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The First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2008

As we begin the season of Advent and start a new church year, it is a good time to take a look at where we are in our journey with the Lord. Pray for the insight to know what God asks of you and for the fortitude to follow wherever His Spirit may lead you.

We are the clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hands.
- Isaiah 64:7

MASSSES for the WEEK

Sat 11/29	5:00	†Bernard Eggerman
Sun 11/30	9:00	†Carol Thornberry
	11:00	†Jeffrey Schlueter
	5:00	†Anita Fanoë
Mon 12/1	9:00	Our Parish Family
Tue 12/2	9:00	†Anita Fanoë
Wed 12/3	9:00	†Lucille Botelho Ross
Thur 12/4	9:00	
Fri 12/5	9:00	Our Parish Family
Sat 12/6	9:00	†Floyd Griffin
	5:00	†Michael Johnson
Sun 12/7	9:00	†Carol Thornberry
	11:00	†Jose Roel
	5:00	†Anita Fanoë

Remember In Your Prayers

Mike Albin, Jack Aiello, Karen Andresen, Suzette, Laverne Austin, Kip Bothwell, Mary Carnazzo, Janet Cohen, Al DeCarli, Bill & Mary Dekyne, Les Dinn, Cliff Escobar, David Joe Flores & family, Jasper Foletta, Adam Garcia, Joey Gardner, Linda Giordano, Christopher Gomez, John H., Dick Hitchcock, Tom, Sr. Marie, Maggie Horowitz, Gordon Inns, Susan Inns, Lorraine Jacob, Sylvia Jaksha, Debbie Juran, Mary Lou Kelner, Joe Leavitt, Petra Macfarlane, Martin Maher, Ray Martin, Dan Menke, Ryan Perry, Ed Roberti, Gino Roberti, Paddy Roche, Patricia Roel, Bob, Tamara Shipley, Linda Silvestri, Carson & Pam Souza, Suzanne Stewart, Sara Thomas, Jim Thornberry, Gene Tissot, Garrett Weeks, Terry Weldon, Bob Whitaker, Penny Austin-Wilson, Sandy Wilt, and Vicki Woods.

If you or someone you know would like the faith community of St. Joseph's Parish to join you in prayer for special needs, contact the parish office, 455-2249. We do remove names after one month, so if we have taken a name from the list of a person still in need of prayers, please give us a call and we will happily put him or her back on the list.

For Your Information

Meetings This Week

Evening Prayer	Mon, 7:00, church
Pageant Rehearsal	Thur, 3:30, church



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To The Sisters of Charity of The Infant Mary in Gonzales for their 175th Anniversary!

And, to Sister Bernice Heinz for winning The Crystal Apple Award for her teaching at Madonna del Sasso School!



Advent News

Evening Prayer on the Monday evenings of Advent* @ 7 PM

Including:

*Beginning of Advent Retreat on 1st Monday

*December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception– 2nd Monday of Advent, Mass instead of Evening Prayer

*Parish Reconciliation– December 15 @7PM

Advent Retreat: December 1–4, 2008, after morning Mass and at 7 PM

Children's Christmas Preview @ 10 AM, Sunday, December 14, 2008 in the church.

Giving Tree Reception: after the 5 PM liturgy on Sunday, December 21, 2008 in the hall.



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The Giving Tree

We again invite people to share, through our Giving Tree, their Christmas with others who are less fortunate. This year we are working with Catholic Charities who have supplied us with the names of needy families. The ornaments on the tree this year will bear the names of specific people and things they have requested. Beginning the first Sunday of Advent, the Parish Giving

Tree will be located in the church – complete with ornaments that identify specific needs for our families to brighten their Christmas. Here is what you can do to help:

- *Remove an ornament from the tree
 - *Purchase the item on the ornament
 - *List the details of the package content (ie: size)
 - *Wrap the gift
 - *Tape the paper ornament securely on the bottom of gift
 - *Place the gift back under the Giving Tree no later than noon December 21
- You may choose to include a card or to remain anonymous. ***The important thing to remember is to hang on to the paper ornament so you can securely attach it to the bottom of the wrapped gift.*** This ensures that we get the right gifts to the right families. Since there will be a reception for the Giving Tree families after the 5 PM liturgy on Sunday, December 21 (plan to be there!), make sure all the gifts are returned to the tree before noon on December 21. This gives the Confirmation class enough time to collect and sort the gifts to be distributed at the reception. Also, gifts of nonperishable food items are always greatly appreciated. There will be a collection box near the tree.

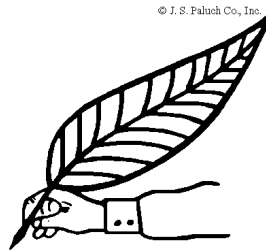
We can make the difference in a family's life. Please support our parish mission to minister to others in need, as Jesus did, this Advent Season.

gnisqerPaul

Advent Retreat With Father Jim

Since this year has been designated by Pope Benedict XVI as the Year of Paul, Father Jim has formed our parish Advent Retreat in such a way as to bring us to a better understanding of St. Paul and his immense influence on the formation of the Church both in his time and ours. Don't miss these four days of retreat: **Monday, December 1 through Thursday, December 4** as Father Jim describes St. Paul's concept of the Church, his ideas about the community that makes up the Church, his belief about how salvation comes to us and his teaching about the value of suffering in the world. Each session will be presented immediately **following the 9 AM daily Mass and again at 7 PM.** Refreshments and conversation will be offered after each session. **Don't miss it!**

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Pastor's Notes

Today I sit here enjoying one of my most favored things in the entire world, a cold turkey sandwich. And as I am eating it occurs to me that it is an amazing and privileged life that we lead. Here I sit enjoying what are in fact, just leftovers. Yet even these are wonderful.

Each year I am struck by how very much we have to be thankful for in this country and in this place. It is unfortunate that my mind is pushed into this fact by only one day of the year, Thanksgiving. It is a truth that we have too much to be thankful for to set aside only one day.

I would like to make a suggestion to the parish. How would people feel about a monthly celebration of Thanksgiving? What I am envisioning is a meal for the people at Dorothy's in Salinas. Each year they have a Thanksgiving celebration and many people participate in many ways. Some contribute turkeys, some cook them, some contribute potatoes, sweet or white, some prepare them, and our parish always contributes all the pumpkin pies.

If we could find some people who are interested in organizing such a venture, it would be a huge benefit to Dorothy's. This is a difficult time for many people and much of the support for charitable services is drying up. This would be a way for us to celebrate our thankfulness and at the same time benefit the needy. If there are some people who are interested please contact the parish office and we will see if we can make this work. I am thinking that we could start on the fourth Thursday of January. If this is too ambitious we could begin with one every three months. But first of all we need organizers and then we will look for people to contribute and prepare the meal.

Think on this while you are finishing your leftovers!

Fr. Jim

The Hospitality Committee is in need of volunteers to help serve after the 9am & 11am masses. It is a rewarding experience to provide fellowship for one another. Call Elfrida 484-9808 or Leslie 655-3754.

Please pray for...


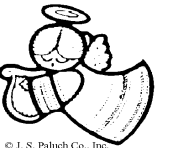




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Philip Zarate, Mike Albin, Brian Flannery and the other brave men and women serving our country overseas.

If you have a loved one serving in a foreign country, please contact the parish office at 455-2249 so we may include them on our special prayer list.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Altar Flowers Christmas Committee</p> <p>Lady of the Cloth Murlo Stubbs</p>	<p>1 Advent Retreat after 9AM Mass & 7 PM- Church</p>	<p>2 Advent Retreat after 9 AM Mass & 7 PM - Church</p>	<p>3 Advent Retreat after 9AM Mass & 7 PM - Church</p>	<p>4 Advent Retreat after 9AM Mass & 7 PM - Church Pageant rehearsal 3:30 - Church</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> 	<p>8 <i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i></p> <p>I-Help 5:00 - Hall</p> <p>Mass 7:00</p>	<p>9 Pageant Rehearsal 3:30 - Church</p> <p>RCIA 7:00 - Hall</p>	<p>10 Scripture Study 9:30, 7:00 - hall</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00 - Church</p>	<p>11 Bridge 10:00 - Hall</p> <p>Pageant Rehearsal 3:30 - Church</p> <p>HS Youth Group 7:00 - Hall</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> 
<p>14</p> <p>Christmas Pageant Preview 10 AM Church</p>	<p>15 I-HELP 5:00 - Hall</p> <p>Evening Prayer & Reconciliation Service 7:00 - Church</p>	<p>16 RCIA 7:00 - Hall</p>	<p>17 Scripture Study 9:30- hall Deanery Meeting 4:00- Rug Room</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00 - Church</p>	<p>18 Middle School Youth Group 6:30 hall</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Giving Tree Reception in hall following 5:00 mass</p>	<p>22 Evening Prayer 7:00 - Church</p>	<p>23 RCIA 7:00 - Hall</p>	<p>24 Masses 4:00 - Children's 7:00 - Vigil 11:30- (Midnight mass)</p> <p>Offices Closed</p>	 <p>25</p> <p>Masses at 9:00 & 11:00 (no 5:00 pm mass)</p>	<p>26 Offices Closed</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Offices Closed</p> 