

Sunday, December 20, 2009: Fourth Sunday of Advent

FAITH CORNER

MARANA THA, COME, LORD

Jesus was born as one of us.

Each year we tell the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus – in song, in drama, in art, in liturgy. We seem to never tire of the story. Each year, we enter a little more deeply into the meaning of this event. This is not just an historical reenactment like you might find at a national park. No, the mystery of the incarnation touches not only the past, but offers joy in the present and hope for the future. This event has changed the meaning of our lives. We sing of peace on earth, good will to those on whom God's favor rests. We reach out to one another in greetings of good will, in gift giving, in renewing the bonds of family, in helping the poor and less fortunate.

National Catechetical Directory

Jesus Christ is truly divine, God's only-begotten Son. (cf Jn 1, 18)...

Jesus is also truly human. As such, He thinks with a human mind, acts with a human will, loves with a human heart. He was made truly one of us, like us in all things except sin. (Cf. Modern World, 22.) (#89)

Mary is close to us as our spiritual mother...the Church recognizes her as loving mother, its "model and excellent exemplar in faith and charity." (Cf. Church, 53.) (#106)

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Christmas mystery

Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night:

*The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal
And the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.
The angels and shepherds praise him
And the magi advance with the star,
For you are born for us,
Little Child, God eternal!*

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

ADULTS: Can you describe a time when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit?

YOUTH: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

CHILDREN: Tell about a time when you felt great joy.



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

Masses, Intentions & Services

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
Wed. Dec. 23 7:30 a.m.+ Richard Dechant
Thurs. Dec. 24 5:00 p.m.+ Herbert Leiker & Marina Walters
11:00 p.m. People of the Parish
Fri. Dec. 25 9:00 a.m.+ Killiana Schmidt
Sat. Dec. 26 5:00 p.m.+ Edward Wasinger
Sun. Dec. 27 9:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of
John & Pauline Karlin Family
11:00 a.m. People of the Parish



The adult choir will provide music before Mass on Christmas Eve, beginning at 10:30 p.m.

The St. Nicholas Parish Office will be open until noon on Thursday, Dec. 24; closed on Friday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26.

Living Faith Booklets are available in the gathering space for January, February, and March.

Bulletin Ads are being renewed at this time. We have two spots to be filled by a business. If you are interested in filling this spot, please contact Ramona at 628-1446.

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 Ostmeyer, 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. 13	\$ 11,824
Budgeted Weekly Collection	\$ 12,706
Collection Year to Date	\$278,218
Budgeted Collection Year to Date	\$304,944
As of Dec. 13, 2009 we are over/(under) budget	(\$ 26,726)

MONEY COUNTERS

Dec. 20	Joel & Melinda Dreiling
Dec. 27	Neil & Sondra Klaus
Jan. 1	Curt & Donna Dinked
Jan. 10	Ernie & Darlene Kroeger

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Readings for Advent Weekday

Monday, December 21 (St. Peter Canisius)

Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a;
Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Like 1:39-45

Tuesday, December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;
Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday, December 23 (St. John of Kanty)

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24;

Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57-66

Thursday, December 24 (Vigil of Christmas)

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a);
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Friday, December 25 (The Nativity of the Lord)

Holy Day of Obligation

Midnight: Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13;
(Luke 2:11); Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12;
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

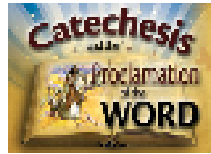
Saturday, December 26 (St. Stephen)

Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59;
Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17;
Matthew 10:17-22

Sunday, December 27

(The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph)

Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28;
Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a); Colossians 3:12-21 or
3:12-17 or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-51



Faith Formation News

NO Classes, Wednesday

Dec. 23 & 30 – Christmas Break
Classes resume Jan. 6, 2010

FIRST RECONCILIATION – Seventeen St. Nicholas second graders from the Faith Formation Program will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at the Communal Penance Service to be held Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3:00pm. A reception will follow in the gathering space. Please come and share your good wishes with them.

They are: Jillian Augustine, Dylan Becker, Kaitlyn Burd, Coby Braun, Shelby Dreher, Taylen Jones, Grant Karlin, Logan Kuhn, Brandi Lang, Nathan Leiker, Kaylee Mergen, Kaylor Meyers, Peyton Niernberger, Isabel Robben, Claire Samuel, Landon Summers, Madison Weber

Also, those St. Nicholas second graders at Holy Family who received First Reconciliation on Nov. 5, were: Landon Dinked, Eli Dopita, Abigail Heimerman, Sophie Humphrey, Brandon Karlin, Margaret Speno, Connor Staab, Braden Stauth, Ryan Stoecklein, and Rylan Weigel.

CYO News

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.

Sat. Sun. Jan. 16&17 – IHM CITY WIDE LOCK-IN, Immaculate Heart CYO invites all CYO members to their annual lock-in beginning at 5pm in IHM Activity Center and concluding at 7am Sunday morning, Jan. 17. **Must register with Kathy before Jan.10. Cost \$5.00.**

-- Our next meeting – Sunday, Jan. 17, 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Hall



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!
Collection will continue through Jan. 3 –The Feast of the Epiphany.

Religious give thanks. Our parish contributed \$882.00 to the Retirement Fund of Religious in the second collection on Dec. 13. Of the support offered by this appeal, one religious writes, "We deeply appreciate this assistance. God's loving care touches us through the hearts of thousands of Catholics who give so generously to this collection year after year." Women and men religious throughout the country send their abundant thanks for your donation. www.retiredreligious.org

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.

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

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Holy Family Elementary

Dec. 21 - Jan. 4 - Christmas Vacation

Jan. 4 - Teacher Work Day

Jan. 5 - School Resumes

-- Thank you for collecting Box Tops and Campbell product labels. Please watch the expiration date on the Box Tops. Don't collect too long before turning them into the office. Every penny counts at HFE. We deposited \$131.65 in change donated to our school. Thank you.



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. 21 thru Jan. 5, 2010** - Christmas break. School resumes **Jan. 6, 2010**

Divine Mercy Radio is moving forward. . .

The Board of Directors of Divine Mercy Radio has begun the process of purchasing a radio permit to build a Catholic radio station. How large of an area it will cover, will depend upon the amount of funding received. The permit could cover (east) past Russell, (west) Quinter, (north) Norton, and (south) Larned. The station will need to be built by April 2011 or the permit will be lost. Thus, MANY prayers and a great deal of funding will be needed to get the station up and running. Mother Angelica says, "We are family." It will take all of us as family in order for this great task of evangelization to be accomplished. If you would like to donate or have your name on the mailing list for updates as this project is developed, please contact Donetta Robben, 1916 Eisenhower Rd., Hays, KS 67601, 785-656-0150 or e-mail: donetta@soulreflect.net. Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people . . . in the city of David a Savior has been born for you, who is Messiah and Lord."

- Luke 2:10-11

May the unending love of Our Savior fill your heart with hope, grace and peace this Christmas. Do not be afraid to reach out for help.

Next Retreat Feb. 5-7

1-877-447-4383

rachelsvineyard@salinadiocese.org

CONFIDENTIAL

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 26 & 27

Saturday, 5:00 P.M.

EM

John Allen

Laurie Konz

Mike Konz

Gracemary Melvin

Jeanie Munsch

Charlie Munsch

Mary Selensky

Proclaimer

Jessalyn Allen #1

Marie Froelich #2

Altar Servers

Sarah Gottschalk

Alexis Ralph

Macie Stoecklein

Hospitality

Vincent Gubitoso

Sacristan

June Allen

Gift Bearers

Ron Flax

Sunday, 9:30 A.M. Mass

EM

Gene Flax

Theresa Flax

Joe Glassman

Linda Glassman

Denis Roberts

Kelly Schmidt

Nolan Allen+

Proclaimer

Sabree Legleiter #1

Connie Grant #2

Altar Servers

Nicholas Dopita

Isaac Dopita

Noah Dopita

Hospitality

Brad Unrein

Sacristan

Wilfred Kreutzer

Gift Bearers

Bob Dreher

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Mass

EM

Carrie Gottschalk

Mary Lou Mastin

Jan Stauth

Shannon Stauth

Kathy Taylor

Jorge Vazquez

Bob Wasinger

Proclaimer

Patty Stull #1

Hannah Keil #2

Altar Servers

Alyssa Keil

Gracie Wasinger

Alexis Wasinger

Hospitality

Melvin Schmidt

Sacristan

Kathy Jacobs

Gift Bearers

Troy Hickman

Please mark your calendars for June 6, 2010 to attend the Diocesan Assembly, which will kick off the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Salina. This will be a festive celebration – with something for all ages – to be held at Fort Hays State University. Catholic musician John Angotti, who performed at World Youth Day in Australia in 2008, and also at the National Youth Conference in Kansas City last month, will be performing as well as leading the session for teens. Stay tuned for more about this exciting, joyous event.



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.

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Catholicism: Stewardship of the Church

The Church is the people of God established by Jesus in the New Covenant (i.e. the New Israel). Each member shares in the responsibility for its mission. Each is called to practice Stewardship of the Church. Each must place self at the service of the entire human community (especially the most in need). The Eucharist is a sign and agent of this expansive community of charity.

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.



Next Confirmed Seniors Sharing Bunko

Our next confirmed "Bunko Party" event is Thursday, Jan. 11, at 2:30pm, in the parish hall at St. Nicholas of Myra. We presently have a scheduling conflict with the January event. Stay tuned to the bulletin for more information.

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. Fr. Felix will be the homilist. Please join us as we **unite for life!**

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. Visit our website at www.wwmesection9.org

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 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.

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.

Vocations

"It is by God's will that we have been sanctified." How is God calling you to grow in holiness? If He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life, Call Father Jarett Konrade (785) 827-8746, or write: vocations@salinadiocese.org

THE DAYS AHEAD

- Dec. 23** Rosary for Family Life, Adoration Chapel, 9pm
- Dec. 26** Men of Myra, 7:30am
- Dec. 27** Rosary in the St. Nicholas Chapel, 9am



Have a Blessed Christmas!