

Weekly Bulletin

December 6 to December 13, 2008

Mary, Model of Advent Hope

The Blessed Virgin Mary is always the finest example of discipleship. Not only was she the most faithful to the Lord Jesus, she is the one chosen by Him from the Cross to be our spiritual mother to help us as disciples (cf. John 19:26-27). The other great Advent figure is Saint John the Baptist. He cries out: "prepare the way of the Lord!" He reminds us that there is indeed preparation needed in our hearts for us to be able to welcome the Savior. This season is hectic but a grace-filled time for such an interior renewal. Mary shows us how to do so—we need to live in hope!

Delay leads to distraction. The centuries during which the Chosen People of Israel waited for the promised Messiah saw them become unfaithful to the Lord's covenant. Their minds were concentrating on more immediate matters and they lost sight of the big picture and thus made bad decisions. Even business gurus will speak of the need to keep a balance between the urgent and the important. The fact is that we can't make good decisions in the present without keeping a reference to whether or not they are leading us closer to our ultimate goal.

Our destination is Heaven and we have no idea as to when the journey will be over. Therefore it is all the more urgent that we keep the importance of the objective always in sight. Are my daily steps headed in the right direction, i.e. towards an ever more full union of love with God and neighbor? If not, what needs to change? And am I ready to change now? Good intentions for later days often never come to fruition.

Monday's Holy Day of Obligation (December 8) is the beginning of God's proximate preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Mary was conceived without sin so that she could be the mother of the Son of God. This was the action of God's grace within her which then required her cooperation as she grew and exercised her freedom. God shows His readiness to remove our sins as well... confessions are available each Sunday morning at Saint Vincent's. Are we ready to cooperate and give up our sins? Can we delay gratification and not get distracted by passing pleasures? Are we ready to focus our hearts on Jesus Christ as the "reason for the season" and the only gift of lasting value? We need the virtue of hope to make concrete decisions here and now which keep us on God's path for our lives.

Father Joseph



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CLERGY

- † Fr. Joseph Johnson,
Pastor
- † Fr. James Adams,
Associate Pastor
- † Fr. Andrew Cozzens,
Associate Pastor
- † Dc. Va Thai Lo
- † Dc. Nao Kao Yang

SCHEDULES

Masses:

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM

Confession:

Sunday 8:00AM-8:45AM

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday 7:00PM-8:00PM

Religious Education:

Sunday 10:30AM-
12:00PM

1st Sat. of Month:

- Mass at 8:30AM
- Altar & Rosary Society
Meeting

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12/6

8:30 AM Ralph Mikel Family
5:00 PM Altar & Rosary
Society

Sunday 12/7

9:00 AM People of the
Parish

Saturday 12/13

5:00 PM Don Weber

Sunday 12/14

9:00 AM People of the
Parish

GOSPEL READING AT MASS

Saturday 12/6 (Vigil)

Matthew 1: 1-8

Sunday 12/7

Matthew 1: 1-8

Monday 12/8

Luke 1: 26-38

Tuesday 12/9

Matthew 18: 12-14

Wednesday 12/10

Matthew 11: 28-30

Thursday 12/11

Matthew 11: 11-15

Friday 12/12

Luke 1: 26-38 or 39-47

Saturday 12/13 (AM)

Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13

Saturday Confession

Saturday Confession will be
at the **Cathedral of Saint
Paul** from 3:30PM-5:00PM

Lus ceeb toom

Vim tsis muaj tus teb xov
tooj hauv peb lub Tsev teev
Ntuj lawm, mas yog nej hu
tuaj, tus yuav teb xov tooj
yog tus khiav hauj lwm nyob
pem lub niam Tsev teev Ntuj
(Cathedral). Tso nej npe
thiab xov tooj, Txiv Plig
mam li hu rov rau nej.

Monday, December 8 - Holy Day of Obligation

On Monday, December 8, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. **Mass will be offered at St. Vincent's at 7 PM.** All Catholics who are physically able are required to attend Holy Mass on this day in honor of our Immaculate Mother. If you are not able to attend Mass at St. Vincent's that day, please make provisions to attend Holy Mass somewhere else. NB: The Cathedral of Saint Paul is offering four Masses in celebration of this Solemnity – 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM, 5:15 PM and 7 PM.

Pilgrimage to Rome

Father Joseph will be leading a pilgrimage to Rome for the close of the Year of Saint Paul. The pilgrimage will trace the footsteps of the Apostle to the Gentiles from June 26 to July 5, 2009. Daily Mass and meditations, the close of the Year of Saint Paul and the leadership of Father Joseph combine to make this a unique opportunity. The cost is \$3,379.00 from Minneapolis (plus tips, taxes and fuel surcharges). A \$300 deposit reserves your spot. There are brochures available in back of church.

Vocation Discernment

Single women ages 17 and older are invited to a retreat at the Saint Agnes Convent, 525 Thomas Avenue, Saint Paul, beginning Monday, December 29 at 4:00 PM and ending at Noon Wednesday, December 31. Hosted by Sisters in Jesus the Lord, a private association, the retreat will offer talks by priests, periods of prayer and opportunities to talk individually to a sister. Room and board is included. Call 651-291-7777 to register. See www.cjd.cc for more details.

Christmas Schedule

December 24- Christmas Eve (English): 5 PM

December 25-Christmas Day (Bi-Lingual): 9 AM