:30PM ◀

SATURDAY, December 22

5:00 PM † ARMAND CLEMENT

-*Betty & Family*

SUNDAY, December 23

9:00 AM † LISE DENIS

-*Denis Family*

11:00 AM MISSA PRO POPULO (*People of the Parish*)

Next Weekend's Readings • **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

1st Isaiah 7.10-14 2nd Roman 1.1-7

Gospel Matthew 1.18-24

EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tues. 18—7:00 PM RCIA in Parish Centre

Wed. 19—12:30 PM Legion of Mary-Parish Centre

Wed. 19—12:30 to 7:30 PM Blood Donor Clinic at C.C.C.

Wed. 19—3:00 PM Growing in Faith in Parish Centre

Wed. 19—7:30 PM ULTREYA in Parish Centre

Thurs. 20—1:00 PM Seniors Progressive Euchre at Columbus Community Centre

Thurs. 20—7:00 PM Christian Prayer & Meditation Group in Parish Centre

Fri. 21—6:00 PM Movie: Nativity—in the Church

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Billy Thomson, Debbie Wannamaker, Adrian Stimers, Kim Hope, Emily, Stan Johnston, Louis Carigan, Ronald Heffernan, Fred Williams, Wendy Gregoriades, Denise Palermo, Anne Driscoll, Mark Martel, Trevor DeMattos, Diane Bartlett, David Wright, Lorna Watts, Shirley Ferguson, Greg Heenan, *May they find support in our prayers.*

REFLECTION

Third Sunday of Advent



Gospel Summary John the Baptist had disciples of his own and while in prison he sent some of them to Jesus. At John's request, the disciples asked Jesus if he was the Messiah or were they to wait for another. Jesus did not answer them directly, but pointed to the miracles he had performed in the name of God's love. If John himself did not wonder, it was likely that his followers did. Jesus did not fit the image of Messiah, and so it was possible that people began to doubt their original perception.

Reflection for Families It would have appeared to Jesus that John began to doubt. Perhaps it was the confinement of prison that let his mind question what he once so clearly understood. But even so, Jesus affirmed John in this scripture as the greatest of all prophets. From this experience, it is reassuring as parents to know that even when we doubt, either ourselves or God, we are still great in God's eyes. Our strength is in knowing God is with us as a loving parent.

FAMILY ADVENT PRAYER

During the Advent season families should spend time together preparing for the celebration of the birth of Christ. This prayer can be repeated each evening lighting three candles (2 purple, 1 pink). Lord, lend Your ear, we beg, to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our minds with the grace of Your coming. You who are God, living and reigning. *Amen.*



Topic: *Baptism & Confirmation*

Presenter: Reg & Dorothy Ward

Time: Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Centre,

COLLECTION REPORT

∞ A Summary of Your Generosity ∞

December 9—\$6105. ▲\$984. *More than last year!*
Restoration Fund last week: \$2450. *FYI Keeping our offertory up exempts our restoration fund from being taxed by the Chancery.*

MURAL RESTORATION

PHASE II IS NOW COMPLETED! Carlos and crew have packed up! Notice the cleaned Stations of the Cross? The pictures are actually visible. Take a slow, contemplative walk around your church, and take in the beauty of these, and the other murals that have been restored.

Still available are **PERSONALIZED ENGRAVED PLAQUES** Contact Dorothy Ward at 905 372-3138 for more information, and to place an order. Cost is \$100.00.

Flowers Flowers Flowers

Poinsettia plant, mums, etc. would once again be welcomed to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas! Plants can be delivered the week of Dec. 17th until the 22nd at the Parish Office or Sacristy. Thank you.

Thank You...

St. Michael's Catholic School Council would like to thank everyone who attended their Sugar Plum Fair, Nov. 25 in the school. The school was filled with happy people shopping, visiting and enjoying lunch. The money raised will be used to enhance education programs at the school.

You're Invited NEW YEARS DINNER/DANCE

No plans for New Years yet? There will be a dinner and dance at the Columbus Community Centre. Call the office at 905 372-2991 for tickets.

Spe Salvi

On Christian Hope

ENCYCLICAL LETTER OF
THE SUPREME PONTIFF
BENEDICT XVI



On 30 November 2007, Pope Benedict XVI issued his second encyclical, this time exploring the theme of hope. Entitled "In hope we are saved", the text of **Spe Salvi** is a personal reflection by the Holy Father. Copies of this encyclical can now be ordered for \$6.95 CDN (plus tax and shipping) by ordering online at www.cccbpublications.ca/, by e-mail at publi@ccb.ca



Congratulations: Michael & Jason Richards have been preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion which they will make this weekend. And, also we welcome into our faith Scout Hartlage and Rhys Cashin who will be baptized. Please pray for them and their families, as they journey with their faith.

Just a thought...

"Recall the face of the poorest and most helpless person you have seen and ask yourself if the next step you contemplate is going to be of any use to that person."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Schedule for the Christmas Season

Private Confessions

Thurs. December 20 7:00 to 8:00 PM
Friday. December 21 11:00 to 11:45 AM

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SAT. December 22 5:00 PM
SUN. December 23 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

MON. December 24 5:00 PM
MON. December 24 8:00 PM
MON. December 24 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

TUES. December 25 10:00 AM

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SAT. Dec. 29-5:00 PM & SUN. Dec. 30-9 & 11:00 AM

FEAST OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

MON. Dec. 31-5:00 PM

TUES. January 1, 2008 9:00 & 11:00 AM

NOTE: New Years Day (Holy day of obligation) we will have Eucharistic Adoration New Year's Eve from 7:00 PM until Midnight.

Nativity Story Friday, December 21, 6:00 PM in the Church.

PLEASE NOTE if you plan to attend this movie to please use the school parking lot. (*unless you are in need of handicapped parking*). St. Vincent will be distributing food boxes this evening, and will require the use of the church parking lot. Thank you for your assistance.

Growing in Faith: 'DISCOVERING MATTHEW THROUGH THE SUNDAY GOSPEL READINGS OF ADVENT—3 to 4 PM in the Parish Centre Dec. 19. **NOTE** that you can participate in this program by visiting our website and following the link to Growing in Faith.

Keep the True Meaning of Christmas

The Best Presents Can't be Wrapped con't.

This holiday season give the gift of yourself. Give these of similar presents of friendship, understanding, kindness, love and compassion:

- ☞ Reconcile with a friend or relative with whom you have quarrelled. Apologize if you were wrong.
- ☞ Wish people you meet a good day and a happy and holy Christmas.
- ☞ Send care packages to military personnel stationed overseas.
- ☞ Sing Christmas carols at nursing homes or hospitals.
- ☞ Invite a friend or neighbour who will be alone to share your Christmas celebration.