

## Third Sunday of Advent

I am baptizing you in water,



but there is One to come  
Who is mightier than I.

## Pastor's Perspective

### \*Christmas Masses

You will note the Christmas Eve and Day Mass schedule on the right. I know many people like to go early Christmas Eve to free up family time. Please note, though, that our 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass is not a children's Mass. We celebrate that at 11:30 a.m. on Christmas Day and it involves any grade school age child who wants to participate. Also, too often the 5 p.m. Mass is so crowded that people are standing out the doors. This is no way to celebrate such an important liturgy. Think about coming to Midnight Mass or Christmas Day 9:30 or 11:30 a.m.

### \*Advent Hope

Our response to what we know is possible and yet we do not yet see leads us to Christian hope. Hope does

(Continued on page 6)

# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24

Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.  
Note: No 11:30 a.m. Mass

## CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY DECEMBER 24

Mass at 5 p.m. (not a children's Mass)  
Mass at 12 midnight  
(Choir carols prior to midnight)



## CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY DECEMBER 25

Masses at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
NB: The Christmas children's Mass is at 11:30 a.m.



## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Mass at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 30  
Masses Sunday, December 31 at 8:00 a.m.,  
9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

## FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Mass at 9:00 a.m.  
Because this feast falls on a Monday this year, the obligation to attend Mass has been suspended, but we invite you to join us as we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God and pray for peace.



Note: Parish offices will be closed December 23 to January 2 and will reopen January 3 at 9:00 a.m. We can always be reached in case of an emergency. Call 586.781.9010 and follow the instructions.



## Here's what's happening this week!

### Monday, December 18:

\*7:00 p.m. Communal Penance Service and Sacrament of First Reconciliation  
 \*NO 7:00 p.m. Mass  
 \*NO RE Gr. 1-6  
 \*7:45 Adult Bell Choir  
 \*11:30 a.m. Senior cards

### Tuesday, December 19:

\*Mass at 9:00 a.m.  
 \*5:00 Jr. Choir  
 \*NO RE Gr. 1-6  
 \*Soup kitchen at Salvation Army

### Wednesday, December 20:

\*Mass at 9:00 a.m.  
 \*1:00-4:00 p.m. Rainbow banner  
 \*Individual confessions 4:30-6:00 pm  
 \*7:00 Teen Bells

### Thursday, December 21:

\*7:00 Choir

### Saturday, December 23:

\*Parish offices closed through January 2. Reopen January 3.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Regular Parish Office Hours

Mon. - Wed. — 9 :00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
 Thursday — 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 Friday — 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 Saturday—12:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
 Sunday — 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



**Advent Prayer  
 (Taizé style)  
 December 17  
 at 4:00 p.m.  
 (Last One)**



### **Communal Penance Service and Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Monday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m.  
 (Note: NO 7:00 p.m. Mass)

### **Individual Confessions**

Wednesday, December 20 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.  
 Anytime by appointment

## Baptisms

The following children were baptized at the 11:30 Mass on December 17, 2006:



*Brianna Sabath  
 Veronica Marie Shrodes  
 Annalise LaBaere  
 Ethan Joseph Fisher*

Our next scheduled baptism preparation class is January 7, 2007 at 12:45 p.m. You must first register your child for baptism before attending a baptism preparation class. Call the parish office for an appointment at 586.781.9010.



## Thank You!

Thank you to all who made the Confirmation Mass a terrific success. The candidates and their sponsors were so well prepared and very cooperative. We greatly appreciate Bishop Earl Boyea, the music and cantor, help at the altar, the lectors, and ushers who took the time to help make this celebration so wonderful.

After the celebration, the Special Events Committee held a beautiful reception for all the candidates and their families to enjoy. It was so nicely done and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Thank you to the parish family for all the prayers for these candidates while they prepared. We are truly blessed to have these wonderful young people now fully initiated into our parish family.

## Teens—Mark your Calendars

- **December 17** — Christmas gathering
- **December 20** — All those attending Rainbow need to attend to help with the banner from 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- **January 7** — Parent/teen meeting from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for all those attending Rainbow. Regular teen session will begin from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **January 20-21** — Rainbow Conference



**2006-2007  
Religious  
Formation  
Program**

**October-May**

**Early Childhood**

(ages 3-4-5 years)

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

**NO sessions:** Dec. 24, 31

Sessions: Jan. 7, 14, 21

**Grades 1-6**

Monday: 4:45-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 4:45-6:00 p.m.

& 6:30-7:45 p.m.

**NO sessions:** Dec. 18 thru Jan. 2

Sessions: Jan. 8/9, 15/16, 22/23

**Grades 7-8**

Sunday: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

In weekly blocks of time

**NO sessions throughout December**

Sessions: Jan. 7, 21, 28



**Christmas Day  
11:30 a.m. Children's Mass**

Come and join us in this simple, but beautiful joy-filled celebration. Along with the children's choir and hand bells, all children in attendance will have the opportunity to take part in the spontaneous Christmas pageant during the reading of the Gospel. It is truly a wonderful way to begin Christmas Day.

**Happiness and Joy**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

We all want to be happy and we find happiness in being faithful to our commitments and responsibilities while at the same time enjoying life. It's easy to be happy when we are doing what we want, but to find happiness in what we have to do, not simply in what we want to do, this is a blessing from God.



Happiness cannot be found in a shallow self-satisfaction. There can be no happiness for us as long as the things we do are different from the things we believe. And there can be no happiness without love. A sadness falls upon us when we say 'no' to love.

And we cannot equate joy with pleasure. Pleasure is of the body; joy is of the spirit. We can quickly become tired of pleasures, but we never grow tired of joys.

In the end, God can fulfill our dreams, and happiness is the best sign of his presence. The presence of God is the cause of our joy. Isaiah said to the people, 'Shout for joy.' What is the cause of that joy? 'God is in your midst.' And Paul said to the Philippians, 'I want you to be happy.' Because 'the Lord is near.' The joy that this world cannot give is the joy that comes from a sense of God and his love for us.

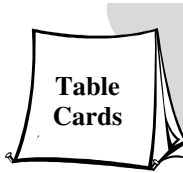


**Celebration of the  
Sacrament of  
First Reconciliation  
Monday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

For all families who have prepared their child to receive this sacrament for the first time and have signed up for this date to join with the parish community in the celebration of this sacrament.

---

*Joy is a blend of laughter and tears.  
It consists in having a love affair with life.  
It is a heart aglow with warmth  
for all one's companions on the road of life.  
It is looking for happiness that comes in small packages.  
It is making the most of the present,  
enjoying what is at hand right now.  
Joy is love bubbling over into life.  
Joy is the flag we fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace,  
has taken up residence in our hearts.*



## Rejoice! Rejoice!

The third Sunday of Advent is meant to be a day of awesome, incredible, magnificent joy. Advent is more than half over and it will be Christmas soon. And the Mighty One is coming! How mighty is this Mighty One? So mighty that even John the Baptizer, one of the holiest men to ever live, was not worthy enough to untie the Mighty One's sandals! Who is this Mighty One? Jesus! The Almighty One who arrived as a helpless infant!



Today's Gospel message supplies a simple and straightforward answer to the question, "What should we do to prepare?"... We are to pray, help those in need, and avoid doing harm. Then we are able to rejoice at the coming of "a mighty savior." Then we are better able to live out the promise of our baptism each day.

How will you live out your baptism promises today?



*"Christ Jesus,  
we are in need of guidance.  
We thank you for those teachers and  
guides who show us the way.*

*Christ Jesus,  
we are in need of hope.  
We thank you for those saints and heroes  
who have modeled  
for us a life of integrity.*

*Christ Jesus,  
we are in need of good news.  
We thank you for those mentors  
and beacons who kept pointing  
the way to you.*

*Teacher, what shall we do?"*

## Third Sunday of Advent



### Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath

Lord our God,  
we praise you for sending your Son to  
free us from the darkness of this world.

Let your blessing come upon us  
as we light this wreath; may it be for us a sign of the  
bright promise of Christ whose coming we await.  
May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.  
Amen

### Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

Father of love,  
You made a new creation  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
May his coming free us from sin  
and renew his life within us,  
for he lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

### Reflection — Third Sunday of Advent

Perhaps the most difficult thing God asks us to do is to trust. When all is going well, it is tempting to think it is because we are "right" with the Lord. But God promised us his peace — not that things would go as we wished. The Lord provides food for the birds but he doesn't throw it in the nest. We need do all we can and trust the results of God. When we strive to do God's will, love others, and care for others, we will find God's peace within our hearts even in the worst of times.

*I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the Lord  
And he has been my savior.  
—Isaiah 12:2*



## Soup Kitchen News

Thanks to everyone who participated and donated food in October. Once again, the soup kitchen volunteers outdid themselves. We served a delicious spaghetti lunch.

Our next meal will be served on Tuesday, December 19, 2006. We will serve a spaghetti lunch with salad and fresh fruit. Donated items should be delivered to the parish kitchen before December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your bags SOUP KITCHEN. Please call Pat Sagert (586.781.7035) or Barbara Jarzemski (586.336.1450) to see what is needed.

The Soup Kitchen team meets at 8:30 AM SHARP the day of the lunch at SS. John & Paul and leaves via carpool to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen at 8:45 AM. God bless you for your continued generosity.

## Walk for Warmth

Macomb County Community Services Agency is sponsoring their annual "Walk for Warmth" day on Saturday, February 17, 2007.

The "Walk for Warmth" is an event held to raise funds and promote awareness of the emergency needs of low-income families and individuals. All funds raised stay in Macomb County and are used to prevent heat-related emergencies, such as repairing or replacing dangerous malfunctioning furnaces and preventing heat shut-off. Join hundreds of other walkers for a fun-filled event and help those in need.

The walk will begin at St. Therese of Lisieux, 48115 Schoenherr, Shelby Township, with registration at 9:00 AM and the actual walk at 10:00 AM. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided. The route is up to three miles and minimum pledge per walker is \$10.00. Call 586.469.6999 for more information or a pledge sheet.

## MCREST Meal Volunteers Needed

SS. John & Paul will be providing lunch and dinner for MCREST guests at St. Clement in Romeo on Wednesday, January 31, 2007. Lunch help will report to St. Clement at 11:00 a.m. with lunch being served at noon. Volunteers will stay for clean up. Dinner volunteers should show up at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m. Again, volunteers will stay for clean up.

If you would like to volunteer to help prepare and serve either one of these meals, or if you would like to donate food or a dessert, please call Kathy at the parish office at 586.781.9010.

## Caregivers Support Group to Meet

Individuals caring for or concerned about older family members are invited to attend the monthly caregivers support group meeting at A Friend's House Adult Day Services in Warren on Wednesday, December 27, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Catholic Services of Macomb, A Friend's House provides supervised, daytime care and activities for aging adults, as well as respite, support groups, counseling, care consultation/referrals and other support service for caregiving families. The program also has locations in Clinton Township and Romeo.

A Friend's House—Warren is located at 26238 Ryan Road (between I-696 and Frazho), on the campus of St. Cletus Church. On-site respite services are also available for a small fee. Pre-registration is required. For information or to register for on-site respite, call A Friend's House at 586.759-8700.

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus".

Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) help your marriage/holy orders remain Christ-centered. The upcoming weekends are February 16-18, March 16-18, April 20-22 at St. John Center for Youth and Family in Plymouth, MI. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged.

For information or to register, contact: Bill & Carol Higgins at 248.528.2512 or birdhaus@wideopenwest.com or Dan & Debbie Waring at 586.286.5524 or dwaring@talkamerica.net.

## Project Rachel

*Project Rachel* offers healing for the wounds of an abortion. Is there an abortion in your past? *Project Rachel* will help you sort through your feelings and deal with unresolved conflict. For information, call 888-Rachel-5 (888.722-4355). All calls are confidential.

A healing Mass will take place at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Sunday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome.

*(Pastor's Perspective continued from page 1)*  
 not mean what we imply when we say "hopefully." That word tends to mean something like "It sure would be nice, if such and such happened and I wish it would happen." No, Christian hope is founded on trust, on trusting God's promise to us. God is faithful, even if we aren't. That is the ground from which hope grows and flourishes. Christian hope is another way of saying "We trust in you God, no matter what we are going through at this time." But there is a particular character to Advent hope, which I want to highlight as a third Advent virtue.

Expectant hope: By that I mean a hope that is willing to risk being disappointed. It is not a general hope but a concrete hope in seeing God's saving love have an effect in this world in specific ways. A good example might be how we pray in intercession. We can certainly trust in God's faithfulness and hope in God, even in the midst of very serious illness and disappointing signs of lack of recovery. And indeed, at times, we are precisely called to that hope, because we will not be getting better and yet still must trust in God. But the Advent season also invites us to a more active hope, an expectant hope. To pray and reflect on what we truly believe we and others need and to pray specifically for that. To pray not just in general "Your will be done," though that is always part of our understanding of intercessory prayer. To pray for healing, for recovery, for reconciliation, for specific concrete signs of God's saving love breaking into this world.

Can that Advent type of intercession disappoint? Yes, it can, if we do not then get a direct answer to our prayers, and believe that such prayer was in vain. Wouldn't it be 'safer' to pray more generally: for perseverance, for strength, for faith, for the ability to handle whatever comes our way? Then we won't have to be disappointed. Yes, I suppose. But Advent as a season asks us to take a risk. To not just hope one day that all will come together in God. Rather, to cry out in a passionate, heart-rending way "Come, Lord Jesus! We need you here and now!" It is a season that asks us to open our hearts in specific expectation and not be afraid to voice those expectations to God. Of course,

we know that not everything we think we need will be directly answered. But such prayer, grounded in expectant hope, shapes us into a people that clearly makes no sense apart from God and God's working in us. The danger of stopping at a less concrete, more generalized notion of hope is that it might keep us firmly within the realm of what we can handle and control. Advent says "No." We must move past that boundary and risk, ultimately everything, on our faith in God.

I invite you this week to pray with such expectant hope. First take some time in open, meditative prayer to place before the Lord what you are dealing with. Then take some time in quiet, reflective prayer to see what specific hope rises in your heart, not simply as a wish but an authentic hope. Then be specific and concrete in your intercessory prayer. Pray with the expectation that the prayer will be answered. We pass into expectant hope when are prayers no longer reflect a heart that "wishes" something would happen but will be in agony if something doesn't happen. That is the risk of living the paschal mystery. If our prayer seems not to be answered, then that seemingly unanswered hope will be an entry into an authentic rather than false suffering. In turn the embrace of that mystery of suffering will lead us one day to a deeper joy and peace.

At the recent funeral of Fr. John Markham I was talking to a senior priest who has cancer, can no longer do all the active, recreational things he so loves to do, had the humiliation of having his driver's license taken away by a police officer in public, after getting into a minor accident, and a number of other things. What do you hope for in such a situation? An end to the cancer? An ability to drive again? A relatively pain free death? Some peace of mind? Any or all of those might well be a legitimate hope. But he told me he prays for, hopes for, expects a deeper joy in life because he has to go through this suffering. In other words, his hope is an active, expectant hope, not simply passively enduring in faith what he has to, as admirable as that would be. But actively praying for, asking for, expecting God's saving love to give him a type of joy and peace that will be deeper than he has

ever experienced, even when he was healthy. That is Advent hope.

### **\*Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance**

This Monday at 7 p.m. we will celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation rather than our usual Monday evening Eucharist. There will be five priests available, which will allow us several different options when it comes time for confession. I invite most of you to approach one of the priests face-face, standing, sharing in a few words something that reflects your heart, your sorrow, your need for God's mercy. For those who would rather sit, there will be that option as well.

The key to this form of the sacrament is our own preparation. Unlike the individual form where the emphasis is on the confession and dialogue with the priest in addition to the prayer, in the communal form the emphasis is on the examination of conscience and prayer. The confession needs to be necessarily brief, to allow everyone a chance to go to the sacrament. That means that we need to take seriously an examen of our hearts before God and find a way to describe in a few words what areas of life need forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation. Just because our confession is brief does not mean that it can't be deep. I invite you to think about your need for reconciliation before coming to the sacrament. Find a way to confess the depth of your heart to God. Join us Monday evening.

This year we have included first Reconciliation children and their families within the parish's general communal penance celebration. It was wonderful to see on Saturday a number of these families help their child experience first Reconciliation in a positive, joyful manner, and in turn, give witness to their children by themselves going to the sacrament. I hope Monday brings a similar spirit and experience.

### **\*Individual Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

I have set aside Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. (or later, until all are heard) for those who need a more extended, individualized celebration of

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Pastor's Perspective continued from page 6)

the sacrament of Reconciliation. For those who want to celebrate the sacrament prior to Christmas, this will be the last officially scheduled time until after Christmas. Of course, I would be happy to arrange other times with anyone who calls. But if you can, please try to use the time set aside this coming Wednesday.

### \*Christmas as a Season

The Church embraces

Christmas as a full season, not just one day. That is why we do not jump into Christmas decorations in Church until Christmas (though this year we had to modify that a bit due to Christmas being on a Monday). That is why we sing Christmas-related hymns not just on Christmas but at least for the next two Sundays as well. For those of you who love Christmas decorations, use it as an excuse to keep your decorations up well beyond January 1<sup>st</sup>. More importantly, let the awesome reality that God chooses to act within human history in a particular human being—God's own being takes flesh in Jesus of Nazareth through God's Word—sink in. God does not reveal his love in a generalized way. God's love is always particular, incarnated, embodied. That means, by analogy, it is the same for us. God doesn't love us all, generally. God loves each of us specifically, in our specific humanity, with our specific weaknesses and limitations, strengths and virtues. We who celebrate Christmas as more than Santa's day or a gift-giving day realize that because Jesus is the true gift, we too can be a gift that shows forth God's goodness and glory. Nothing that is truly human is alien to God. All that is truly human is embraced by God.

May this final week of the Advent season deepen our eagerness to see God's glory revealed more fully in our lives. May we joyfully prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Christ child by opening ourselves to be the gift of God's goodness and glory to others.

Fr. Buersmeyer



## Meijer Community Rewards

We received a check from the Meijer Community Rewards Program for \$210.59 for purchases made in November. So far 205 parishioners have enrolled in this fundraising program, with all proceeds earmarked for the purchase of a new sign on 28 Mile Road.

This is a *free and easy* fundraising opportunity that rewards the parish for most purchases made at Meijer. It almost sounds too good to be true—we earn rebates based on the total monthly purchases that you make and these rebates range from one to four percent!

If you would like to help the parish with this *free* fundraising program, all you need to do is enroll and remember to have your Meijer Guest Card swiped BEFORE payment is processed. Meijer keeps track of the parish's purchases and sends us a check based on those purchases. Since April 2004 we've earned over \$6,100!!

If you would like to enroll in this *free* program, go to: [Meijer.com/rewards](http://Meijer.com/rewards), click join ,then Meijer Guest Card OR you can pick up an application at the Parish Office. Our organization number is 617883. Thank you for remembering the parish when you shop.

## Advertise!

### SS. John & Paul Parish is in need of sponsors for the bulletin

Why advertise in a church bulletin?

- Advertising in the weekly parish bulletin is one of the best returns for your advertising dollar
- The advertising expense is tax deductible
- It is localized advertising; it's in the area that you serve
- Advertising helps promote your business throughout the community and with your fellow parishioners
- The bulletin gives excellent exposure to the business person because it's reaching more clients
- Parishioners feel secure dealing with bulletin sponsors
- The parish and the business both benefit

Kathleen Ford, representing Diocesan Publications (our bulletin publisher) will be here in January renewing present advertisements and seeking new ones. If you are interested in advertising or know of someone who might be, please call the parish office 586.781.9010. We feel this is an excellent service and that the sponsors get good coverage with their ads. Thanks to you, and Diocesan Publications, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

**CRY OUT**  
with JOY and GLADNESS;  
for among you is the great and  
**HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.**

## Make a Gift Through an IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are over the age of 70 1/2 and have an IRA, you must take a required minimum distribution from your IRA. Normally, the amount of this distribution is taxed as ordinary income. However, recent legislation permits you, for the remainder of 2006 and during 2007, to make a direct gift from your IRA to a qualified charity. SS. John & Paul Parish is one such qualified charity. Such distributions, while not subject to income tax, will still count toward fulfilling your required minimum distribution.

For more information about the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and how you can benefit from a charitable IRA rollover, contact the parish office at 586.781.9010.

## North Macomb Vicariate Newsletter

News from parishes in our North Macomb Vicariate is available online at [www.NMVonline.org](http://www.NMVonline.org). The newsletter also lists the mass time for every parish in our vicariate. For the current issue and archives of past issues of the newsletter, check out the page entitled "View the North Macomb News". You can also use Yahoo! or Google's search engine by putting in the search line: North Macomb Vicariate or North Macomb Vicariate News.

### Stewardship Report December 9-10, 2006

<b>Weekly budget .....</b>	<b>\$11,600.00</b>
Offertory.....	\$11,310.11
No. Sunday envelopes used.....	344
<b>Total offertory .....</b>	<b>\$11,310.11</b>

**Other Monies / (# Envelopes)**

Debt Reduction / (3).....	\$45.00
Children's Env. / (13).....	\$15.51
RFR / (68) .....	\$1,536.00
Year end donation / (6).....	\$403.00
Holy Day (77).....	\$978.00
Christmas (2).....	\$70.00

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

### Pray for our sick



Mary Angelosante, Rita Bayer, Mary Burcar, Bill Cauley, Vivette Clark, Ralph Cleary, Lorraine Dawe, Chris Del Pappa, Lauren DeNio, Art Donovan, Antoinette Errante, Alojzy Filipowicz, Krystyna Green, May Hoenle, Ronnie Housewright, Janet Johnson, Anna Kaltz, Hayden Kroll, Jacob Main, Bernice Mayer, Agnes Mehlick, Bob Mehlick, George Mehlick, Trudy Mehlick, Adele Miller, Larry Newsom, Denise Olejniczak, John PakledinazDorothy Puffpaff, Hank Roman, Mary Ruppert, Albert Sabbe, Alice Sabbe, Camille Smith, Michelle Smith, Tommasina Smith, Mary Sorrow, Barbara Supina, Karen Shea, Duane VanPamel, Richard Waluk, Toni Willoughby, Arthur Wiczko, Evelyn Wiczko

### Pray for our military



Noel & Greg Ales, Nick Bassett, Augie Biache III, Mike Boback, Andrew Eppens, Eric Eppens, Tony Gentilia, David Krzycki, Jonathon Krusinski, Chris Krusinski, Paul McGowan, David Newberry, Ryan Ribant, Thomas Schmidt, Vincent Titeriga, Daniel Trendell,

O God, giver of life, watch over and protect the fathers and mothers, wives and husbands, who are members of our Armed Forces.

Be with them when they wake in the morning, and let them sleep peacefully at the end of each day.

Guide them as they travel over land, sea, and air.

Keep them and their families safe and hasten their return to us.

We also ask you to protect the innocent, especially children and the elderly, in places torn apart by war, hatred, and violence. Send your Spirit of Peace into the hearts of us all so that the day may soon come when we can live together side by side, creating ways to help one another rather than looking for ways to hurt each other.

Amen

### Readings for the Week of December 17, 2006

**Sunday, December 17:**  
Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;  
Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**Monday, December 18:**  
Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72; Mt 1:18-25

**Tuesday, December 19:**  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-25

**Wednesday, December 20:**  
Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday, December 21:**  
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33;  
Lk 1:39-45

**Friday, December 22:**  
1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8;  
Lk 1:46-56

**Saturday, December 23:**  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66

**Sunday, December 24:**  
Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10;  
Lk 1:39-45

### Sponsor of the week

Romeo Dawg House



**Eucharistic  
Prayer  
Requests**

**Saturday and Sunday  
December 16-17, 2006**

Frank Martino by J. Martino  
 Emil Petty by Finn Family  
 Emilia Bem by Hammer Family  
 Raymond Hoenle by Family  
 Rose Killewald by Family

**Monday, December 18, 2006**

NO Mass

**Tuesday, December 19, 2006**

Joseph Krieg, Jr. by Family

**Wednesday, December 20, 2006**

Ellen Michaels by E. Schindler

**Saturday and Sunday  
December 23-24, 2006**

Chester Gac by Martino Family  
 Joan Martino by Family  
 Antonio Catenacci by Family  
 Isabelle Pusdesris by Family

<b>Liturgical appointments for December 23-24, 2006</b>				
	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Fr. Sayes	Fr. Buersmeyer	Fr. Buersmeyer	NO Mass
<b>Lectors</b>	G. Pagliarella P. Brunet	R. Resutek M. Greenway	S. Pospiech P. Quayhackx	NO Mass
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>  <b>*Captain</b>	J. Sorensen I. Stavenow B. Conlon M. Klakulak T. Klakulak	B. Huellmantel* J. Sova A. Weaver G. Bawol M. Capp	D. Zabkowski* L. Zabkowski J. Witek L. Zellen S. Zellen M. Bonaudo B. Hellebuyck	NO Mass
<b>Altar Servers</b>	E. West G. Ellis	—Open—	O. Cali R. Dickens A. Stirzinger	NO Mass
<b>Greeters</b>	C. Geer D. Geer	J. Rebar A. Weaver	A. Lanni A. Lanni	NO Mass
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Team #2</b> M. LaRaia M. Hendershot J. Krieg M. Macha	<b>Team #4</b> R. Giffin K. Grunewald B. Huellmantel H. Susalla	<b>Team #6</b> B. Burcar B. Cammarata J. Pospiech B. Schulz J. Gerds	NO Mass
<b>Collection Counters</b>	Joe Martino, Larry & Marilyn Weathers, Tom & Mary Ann Klakulak, Ron & Debbie DiDomenico			