

Daily Mass Intentions

December 25, 2006– December 31, 2006



- Monday, December 25: 8:30am Mass
- Tuesday, December 26: 8:30am Mass
+ Denise Noelle Overton
- Wednesday, December 27: 8:30am Mass
+ Ruth McCrillis
- Thursday, December 28: 8:30am Mass
Connor Coen
- Friday, December 29: 8:30am Mass
+ Esther Mendonsa
- Saturday, December 30: 8:30am Mass
Our Lady
- Saturday, December 30: 5:00pm Mass
+ Kathy Begley
- Sunday, December 31: 8:30am Mass
+ Albert Tucher
- Sunday, December 31: 11:00am Mass
+ Esther Mendonsa
- Sunday, December 31: 5:00pm
All Parishioners



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**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2006**

O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted.
— *Psalm 80:15–16*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96;
Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97;
Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98;
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
[1-5, 9-14]
- Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
- Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
- Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28;
Ps 128 or Ps 84; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1
Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52



A NEW ORDER

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem.” A Philadelphia clergyman named Phillips Brooks penned these popular words back in the mid-1800s, but the prophet Micah could have used them first. Micah knew that from small packages great treasures come. In today’s first reading, he knew that from tiny Bethlehem would come the Lord.

The writer in Hebrews explains that Christ came to us to do the will of God by establishing a new order and by becoming our perfect sacrifice. And Luke tells us that Elizabeth and John, the infant in her womb, understand that great and wondrous things are at hand with the coming of the Lord.

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Tomorrow we celebrate anew the fruit of Mary’s womb. As we are told in Hebrews, Jesus’ new order is being established even today. And as Micah proclaims, his greatness is reaching even now to the ends of the earth.

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3rd Week of December 2006

\$ 9,034.35

**Thank you for your
Support & generosity**
(Our goal is \$12,000 per week)



Our parish received a \$1,000 gift and a \$500 gift. The \$500 is to be used for our sound system. Thank you again for your generosity.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

**Merry
Christmas**



SOMETHING IS HAPPENING AROUND HERE

In 1925 the New York World celebrated the birth of Lincoln with a cartoon that has become a classic. Two farmers are pictured talking over a fence. One asks, "Anything new happening lately?" The other responds, "Nothing much, except a baby was born over at Tom Lincoln's." The same probably happened at Bethlehem two thousand years ago. Two shepherds talking, "Anything new happen around here?" "Naw, just a baby down in the stable. Nothing much happens around here."



To the eyes of faith and in the eyes of our children something beautiful happens, Christ is born. Each child brings a unique birth of Christ. Let us share the stories of the Holy Family, the stable, the star and the swaddling clothes and then stand back and let the children tell the story back to us.

**Merry Christmas & God Bless,
Fr. Mike**



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24th: 4:30pm (Children's Mass)
Christmas Eve, December 24th: 7:00pm (Youth Mass)
Christmas Eve, December 24th: Midnight Mass (12:00am)
Christmas Day, December 25th: 8:30 & 11:00am
(Sacred music played before all Masses – Come Early)



Giggles: Murphy and Muldoon walked home after a Christmas drink. On reaching his house, Murphy said, "If God spares me, I'll see you tomorrow. If he doesn't, I'll see you next week."

Of course children brighten up a home. They never turn the lights off.



The parish staff, Fr. Mike, Fr. Innocent, Jo Anne Drummond, Barbara Freuler, Stacey Kitchell, Carrie Ivins, Jean Sawyer, Annette Filice and Jonathan Molnar wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas.

The parish office will be closed on Monday, Christmas Day, and Tuesday, December 26, 2006. We will re-open on Wednesday, December 27th.

**Week At A Glance
December 25, 2006—December 31, 2006**

MERRY CHRISTMAS			
MON. 12/25			
TUES. 12/26	3:00pm	Basketball	Parish Hall
	7:00pm	JustFaith Committee	Fireplace Room
WED. 12/27	5:30pm	Bingo	Parish Hall
THURS. 12/28	3:00pm	Basketball	Parish Hall
FRI. 12/29	3:00pm	Basketball	Parish Hall

ST. TERESA OF AVILA PARISH MINISTRIES

- Angel Food Ministry:** Jo Anne Drummond, Barbara Freuler, 889-2254
- Art & Environment:** Robin Guerra, 268-9158
- Alter Servers:** Vince Anaclerio, 916-663-2514
- Catholic Family Movement:** Steve & Robin Mathews
- Catholics Returning Home:** Jim McKeivitt, 878-7883
- Church & Grounds:** Dan Campos, 887-1325
- Crime Victims Ministry:** Nina Ashford
- Dir. Of Liturgy:** Jean Sawyer, 885-2958
- Eucharistic Ministers:** Tony & Carrie Ivins, 885-1269
- Hospitality:** Sylvia Fontes, 889-1005
- Jail Ministry:** Deacon Mike Young, 887-8492
- Lectors:** Joe Offer, 878-8419
- Parish School:** Jonathan Molnar, 885-4490
- R.C.I.A.:** Jim & Julie Opshal, 269-2595
- Religious Education:** Carrie Ivins, 823-7122
- Sick & Homebound:** Barbara Freuler, 889-2254 ext. 10
- Youth Ministry:** Joe & Kelly Poggi, 887-8281

If anyone is interested in joining any of the above ministries, please contact the facilitator. We encourage all parishioners to get involved.

"We plant the seed of unselfishness when we give cheerfully to our Church"

OUR FATHER'S LOVE

Remember the parable of the prodigal son? After squandering his inheritance on worldly pleasures in a foreign land, a young man was destitute and suffering. Finally, he summoned the courage to return to his father, meek and humbled, determined to seek forgiveness for his failures. Yet, on seeing him from a distance, the father ran to greet him. Before the young man could utter a word, the father threw his arms around him and kissed him. He ordered a robe for his shoulders, a ring for his finger, and sandals for his feet. A feast was prepared. As the father explained later to his faithful son, "we must celebrate and rejoice because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found".

This father's love for his sons was obvious. We can only imagine how much greater is God's love for us, His children. With this parable, as with several others, Christ showed us that His Father's love, God's love, is always there for us. All we have to do is accept it. Even if we have sinned and been away from Him, we should never doubt that He will welcome us back without hesitation or condition.

In keeping with the lesson Christ gave us in the parable of the lost son, the Parish of St. Teresa of Avila is again hosting a special program to seek out and welcome back into our church family those who have been away. "Catholics Returning Home" is a program of support to help non-practicing Catholics to return to their faith community, regardless of how long they have been gone or for whatever reason. We all know someone who was baptized and once a practicing Catholic but who no longer practices their faith. Some may just have drifted away and need only a little encouragement to find their way home. Some may be burdened with guilt, shame, or misinformation about the Church. Still others may think they are not welcome to return or are afraid of being rejected. All need to know that the Catholic community misses them and is anxiously waiting to welcome them back into our Church family.

If you know of someone who may be interested in renewing their relationship with God and their Catholic family, please let them know of this program. Ensure them that they will be warmly welcomed by a caring community that will be there to listen to their concerns and help them take that first step in returning to the Catholic faith. The first of six consecutive Monday evening sessions will begin at 7:00 PM on January 8, 2007 in the Fireplace Room at the Parish Hall on Atwood Road. Please pass this article or information on to anyone who might be interested. For more information, call Jim McKeivitt at (530) 878-7883.

Fourth Sunday



in Advent