

Third Sunday of Advent

13 Third Sunday of Advent

Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, coffee hour following
Faith Formation: 9:30am - Benincasa
Baptism Class: 11:30 - Benincasa Basement
AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

14 Monday

Communion Service: 9am
Liturgy Committee: 7pm - Benincasa

15 Tuesday

Mass: 9am
Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm

16 Wednesday

Children's (4th-8th) Choir: 7:45am - Music Room
Communion Service: 9am
School Reconciliation Service: 2pm
Advent Reconciliation Service: 7pm

17 Thursday

Mass: 9am
RCIA: 7pm - Benincasa
Choir: 7pm

18 Friday

Mass: 9am

19 Saturday

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
Mass—Simbang Gabi: 5pm
Dinner following Mass: 6pm - Church Basement
AA Meeting: 6:30pm - Benincasa Basement

20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass: 8:30 & 10:30, Coffee hour following
Advent Movie Night: 4pm - Victoria Hall
AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

*Readings for December 20th
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

PRAYERS

Ray Barnes
Luis Batayola
Joe Byrne
Kay De Ambrosio
Evan Dubicki
Bob Flakus
Martha Harris

Frank Martin
James McNamara
George Nemeth
Effie Rohner
Evelyn Stetz
Don Sullivan
Chris Young

PRAYERS

..... *A Word from Victoria*

Jesus' first act in any encounter was to welcome the person. This may seem obvious, but it is key. His welcome was not exclusive; he welcomed all—even the most despised in society, even the religious leaders who opposed him.

His welcome alone was healing, but it was only the beginning. We know from the gospels that he healed people, he fed them, he forgave them, he invited them, he challenged them, he taught them, he gave them hope, he restored them to community and to relationship to God.

And it all began with welcome.

Many people come to us. They are looking for something that we hope, by the grace of God, we can offer. We have come to know Jesus and the people gathered in his name. We have received healing and mercy and life and hope and much more. We are instructed to share what we have received, and we do share—healing, hope, food, strength, mercy, financial resources, call, community.

But it all begins with sharing welcome. And that may be the hardest thing for us to share. We often find it difficult to welcome outsiders, people who are different from us, people who are not already part of our lives and community, people who bring obvious problems, people who are angry or unpleasant.

This welcome is the greatest gift we have received from Jesus. It is the greatest gift we have to offer.

I think that we are in many ways a welcoming community. I also know that there is room for us to grow in this gift of welcome. The Pastoral Council has for several years included in its goals one focused on hospitality and welcome. The upcoming Catholics Come Home series of ads may bring new people to our community, and is catalyst to our increased focus on providing a welcome to all who may come to join us—both Catholics who have been away and people coming to the church for the first time.

We are now forming a committee to work on welcome issues. The focus will be two-fold: one, on helping all of us participate in developing a spirit of welcome to all who come to us at any time; and two, on providing concrete mean of welcome such as reviving our greeter ministry at all the masses, providing "buddy" parishioners to help orient new members, newcomers gatherings, possible use of nametags, maps, expansion of the web-site, and more. If you are interested in being part of this committee or in helping with a part of the is work of welcome, please let me know.

Jesus has welcomed us in love and acceptance. May we together offer that same welcome to others.

Victoria

Announcements

Advent Reconciliation Service

Don't miss this opportunity to prepare for the gift of Christmas—God-with-us—through the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There are two opportunities to celebrate this sacrament on Wednesday, December 16: at 2pm (with the school) and at 7pm (a communal service with individual confession).

Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve: Mass at 6pm and 9pm with carols beginning half hour before
Christmas Day: Mass at 9am

Picture Directory Thanks

Many thanks to all who had their pictures taken. If you missed the picture-taking, you have two options for inclusion in the directory: to go to another Life Touch site for the picture (call Victoria for locations) or to give (electronically if possible) Victoria a picture for inclusion. **Please do this as soon as possible.**

Thanks to Elsa Alvarez for organizing the whole picture-taking effort. She managed the schedule, made calls, recruited volunteers to staff the welcome tables, and more. **Thanks to all** who helped with registration, calls, and more.

Boy Scout Christmas Trees

Boy Scout Troop 151, which meets at St. Catherine's, is selling beautiful local Christmas trees. The sale is in the Safeway parking lot at Roosevelt and 75th. We are open every day, from 4 to 8 pm Monday through Friday, and 9 am to 8 pm on weekends.

Last chance to purchase Scrip before Christmas!

You can support the St. Catherine School PTO by buying Scrip. Scrip is gift cards to local and national merchants. The school buys them a discounted price and sells them at face value. St. Catherine School PTO keeps the difference between what they buy the Scrip for and what they sell the Scrip for. In the bulletin this week you will find an order form to purchase Scrip for the upcoming holiday shopping season. If you would like to purchase Scrip, please follow the directions on the top of the order form. **You can download the order form at <https://sites.google.com/a/stcatherineschool.net/pto/Home/fundraising/scrip/scrip-forms>.** Scrip is available for purchase after the 5:00pm, 8:30am and 10:30am masses. Thank you for your support of the St. Catherine PTO. Please contact Diane Anderson with any questions diane_m_anderson@hotmail.com or 206-402-3022.

Parish Stewardship
December 6, 2009
Collection Total: \$10,130.00

Christmas Tree Sale at Our Lady of the Lake

Proceed to benefit our mission trips with Esperanza International to Tijuana, Mexico. Trees will be available through presale or on site purchase in the upper parking lot from 9am-7pm on the weekends of Dec 12-13 & Dec 19-20.

..... *Social Justice*

If you are interested in Social Justice or learning more about it please join the Social Justice Committee every 3rd Sunday of the Month. Our next meeting is Sunday, December 20 after the 10:30 mass. Call Shannon Fleming Bray for details.

..... *Youth Ministry*

Sr. High Youth

Youth Group has begun and all students in the 9-12th grades are welcome! You can find the schedule on on the Sr. High Youth Group page of the parish web site.

Upcoming events:

Christmas Party: Sunday, 12/13, 4PM

Advent Movie Night: Join the whole parish for movies, hot chocolate and tree lighting on Sunday, 12/20, 4PM

