

A reflection from the Pastor

"Who are you?," the question posed to John the Baptist in today's gospel. A simple question and yet, John, who was preaching repentance in the desert, did not answer with a long list of works, interests, hobbies, or accolades. I think this is a great perspective for us this third Sunday of Advent. Who we are is something we come to find out, one way or the other, after much trial and error, and after a few humbling situations. As with John, we realize that we count for very little, except in our relationship with the Lord. That is why John simply answered by pointing away from himself – I am only the messenger preparing the way for the Lord. We in our lives, can get so caught up in defining who we are by what we possess (which really becomes 'what possesses us') or by what we have attained in life and yet the example of John shows us that if we have not stepped back and realized we are who we are because of the Lord, then we really do not know who we are completely.

This week, take some time, possibly with the gospel to sit down and reflect on who you are in the Lord, and because of the Lord. This will bring a peace to your soul that will enable you to let go and let God.

As many of you know, one of my goals since I arrived was to have light switches at the entrances to the hall, thus eliminating: 1. hazards by walking into/out of a dark hall to get to the back corner closet to turn on/off circuit breakers, and 2. other breakers being turned off accidentally. I am happy to announce that this has finally been accomplished. Thanks to many hours and the hard work and engineering skill of Martin Cantu, we now have the switches. The system which Martin installed works off a relay system completely wireless to the switches, thus saving a rewiring of the ceiling lighting and replacement of ceiling tiles. Thank you and great job, Martin. This is another example of using our gifts to serve God and the Church. Let us take care of our new system, realized 34 years after the hall was built.

Annual Parish Christmas Dinner THIS SUNDAY

December 14, 2007 - 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall

All are welcome. It is a time for us as a parish to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birthday. The parish will supply the meat and each family should bring a side dish. We will also be collecting food for the hungry. Each family please bring canned or non-perishable food. The evening will include:

- ✓ BLESSING OF OUTDOOR NATIVITY SCENE
- ✓ CHILDREN'S PAGEANT
- ✓ CAROLS
- ✓ DOOR PRIZES

Liturgy / Mass Schedule and Priest Intentions

December 16 – December 21

Tuesday, 16th	5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Penance/Reconciliation 6:10 p.m. Mass	Mildred Hroch + by John Hroch
Wednesday, 17th	8:00 a.m. Mass	Clifford Mercado + by Steve and Jean Mercado
Thursday, 18th	8:00 a.m. Mass	Joe Manuel Estrada Jr. + by Margaret Diaz and family
Friday, 19th	8:00 a.m. Mass	Edward Kocian + by Dorothy Kocian
Saturday, 20th	10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Sacrament of Penance 5:15 -5:45 p.m. Sacrament of Penance 5:40 p.m. Rosary	leader: Lupe Olguin 6:00 (vigil) Mass – Larry Maxwell + by Helen & Kenneth Brzozowske
Sunday, 21st 4th Sunday of Advent	8:00 a.m. Mass	Pro Populo 10:00 a.m. Mass – Isidoro Perez + 2nd Col: Archdiocese by Ismael and Gracie Perez

Readings – Sunday December 21

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday 20th, 6 p.m.

Lectors	Paulette Brandl, Jeanette West
Cup Ministers	Jeanne Lange, Veronica Garcia
Gift bearers	Patrick and Lisa Canales
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	J. Canales Jr., T. West, R. Cisneros, M. Lange

Sunday 21st, 8 a.m.

Lectors	Veronica Ledezma
Cup Ministers	Deacon Fred and Patty Soto
Gift bearers	Juan and Martina Aguayo and family
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	P. Guerra, M. Estrada, B. Gonzalez, A. Posada

Sunday 21st, 10 a.m.

Lectors	Maribel Gonzalez, Melinda Valenzuela
Cup Ministers	Ismael and Gracie Perez
Gift bearers	Ismael and Gracie Perez
Altar Servers	Katie Williams, Derek Folmar, Elizabeth Rodriguez
Ushers	J. Sanchez, D & K Escalante, L. Rivera Jr.

In Memoriam

Pray for the repose of the soul of:

Paul Garcia who died December 5

Marie Fuentes Soto who died Sunday December 7

May they rest in eternal peace.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 24	5:00 p.m.
	12:00 Midnight
Thursday, Dec. 25	9:00 a.m.

In the Area . . . This Sunday

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tivoli Annual parish festival. This year: chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Sandwiches lunch, **Sunday, December 14.** Serving starts at 11:30 a.m. Other games, activities.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This Wednesday

Regular Class

Grades K – 6 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Grades 7-12 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.

Collection Overview:

Last Sunday: \$ 2006.60

Building Fund: \$523.87

Collection for Archdiocese of Galveston Houston Hurricane IKE Recovery

NEXT SUNDAY

As you may know, the Archdiocese was hit by this major hurricane, one that could have come our way, but did not. The archdiocesan insurance only covers a portion of the rebuilding and humanitarian recovery. It was projected that they will have to make up around \$10 million to rebuild/recover. **We will take up a second collection to be sent to the Archbishop, next Sunday, December 21 at each Mass.**

2009 PARISH CALENDARS

The 2009 parish calendars have arrived. They are available at the church entrance, one per family please. We are grateful to **Artero Memorial Chapels** who sponsored the calendars this year.

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Answer from last week:

What year was the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception formally declared a dogma or truth of the Catholic Church?

b. 1854

This week's question:

The name of the angel who came to announce Jesus' birth to Mary was

a. Michael b. Gabriel c. Raphael d. Guardian

(Answer coming next week)

PAINTED CHURCH PILGRIMAGE

All the seats have been filled. I will be calling to remind closer to the date.

The Pilgrimage is Monday, December 29.

Schedule of the Day:

8:00 a.m.	Leave St. Patrick's
9:00 a.m.	Visit Praha
9:45 a.m.	Visit Dubina
10:30 a.m.	Visit Ammannsville
11:15 a.m.	Mass High Hill
12:00 a.m.	Lunch at Frank's in Schulenburg
1:30 p.m.	Visit St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg
2:00 p.m.	Leave for Bloomington
3:00 p.m.	Arrive in Bloomington

Cost: There will be a small collection for vehicle gas. It looks like \$10 per person to rent the vans, if we go that direction, which is what I am leaning toward. The other cost would be your meal at Frank's – between \$7-10. And then any other incidentals such as souvenirs would be up to you.