Third Sunday of Advent

"I baptize with water. Among you stands…
the one who is coming after me."

MASSES THIS WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Psalter III -- Year B

MON. December 15
12:05 PM **† ALAN NICKERSON**
--The Family

TUES. December 16
9:30 AM Notre Dame School Mass at the School
12:05 PM **DECEASED CWL MEMBERS**

WED. December 17
12:05 PM *******NO MASS******
(Clergy Christmas Luncheon)

THURS. December 18
10:00 AM Mass at Golden Plough
12:05 PM **† JOANNE LAMBLE**
--Mary Ellen & Del Dillon

FRI. December 19
12:05 PM **† CARMELA PEDOTA**
--Don & Frances DePalma

Saturday, December 20

5:00 PM † DORIS PARSONS & DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS *--Parsons Family*

Sunday, December 21

9:00 AM MISSA PRO POPULO

11:00 AM † MARY GUIRY
--The Family

Next Weekend's Readings **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
1st: 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
2nd Romans 16.25-27 *Gospel* Luke 1.26-38

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Rosemary Roth, Lisa Sampson, James Thatcher, Mary Ryan, Don Butler, Charles Potier, Lisa Heenan, Shirley Ferguson, Marisca, Rosemarie Cromlish, Arlene Brown, Debbie Hale, Stanley Johnston, Jessica Gerber, Richard Philips, Bill Daly, Isabel Hogan, James Fullerton, Lynn Fabris, Mary Beyette, Jean Winters, Theresa Ferguson, Nathalia Yuri Garcia, Charles Bateman, Andy Amelia, Bob Pickett, Matilda Eikens, Noreen Mark, Antoinette Brisson, Julie Black, Stan Johnston, Fred Williams, Denise Palermo, Mark Martel, Diane Bartlett, Greg Heenan, *May the Lord's healing hand touch them.*

REFLECTION

The Jewish leaders questioned John the Baptist asking who he was. They even took a few guesses themselves suggesting that he was the Messiah, Elijah, or a prophet. John had his own following who would have been glad to acknowledge him in any of these three categories, but John made it clear that he was simply announcing the one to come who would be much greater than himself.

Reflection for Families So often our identity is tied to another person. We are Jim's mom, Tom's wife, Sue's husband, or Mary's daughter. Like John did in today's gospel, we may even define ourselves by who we are not. John made it clear he was not the Messiah, a prophet, or Elijah returned. What John is, is the same thing we are, and that is a herald the person who brings the Good News about Jesus Christ into the lives of others. In our families we do this by our faithful participation in worship, prayer, and actions.

COLLECTION REPORT

A Summary of Your Generosity
December 7 Offertory $5235.
Restoration $1910. *Thank you for your support!*

EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sun. 14—5:00 PM Youth Group Pot Luck in P/C
Mon. 15—7:30 PM Ultreya in Parish Centre
Wed. 17—12:30 Legion of Mary in Parish Centre
Wed. 17—12:30-7:30 PM BLOOD DONOR CLINIC at Columbus Community Centre
Thurs.—Seniors Euchre at the Columbus Community Centre will resume in the new year
Thurs. —Prayer/Meditation Group will resume January 8, 2009

2009 MISSALS & CALENDARS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE.

NOTE THAT SCHEDULES FOR LECTOR'S AND EXTRA ORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER'S ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE NARTHEX.

Advent Retreat-at-Home
In preparation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent…December 21

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God." Hard copies of this programme are available at the entrance of the Church, or from the Parish Office during office hours. *This series is also on our website—follow the link Faith Formation/Advent 2008.*

MURAL RESTORATION

PLAQUE ORDERS IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS…
Contact Dorothy at 905 372-3138 to order yours!

Congo Crisis Update

CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR Development and Peace

Invited by DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, two Bishops and one Sister from the Democratic Republic of the Congo arrived on Sunday for an urgent visit to Montreal and Ottawa. The news they brought with them is alarming. Currently, armed groups are terrorizing the residents of the region north of Goma in North Kivu province. They forcibly recruit child soldiers, rape women and attack humanitarian aid convoys. During the last few days, members of these groups chased civilians from refugee camps and destroyed their shelters. In order to understand this war", explains Bishop Fridolin Ambongo of Bokungu Ikela diocese, President of the Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission, "we must examine mining resources. The armed groups want to forcibly control these riches." "The international community must lead a serious investigation on the illegal exploitation of natural resources. It should shed light on the way that these minerals are traded in legitimate international markets." "We ask that the foreign mining companies meet with us. Congo's resources must not only benefit those companies but the entire Congolese population. This is not the case today. Things must change," adds Bishop Ambongo. Please make an effort to become informed, and actions we can do by visiting www.devp.org

Flowers for Christmas

This year we are asking that monetary donations be made for flowers for decoration the Sanctuary for the Christmas celebrations. If you would like to do so in memory of a loved one, please mark a envelope 'Flowers' with your name and address on it. *Your donation will be added to your income tax receipt.* Thank you for your support.

FYI

At the 11:00 AM Mass last Sunday, December 7, the Mass Intention was for the First Anniversary of Donna McGinn. Unfortunately, the 9:00 AM intention was inadvertently read.

Christmas Schedule

PRIVATE CONFESSIONS:
Tues. Dec.23 following the noon Mass & 7:00PM
Reminder that Father is also in the Confessional every Saturday from 4:15 to 4:45 PM.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:
Wed., December 24
5:00, 8:00 & 11:00 PM

NOTE: The choir loft nor the Sacristy, will not be available for seating at any of the Masses. Plan to arrive early, so you won't be disappointed.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS:
December 25, 11:00 AM

2009 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2009 Offertory Box Envelopes in the Parish Centre after all Masses next weekend, and during office hours. Please check that we have your correct name and address listed. Thank you.

Knights of Columbus Benefit

The KofC are sponsoring a benefit dinner and activity night for burn victim and Brother Knight, Dan Durocher. He was seriously burned at his home in the fall and spent 4 weeks at the Burn Unit in Buffalo. He will be undergoing 8 months of burn therapy. Your support will help him and his family through this difficult time.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday, January 17, 2009 Semi Formal—at the Columbus Community Centre, with cocktails at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM. There will: Dancing to a DJ, Raffles, Silent Auction, Cash Bar. Cost is $40.00 per person. For tickets contact Jack Vollering at 905 372-7675 or the CCCentre at 905 372-2991. Thank you for your support! Your prayers are also most welcomed.

New Years Eve Dinner/Dance

December 31: Social 6:00 PM, Hot Buffet Supper 7:00 PM, Champagne Toast Midnight & Light Lunch. Cost is $80/couple. Limited tickets. All are welcome to the Columbus Community Centre for this celebration. Rebel Disc Jockey. Call 905 372-2991 for your ticket!