

## First Sunday of Advent

From the  Pastor's Desk

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH, ST. LOUIS, MO #34



### Monday, December 4th

6:30 a.m. Betty Guilfoy  
8:00 a.m. Michael Blaes

### Tuesday, December 5th

6:30 a.m. Marcy Wyrsh  
8:00 a.m. Ann Padgett Human

### Wednesday, December 6th

6:30 a.m. Carlos Fritz & Family

### Thursday, December 7th

6:30 a.m. August A. Meyer Jr.  
7:00 p.m. Roger Haoell

### Friday, December 8th

6:30 a.m. Casey Family  
8:00 a.m. Frances Baer

### Saturday, December 9th

4:30 p.m. Walter Shirley

### Sunday, December 10th

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

**Friday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a national Catholic Feast Day and a day of holy obligation. Masses will be Thurs. evening Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. and Fri. 6:30 & 8 a.m.**

***Rectory and School will be closed on December 8, 2006, in observance of the Holy Day, Immaculate Conception.***

#### **Weekly Collection for FY 2007**

Week of November 26, 2006	\$5,253.25
Average for FY 2007	\$6538.45
Budgeted Average FY 2007	\$6,546.87
107 Envelopes Collected	

### *From Death to New Life*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of long time parishioner William Anthes. May the companionship of family and friends and God's grace bring his family and friends through this sorrowful time with comfort and peace.

#### **RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

To celebrate well it is essential to prepare well. The Church offers us two seasons in particular when we either identify our longing for union with God or look soberly at the fact of our mortality. These two seasons—Advent and Lent—have traditionally been times when the Church beckons the faithful to come and know God's mercy. In this spirit, our parish invites you to a communal penance service and the sacrament of Reconciliation, next **Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.** Several confessors will be available.

Anyone who is in relationship with other people—and who isn't?—finds that forgiveness is something human beings desire. So what is keeping us away from the sacrament of Reconciliation?

Last week (11/21) we held another meeting of the Bosnian Collaborative here. As usual, it was interesting and far-reaching. Since 2000, I've convened this fluid group of service providers from business and government, because of the large influx of Bosnian people, now around 40,000, into St. Louis (and since my former parish was smack in their neighborhood); and no one else was coordinating this outreach. We dealt last week with a national media campaign involving Channel 9, starting Dec. 13 at 8 p.m.; the immigration laws moving through Congress; The Jewish community's inclusion of recent genocidal activity in their Holocaust museum; and a local theater group's plays on immigrants' issues. Facilitating this group has always opened me up to a wide range of local and global issues, and connected me with others at those levels.

This First Sunday of Advent, this is just what our expectation of Christ does. As Christians, we express our faith in Jesus, and our view that He still dominates history as we await His return at the end of time. This does not separate us, rather it connects us with the needs and concerns of all in our area and our world. This is what faithful service does. As my mentor, Teilhard de Chardin, says of one who lets this happen:

“Little by little the great breath of the universe has insinuated itself into you through the fissure of your humble but faithful action, has broadened you, raised you up, borne you on . . . If we orientate our being in the flux of things, it will enlarge our horizons, will snatch us away from our pettiness and impel us imperiously towards a widening of our vision.”

Now isn't Advent exciting?

#### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

*by Peter Hesed*

Waiting is a part of life. Whether we're in line at City Hall, or expecting the UPS guy, or living on pins and needles until the doctor's office calls with test results, we all spend time in waiting.

Some people do it gracefully: with patience, optimism, self-possession. Others behave very badly. They push ahead of others. They explode in road rage. They seethe and trash-talk others. They give up, sure that “sour grapes” await the patient. If my internet provider takes 6 seconds to deliver me to my requested destination, I start to get jumpy.

Our Gospel today addresses how we behave while we wait. We are to avoid the sluggishness that comes from too much work or too much play. We are to remain spiritually alert, and pray. Paul puts this message very simply to the Thessalonians, asking God to grant them strong hearts and holy lives. There is no room to be smug; even those who conduct themselves well should “do so even more.” Who will be able to stand erect and raise their heads when the Son of Man comes? According to Psalm 25:

*Good and upright is the Lord;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
and teaches the humble his way.*

*"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life."  
(LUKE 21:34)*

The anxieties of daily life can make us all drowsy. We need to learn to eliminate the craziness of conflicting demands on our time. Instead, we need to find time to spend with God, especially in this season of waiting, for in Him we will find our strength.

The Social Justice Committee is asking for old shirts or T-shirts in reasonably good condition for the Shirt Swap. Please bring in old shirts for swapping. Then, at the Christmas Bazaar, find a shirt that you would like to take home. Any remaining shirts will go to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Look for the donation box on the theater stage. Wire hangers are also welcome.

**HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH SHOPS**

It's time to start thinking about Christmas shopping. Make it easy with gift cards through SHOPS. Use the cards for your shopping or make the card itself a gift! Many vendors have been added!! During the holidays some items may be backordered, to prevent that, ordering early (by Dec.1) is recommended. If you need an order form or more information please contact Cindy Riordan at 314-664-3885.

**Don't forget SHOPS are available at school, the rectory or after Masses.**

**NEWS FROM THE NURSE**

*Cathy White, RN*

**FREE MEDICAL AND LEGAL ADVICE**

Christine Durbin, RN, MSN, JD, is offering a free lunch and learn presentation at St. Stephen's Parish Hall on **Friday, December 8 and Friday, January 12** from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Participants are required to attend both dates. Topics include: when to call the doctor, immunizations, tracking your medications, advanced directives, and living arrangements. You only have to be 18 years old to attend, so bring one of your children or grandchildren as well. RSVP to Andrea at 353-9700.

**MEET MOZART AT A FREE MUSICAL DRAMA**

Please join South Grand Senior Ministry for "Mozart and Me," performed by Quartet Seraphin on **Wed., December 13** at 1:00 pm at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, 3929 Wilmington Ave. Frustrated with his lack of progress and tired of being compared to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Daniel (played by Daniel Estrin) is contemplating quitting the cello. Then, amazingly, young Mozart comes to visit. He describes the hectic life of a child prodigy. Quartet Seraphin demonstrates the intimate and intricate qualities of the great composer's string quartets, and Daniel rediscovers the joy of music. Please join us for this free afternoon concert. To reserve your spot, call Tiffany at 353-9700.

**Blood pressure screenings after all Mases in the rear of Church.**

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** will not be held on Thursday, December 14, 2006 due to rehearsal for School's Christmas program. Please join us every Thursday from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. in the Church Chapel for prayer and meditation.

Mark your calendars for the annual Borders Book Fair to be held on Dec. 8, 9, and 10, 2006 at the Borders on Brentwood Blvd. Save your book store shopping for that weekend or order gift cards through this fair (not through the SHOPS program) to be used anytime after that weekend. Proceeds benefit both the library and music program at school.

**SVDP NEWS**

**SVDP "Christmas in St. Louis" CD**

Fellow parishioners are buying a dozen at a time! How about you? Don't miss out on getting the perfect gift for your Aunt Tillie in Phoenix, Barb the hairdresser, or Joe the mailman. The SVDP "Christmas in St. Louis" CD is on sale after all masses for the low, low price of \$10. (\$5 is tax deductible) The CD features thirteen Archdiocesan choirs singing some of the most memorable Christmas carols, including our very own SMOS choir singing O Holy Night. Help our ministry to the poor and get some of those small gifts off your list today.

**SVDP Giving Tree**

Please make a stop at the SVDP Christmas Giving Tree in the church lobby this weekend. Help to make Christmas a little brighter for our less fortunate friends and neighbors by selecting ornaments off the tree with purchasing ideas. All gifts (unwrapped please) or donations need to be in no later than Sunday, December 17th. Gifts can be placed in the large bins at the back of church. This year we will be providing food and gifts to over 200 families from our client list and that of the Gavin Outreach Center. We are really counting on your support and generosity. If you would prefer to adopt a family, please call Prudence Kramer at 771-4820 to get more information.



On Sunday, December 3 after the 8a.m. and 10a.m. Masses in the Church Hall there will be a craft bazaar. There will be crafts from the Plowsharing craftsmen of 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, proceeds going to the village of Rio Abajo, Nicaragua. The Ladies' Auxiliary will have a bake sale. There will be jewelry, scarves, candles, soaps and other crafts from the girl scouts and others. Borders book certificates will be available. Stop downstairs and do some early Christmas shopping.



**LADIES AUXILLARY NEWS**

The Ladies Auxiliary yearly Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 5. We will gather at 6:30pm and have dinner (7pm) at Van Gogh Bar and Bistro located at 3200 Shenandoah, 63104. (corner of Shenandoah and Compton). There is still seating available, so hurry or you will miss out on the fun. For more information call Vicky @ 865-3770.



# Calendar of Events

**Monday, 12/4**—Youth Chorus 7pm,  
Children's Choir Rehearsal, 4:30-6p, Church,  
SNIA, 7pm, CH  
First Reconciliation, 7p  
**Tuesday, 12/5**— Christian Formation Comm., 7p, RMR  
Men's Club, 8p, CH  
**Wednesday, 12/6**—Friendship & Justice Creation Prayer  
Circle, 7p, TV rm  
Choir, 7p, Church & CH  
**Thursday, 12/7**—Eucharistic Adoration, 9a-10p  
**Friday, 12/8**— Feast of Immaculate Conception, Rectory  
Closed, School Closed  
**Saturday, 12/9**—SVDP Gathering Place, 9a-Noon  
**Sunday, 12/10**—RCIA 11:30-1 RMR  
Soc. Justice, 11:30-1, CH  
Carondelet Chorus Concert, 3p, Church  
DuBourg Swing Dancers, 6:30p, CH

## Community News

*Deck your Halls with Christmas Cheer*



**Christmas Concert** on Sunday, December 3, 2006 at 2-3:30 p.m. at St. Margaret's Church. The concert of original holiday music by Steve Werner. Sponsored by Christian Formation Committee. **Admission Free!!**

**MIDTOWN Catholic Charities Community Services** on 1202 S. Boyle Ave. invites you to their Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 10, 2006. For more information or to RSVP please call 314-534-1180.



### Christmas Fun

Our Lady of Snows, outdoor lights nightly 5-10pm, indoor activities nightly 5-9pm (except for holidays). For more information call 618-397-6700.

**The Carondelet Women's Chorus and the Carondelet Children's Chorus,** under the direction of our own parishioner, Joan Whittemore, CSJ, DMA, will present a Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 10 at 3 p.m. at St. Margaret of Scotland Church. Admission is \$5.00. A portion of the program will benefit the Organ Fund of St. Margaret of Scotland Church.



**The Annual Carondelet Christmas Concert** will be held on Friday, December 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anthony Padua Church, 3140 Meramec. Program will include the CSJ Singers (Sisters of St. Joseph) and the St. Louis Wind Symphony. Tickets are \$5 each. For more information call Sr. Marie Charles, CSJ at 314-752-6339.

### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. December 9th—4:30 p.m.

Christian Blouin-Weers,  
Fritz Autry, Darby Reynolds

Sun. December 10th—8:00 a.m.

Austin Beatty, Hannah Franko

Sun. December 10th—10:00 a.m.

Madeline Hantak, Emily Mulligan, Ben Thomas



### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. December 9th—4:30 p.m.

Becky Ward, Tom Ward

Sun. December 10th—8:00 a.m.

Gregory Kehr, Cam Jansen,

Prudence Kramer, Betty Schneider

Sun. December 10th— 10:00 a.m.

Sr. Mary Jo Ritter, Suzanne Bruce, John Merideth,

Kristen Ritter Marg Schmitz, Mary Jo Rhoda,

Mary Lisa Penilla, Pat McGovern, Patty Duffy



### LECTORS

Sat. December 9th—4:30 p.m.

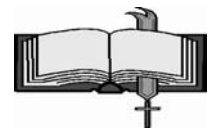
Tony Huenneke, Kathy Petersen

Sun. December 10th—8:00 a.m.

Angie Reitenbach, Tom Reitenbach

Sun. December 10th—10:00 a.m.

Joe Iovanna (both readings)



### GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

4:30 p.m. Lucille Shirley,

Donna Schumacher

8:00 a.m. Earl & Martha Brake

10:00 a.m. Duke Dummerth, Patty Hendrickson



### DONUTS & COFFEE 12/10/06

Donut Pick-up: Bob & Joyce Herleth

Coffee for December: Mary & Mark Gadell

Donut Clean-up: Bob Waeltermann



### DRIVERS

12/09/06 Betsy Mahony

12/10/06 Kevin Farrell

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**December 3 through December 10, 2006**

**Sunday:** Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5,8-9,10,14  
1 Thes 3:12-4:2 Lk 21:25-28,34-36

**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:** Gn 3:9-15,20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6,11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21,23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1,6-8

**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-6 Phil 1:4-6,8-11  
Lk 3:1-6