

# Sunday, December 13, 2009: Third Sunday of Advent

## FAITH CORNER

### THE LORD IS WITH US

#### Rejoice because God is in our midst.

This week emphasizes the paradox of "already but not yet." On December 25, we will celebrate the wondrous reality of the incarnation: God came to live among us. Because Christ died, is risen, and has sent the Spirit, we also celebrate Christ's living presence now. We can see that presence in people whose lives reflect his love, mercy, and justice. It is harder to see, but yet true, that God is with us even in suffering. But while in one sense the kingdom is already in our midst, in another sense it is not yet here. We live amidst life's dailiness as sign of Christ's presence, and yet always ready for the arrival of Christ.

#### National Catechetical Directory

*As a divine reality inserted into human history, the Church is a kind of sacrament. Its unique relationship with Christ makes it both sign and instrument of God's unfathomable union with humanity and of the unity of human beings among themselves. Part of the Church's mission is to lead people to a deeper understanding of human nature and destiny and to provide them with more profound experiences of God's presence in human affairs.* (#63, see also #s 60ff, 87)

#### Catechism of the Catholic Church

##### Christ's Whole Life Is Mystery

*Many things about Jesus of interest to human curiosity do not figure in the Gospels. Almost nothing is said about his hidden life at Nazareth, and even a great part of his public life is not recounted. What is written in the Gospels was set down there "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name."* (#514)

*To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become "children of God" we must be "born from above" or "born of God." Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this "marvelous exchange":*

*O marvelous exchange! Man's Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.* (#526)

#### FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

**ADULTS:** How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

**YOUTH:** What do you remember from stories about your Baptism? What does your Baptism mean to you now?

**CHILDREN:** Why is it so important to keep promises which you have made?

#### Masses, Intentions & Services

Sat. Dec. 12 5:00 p.m. Jerome & Helen Brungardt Family  
 Sun. Dec. 13 9:30 a.m.+ Leonard & Regina Braun  
 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish  
 Wed. Dec. 16 7:30 a.m.+ Quintin Hickert  
 Fri. Dec. 18 7:30 a.m.+ Marilda Randa  
 Sat. Dec. 19 5:00 p.m.+ Mary Frances Klaus  
 Sun. Dec. 20 9:30 a.m.+ Alois & Mae Pfeifer  
 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish

**Religious face rising costs.** Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually, with skilled care reaching nearly \$55,000. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's second collection. [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org).



**Communal Penance Service** will be held on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 3pm.

**HELP NEEDED: All ages welcome!!** Work, Fun & Food!! The Art & Environment team will be decorating for Christmas on Dec. 20, at 5:00pm. Dinner will be provided. Please come help make our church beautiful and enjoy the fellowship and food. Hope to see you all there. **Mark Your Calendars: Dec. 20, 5:00pm**

**2010 CALENDARS** are available in the gathering space. Please extend a thank you to Rick and Joan Ostmeier, and Hyle Hugunin, Hays Memorial Chapel; and Ron Keithley and Gary Boeve, Brock's North Hill Chapel for making these calendars available for the Heartland Parishes of Ellis County.



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

Week Collection of Dec. 6	\$ 15,057
Budgeted Weekly Collection	\$ 12,706
Collection Year to Date	\$266,394
Budgeted Collection Year to Date	\$292,238
As of Dec. 6, 2009 we are over/(under) budget	(\$ 25,844)

#### MONEY COUNTERS

Dec. 13	Clint & Marie Froelich & Jennifer Leach
Dec. 20	Joel & Melinda Dreiling
Dec. 27	Neil & Sondra Klaus
Jan. 1	Curt & Donna Dinkel

# Sunday, December 13, 2009: Third Sunday of Advent

## Readings for Advent Weekday

### Monday, December 14 (St. John of the Cross)

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a;  
Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9;  
Matthew 21:23-27

### Tuesday, December 15

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13;  
Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Matthew 21:28-32

### Wednesday, December 16

Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25;  
Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Luke 7:18b-23

### Thursday, December 17

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17;  
Matthew 1:1-17

### Friday, December 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;  
Matthew 1:18-25

### Saturday, December 19

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;  
Luke 1:5-25

### Sunday, December 20

Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4);  
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45



## Faith Formation News

Faith Formation classes in session  
**Wednesday, Dec. 16;**  
Pre-K-Grade 5 - 6:15-7:15pm  
Grades 6 & 7 - 7:30-8:30pm  
Grade 8 - 7:15-8:30pm  
**No classes Dec. 23 & 30 – Christmas Break**

**Jr. CYO/CYO Sunday, Dec. 12-** Our theme will be “The Bells of Christmas Morning”. We are excited to be able to represent the youth of the Heartland parishes in walking in the parade and sharing our float’s message. The parade time will be on Sun., Dec. 12, at 5:30pm. Parents are welcome to join in walking with us in the parade. We appreciate everyone’s support!

## CYO News

**Dec. 12-13, CYO Lock-in,** Beginning with 5pm Mass, followed by meal, ends at 7am Sunday morning, Dec. 13  
**Adult chaperones needed for us to have this event.**

5-6:45pm Prepare & serve meal 2-3 Adults  
7pm-12 mid-night 2 adults  
Mid-night - 7am 2 adults

I'll send out permission forms and snack list at a later date. You may bring one friend, and I need to know in advance.

**Sunday, Dec. 20, 3pm St. Nicholas Reconciliation Service**

Come prepare your heart for Jesus coming.

**Dec. 20, 5pm - Decorate St. Nicholas for Christmas**  
Lend a hand to help make our church a beautiful place to welcome our Savior on Christmas. Soup supper will be served.



**Candles for Crown Point** – Please join the children in our Faith Formation Program in collecting candles for the families who belong to St. Paul’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!

## Catholic Websites

Adult/Families – *Loyola Press Advent*

<http://www.loyolapress.com/liturgical-year-advent.htm>

Youth – *Advent Reflection: Hurried but hopeful*

<http://disciplesnow.faithstreams.com/Home/Catholic/TopicView/tabid/20513/type/view/content/7b70cb6f-1055-48cc-8d44-e522049d8157/Default.aspx>

Children - *Advent True or False game*

[http://www.catholicmom.com/advent\\_game.htm](http://www.catholicmom.com/advent_game.htm)

## Poinsettia Plants for Christmas!!

Would you like to help beautify our worship space this Christmas by making donations for poinsettia plants? Donations may be dropped into the collection basket. Please write “Christmas Flowers” on the envelope and if the donation is in memory of a loved one, please mention their name. You may also bring donations to the parish office during the week. If you would prefer to donate a poinsettia, we ask that it be white in color. You may bring the poinsettia to the parish office the week of Dec. 14.



## Catholic Reading Rack

**Are you looking for some good reading, but aren't interested in another magazine subscription? We have a solution!!** Take a look at the new **Catholic Reading Center** located in the gathering space. Assembled there are a variety of wonderful reading resources. On the table are free reading items **and in the rack are items to purchase. Please use the handy envelopes on the rack for your donations.** St. Nicholas Parish will keep 20% of all sales. So you get quality reading with no hassle and help the parish at the same time. Contact Kathy in the parish office if you have suggestions for other titles.



# Sunday, December 13, 2009: Third Sunday of Advent



## Holy Family Elementary

**Dec. 17** - Joyful Noise Singers perform for Hays Kiwanis at 12:30pm, Rose Garden Bakery Shop and the Hays State Bank at 1:30pm.

**Dec. 18** - Joyful Noise Singers perform at the Commerce Bank, 10am.

**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:

-- Families, businesses, clubs and organizations are invited to claim a tree by contacting myself or Mr. DeWitt. Locate your choice and then add lights. A message for the viewers is welcome or a prayer to the infant Jesus appropriate. We will hold a traditional Living Nativity in the grotto area on Dec. 17, at 6:30pm, prior to our scheduled Christmas program.

- **Dec. 17** - Christmas Concert

- **Dec. 21 thru Jan. 5, 2010** - Christmas break

**Dillons Coupons will be available after all Masses this weekend, Dec. 12 & 13.**

## 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.

**CATHEDRAL CONCERTS** will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13, at St. Fidelis Church, Victoria, at 3pm & 6:30pm.

**This Christmas, help us honor those who served!** St. John's in Hays and Victoria are gathering items for the Kansas Soldiers home in Fort Dodge. These items are available for veterans and their families at little or no cost to them. Collecting items until Dec. 18. For more information call 628-3241, 628-8742, or 735-2208.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 19 & 20

**Saturday, 5:00 P.M.**

### EM

Jo Good  
Darlene Arnhold  
Alan Hoffman  
Sr. Vivian Kleinsorger

### Proclaimer

Marvin Kaiser #1  
Bernice Kaiser #2

### Hospitality

Scott Braun

### Sacristan

Sylvia Reinhardt

### Altar Servers

Stan Mayers  
Rosalie Nichols  
Henry Reinhardt

Alayna Arnhold  
Alysia Arnhold  
Jared Mayers

### Gift Bearers

Norman Keller

**Sunday, 9:30 A.M. Mass**

### EM

Andy Beck  
LeRoy Lang  
Mary Mellick  
Sheila Pfeifer  
Kevin Splichal  
Nancy Urban  
Iris Lang +

### Proclaimer

Terry Lang #1  
Karen Moeder #2

### Hospitality

Steve Urban

### Sacristan

Pat Lang

### Altar Servers

Matthew Moeder  
David Moeder  
Michael Moeder

### Gift Bearers

Matt Allen

**Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Mass**

### EM

Randall Braden  
Mary Braden  
Mary Hickman  
Sara Humphrey  
Jayne Inlow  
Janet Kohl  
Joyce Newell

### Proclaimer

Troy Hickman #1  
Tom Pitner #2

### Hospitality

James Duffy

### Sacristan

Jenni Leiker

### Altar Servers

McKenna Duffy  
Bryce Hickman  
Aaron Jeffus

### Gift Bearers

Deenna Gregg

## Ministers Needed for 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. Practices will be held on Dec. 16 and 23, from 8:15 to 9:30pm. All middle and high school students as well as adults are invited to participate. Please contact Paula Beck at 625-8065 if interested.



## Choir practice for the 5pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve

will begin on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 9:30 a.m. Anyone in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



"All were questioning in their hearts." Are you considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Jarett Konrade (785) 827-8746, or write: [vocations@salinadiocese.org](mailto:vocations@salinadiocese.org)

# Sunday, December 13, 2009: Third Sunday of Advent

## Catholicism: Jesus' Way

Stewardship is based on the teachings of Jesus. The Bible is our handbook. The implication is that we are called to evangelize with our very lives. The reward for stewardship, evangelization, and discipleship is the Kingdom of Heaven. We can share in the kingdom, albeit imperfectly, while we are here on earth. We do that through Catholic stewardship.

## Respect Life Mass, Jan. 8

The next Respect Life Mass for the Heartland Parishes will be on Friday, Jan. 8, because the First Friday falls on Jan 1, the Feast of Mary the Mother of God. Please join us in supplication to Jesus through the Mother of Life as we 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.

## Roe Vs. Wade Memorial – 36 Years Memorial Service & Procession

It has been 36 years since the tragic Roe vs. Wade, U.S. Supreme Court Decision legalizing abortion. Join other Heartland Parishioners – Saturday, Jan. 16, beginning at 10am at St. Joseph Parish – for a prayer service and procession honoring our sacred, precious, innocent, children who have died as a result of this national and worldwide tragedy. The procession will begin at 10:30am, and we will pray in front of the Ellis County Courthouse and Planned Parenthood before returning to the parish. Those who cannot walk the procession will remain in the Church praying the Rosary to end abortion and for the protection of all life from conception to natural death.

## Religious Materials for the Missions Especially Bibles & Rosaries!

A Heartland Parishioner is coordinating an effort, locally, to provide Catholic sacramental items, devotionals, and light reading materials to a Catholic missionary order that distributes them in their mission fields throughout parts of the world. The Institute of the Incarnate Word is 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, & Pakistan. The priests & brothers operate parishes, run orphanages, & teach in seminaries. Visit [www.ivevocations.org](http://www.ivevocations.org) for more information. To help with this ministry you can bring Catholic Bibles, devotionals, magazines, pamphlets, booklets, etc., and small sacramental items such as rosaries, chaplets, scapulars, Crucifixes, etc., – **they are asking especially for Bibles and Rosaries** – to Mark Roberti at the St. Joseph Parish Center.

## Dec. 31, Year-End Giving to Our Parish

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 planned-giving questions, contact your tax adviser or contact Mark Roberti 625-7356 before making any significant non-cash donations.

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more... said that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...” Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and recharge your marriage/holy orders. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is Feb. 12-14, **at the Manna House in Concordia**. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information call Dave and Joan Dunn at 785-628-1795 or e-mail at [micromedia@ruraltel.net](mailto:micromedia@ruraltel.net). Visit our website at [www.wwmesection9.org](http://www.wwmesection9.org)



## Fall Schedule for Cup a Joe

-- **Join us for free homemade cinnamon rolls** Sunday, Dec. 20, from 8:30am to noon. Come through the main door of the Parish Service Center and use the inside staircase.  
-- **Tuesday, Dec. 22** – Cup a Joe will be open in the morning from 7 to 9am. It will be closed from 7 to 9pm, due to Christmas Break.  
-- **Tuesday, Dec. 29** – Cup a Joe will be open in the morning from 7 to 9am. It will be closed from 7 to 9pm, due to Christmas Break.  
-- **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. 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.

## THE DAYS AHEAD

**Dec. 14** K of C Meeting, 7pm, Conference Room  
**Dec. 15** St. Nicholas Prayer Group Meeting, 1pm  
**Dec. 16** Rosary for Family Life, Adoration Chapel, 9pm  
**Dec. 17** RCIA Classes, 6:30pm  
**Dec. 19** Men of Myra, 7:30am  
**Dec. 20** Rosary in the St. Nicholas Chapel, 9am