

A reflection from the Pastor

The crowds asked John the Baptist: "What should we do?" in today's gospel, concerning Jesus' coming. John's reply was one of charity – give to those who do not have and start to live an honest life before God and humanity. This utterance was not just for that time, but is for us today, this third Sunday of Advent. Many times we know what is expected of us, but we don't know what we should do to achieve the end goal. For example, no one would leave their kitchen garbage in place for a month. Rather, they take it out regularly to avoid sickness and foul odor. That is what should be done. The same is true for our soul. If we neglect it, then the wounds of sin not only scar the surface, but leave a stain that must be taken out by the Sacrament of Penance, so that we can begin to heal again. That is what one should do regularly. So often, we focus just on cleaning up the earthly business – closets, a badly taken care of body; but should also focus on the soul. And from that comes a reaching out in charity and an honest life before God and one another.

This week, please note that I have extended the

Parish Christmas Dinner This Sunday, December 13, 2009 6:00 p.m. in the Hall

- Lighting of outdoor Nativity, Singing Carols, Live Performance by our youth.
- All families are invited to attend. **Please bring - covered side dish to share with others.**
- This year we will be collecting food for VCAM. Please bring canned food/non-perishable food.

Pray for the repose of the soul of

Santos Salinas Blevins

who died December 2nd & was buried December 4th

and

Isidoro H. Perez

who died December 6th & was buried December 9th.

Christmas Flower Donations

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please do so using the envelopes located at the entrance of the church.

Liturgy / Mass Schedule for the week ahead

Tuesday, 15th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Andres Garcia + by Mary Helen Garcia & children</i>
Wednesday, 16	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Virgen de San Juan de Los Lagos by Juan Rodriguez</i>
Thursday, 17th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Beatrice Cantu + by Elia Garcia</i>
Friday, 18th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>David Escalante Sr. + by Arnulfo & Janie Gonzalez & Family</i>
Saturday, 19th	4:45 -5:45 p.m.	Sacrament of Penance
	5:40 p.m.	Rosary – <i>leader: Lupe Olguin</i>
	6:00 (vigil)	Mass – <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sunday, 20th	8:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Domingo Robles Birthday by Linda Robles</i>
Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:00 a.m.	Mass – <i>Martin & Lena Robles + and Randy Robles + by Robles, Carroll, & Rodriguez</i>

Families

Readings – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Assignments for the week ahead

Saturday 19th, 6 p.m.

Lector	Jeanne Lange
Cup Ministers	Carol Sutton, Paulette Brandl
Altar Servers	Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers	R. Brandl, J. Canales Jr., T. West, R. Cisneros

Sunday 20th, 8 a.m.

Lector	Ted Cabral
Cup Ministers	Santos and Mary Alvarado
Altar Servers	April Chapa, Evan Andrade, Mauricio Ledezma
Ushers	B. Gonzalez, A. Posada, H. Cardona, L. Rivera Jr.

Sunday 20th, 10 a.m.

Lector	Melinda Valenzuela
Cup Ministers	Ismael and Gracie Perez
Altar Servers	Angelica, Michael, Jason Valenzuela
Ushers	D. & K. Escalante, L. Rivera Jr., D. Hybner

Religious Education News

This Wednesday
Regular Class Schedule

Collection Overview:
Last Sunday: \$ 1678.51
Building Fund: 573.06

Advent Bible Study

In this Church proclaimed "Year of the Priest," I will be leading a four week biblical study of the priesthood. This will be a great opportunity to study the Word of God concerning this sacred ministry. Classes will be each of the remaining Mondays of Advent: December 14, and 21 from 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. in the Heritage Room.

What's your Catholic IQ -Faith Quiz

Last week's question:

When the shepherds saw the angels in the sky at Christmas they were:
d. watching over their flocks

Holy Family Church in Victoria will present a free Christmas music concert, '**The Greatest Story Ever Told**' 7 p.m. on Sunday December 20th at the Church.

Christmas Mass Schedule & Liturgical Ministers

Thursday, December 24th 5:00 p.m.

Lector Maribel Gonzalez
Cup Ministers Deacon Fred and Patty Soto
Altar Servers Jason, Michael, Angelica Valenzuela
Ushers volunteers

Thursday, December 24th 12:00 Midnight

Lector Paulette Brandl
Cup Ministers Lupe and Frances Rivera
Altar Servers volunteers
Ushers volunteers

Friday, December 25th 9:00 a.m.

Lector Lisa Canales
Cup Ministers Emilio and Veronica Ledezma
Altar Servers Mauricio Ledezma, Gabriella & Madeline Canales
Ushers volunteers

Financial Statement – November

Income

Building Fund	579.01
Sunday Collections	9348.46
Designated Collections	251.29
Candles	322.49
Christmas Flowers	275.00
Interest Income	2.89
Requests and Memorials	100.00
Hall Rental	450.00
<u>Other Designated Funds</u>	<u>1000.00</u>
Total Income	\$12,329.14

Expenses

Salaries	750.00
Health Insurance	570.00
Pension	97.00
Insurance	208.00
Gas & Electric (2 months)	3063.43
Garbage	83.37
Water	67.25
Lawn Maintenance	700.00
Church Cleaning	192.40
TV	79.74
Telephone	102.50
Postage	45.05
Rectory Expense	134.82
Church Expenses	1911.45
Subscriptions	106.30
Collections to Diocese	283.30
Auto	520.99
R.E. Expenses	81.15
Bank Charge	30.00
Bishop's Capital Campaign	1361.92
<u>Diocesan Services Appeal</u>	<u>1000.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 11,388.67

Overall Total **\$940.47**

Bank Balance (as of 12/07/09): **\$28,171**

Certificate of Deposit **\$21,125.20**

Congratulations to

Leland Lange and Kristin Gaskamp who were united in Holy Matrimony, Saturday December 5, 2009. May they have many years of happiness.