



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, I am sitting and waiting for my car to be inspected for its annual state inspection. It was only a couple of days ago that I realized that my sticker was expired. It is amazing how something as simple as an expired state inspection sticker can hone one's attentiveness to patrolling officers. It's almost as if antennae sprouted out of my head and alerted me to the presence of any police passing by. It sure was good for my prayer life too, because every time I spotted a police car I started praying furiously and fervently that God would impair them from spotting my lapsed decal. I think it worked because I passed by several patrol cars over the course of several days and none noticed the infraction.

While it seemed as though there was some mysterious, protective cloud surrounding my vehicle preventing anyone from noticing my expired sticker, I am confounded as to my negligence. Somehow, I usually remember to get my car inspected without a problem. Seemingly, a divine grace befalls me at just the right time to make me take note of the sticker in advance of its expiration. It just didn't happen this time.

In any event, what we may glean from the story above is its similarity to the call of Advent. One might say that our Advent journey is like an annual inspection sticker. Not only does it perk us up to the reality that we need to do a spiritual inspection, but it hones our attentiveness to the presence of Christ in our lives. All too frequently, we become negligent toward spiritual things. We forget to check our spiritual condition by means of the Sacrament of Confession. I encourage you to really make it a point to go sometime before Christmas. We will have our penance service here at St. John's on December 23rd, at 7 p.m., where several priests will be available for confession.

Advent also helps to tune up our prayer life so that we can be more alert to God and others. A good spiritual tune-up happens when we learn to do charity. It awakens within us a concern for someone other than ourselves. If you haven't done so already, purchase a gift for a homeless person. Take some donations to the Mother Teresa shelter. Visit a neighbor or another acquaintance who has no family around with which to celebrate Christmas. Pay a visit to someone in the hospital. Offer to put up a Christmas tree or Christmas lights for someone. Visit your parents. All of these get us into good running order so that God's grace can flow through us. We hear in the Gospel today about the great charity of Mary who went to pay a visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, whom she discovered was with child. Mary didn't hesitate. She immediately went to see her kinswoman to tend to her needs. We ought to follow her example of hospitality and concern.


The season invites us to be awake! We do this by praying fervently each day. Don't give up on your commitments to Stewardship of Prayer. The temptations are always great. But if you persevere, by attending weekly adoration, a weekday Mass, or offer some prayers in the home, you will definitely be awake to God's blessings. If we all do this, we will not be caught off guard and will never really expire! The joy of Christmas will be alive in our hearts and we will know eternal life! God bless!

Fr. Paul

|  |   |                    |
|--|---|--------------------|
| <b>Saturday, December 19, 2009</b>             |   |                    |
| 8:00 AM  | Roberto & Anita Joya 45 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary<br>by Joya Family   |                    |
| 4:30 PM  | +Wanda McWey<br>by Fred McWey   |                    |
| <b>Sunday, December 20, 2009</b>               |   |                    |
| <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>                 |   |                    |
| 8:30 AM  | +Brandon Angel Castillo<br>by Josie & Ramon Castillo                          |                    |
| 11:00AM  | Roberto & Anita Joya 45 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary<br>by Joya Children |                    |
| 6:00 PM  | Parishioners & Benefactors of St. John's                                      |                    |
| <b>Monday, December 21, 2009</b>               |   |                    |
| 8:00 AM  | +Lupita Fernandez<br>by Paul & Teresa Koehler                                 |                    |
| <b>Tuesday, December 22, 2009</b>              |   |                    |
| 8:00 AM  | +Pablo Gonzalez   | by Vilma E. Bernal |
| <b>Wednesday, December 23, 2009</b>            |   |                    |
| 8:00 AM  | +Jesus Cañada   | by Medina Family   |
| <b>Thursday, December 24, 2009</b>             |   |                    |
| 8:00 AM  | +Steve Mokry  | by Catherine Mokry |
| 5:00 PM  | +Jesus Cañada   | by Medina Family   |
| 12:00 AM                                       | Parishioners & Benefactors  |                    |
| <b>Friday, December 25, 2009</b>               |   |                    |
| <b>Nativity of the Lord/Christmas</b>          |   |                    |
| 10:00 AM                                       | +Jesus Cañada   | by Medina Family   |
| <b>Next Saturday, December 26, 2009</b>        |   |                    |
| 8:00 AM  | +Chris Garza  | by Faustino Garza  |
| 4:30 PM  | +Mary E. Borjas   | by Daughters       |
| <b>Next Sunday, December 27, 2009</b>          |   |                    |
| <b>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b> |   |                    |
| 8:30 AM  | Parishioners & Benefactors  |                    |
| 11:00 AM                                       | +Margarita Amador<br>by Mary & Al Rivera                                      |                    |
| 6:00 PM  | Parishioners & Benefactors  |                    |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Readings for the Week of December 20, 2009</b>   |  |
| <b>Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>              | Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45  |
| <b>Monday: Saint Peter Canisius, priest, doctor</b> | Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33; Lk 1:39-45   |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>                                     | 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56  |
| <b>Wednesday:</b>                                   | <b>Saint John of Kanty, priest</b><br>Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66  |
| <b>Thursday:</b>                                    | <b>Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Lk 1:67-79</b><br><b>Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25</b><br><b>Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14</b> |
| <b>Friday:</b>                                      | <b>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</b><br><b>Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20</b><br><b>Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14</b>                             |
| <b>Saturday:</b>                                    | <b>Saint Stephen, first martyr</b><br>Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22   |
| <b>Sunday:</b>                                      | <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</b><br>Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128;<br>Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52                                       |

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH ...**

 Paul Koehler, Chris Perez, Beatrice Ferrell, Joseph A. Eicher, Edward Nemecek, Oscar Soliz, Gus Blomquist, Jimmy Alvarez, Florence Fuertez, Eddie Rivera, Mary Ann Broyles, Mike Konz, Gabriel Alvarado, Jerry Beckman, Cookie Adame, Cameron Marshall, Frances La Vecchia, Gilbert Rodriguez, Alvaro Ramos Olier, Cattia Longoria, Debbie Fuqua, Amelia Ysasi Herrera, Reid Ebrum, Antonia Martinez, David & Ariana Hernandez, Joseph Treviño, J. R. Rios.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Please Pray For Our Troops



Sgt. Roger Elkins, Glen Turner Jr., Sgt Matt Maufin, Aaron Philipchuck, Dwayne Solis, Charles Krohn Jr., Oscar Rossi Billy Swatzell, James O'Donnell, Paul Adame, Brandon Felton, Zicorian Coleman, Wendy Hand, D'Aldo Alaniz, Paul Walton, Joseph Yglesias, Jaime Robles, Rudy Hoyt, Roseann Guerrero, Sr. Airman Charlie Stevens, Sr. Airman Patrick Scheuter, Matt Hettinger, Mike Brown, Erik Garza, Damian Saldivar, Maj. Chuck Taylor, Alex Saucedo, Jay Alvarez, John Rodriguez, Jr., Jimmy Karjian, Orlando Rodriguez, Ken Demick, Yvette T. Demick, Scott Nielsen, Timothy Johnson, Mr. Rogers, Lt. jg John Dolby III, Michael Nelson, Michael A. Berry, Gabriel Reza, Mike Llamas, Manny Olvalle, Luis Martinez, Lt. Hector Jude Garcia, Lt. jg Kristopher McAbee, Capt. John A. Malley, Chris Hesse, Natalie Manzano, Capt. Cristian Alejandro Pinzon, David D. Ruiz, Melissa Davila, Ramon Panganiban, Jr., Sgt. Carlos Torres, Jr., Michael D. Valdez, Lt. Norman Renfro.

### Ministry Schedules

#### This Week's Lectors:

#### Next Week' Lectors

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4:30 pm Delia Carroll   | 4:30 pm Annisa Hernandez      |
| 8:30am Ronnie Sepulveda | 8:30am Mark Cheesman          |
| 11:00am Julio Dimas     | 11:00am Claudia Lichtenberger |

#### This Week's EM's:

#### Next Week's EM's:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 4:30 pm Maricela Spencer, Gerald & Judy Beckman, Luz Bernardo, Sally Escobar, Olaya Soliz, Crystal Hite | 4:30 pm Randy Ritter, Patty & Richard Dolan, Judy & Gerald Beckman, Crystal Hite                    |
| 8:30am Imelda Ramirez, Connie Salas, Roland & Leila Longoria, Ronnie Balderas                           | 8:30am Kathy Jo Overstreet, Edward & Mary De La Garza, Connie Salas, Imelda Ramirez                 |
| 11:00am Norma Huerta, Janie & Ed Salinas, Rene & Janie Esquivel, Marlene King                           | 11:00 am Maribel Muñoz, Albert Lichtenberger, Olaya Soliz, Bonner Dorsey, Cynthia & Gabriel Gatica, |

#### This Week's Ushers:

#### Next Week's Ushers:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 4:30pm Virginia Haasl, Patty Dolan, Richard Dolan, James Coburn | 4:30pm James Coburn, Linda Hite, Michael Hite, Gene Gonzalez          |
| 8:30am Jane Cheesman, Bill Cheesman, Lou Medina, Al Medina      | 8:30am Roland Longoria, Leila Longoria, Bea Heenan, Lawrence Balderas |
| 11:00am Henry Lamb, David Garcia, Robert Moreno, Mike Nevada    | 11:00am Robert Moreno, David Garcia, Mike O'Flynn, Raul Treviño       |

### Sunday Collection



*Gifts for God*

December 13, 2009

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Envelope & Loose      | \$8,389.91 |
| Building Fund         | 265.00     |
| Christmas Flowers     | 110.00     |
| Religious Retirement  | 610.00     |
| Immaculate Conception | 457.00     |

### St. John's Parish Dates to Remember

|                |                             |        |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Dec 21 5:00 PM | Intercessors of the Lamb    | RM #3  |
| Dec 21 7:00 PM | Parish Council Meeting      | RM #5  |
| Dec 22 6:30 PM | Knights of Columbus Meeting | RM #1  |
| Dec 22 6:30 PM | Junior Girl Scouts Meeting  | RM #4  |
| Dec 23 7:00 PM | Penance Service             | Church |
| Dec 24 & 25    | <b>NO Adoration</b>         |        |
| Dec 29 6:30 PM | Junior Girl Scouts Meeting  | RM #4  |

### Congratulations

Thanks to all our parishioners for your great support and our Catholic Daughters for their hard work in selling tickets. The raffle was a great success. Congratulations to the Winners:  
**Grand Prize Autographed Tony Romo NFL Jersey-** Mr. & Mrs. Mark Cheesman  
**\$500.00 Visa Card** – Steve Barrera  
**Theme Baskets Winners:** **Cold & Rainy Days** – Gloria Garcia  
**Sports** – Jane Cheesman **Tea & Coffee** – Caitlyn Salinas  
**Taste of Mexico** – Carlos Rodriguez **Baking Goods** – Paul Simon  
**Cocoa & Tea** – Mel Acuña **Wine & Music** – Jackie Lee  
**Movie Night** – Susan DeVacque **Taste of Italy** – Dominic Perez

### CCD Christmas Break

There will be **NO CCD** Classes from December 20<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### Advent Penance Service



Prepare yourselves for the joy of Christmas Season by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the church. Several priests will be available to hear confessions.

### Christmas Mass Schedule



|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Christmas Eve Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup></b> |          |
| A Children's Christmas Pageant                          | 4:30 PM  |
| Christmas Vigil Mass                                    | 5:00 PM  |
| A Celebration of Christmas Carols                       | 11:30 PM |
| Midnight Mass   | 12:00 AM |
| <b>Christmas Day Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup></b> |          |
| Christmas Mass  | 10:00 AM |

### Merry Christmas from the Parish Staff



The parish staff would like to wish you a very **Merry Christmas** and a blessed **Happy New Year**. Our office will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

### New Years Mass Schedule



**January 1<sup>st</sup> is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God** and a Holy Day of Obligation, the Mass schedule is as follows:

|            |                                 |          |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Vigil Mass | Thursday, Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>  | 6:00 PM  |
| Holy Day   | Friday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> | 10:00 AM |

### Youth Ministry Announcements

**LIFE TEEN:** It's time to party! Come to our Christmas Extravaganza this Sunday, 12/20 at 7pm in room 1. If you're dec'd out in Christmas clothes your name will be entered in a drawing for a gift card! (Special thanks to the Catholic Daughters for sponsoring the event).

**EDGE:** Have a great Christmas break! We will see you in January for our Spring kickoff. Until then, check out [www.stjohnyouth.com](http://www.stjohnyouth.com) to stay in the loop.