

Sunday, November 29, 2009: First Sunday of Advent

FAITH CORNER

A TIME TO HOPE

We look forward with hope to Christ's coming.

Advent is a season of hope. As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Christmas, we join with all people who hope for a new beginning, for salvation, for a better life. We look for the coming of the Messiah.

We remember the stories of people of faith who waited for centuries for the coming of the savior. We look for the mystery of Jesus' coming into our lives every day, through the events in our lives, through one another, through the Church and her sacraments. We look forward to the day when Christ's kingdom will finally be established, a day we call the Second Coming or the *Parousia*.

National Catechetical Directory

"The season of Advent has a two-fold character. It is a time of preparation for Christmas when the first coming of God's son...is recalled.' Also it is 'the season when minds are directed to Christ's second coming at the end of time. It is thus a season of joyful and spiritual expectation' for the day of the Lord." (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, February 14, 1969, 39.) (#144)

"During their earthly lives Christians look forward to final union with God in heaven. They long for Christ's coming....The final realities will come about only when Christ returns with power to bring history to its appointed end. Then, as judge of the living and the dead, He will hand over His people to the Father." (#110, see also #s 60, 109)

Catechism of the Catholic Church

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (#524)

He Will Come Again In Glory

Christ already reigns through the Church...

"Christ died and lived again that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living." Christ's Ascension into heaven signifies his participation, in his humanity, in God's power and authority. Jesus Christ is Lord: he possesses all power in heaven and on earth. He is "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion," for the Father "has put all things under his feet." Christ is Lord of the cosmos and of history. In him human history and indeed all creation are "set forth" and transcendentally fulfilled. (#668)

WE PRAY FOR Jeremy Owings and Charell Rous as they celebrate their Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, Nov. 28.



Masses, Intentions & Services

Sat. Nov. 28 5:00 p.m.+ Pat Hickert-Stephen
 Sun. Nov. 29 9:30 a.m. + Alois & Mae Pfeifer
 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish
 Wed. Dec. 2 7:30 a.m.+ Nicholas F. Kreutzer
 Fri. Dec. 4 7:30 a.m.+ Larry Berens
 Sat. Dec. 5 5:00 p.m.+ Ralph Hoffman
 Sun. Dec. 6 9:30 a.m.+ William & Mary Honas
 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

All St. Nicholas Parishioners are Invited

The Feast of St. Nicholas CELEBRATION

When: Saturday, Dec. 5, Immediately after 5:00pm Mass

Where: St. Nicholas Parish Hall

What: A Family Dinner and a Movie with St. Nicholas
 (Soups, veggie tray, & cinnamon rolls)



Sponsored by the Family Life and Religious Education Commissions

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

ADULTS: Paul exhorts us to "make greater progress" in our spiritual lives. What one step could you take to make greater progress in your own life?

YOUTH: Advent is the Church season when we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas. What is one thing you can do to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas?

CHILDREN: What helps you to grow in your faith? Who helps you?

Tithing: Your Gift to God Our 2009/2010 fiscal year started July 1, 2009

Week Collection of Nov. 22	\$ 9,584
Budgeted Weekly Collection	\$ 12,706
Collection Year to Date	\$242,638
Budgeted Collection Year to Date	\$266,826
As of Nov. 22, 2009 we are over/(under) budget	(\$ 24,188)

MONEY COUNTERS

Nov. 29	Laura Hertel & Lucy Hutchison
Dec. 6	Richard & Trina Gottschalk
Dec. 13	Clint & Marie Froelich & Jennifer Leach
Dec. 20	Joel & Melinda Dreiling

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Readings for Advent Weekday

Monday, November 30 (St. Andrew)

Romans 10:9-18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11;
Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday, December 1

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 2

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6;
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 3 (St. Francis Xavier)

Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 4 (St. John of Damascus)

Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, December 5

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6;
Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 6

Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3);
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6



Faith Formation News

Faith Formation classes in session
Wednesday, Dec. 2;

-- Pre-K-Grade 5 - **6:15-7:15pm Advent Family Night** - Faith Formation Families will participate in Advent prayer and activities together in Parish Hall during regular class time.

-- Grades 6 & 7 - **7:30-8:30pm Group Advent Prayer Service** for first 20min. of class time.

-- Grade 8 - **7:15-8:30pm Regular class session**

Faith Formation classes in session
Wednesday, Dec. 9;

Pre-K-Grade 5 - 6:15-7:15pm

Grades 6 & 7 - 7:30-8:30pm

Grade 8 - 7:15-8:30pm

CYO News

-- **Premier Jewelry orders are in.** If you ordered jewelry from CYO, call Kathy at 639-1414 to make arrangements to pick up your order.

-- **FROST FEST** - Float Building Dec. 5, from 11am to 3pm. Parade Dec. 6, 5:30pm. Theme - Jingle Bell Jamboree

-- **CYO Lock-In** - Dec. 12, beginning with 5:00pm Mass, until Dec. 13, 7:30am.

PARENT CHAPERONES NEEDED!!!

Members Planning sessions TBA watch your e-mail/Facebook

ADVENT WREATHS FOR SALE - Advent wreaths are wonderful symbols of our waiting in the Advent season. St. Nicholas Religious Education Commission will be selling Advent Wreath kits (includes advent wreath, candles and prayer card) after Masses each weekend from **Nov. 21 through Dec. 6**, in the gathering space.

Whole kit, \$10.00; candles only, \$3.50 per set.

Candles for Crown Point - Please join the children in our Faith Formation Program in collecting candles for the families who belong to St. Michael's parish in Crown Point, NM. Candles are a precious commodity for these families. Let us help bring a light to their darkness this winter. Baskets will be available in the gathering space during the Advent & Christmas Seasons for donations of new or gently used candles (no glass containers, please). Thank you for your generosity!



WELCOME

Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish family:

Kirk & Gail Werth



NORTHWESTERN KANSAS REGISTER RENEWAL: Subscription renewal for the diocesan REGISTER is now due. At this time, we have received 79 renewed subscriptions of the 109 that subscribe and 13 new subscriptions.

2010 DIOCESAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ANNUAL APPEAL: A big "Thank you" to everyone who made a pledge or contribution to the CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ANNUAL APPEAL. If you have not made a decision yet, we ask that you do consider it. To date we have received \$20,860 toward our diocesan set goal of \$33,806.

Ladies Guild Members Mark Your Calendar!!! Come listen to the holiday music and enjoy an evening of food, fun and conversation, Dec. 21, at 6pm, at the VFW, 2106 Vine, RSVP to Henrietta Haselhorst at 625-5184 or Mary Mellick at 628-8896 by Dec. 7.



Catholic Websites

Adult- *Vatican Radio* www.radiovaticana.org

Parents - *Domestic Church* www.domestic-church.com

Youth - *Dumb Ox Productions*

www.dumbboxproductions.com/full_article.asp?ArticleID=50&Part=1&Continuation=True&CommonTitle=50

Children - *Pflaum Catholic Interactive computer games*

<http://www.pflaum.com/families3/interactive.htm>

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Holy Family Elementary

Dec. 3 - Advent Liturgy, Kdgn. through 3rd Grade, 7pm, IHM

Dec. 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception, No School

Dec. 10 - December Birthday Mass & Dinner

Dec. 21 - Jan. 4 - Christmas Vacation

Jan. 5 - School Resumes

-- While shopping for Christmas gifts, consider supporting Holy Family Elementary by purchasing gift cards through the HFE Bucks Program. New to the program is a VISA prepaid card. Wonderful for shopping and gift giving. Stop by school office.



Mark Calendars for the Thomas More Prep-Marian upcoming events:

- **Nov. 30** - School will resume
- **Dec. 17** - Christmas Concert
- **Dec. 21 thru Jan. 5, 2010** - Christmas break
- **TMP High School** would like to invite you to participate in Eucharistic Adoration at their newly updated Marian Chapel. They will have adoration on the first Friday of the month from 8am to 3:30pm. If you are interested in signing up you can contact Barb Wagoner or Stacie Rupp at 625-6577, or stop by anytime to say hello to Jesus. The dates of their adoration will be: Dec. 4, Feb. 5, March 5, and May 7.

ALMS FOR INMATES: St. Nicholas K of C will have a box in the gathering area (Nov.) for items to help make Christmas for inmates at the Ellsworth Correctional facilities. Items accepted: Toothpaste, bar soap, toothbrushes, men's deodorant, shampoo, small candy items, hot cocoa packets, snack crackers, snack bars.

Keep Christ in Christmas



The St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus are selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets and window decals during this Christmas season. Please consider buying one to be a witness to others for the reason for the season. Cost: \$5.00. Contact Grand Knight Duane Weigel at 625-5753, if you are interested.

Help is needed the week of Nov. 30 through Dec. 4 to deliver Meals on Wheels to the homebound. To volunteer your time please contact Cathy Pfeifer at 621-2085 or 623-1780.

Needed: Meals on Wheels Coordinator. Duties include scheduling volunteers 4-5 times a year to deliver Meals on Wheels. Contact Cathy Pfeifer at Work 621-2085 or Cell 623-1780 for more information.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 5 & 6

Saturday, 5:00 P.M.

EM

Darlene Arnhold
Andy Beck
Keith Dreiling
Marilyn Gabel
Bernice Kaiser
Marvin Kaiser
Stan Mayers

Proclaimer

Mary Toepfer #1
Tom Toepfer #2

Altar Servers
Alayna Arnhold
Alysia Arnhold
Jared Mayers

Hospitality

Galen Gottschalk
Neil Legleiter
Sacristan
Glen Gabel

Gift Bearers

Cayland Portenier

Sunday, 9:30 A.M. Mass

EM

Cory Munsch
Pat Lang
Pam Munsch
Gene Rice
Tim Schumacher
Ruth Schumacher
Bob Wasinger +

Proclaimer

Clare Gustin #1
Bill Weber #2

Hospitality

Julius Rohr

Sacristan

LeRoy Lang

Gift Bearers

Craig Karlin

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Mass

EM

Jayne Inlow
Mary Braden
Randall Braden
Sara Humphrey
Mary Lou Mastin
Joyce Newell
Kathy Taylor

Proclaimer

Kara Hunziker #1
Patty Stull #2

Hospitality

Roy Inlow

Sacristan

Kathy Jacobs

Gift Bearers

Katie Rausch

Ministers Needed for Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Advent/Christmas Schedules

Help is needed for the Advent/Christmas Mass Ministries. Sign-up sheets will be available in the gathering space or you can call the parish office at 628-1446. Thank you for all your help throughout the year!

The Adult Christmas Choir will be singing for the 11pm, Mass on Christmas Eve. Practice will begin on Dec. 2, from 8:15 to 9:30pm. All middle and high school students as well as adults are invited to participate. Practice dates include: Dec. 9, 16, and 23. Please contact Paula Beck at 625-8065 if interested.



Choir practice for the family Mass on Christmas Eve will begin on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 9:30 a.m. Anyone in the 2nd grade or older may participate (this includes adults). If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Pam Mayers at 623-4134.

Vocations



"Strengthen your hearts in holiness." Are you being called to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister? Call Father Jarett Konrade (785) 827-8746, or write: vocations@salinadiocese.org

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Who is a Catholic Steward?

A Catholic steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

First Friday Respect Life Mass, Dec. 4

Please join us for our monthly First Friday Heartland Parishes Respect Life Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray for life, our nation, and that all within our nation and the world would respect life from conception to natural death. Mass begins at 5:30pm, at St. Joseph Parish. It is preceded by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 4:55pm, then the Rosary at 5pm.

20th National Night of Prayer for Life Dec. 8/9

The 20th Annual Prayer for Life will be the evening of Dec. 8/9, from 9pm to 1am, at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please mark your calendar and join us in prayer for the protection of life from conception to natural death.

Seniors Sharing Christmas Party and Potluck

This year's Seniors Christmas event will be a "sing-a-long" and potluck on Friday, Dec. 11, at 2:30pm, in the St. Nicholas Parish Hall. Join us, for caroling, fellowship, festivities, food and fun! Please try to bring some kind of covered dish (preferably) or a dessert of your choice.

Please Remember your Parish for Year End Giving

Year-end is nearing. Our parish is always in need of financial resources for programs, ministries, repairs and renovations. You may also want to consider assisting our Catholic schools and Catholic Charities. All are noble causes and help us promote and strengthen our Catholic Church. Remember, also, that you can donate a paid-up whole life insurance policy and receive a tax deduction. Call Father for information on parish needs. For guidance with planning giving questions, contact your tax adviser or contact Mark Roberti 625-7356 before making any significant non-cash donations.

Religious Materials for the Missions

The Heartland Parishioner who led our ministry in sending religious materials and small articles to the troops in Iraq, has found a Catholic missionary order that seeks such materials to distribute in their mission fields through The Institute of the Incarnate Word, a young religious order that was founded in Argentina in 1984. Described as true to the Faith and joyful in its works, it is a missionary order working in the US, Sudan, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Italy, and Pakistan. The priests and brothers operate parishes, run orphanages, and teach in seminaries. Visit www.ivevocations.org for more information. To help with this ministry you can bring Catholic magazines, pamphlets, booklets, etc., and small sacramental items such as rosaries, chaplets, scapulars, Crucifixes, etc., to the St. Joseph Parish Center.



Fall Schedule for Cup a Joe

-- Join us for free homemade cinnamon rolls on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 8:30am to noon. Come through the main door of the

Parish Service Center and use the inside staircase.

-- Tuesday, Dec. 1 – The first session of **Praying in Color** begins in **Cup a Joe** from 7 to 8pm. We will offer a three week course the first three Tuesdays of Advent and look at three traditional prayer forms Intercessory Prayer, Praying with Scripture, and Contemplation. We will then experience them in a new way. Cost will be \$15.00. This is to help defray the cost of the book and journal. This is a great opportunity to pray and prepare for Christmas. **Sign up by contacting Martha Brungardt at 625-7356.**

-- Tuesday, Dec. 8 – **Cup a Joe** will not be open from 7 to 9am, on this day due to the Holy Day. *It will be open for one hour from 7 to 8pm, in the evening for the Praying in Color class.*

-- Looking for creative and unusual **Stocking Stuffers for Christmas**. **Cup a Joe** is offering gift certificates. They are in \$1.00 increments. They will be sold as a booklet of 5 for \$5.00.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL has the following holy hours to be filled: Wednesdays at 1am and 3am. Soon Advent will begin - consider adding an hour of prayer before the blessed sacrament to your Advent prayer time or a New Years resolution. You and all humanity will be blessed for your commitment of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. If you can fill one of these hours call Lil at 625-7474 or Bob Feauto at 628-1429.



Coming Soon, the 3rd Annual United Way of Ellis County Online Auction

Nov 16th – Dec 3rd you'll have the

chance to bid on a great selection of local merchandise and gift certificates. Get ready to get while you give, and support your local United Way during the annual online auction. Visit www.liveunited.us for link to the auction. All proceeds go directly to the UW of Ellis County.

Russell Council of Catholic Women will have their annual Christmas Cookie Sale Saturday, Dec. 5, 10am until 1pm, at St. Mary's Hall, 28 N Kansas St., Russell.

THE DAYS AHEAD

Dec. 1 St. Nicholas Prayer Group Meeting, 1pm

Dec. 2 Rosary for Family Life, Adoration Chapel, 9pm

Dec. 3 RCIA Classes, 6:30pm

Dec. 5 Men of Myra, 7:30am

Dec. 6 Rosary in the St. Nicholas Chapel, 9am

-- All American Breakfast, from 7:30am to 12:30pm
American Legion, 13th & Canterbury,
(Benefits: Hospice)