



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1-9 (6C) SECOND READING: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

Because You Asked...

Q: Can you tell me why the priest or deacon adds water to the wine during the blessing of the gifts in the Mass?

A: When it comes to certain ritual actions of the Mass there are often two reasons why they remain a part of our celebration of the Mass today. One has to do with the spiritual symbolism they express and the other has to do often with more ordinary aspects of ancient world cultures. The adding of water to the wine before consecration is one such example. Historically, of course, the form of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is lifted from the liturgy of the original Jewish Passover meal. In fact, the prayer that has the priest initially lifting up and blessing the wine and bread after they are received from the gift bearers is almost word for word from the Jewish prayer. Adding water to wine in that early age had a practical purpose though. Table wines in the ancient world were often strong in taste and inferior in quality. Water was often added to “cut” the wine so that it would be more drinkable. As the wedding at Cana reminds us, the custom was to serve your best house wine early on and later on in the party, when it would less likely be noticed, you could slip inferior wines into the menu and thin them with water. So, on the practical front, adding water to wine was done often during Jewish meals, including the Passover meal. On the spiritual front, we look to the words that the priest utters in low voice when he adds the water to the wine. He says, “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.” These words reveal the spiritual symbolism of the act... which is that the Son of God, when he took on flesh through the Incarnation became one person with two natures...human and divine. Jesus was not 50% human and 50% divine but fully human and fully divine. And by taking on this new human nature, the Son of God became forever changed. In eternity his humanity and his divinity cannot be separated out just as the water, once added to the wine, can no longer be separated out. So, in short, adding water to the wine points to the mystery of the Incarnation. The Son of God became like us so that we could become like him. Therefore, we can pray along with the priest, “May we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.”

Q: In John 20:22-27, we read, “And when he [*Jesus*] had said this, he breathed on them [*the ten Apostles who were present*] and said to them, receive the Holy Spirit...

Thomas was not with them when Jesus came...Now a week later, his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came...and said, ‘Peace be with you.’” [*Jesus then goes on to invite Thomas to examine his wounds*]. It was not mentioned that Jesus told Thomas that the Holy Spirit was with him. How did Thomas receive the Holy Spirit like the others?

A: This is a fantastic question that calls to mind another scene from the Old Testament. In that scene, from Numbers 11:24-30, Moses, who was prompted to choose other helpers by his father-in-law. Moses then invited each of the twelve tribes to select six wise representatives to form a body of 72 elders. Moses calls a meeting in his tent and requests that the 72 be present but only 70 were there. They each received a portion of the spirit that God had placed upon Moses so that they could share in his authority over the Chosen People. We are told that two were absent, however (like Thomas in the Gospel account). Their names were Eldad and Medad and we are told that even though they were not at the meeting they received the same anointing and immediately began to prophecy in the camp. Based on this story, we may conclude that even though John chose not to make specific mention of the full details, it is likely that the same was true for Thomas. He shared fully in the authority and works of the apostles and after that moment of doubt, we have no indication of any glaring deficiency in Thomas that would prove otherwise. In fact, his profession of faith (“My Lord and my God”) is the strongest in the entire Bible and his evangelization work took him to the furthest edges of the known world at that time (India) where he died a martyr. We must remember that, when writing, the evangelists did not include details in the same way a scientist or journalist might. They chose detail for the sake of conversion and the saving of souls. And, in that sense, it has been said by several saints that more people have come to believe in God through the doubt of Thomas than through the faith of the other apostles. If that is true, then we say to St. John, “Mission accomplished!”

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday, December 8, Mass at: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
with Spanish Mass at 7:00 p.m.

***Holy Day of Obligation**



Note: All questions come from parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish or St. Joseph Mission and are presented anonymously. If you have questions of your own that need answered please let me know in person or email them to hearttoheart.ks@gmail.com.

Father Ken



SAVE THE DATE! CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Music Ministries presents "CHRISTMAS AROUND THE TABLES" with music from the Kid's Choir, Adult Choir, Strings, Solos, Duets and of course a time for you to sing your favorite Christmas Carols.

All singing & reception will be in the Parish Hall for a fun, informal Concert.

The Hospitality Committee will serve delectable holiday treats.

If you have a child who would be interested in being in a special kid's choir for this event, please contact Barbara Hetzel at 541-779-4661



GIVE THANKS FOR RELIGIOUS

A parishioner writes, "we thank God today and every day for every religious sister who taught us in school, not only our ABCs, but also to love God."

Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our parish will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 12.

Our 8:30 morning Mass will be bi-lingual with Father Martin and Father Ken con-celebrating.

All are then invited to the Hall after this Mass for chocolate and food.

Sister Gaby, Sister Maria and the Hispanic community are extending this invitation.

The church and Hall will be flooded with roses as is fitting to honor Our Lady.



SACRED HEART GIVING TREE

'Tis the season for giving! The Giving Tree is set up in the Hall. Please take a tag for Magdalene Home or St. Vincent de Paul. Then on any Sunday during Advent, please return the bagged gift to the Giving Tree. All gifts need to be in by December 20th, with the tag attached. Thank you for making someone's Christmas much warmer and brighter this year!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

St Vincent de Paul's Urban Rest Stop provides showers and laundry facilities for homeless men and women Monday -- Friday mornings. We are in dire need of bath size towels, washcloths (please no white ones, used ones are fine), shampoo/conditioner/body wash (partial bottles are fine), socks especially men's athletic socks, new or used men's t-shirts, deodorant for men and women, brushes, razors, combs, Q tips, toothbrushes. Contact TC (541) 301-0025 or Lee (541) 601-5273 for pick up info. We are always in need of volunteers in our kitchen, store, home visits, office, pantry, social services. Please call us at 541-772-3828 Ext 7 for volunteer opportunities.

7:00 a.m. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

M. Dec. 7: +Elizabeth B. Seus
T. Dec. 8: Holy Day
W. Dec. 9: +Starr Davis
Th. Dec. 10: Derek Wright
F. Dec. 11: +Robert J. Seus

8:30 a.m. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

M. Dec. 7: Jacqueline Rostel
T. Dec. 8: Holy Day
W. Dec. 9: Sharon Sanderson
Th. Dec. 10: +Myra Rogers
F. Dec. 11: Laura Buxton
S. Dec. 12: Hispanic Community

PLEASE PRAY for the sick of our parish especially:

Gladys Schibusch, Kris O'Driscoll, Bill Reifers, Grace Hill, Lucy Caro, Frances Maltoni, Mary Harbaugh, Louise Sutch, Judith Rosario, Peg Morgan, Joyce Farrell, Joanne Hafner, Evelyn Bocast, Jonathan Cotta, Patty Wittenbock, Don & Paul Zeleznik, Bill Schueller, Cynthia Sugiura, Ramona Rosales, Trudy Omann, Kathy Steiner, Frank Perez, Paula George, John Kuchler, George Halvorsen, Justin Berlandi, Marie Casilio, Vicki & Lorraine Harris, Shizuka McCue, Sgt. Joseph Lowery, Eileen Van Dyck, Beverly & Dick Handley, Don & Jean Palese, Millie Zarosinski and Colleen Cantwell.

Please pray for the deceased of our parish especially:

+Eugene Lee Grabenhorst and +Darlyne Beer

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Area Reconciliation Services: Wednesday, December 10 at 7PM, Our Lady of the Mountain
Tuesday, December 15 at 7Pm, Shepherd of the Valley
Thursday, December 17 at 7PM, St. Annes (Grants Pass)

Thank you Volunteers!

Please notice we have all new books inside our blue covers. This job takes a lot of hands to remove old books, insert new, in and out of the pews – whew! – all in a timely manner – and of course during Thanksgiving week! Thank you!

BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Submissions for December 20, 27 and January 3 bulletins need to be submitted by Monday, December 7, (clearly marked what weekend they are for).
Email only please - ekralik@shcs.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 13, scrambled eggs & ham, biscuits & gravy, pancakes and French toast will be served up in the Hall. Come on over and enjoy good food and a cup of nice, hot coffee. Cost is \$18.00 per family, \$6.00 adults, and \$2.00 children under 10 years old. Proceeds benefit our Sacred Heart Cub Scout Troop.

CHRISTMAS TIME!!

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church. Call BJ Buxton @ 541-772.8292 if you can help on any of the following dates:

December 14th, 9:30-11:00 in the church.

Assemble the creche

December 19th, 9:30-11:30 in the hall.

Decorate wreaths

December 23rd, 9:30-noon in the church.

Set up trees, finish decorating the church.



Where All Are Welcomed and Loved With Mercy - Day 266

Children who suffer the most from environmental exposures are those yet unborn because they are the least capable of fending themselves from toxic exposures. Early exposure to neurotoxins like lead and mercury may result in lifelong developmental effects, permanently altering a child's intelligence and/or their development.

First 1000 Days: A Catholic Culture of Life Initiative

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MEDIA ITEMS FEATURE OF THE WEEK

The Christmas and Easter Story



Experience these beautiful excerpts from the Truth & Life Dramatized Audio Bible New Testament. Endorsed with an Imprimatur and voiced by internationally-renowned actors, this dramatized audio content is enhanced with sound effects and music that make the Christmas and Easter narratives come alive.

Cost: Books \$4 CDs \$3 Booklets \$2 Pamphlets 50c Place payment in slot on lower right side of the kiosk

LO GLUTEN HOSTS

Lo-gluten Communion hosts are available for those who suffer an allergic reaction to gluten. Please get in the Priests Communion line and let him know you desire lo-gluten. He will get a host from the Altar in a pix and hold it out for you to take from.

COFFEE & DONUTS SCHEDULE

Dec. 6: 7 & 8:30 Sacred Heart School with SCRIP on sale.



ATTENTION SINGLES

Our November gathering was fun! We continue to grow in friendship with each other and the Lord. We will meet right before Christmas to deliver gift bags to Assisted Living/Rehab and Foster Care in the area. We plan to go out for dinner afterwards. a (Ages 35 thru still loving life are welcome).
Contact: Eileen S. @ (541) 535-3973 if you have any questions.

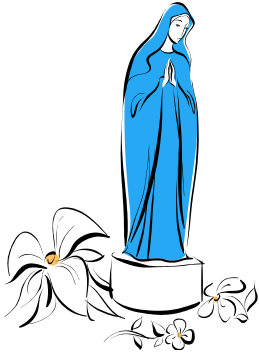


COULD YOU SPARE AN HOUR A WEEK FOR A TEEN MOTHER?

Magdalene Home is in need of a few good-hearted adults to transport our residents to appointments, etc. We call them "Transportation Mentors," because our girls tend to open up to these drivers, once they get to know them, and it's a wonderful way to become a special and supportive person in their lives.

To help, please call Magdalene Home and ask for Ashley Milliman, our head housemother: 541-773-5040.

Our Lady of Guadalupe



A Mission from the Virgin

On Saturday, December 9, 1531, while on his way for religious instruction, Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, an Indian and recent convert to Christianity, heard singing coming from the top of Tepeyac hill. Suddenly, the singing stopped, and a woman's voice called out to him: "Juantzin, Juan Diegotzin." Ascending the hill, Juan Diego found himself before a beautiful woman adorned in clothing that "shone like the sun." The woman introduced herself as "the immaculate Mother of God" and explained the reason for her appearance: she came to request a church to be built there, and she wanted Juan Diego to take her request to the head of the Church in Mexico, Bishop Juan de Zumárraga. The task would not be easy. Like many New World missionaries, Friar Zumárraga was suspicious of supposed visionaries, fearing it was indigenous idolatry. Skeptical of Juan Diego and the Virgin's message, the bishop sent him away, but promised to listen again at a later time.

Dignity of a Messenger

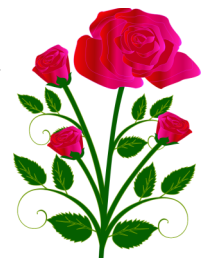
Dejected, Juan Diego returned to the Virgin and begged her to send someone more esteemed than himself. The Virgin listened tenderly but responded firmly, insisting that Juan Diego be her messenger. The following day (December 10th), Juan Diego returned to the bishop and recounted the many details of the apparition. This time, the bishop requested that Juan Diego return with evidence of the miraculous appearance. To be sure Juan Diego was being honest, the bishop sent two men to follow Juan Diego. But after trailing him for some time, the men lost sight of him, and told the bishop that Juan Diego was a fraud deserving punishment. Meanwhile, Juan Diego arrived at Tepeyac hill and told the Virgin of the bishop's request; she in turn asked Juan Diego to come back the following day, when she would give him the requested sign for the bishop.

Promises of Hope

Returning home, Juan Diego was met with sad news: his uncle Juan Bernardino had become deathly ill. Instead of going to Tepeyac hill, the next day (December 11th) Juan Diego found a doctor, but nothing could be done. So on Monday, December 12, Juan Diego put on his tilma (cloak) for warmth and went to find a priest. Hoping to avoid any delays, he took a different path so as to avoid the Virgin. But as he neared Tepeyac, she descended from the hill, asking what was wrong. She then reassured the sorrowful Juan Diego by declaring her motherhood and promising that his uncle was already healed. Hearing this, Juan Diego asked for the sign for the bishop, and went to the hilltop as she instructed him. There – in this barren, wintery spot – he found a garden of sweet-smelling flowers; he picked the flowers and brought them back down to the Virgin, who arranged them in his tilma. Juan Diego then set out for the bishop's house.

More than Flowers

When Juan Diego arrived, the servants refused him entry, but eventually let him enter when they could not take the flowers from his tilma. Before the bishop, Juan Diego recounted the Virgin's words and the miracle of the flowers. When Juan Diego opened his tilma and flowers fell out, an even greater miracle was revealed: on the tilma's surface was the Virgin's image. The bishop and those in the room fell to their knees, admiring and praying, and the bishop asked to be shown the place for the Virgin's church. With his mission fulfilled, Juan Diego returned home to find his uncle completely healed, just as the Virgin had promised. Even more, the Virgin had appeared to Juan Bernardino, too, and had told him her name: "the Perfect Virgin Holy Mary of Guadalupe." Two weeks later, the day after Christmas, her chapel was completed, and the tilma with its image.



"If anyone does not wish to have Mary Immaculate for his Mother, he will not have Christ for his Brother."

St Maximilian Kolbe

THE SACRED HEART STITCHERS would like to thank our Parish and extended community for the great support we received at the Altar Society Boutique. This support makes it possible for us to bring, in some small way, "a gesture of consolation to the poor" and "to restore dignity to all those whom it has been robbed." (Bull of Indiction, *The Face of Mercy*). Sewing will resume in January with enthusiasm to continue our mission and answer the call of Pope Francis this Holy Year of Mercy. Call Kathy @ 541-773-9805 for more information.

GIVING GIFT CARDS THIS CHRISTMAS? HELP US WITH OUR DECEMBER CHALLENGE!

You can help support Sacred Heart school at NO COST TO YOU by buying gift cards (also called "scrip"). These merchants pay us anywhere from 1-20% of the value of your card. For example, when you buy a \$100 gift card from the school, you still get a card worth \$100 but our School earns anywhere from \$1-\$20 from the sale of that gift card. It's an easy way to support Catholic education. **You can buy gift cards (scrip) on 12/6 and 12/13 after the 7 and 8:30 am Masses, or contact Terry Fry at 541-772-4105.**



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Celebrating 150 years of excellence... with heart

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES 2015

Please join Sacred Heart School and Parish in our combined effort to bring Christmas to needy CHILDREN AND SENIORS in our area. Every child in our school is participating in Christmas Shoeboxes to be distributed by ACCESS (for the seniors) and the FAMILY NURTURING CENTER (for ages birth to 5 years) in Medford. As you embark on your holiday shopping, keep in mind the child or senior you will be buying for.



Shoeboxes will be made up for: Birth - 2 year olds; 3-5 year olds; and Seniors

* Please drop off your Christmas shoeboxes to Sacred Heart School, located at 11th and Ivy St., BY Thursday, Dec. 10 between 7:30AM and 3:15PM. Thank you for your continued spirit of giving to others. Any questions, please call Chris at 541 772-4105

Reminders

- * Everything should be NEW
- * Please DO NOT wrap the items individually
- * Please wrap the lid separately from the box so that the top can be lifted off for inspection purposes
- * Label your shoebox boy/girl and the appropriate age group or senior and the appropriate age group.

Suggestions for BIRTH TO 5 YEARS OLD:

Warm socks, underwear, hats, mitten, small toys (big enough so they won't be a choking hazard), dolls, crayons, drawing items, scarves, small stuffed animals, toothbrushes, puppets, booties, matchbox cars, sunglasses, hair ties, small games, small games

For SENIORS:

Address book, can/bottle covers, batteries, card games, comb and brush, dental floss, facial tissue (travel size), first aid supplies, flashlight, hand lotion-travel size, jar grippers, kitchen towels, large print crossword puzzles, large number alarm clock, nail clippers, magnifying glass, mittens, hats, non-skid cozy socks, pill box, pocket calendar, post-it notes, small stuffed animal, stamps, tooth brush, tooth paste, wash cloths, neck pillow

Our 20th Annual School Auction will be a ROARING TWENTIES THEME and is sure to be a ton of fun! The event is at the Inn At The Commons on Saturday, March 5th. If you are a carpet cleaner, medical provider, hair dresser, tree trimmer, we would love you to consider a gift certificate donation. We are also looking for tickets to professional sports teams, vacation homes/ time share units, a beach house, a house in Sunriver/Bend area, anything we can package to help drive the biggest fundraising event for our school. Contact LeeAnn Loftin, SHCS Events Coordinator, for more information or if you can help! [541-772-4105 ext. 119](tel:541-772-4105).

Did You Know?

We love to hear from alumni, both recent and not-so-recent! If you'd be willing to participate in an interview project for our middle schoolers, or have a memory of the school or a teacher you'd like to share, please contact Jackie Ardrey at jackieardrey@gmail.com.

Thinking about Catholic school for your Children?

Please let us show you what's special about Sacred Heart School. We'd be happy to give you a tour and connect you with current parents to answer questions. If you have a child who is considering enrollment in Fall of 2016 for any grade, please contact the school at [541-772-4105](tel:541-772-4105) for a tour. Financial support is available.

MARRIED COUPLES – WANT TO GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING? Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! Enjoy a **World Wide Marriage Encounter** weekend at Mt. Angel Abby Feb. 19th - 21st, 2016 and fill your holiday celebrations with even greater blessings. For more information call 503-853-2758 or apply on-line at www.rediscoverthepark.org. Additional dates and locations are listed on-line.

GOING DEEP - OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Father Ken's class is on Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:30 and 6 to 7PM in the Parish Hall. Question and answer period also. Prepare to learn more about our Catholic Faith!

No class on 12/23.



Bulletin Advertiser of the Week

Bruce S. Logan, DDS
Oral Surgery



Please thank our Advertisers with your patronage.



SACRED HEART YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact Whitney Compton, Youth Minister: wcompton@archdpx.org
Please e-mail Whitney for her **NEW PHONE NUMBER**

CONFIRMATION CLASS! Classes are in full swing! This Wednesday December 9, 2015 we will continue with Lesson 11. Bring your books and please arrive between 5:45 and 5:55. Doors close -- class starts promptly at 6:00pm! Youth Mass and XLT next weekend!

YOUTH GROUP:

EDGE – December 13, 2015 our EDGE morning is titled LIGHT OF THE WORLD: An EDGE Morning on Christmas!
LIFE NIGHT – December 13, 2015 XLT

ADOPT A CONFIRMANDI IS BACK!

If you would like to adopt a Confirmandi and pray for that teen throughout the year please contact Whitney Compton at wcompton@archdpx.org with a simple message that says; "I'd like to Adopt a Confirmandi!"

XLT ADORATION: NEXT WEEKEND! Adoration will take place for the whole vicariate on Sunday, December 13 at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Grants Pass from 7:00p-8:30p. Edge, Life Teen, and Young Adults are welcome to join us for Adoration. Following Adoration there will be a social (8:30p-9:30p). This event is a public event, therefore parents are responsible for transportation or knowledge of transportation for their teens and are strongly encouraged to stay at the event and enjoy adoration with their teen (especially those in the EDGE program). There will be a sign in/out form at event for older teens that may drive themselves with the permission of their parents. Don't Miss Out On This Awesome Opportunity!

YOUNG ADULTS AGE 18-35: To receive our e-mail please contact Whitney at wcompton@archdpx.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



ADVENT

Since the liturgical year starts on the First Sunday of Advent, (last Sunday) the Church's calendar can be confusing to young children who expect the New Year to begin after Christmas, not before it. Tell your child that the (roughly) four weeks of Advent are a time of preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Because Jesus is his father's gift to us we respond by giving gifts to each other and giving the gift of ourselves to God, as Jesus did. Ask your child about the gifts they plan to give their loved ones for Christmas, as well as a gift they can give to God. The liturgical color for Advent is violet, signifying both royalty (Jesus as King) and waiting, but on the third Sunday of Advent, the color is rose, indicating that the waiting is almost over!!

CALLING ALL ANGELS AND...

Shepherds and Wise People! It's time to dust off those wings, robes and turbans for the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4:30pm. I have some children's angel wings and halos; two wise guy costumes and some shepherd's tunics available to borrow, and easy ideas for homemade costumes. Got a towel – instant shepherd headdress!

Practice for the Family Mass will be at 3:45pm, Tuesday December 24th at the Church (meet first in the Parish Hall Nursery. I will explain the liturgy of the word for the children at this time also.

So please sign up and let me know so I can plan for this important Mass. All questions directed to Mary Stallard (Religious Education Coordinator) phone# 541-779-4661 ext 107. Enjoy the holy Advent Season.

Financial Report

	11/22/2015	11/23/2014
Weekly Budgeted Amount	\$17,884.62	\$18,144.23
Offeratory received current week	\$14,567.48	\$15,246.61
Offeratory Received -Year to Date	\$356,942.79	\$351,047.76
Needed for Budget	\$375,577.00	\$381,028.84
Over (under) Budget	(\$18,634.21)	(\$29,981.08)
% Over (Under) Budget	-4.96%	-7.87%

God gives all then calls us to share. Thank you for sharing!

GREETINGS, MAGDALENE HOME

FRIENDS, If you shop on Amazon, PLEASE go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-1317126> and register with Amazon.Smile - Amazon's Charitable Giving Foundation. To raise money for Magdalene Home, without spending one extra dime of your own, register with them and choose "Mother Teresa Home" (our dba) as your beneficiary. Then every time you shop on Amazon, they will remind you to use Amazon.Smile, and a percentage of every penny spent will automatically come to Magdalene Home!

Blessings and thanks,
Tricia Prendergast,
Executive Director, Magdalene Home