



THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind.

Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise.

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FAMILY PERSPECTIVE As Christmas draws near, we are bombarded with ads to BUY things we don't need. Today's gospel warns us not to let our "spirits be bloated with indulgence." Instead, Jesus asks us to "stand up straight" and "pray for the strength to resist this trap." Possessing does not lead to happiness.

ADVENT MISSION Fr. Dan Lanahan, O.F.M., a Franciscan priest, will offer an Advent Mission December 7, 8 and 9 at 7:00PM at St. Jude Church, W. 6th & Peninsula Drive. His theme will be "Awakening our faith in these challenging times." Fr. Lanahan held a Mission here at Blessed Sacrament in October 2001.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION PARTY Free clothing available for men, women and children, free children's toys and free snacks and refreshments will be available on Saturday, December 6th at St. Patrick Cauley Auditorium, 215 E. 4th St from 10AM – 2PM.

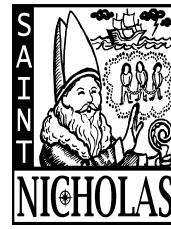
OFFICE OF EDUCATION OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE is proud to announce an all community production of Charles Dickens' great classic "A Christmas Carol." The show features a cast of nearly 90 students and adults and will be presented on December 4, 5, and 6 at 7:30PM and on Sunday, December 7 at 2:30PM at Villa Maria Academy. Directed by Fr. Mike DeMartinis with musical direction by Katrina Foltz, the show features holiday music and dance. This heartwarming Christmas tale will delight all ages. Tickets, available at the door before each show, are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. For more information call 824-1220.

2003 CALENDARS A 13 month Catholic appointment calendar for your home is available in the lobby of Church today. Please one per family. Our thanks to Mark Kloecker of the Francis V. Kloecker Funeral Home for his sponsorship of the calendar.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated non-perishable items, monetary donations and turkeys for our Parish Food Bank. These will be distributed to our families during the holiday season. Thanks to you, our families will have a brighter holiday season.



GIVING TREE It's that time of year again! Please take a tag from the tree, purchase a gift, wrap it and return it with the tag securely attached to the Parish Office no later than Sunday, December 14th. Our families consist of moms, dads, children and the elderly. This has been a successful tradition for years because of your generosity. Thanks for all your support.



BLESSING OF CANDY CANES

Good St. Nicholas,
we honor you on your holy feast day.
We rejoice that you are the patron saint
and the holy symbol of joy
for so many people of many lands.

Come great hearted saint
and be our patron and companion
as we, once again, prepare our homes and hearts
for the great feast of Christmas,
the birth of the Eternal Blessing, Jesus Christ.
May these candy canes, be a sign of Advent joy for us.

May these candy canes,
shaped just like your Bishop's staff,
be for us a sign of your benevolent care.
We rejoice that you are the holy bringer of gifts
and that so many have been delighted
through your general generosity.
Help us to be as generous of heart. AMEN



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Please return your pink envelope marked "Memorials & Altar Decorations for Christmas" by December 1st. Please be sure to include the names of those you want to remember this Christmas, their names will be included in the flower list which will be inserted in the December 21st bulletin.

FIRST FRIDAY is this Friday, December 5th. Adoration after the 8:45AM Mass followed by Benediction at Noon. Why not start the Advent season off by spending some quiet time in prayer.

ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS The new schedule for December/January is available in the Sacristy. Please stop after Mass and pick up your copy. Also, there are a few Lectors who did not pick up their new work books, they are also available in the Sacristy.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in becoming a Eucharistic Minister and/or Lector? Training sessions will be starting in January. Please call the Parish Office to sign up. This invitation is open to all High School students who were confirmed in June and also those students in this year's Confirmation class.

COVENANT LETTERS Did you remember to return your covenant letter and intention sheet that you received in the mail? We are excited to see how many are being returned and seeing the different ways that people want to share their time and talents with their Parish Family.

The First Sunday of Advent

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for all of the sick and shut-in of our Parish Family.

Mass of Christian Burial was given to Leo Fachetti.
The prayers and sympathy of the Parish Family
were extended to his family. May he rest in peace.

YOUTH STAND FOR LIFE will take place in Washington D.C. January 21-22, 2004. One of the most important things we can do for our young people is to foster a sense of Christian responsibility for the most vulnerable and defenseless of God's children. Combine this sensibility with a community-building road trip, an evening festival featuring excellent speakers, musicians and dramas, and the following day of peacefully marching with tens of thousands in the heart of our nation's capital and you have a **life changing event**. For more information, call Cindy at the Parish Office at 454-0171.

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Monday 12/1 – NO SCHOOL

Tuesday 12/2 – Marie Elsesser, Barb Sala, Gina Lintelman, Eileen Widomski

Wednesday 12/3 – Joni Medvec, Marion Inman, Dan Delo, Nancy Makowski, Vince & Joan Jaskiewicz

Thursday 12/4 – Frank & Marilyn Sowieralski, Marianne Zimmerman, Jim Zink, Cindy Orlando, Mary Jo Polatas, Kay Bender, Pat Monacello

Friday 12/5 – Wendy Horn, Carol Crock, Jack Peterson

31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday 12/1 – date available

Tuesday 12/2 – Lee Zaremba

Wednesday 12/3 – Jackie Presutti

Thursday 12/4 – Carl Braeger

Friday 12/5 – date available

Saturday 12/6 – Rose Kulich, Mary Lou Peterson

Sunday 12/7 – Peggy Lavosky, Henry Zaremba

...ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother has several strands of white hairs sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament in honor of Robert McKenzie from his family.



Monday, December 1 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +All Souls / People of the Parish

8:00 +Robert Marthinsen / Shirley Maries

Tuesday, December 2 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Frances Letizo / Letizo & Winiarczyk Families

8:00 +Bill Lindstrom / Tom & Vikki Landahl

Wednesday, December 3 – St. Francis Xavier

7:00 +Helen Gajewski / Carol & Eric Marthaler

8:00 +Dorothy Bierzonski / Husband, Leonard
& Family [Anniversary]

Thursday, December 4 – St. John of Damascus

7:00 +Daniel Tessauro / Marge & Chuck Phillips [Birthday]

8:00 +Francis V. Kloecker, Jr. / Peggy Smith [Anniversary]

Friday, December 5 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Dolores Haise / Family & Friends [Anniversary]

8:45 +Celia Jordano / Mr. & Mrs. Dave DiNunzio

Saturday, December 6 – Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent

5:15 +Joseph Bellomini / Georgina & Gil Manzi

Sunday, December 7 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

7:30 +Joe & Rose Cirrincione / Family

9:00 +Mary Jane "Honey" Gruver / Mary Grace Goetz [Birth]

11:00 +Frank A. Leone / Wife

7:30 *People of the Parish

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1,

5a, 6-8

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;

Lk 3:1-6

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lord our God, we praise you for Your Son, Jesus Christ:

He is Emmanuel, the hope of the people,

He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,

He is the Savior of every nation.

Loving God, let your blessing come upon us

As we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light

be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay

We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

