



ADVENT

Waiting and Hoping

Judging just from their words, one would think that Isaiah and John the Baptist had been aware of the “Chicago experience” of weaving in and out of traffic on the Dan Ryan or crawling inch by inch on 80/94! “Make straight the paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill made low and the rough ways made straight!” These words can aptly express the on-going hopes of the thousands of drivers who daily endure patiently (at times not so patiently) the end of construction and the beginning of unhampered travel.

If you have driven the Dan Ryan, Skyway or 80/94 lately, you can appreciate the connection with the season of Advent. Advent is a time to clear the roadblocks and detours that hamper the coming of Jesus into our hearts and homes. Roadblocks and detours caused by holding grudges and prejudices, empty valleys deepened by our indifference to His Love; mountains piled high with pride and selfishness. The time is now for us to straighten the path to our hearts by sincere sorrow and confession of sin; to fill the valleys of indifference with God’s abundant love that sets our hearts on fire; to level the mountains of pride by recognizing the reality that all that we have and all that we are, are His gifts to us.

We have experienced the wait for hours to get in to see the doctor or to press button after button in the unending merry go round to contact a “live” person by phone. Jesus is waiting patiently! Clear the roadblocks and detours and welcome Him into your heart and home.

Father John

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

The following is a list of Advent Penance Services. All services begin at **7:00 pm**. Please take time for Our Lord.

- Dec. 11, Monday—St. Joseph, Hammond (with All Saints)
- Dec. 12, Tuesday—St. John Bosco
- Dec. 13, Wed.—Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Dec. 14, Thursday—Whiting Parishes at St. John the Baptist
- Dec. 18, Monday—St. Catherine of Siena
- Dec. 20, Wednesday—St. Casimir
- Dec. 21, Thursday—St. Stanislaus, East Chicago

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

The conflicts in our world continue. Please pray for these brave men and women: Robert Bughman, Jason Chavez, Larry Gazafy, Gerardo Gonzalez, Thomas Gormley, James Grunhard Jr., Jonathan Joseph, Thomas M. Kaminsky, Mark Koval, Philip Mlynarski, Curtis Mordus, Nicholas Okamura, Thomas Pupilava Jr., Robert Rodriguez, Eric Schaufele, Adam Starzyk, John Starzyk Jr., John Starzyk Sr., Aaron Suarez, and Nathan Wilson. If you would like to add a name to this prayer list, please call the parish office or place the name in the Sunday collection basket.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST • WHITING

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 11, Damasus I, Pope
7:00 am †Edward J. Korosi, Off: Ralph McCampbell (SJB)
8:00 am †Joseph & Mary Pieters, Dedinsky, Pohl & Blake Families (IC)

Tuesday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe
7:00 am †Daniel DeLuna, Off: George Zvonar (SJB)
8:00 am †Edward Grabovac (IC)
8:15 am †Nick & Julia Toth, Off: Daughter (SJB)
6:30 pm Whiting Robertsdale Catholic Community—
Bilingual, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (SH)

Wednesday, December 13, Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
7:00 am †Florence Golding, Off: Dtr., Peggy King (SJB)
8:00 am †Rudolph Kapitan (IC)
8:15 am †O’Drobinak/Matalik Families, Off: Rose (SJB)

Thursday, December 14, John of the Cross, Priest,
Doctor
7:00 am †Deceased Members of the Rapchak Family (SJB)
8:00 am †Jane B. Pasko (IC)

Friday, December 15
7:00 am †Dr. Joseph Ritzki, Off: Wife, Fran & Joni, Kevin & Cindi (SJB)
8:00 am †Polunc & Vrlik Families (IC)
8:15 am †Deceased of Mateja & Salley Families, Off: Daughter, Anne (SJB)

Saturday, December 16
7:00 am †Sylvester Nemcek, Off: Wife & Family (SJB)
4:30 pm Whiting/Robertsdale Catholic Community (SJB)
5:30 pm †Helen Kozlowski (SH)

Sunday, December 17 — Third Sunday of Advent
7:00 am Whiting/Robertsdale Catholic Community (SJB)
8:00 am †Helen Chyla (SA)
8:15 am †Tony Betustak (IC)
8:30 am Whiting/Robertsdale Catholic community (SH)
9:00 am Whiting/Robertsdale Catholic Community (SJB)
10:15 am †Delphine Murzyn (SA)
10:45 am †Sheila, Rudy & Kim Puhek (SH)
11:00 am Whiting/Robertsdale Catholic Community (SJB)
5:30 pm Life Teen Mass & Life Nite (SJB)

Pray For

Mary Bayus, Charles Beerling, Susan Biel, Kristine Brown, Joan Bruder, Lucy Campbell, Mary Danielson, Elizabeth Dedinsky, John Dubec, Magdalene Doucette, Marie Emro, Sophie Foley, Eugene M. Kasper, Joseph Knish, Jerry Korba, Vicki Krause, Laura Kresich, Julia Kukta, Florence Kurella, Ann Latta, Joyce Lesar, David Luttrell, Ruth Magurany, Ann Mihalso, Victoria Miller, Nick Miner, Janet Moran, Ruth Rapchak, Mildred Saliga, Marie Silich, Victor Silich, Joseph Sotak, Angie Srncik, Waseem Syed, Mary Talabay, Virginia Troksa, Catherine Verville, Mark Vine, Bobby Joe Watkins, Dorothy Zabrecky, Rev. John Zvijak, C.P.P.S.



Rest in Peace

Deborah Panayatovich
Marsha Schwartz-Russell

2007 MASS BOOK

The 2007 Mass Book is now available in the Rectory Office. Masses will be limited to two per family.



DECEMBER 10, 2006

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

December 3

Weekly.....	\$10,188.82
Loose.....	\$658.82
High School.....	\$26.00
Grade School.....	\$241.68
Total for the Week.....	\$11,115.32



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The W/R Catholic Cluster of Parishes continues to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Sacred Heart Parish, 1731 LaPorte Avenue, Whiting. There will be a December 11, 6:30 pm, Holy Hour with Benediction, celebrating with Our Lady. On Dec. 12th, a 6:30 pm Mass of the Roses will take place with singing by the Spanish Choir, followed with Mariachi De Colores and a social. All are welcome to attend!

ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN

Sunday was such a wonderful day! Sister Marsha, Sister Lucy, Sister Pat, Sister Sue, Sister Frances Ann, Sister Evelyn and Sister Lucille were incredibly moved by the cards and letters that the students presented as well as the outpouring of gratitude from the entire community. The Bishop was extremely impressed with the attendance and participation of so many members of our community and from parishes throughout the Diocese of Gary. For those who were unable to attend the Liturgy, you may read Bishop Melczek's homily on our parish website, sjbcatholicparish.org.

The entire day was filled with the unique and powerful St. John spirit that has been a part of our school community for over 100 years. We would like to thank you all for everything you did to make Sunday's celebration so meaningful and for all that you do to continue to keep our community strong and vibrant!

We also express our gratitude to the members of Forever Blue and Gold-Saint John Family (our school's Alumni Association), who organized Sunday's celebration. For those who would like more information about Forever Blue and Gold, check the parish website or email the group at foreverblueandgold@sjbcatholicparish.org.

May we continue to walk in the footsteps of a Saint.
SAINT MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN,
PRAY FOR US.

FOREVER BLUE AND GOLD THANKS YOU!

Sincere thanks to the parish and school family bakers who provided a wonderful assortment of pastry and sweets for the St. Theodora Guerin Reception last weekend. Those attending were amazed and delighted by the variety of goodies offered. The Forever Blue & Gold Committee thanks you for helping make this special day such a success and are most appreciative of your support!

FCSLA BR.#81 MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Will be on Wednesday, December 13, at the St. John Founders Room for members only. The meeting will begin at 10 am with lunch to follow at Noon. Please bring non-perishable goods to donate to the food pantry.

OPLATKY — CHRISTMAS WAFER



The word Bethlehem means "The House of Bread." The breaking of bread is a sign of love, unity, and friendship. The head of the family leads those gathered at the Christmas Eve meal. A piece of the wafer is distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of the present and absent members of the family, the head of the family gives an embrace and a kiss to each member with the wish of a joyful feast. Those present in turn greet one another in the same way. The spiritual lesson in this age-old custom is the unity and love of family. The bond of unity is the Christ-like love that should exist among the members of the family. The head of the family is the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ and One Church. The family joins in this eternal procession no matter where they are. For there is a universal longing by people to be always one with God. Oplatky are available in the school lobby after Sunday Masses. Cost is \$2.00 for a package of four.

St. John's famous Pirohi will be on sale Sunday, December 17, from 9 am-12 Noon in the Panel Room lobby.

Price is \$7/dozen: apricot, cheese, potato, plum, and kraut. Noodles available while they last at \$2/bag.

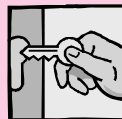


SAVOR THE SILENCE

The sacred liturgy calls for periods of silence, times when we may contemplate the importance of the words we hear. After the proclamation of the first and second readings, the lector will pause for a time of silence. Let the sacred words you have heard sink deep into your heart bringing the wisdom and inspiration of God into your life. After the homily we pause again to reflect on God's personal message for each of our lives. "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord." Once we have all received Holy Communion we pause a final time for reflection and prayer. These times of silence are extremely important to our growing relationship with God and with one another. Observe them with gratitude and reverence. It is an important gift which you will not want to relinquish. Savor the silence and allow the Holy Spirit to refresh your soul.

ADOPT-A-BABY ADVENT OUTREACH

Each year during Advent this project assists several area social service agencies whose missions are to assist families unable to provide basic necessities to their babies due to financial difficulties. We also help families in our own community. Please pick up an information sheet in the back of St. John church with a child's name attached. It suggests what items may be donated. Of course, you may donate additional items that you feel "your" baby might need. Donations may be left in the church Centennial Room until Sunday, Dec. 17. To aid in sorting and packing items, please DO NOT wrap items. This collection continues until Sunday, December 17. Please see the list for other "gently used" items that are needed. Thank you!!



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

ADAMS LOCKS

219.614.2139

1849 Indianapolis Blvd., Whiting



**MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
Sunday — December 10 — 7:00 pm
Marian Theater Auditorium

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA — TODAY, Sunday, December 10! Cost is \$5.00 for adults, and \$3.00 for children under 10 years old. Join us after Mass for a fun filled morning in the Panel Room!

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

You are invited to the Catholic Community Penance Service hosted by St. John Church on Thursday, December 14, at 7:00 pm. The proclamation of Sacred Scripture, Advent reflection, and songs will help you to prepare a sincere confession. Treat yourself to some quiet time and an opportunity for a heart-to-heart with your loving Savior, Jesus. Confessions will be offered in English, Spanish, and Polish. You will have the option of going face to face or behind the screen.

CAROLING AT THE CRIB

The W/R Faith Enrichment Committee invites all to come to the Christmas Crib at the corner of Lincoln Ave. and 119th Street on Saturday, December 16, at 5:30 pm, following St. John's 4:30 pm liturgy. Come for an Advent celebration of song, fellowship, and hospitality as we light the Christmas Crib. Bring your voice, a musical instrument if you'd like, family members and friends to make a joyful noise in praise of God, our Savior. Song sheets provided; refreshments in the Panel Room following. Everyone is welcome.



CAROLING FOR THE NEEDY

On Saturday, December 16, our St. John middle school students will be caroling throughout the Whiting/Robertsdale neighborhood from 6-7 pm. The proceeds from this project will be used to support needy families. If you would like them to visit your home during this hour, please call the school office at 659-3042 and leave your name and address. Thank you for your support!

BULLETIN DEADLINE

The December 24 (Christmas Eve) and December 31 (New Years Eve) bulletins will be one combined issue for those two Sundays. Please submit bulletin articles that you wish to have published in that edition by Friday, December 15.

LIFE TEEN

"Leading teens closer to Christ"

December 10, Sunday – 6:30 Life Nite in the Pastoral Center
Game Night - Outburst

December 17, Sunday – 6:30 Life Nite in the Pastoral Center
Reach out to those around you! Join in the Christmas Service project by helping sort baby items for the annual drive.

December 24, Sunday – No 5:30 Life Teen Mass and No Life Nite due to the Christmas celebrations.

January 7, Sunday – 6:30 – Life Nite in the Pastoral Center

January 14, Sunday – 6:30 – Life Nite in the Pastoral Center
Financial Aid information night for parents and high school teens. Sign up today! Contact Candi Stapleton-Gard @ 659-1663 or Candi.Stapleton@gmail.com

LITURGY ASSIGNMENTS

4:30 pm, December 16

Lectors: P Banik & M Banik
Euch Min: D&L Blackwell, L Kilander, M Krull, J Wozniak, M&K Wagner
Altar Servers: Jessica Hatzcel, Krystle Howard, Joseph Igras

7:00 am, December 17

Lectors: Helen Marie L & R Pesenko
Euch Min: T Barilla, B Chidalek, G Jancosek, E Matuska, C Pesenko, M Saliga, D Cuculich
Altar Servers: Joshua Flores, Andrew Franko, Andrea Fremouw

9:00 am, December 17

Lectors: F Powell & E Boyda
Euch Min: L Barron, I Dominguez, D McCampbell, ML Tonkovich, L Wade, D Weber
Altar Servers: Brett Gibbons, Bianca Gonzalez, Chris Grankowski

11:00 am, December 17

Lectors: K Lannon & D Botich
Euch Min: N&M Lewandowski, C Lannon, E Igras, N Mitchell, Evelyn Roldan, E Duray, MJ Kansky
Altar Servers: Rachel Grunhard, Lilly Hale, Armando Hernandez

CARE CENTER

December 17, 10:00 a.m. R. Mikola & J. Bobos

Care Center ministers please pick up your new schedules in the Sacristy after Mass.

WEEKDAY MASSES

7:00 a.m.

Dec. 11 & 12: Anthony Esparza & Mark Feliciano
Dec. 13 & 14: Manuel Estrada & Alyssa Estrada
Dec. 15 & 16: Justin Figueroa & Matthew Filipek

IN SOLIDARITY OF THE HUMAN FAMILY

Since February 2003 more than 450,000 men, women and children have been killed in the Darfur region of Sudan. Over 4 million are in need of assistance. Scott LeFevre of Catholic Relief Services, Matthew Emry of American Jewish World Services, and Bishop Melczek of the Diocese of Gary will offer remarks on this situation of need on Monday, December 18, at 7 pm in Alumni Hall at Purdue University Calumet. The program is suitable for junior high students and older. Alumni Hall is on the third floor of the student union/library building, north of 173 St. in Hammond. Our brothers and sisters on the other side of the world are in desperate need. Come and see how we as Americans are in a special position to call on our government to intervene at this critical time. For information call Joan (219) 932-2706, or Michael Steinberg (219) 922-4024.

GRAVESIDE DECORATIONS

A beautiful selection of Christmas wreaths, solar angels and solar candles are available for grave decoration at the St. John-St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery! All purchases assist the Carmelite Sisters in their daily needs for infants placed in the Holy Innocents Emergency Shelter. Please call Mike Welsh at 844-9475, or stop by the cemetery office.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, DECEMBER 10, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am—1:00 pm St. John HSA Breakfast with Santa



9:00 am Holy Name Society Mass & Mtg. (SJB)
 9:00 am Faith Formation Classes, Grades 6-8
 11:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word (SJB)
 1:00 pm Rosary Society Gathering (SJB)
 5:30 pm Life Teen Mass & Life Nite

7:00 pm St. John School Band Concert



Monday, DECEMBER 11

10:30 am Bible Study at (SH)
 1:15 pm SJB Band Concert (Encore performance!)
 6:30 pm Faith Enrichment (SH)
 6:30 pm Holy Hour honoring Our Lady, Mother of the Americas, Benediction & prayers (SH)
 7:00 pm RCIA (SJB Pastoral Center)

Tuesday, DECEMBER 12

6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (SJB)
 6:30 pm Bilingual Mass & Social in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (SH)
 7:00 pm School Advisory Board

Wednesday, DECEMBER 13

6:00 pm Faith Formation Classes, Grades 1-5
 7:00 pm Prayer Group (SJB)

Thursday, DECEMBER 14

6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (SJB)
 6:30 pm Crime Watch Mtg., Rm 200, Calumet College
 7:00 pm Communal Penance Service (SJB)

Friday, DECEMBER 15

Deadline for 12/24 & 12/31 bulletin articles!

Saturday, DECEMBER 16

Middle School Caroling after 4:30 pm Mass
 5:30 pm Caroling at the Crib

Sunday, DECEMBER 17 — Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Faith Formation Classes, Grades 6-8
 11:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word (SJB)
 2:00 pm SJB Kindergarten Christmas Program in Marian Theater Auditorium
 5:30 pm Life Teen Mass & Life Nite

A Slovak Christmas Tree is on display at the Museum of Science & Industry on 57th & S. Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, through Jan. 2, 2007. Visit www.msichicago.org.

Need a unique Christmas Gift? Contact the Rectory at 659-0023 for a replica of St. John the Baptist Church, only \$40 for this lovely ceramic sculpture, or purchase one of our Slovak cookbooks for \$7. Also available are VHS tapes of our church history.