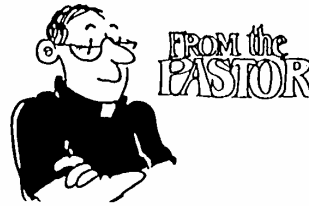


Reading for this Week

Monday: Is 35: 1-10; Lk 5: 17-26
Tuesday: Is 40: 1-11; Mt 18: 12-14
Wednesday: Is 40: 25-31; Mt 11: 28-30
Thursday: Gn 3: 9-15,20; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48: 17-19; Mt 11: 16-19
Saturday: Is 48: 1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61: 1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:
6-8, 19-28

You can now find the daily readings on our Parish Website!



**PASTOR'S NOTE:
THE EXAMPLE OF ST.
NICHOLAS**

Tuesday, December 6, is the feast day of St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop whose generosity and kindness to children has lent itself to our understanding of Santa Claus.

The most common tradition about St. Nick is that children (and adults) place their empty shoes outside their doors the night before the saint's day. In the morning, the shoes are filled with candy, small gifts, or fruit...unless the person more likely merits coal.

In my family, we would hang out a very, very large stocking with a letter to Santa. The next morning the letter would be gone, replaced with enough candy to get us excited about the coming special day. I do recall one year, however, when my brother Ken received a chunk of coal. These days most of us rarely see coal anywhere, much less in a stocking.

It's all in good fun, but having the saint there reminds us that a generous heart is required for the season. We have all heard it is better to give than to receive. It is also more blessed to give from a loving heart than merely out of obligation. (How many times our Christmas shopping is centered on "I've got to get something for this person and that one...")

We need to maintain the generous spirit during these crazy, busy, and hectic days. Take a moment before doing Christmas shopping to remember why you are doing it and what it really means. And keep in mind that material gifts are seldom the best gifts that are given.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Q. What makes Blessed John XXIII different?

A. Many have noticed something special about Blessed John XXIII Parish and have tried to put that "specialness" into words. Some say it is our newness or the commitment of the membership. Others say it is the warm hospitality or the quality of the liturgical celebrations and music. For many the Generations of Faith formation process is creative and exciting.

Very likely, we are special for all of the above reasons. But also we stand out because we are young, energetic, and full of the Spirit. We try to make room for all and want to travel the journey of faith with you. We are here to serve people in serving God.

And we are special because we may be just what you are looking for.

MID-WEEK MEDITATION

During Advent I am beginning a "Mid-week Meditation." Hopefully, you will receive this on e-mail (if we have your e-mail address), will read it, and then pass it on. If you have not given us an e-mail address when you registered but want us to include you, please send us a note to tcarella@blessedjohn.org (via e-mail, of course). Thanks – Fr. Herb
Herb

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT IN ORDINARY TIME



GENERATIONS OF FAITH RESERVATIONS CLOSED

Reservations for the December Generations of Faith are now closed.

Our next Generations of Faith will be January 29 and 30. In January we will be exploring the Healing Mission of the Church, looking at the Anointing of the Sick, and St. Blaise.

If you have not signed up for Generations of Faith, we invite everyone to participate in this intergenerational religious education experience! Generations of Faith is for EVERYONE!!! Watch for new brochures the weekend of December 17/18!

Don't forget to donate some Christmas cookies for our dessert! It will be fun to share our Holiday Favorites with the other households from the parish.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN 
SYMPATHY † Tammy Weber

Who returned to the Father on November 25, 2005.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION DEC. 5 AT DOWLING!

Our next Confirmation Preparation session will be Monday, December 5 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the Upper level of Dowling Church. (We had to move due to Dart ball contests in the lower level.) Please bring a **copy of your baptismal certificate**, your sponsor, as well as your completed note card with your Confirmation name on the front and explanation about your name on the back. Questions? E-mail Marla at moverholt@blessedjohn.org

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Our Sunday offering last week was \$2,577. Thank you very much. For those who have recently registered, you will be receiving packets of regular Sunday offering envelopes in the mail for January. Until then, please use the generic envelopes we provide.

HOLY DAY THIS WEEK

Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. As opposed to the popular misunderstanding, this is NOT about Mary's virgin birth of Jesus, but about how Mary was free of original sin from her conception. That was God's way of preparing her to be the mother of Jesus. **Our Mass will be at 7:00 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Highway 582, just west of Haskins.**

THE GIVING TREE

This Advent season we will be helping 8 families to have a special Christmas. Suggestions for food items and gifts will be made available on our Parish Giving Tree. When you take a tag, please record the tag information, your name, and phone number, in the notebook located by the Giving Tree.

We ask that individual gift items be between \$15.00 and \$20.00. Money can also be donated for gas cards or other gift certificates. Please return the items that were on the tag, wrapped, and with the gift tag attached on the package. If you would like to help deliver a gift basket to a family, please sign up on the sheet provided or call Waleska Ramirez at 419-874-9755 or hwr Ramirez@sbcglobal.net.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

We are very pleased to have three Christmas Masses: 4:30 and 7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve; and 9:30 a.m., Christmas morning. All three Masses will be at Perrysburg High School. Plan ahead and please invite others to join us.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY and MASS

Come celebrate Mass with us at 9:00 a.m. followed by Bible Study at 9:30-10:30 a.m., Tuesdays, at the "model" home at River's Edge Development, Ft. Meigs Rd, just south of Perrysburg High School.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK  **PRAYER**

Our prayer chain is forming. If you want to help pray for those in need (sickness, injury, or loss), you can get on the list by e-mailing our parish office with your e-mail address or by calling the parish phone number (419-662-3180). Each time someone is added to the list, you will be e-mailed or called, so you have the name of the person to pray for. We are in need for some people willing to be on the telephone chain list and e-mail list ready to go.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

We are having our organizational meeting this afternoon December 4 at the Mouch house at 21443 Mercer Road (Between Dowling and SR 582) at 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The "Senior" Youth Group is open to all in grades 8 through 12. Please come with your ideas of what you want YOUR group to do, to be, and to represent. See Mr. or Mrs. Mouch after Mass today with any questions. Parents can drop off by 3:00 and pick up at 5:00. See you there.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Fr. Herb will be assisting at Advent Reconciliation Services at the following places:

- Sunday, December 4, 7:00 p.m., St. Joan of Arc, Toledo
- Monday, December 12, 7:00 p.m., St. Rose, Perrysburg
- Monday, December 19, 7:00 p.m., St. Aloysius, Bowling Green

NO NURSERY TODAY!

There will be no nursery today as we do not have any parents scheduled to watch the children. If you have small children, we hope you will consider participating in the co-op nursery!!! See Marla after mass or e-mail her at moverholt@blessedjohn.org and she will be glad to give you more information about taking a turn in the nursery.

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

This parish committee, trying to help us look ahead to the use of our property as we plan ahead, will meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, right after the 7:00 p.m. Mass, Thursday, December 8. All are welcomed.

YOUTH DELIVERED FOOD

Youth of the parish, along with adults, delivered our Thanksgiving Drive food to Assumption Outreach Center (old St. Mary's Church, Toledo), the day before Thanksgiving. While there, they helped sort the food and stock the shelves. It was a great opportunity to see where the food goes. Hopefully, there will be additional opportunities to give food after Christmas.

CONGRATULATIONS!

In case you haven't heard, the Blessed John XXIII float was judged and received "First Prize" and \$150.00 at the holiday parade last Sunday. Congratulations to the MANY who helped build the float, rode on it, and walked with us. Great fun!

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT IN ORDINARY TIME

AS WE GROW...

Each week we see are seeing more visitors and first-timers. Please remember to greet them, welcome them, and help them feel at home. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself and offer them a nice place to sit. As we get bigger, we don't want to lose our friendly atmosphere. But it takes everyone to maintain it.

THANK YOU

We want to thank Julie Bermudez for painting the beautiful Advent banner, Maribeth Connor for creating the black backdrop behind the altar (in the Commons), Fred Eberly for constructing the Advent wreath, and for Jan Jagodzinski and other members of the Liturgical Environment Committee for flowers and others Advent decorations.



GENERATIONS OF FAITH COOKIE BAKERS

A reminder to all who wish to donate a dozen or two of their signature Christmas cookies for the Generations of Faith gatherings December 11 and 12, we will need your cookie donation next weekend. Cookies can be dropped off at Saturday's 5 p.m. service or Sunday's 9:30 a.m. service. Thanks in advance!!

PARISH MEMBERSHIP GROWS

As of November 30, 2005, Blessed John XXIII Parish registered 148 households. Please notice how quickly we are growing. Welcome to all. For others, there is always room for you to join us. As a courtesy, if you are joining Blessed John, you may want to inform any other parish where you have been registered, that you are now registered here. Thank you.

HAPPENINGS ELSEWHERE

A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral will present a "Service of Advent Lessons and Carols" today, Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m.

The service will be sung by the choir and cantors of the Cathedral. The Presider will be Rev. Michael R. Billian, Episcopal Vicar for the Diocese of Toledo.

The service begins with a ceremonial lighting of lamps and evening Thanksgiving followed by seven lessons culminating with the Gospel account of Annunciation.

Secure parking will be provided. Please plan to make the Advent Lessons and Carols a part of your preparation for the great feast of Christmas.

TOLEDO SYMPHONY AT ALL SAINTS

All Saints Catholic Church, 628 Lime City Rd, Rossford, is presenting its annual Toledo Symphony Neighborhood Concert Series at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, December 18, at the church. The theme this year is "An International Musical Tour." To order tickets or for more information, please call 419-666-1393.

BENEFIT DINNER

There will be a spaghetti Dinner Benefit on Sunday, December 11 from 3-8 p.m. at St. Clement's Community Center, 2990 Tremainsville Rd. This benefit is for Jimmy McGill, who was diagnosed with leukemia in May.

The benefit will include a live band and raffles. Admission fee is \$5.00 for adults, plus \$5.00 for dinner. Children are admitted free, and their dinners are \$3.00. Carry outs will be available. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For further information call 419-478-5299.