

DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2004
THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: Dec. 20, 2004

MON, 8:00 AM Darrell Coleman
 TUES, 8:00 AM Children of the Church
 WED, 8:00 AM Virginia Garrett
 THURS,
 Christmas Eve: **7:30 PM** Bernard & Helen Courtois
MIDNIGHT Thomas M. DeGonia Family
 Christmas Day: **9:00 AM** Minnie Allen
 SUN, 8:00 AM The People of the Parish
 10:00 AM Robbie Ware & Those Who Love Him

SPECIAL MINISTRIES FOR WEEK OF:
DECEMBER 26, 2004
 (Christmas Schedule Posted in the back of Church)

Eucharistic Ministers

Sunday 8:00 AM Sunday 10:00 AM
 C. Phyllis Vance Geraldine Skiles
 L. Faye Jarvis Robert Mills
 R. Leroy Jarvis


LECTORS

SUNDAY, 8:00 AM SUNDAY, 10:00 AM
 J. D. Robart Robert Mills

SERVERS Sun 8:00– Josh Mathis & Jake Mathis
 Sun 10:00–

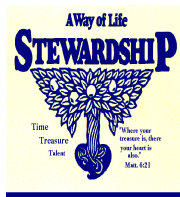
Music Sun 8:00 Rebecca Richards
 Sun 10:00 Anita Govero

GIFT BEARERS

 8:00 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel DeClue
 10:00 Mr. & Mrs. Donald DeClue

HEAVENLY DUSTERS
 Rose Brewer & Helen Brewer

ST. JAMES GIFT SHOP OPEN
 1st Sunday of Every Month
 SUZANNE SHORT 438-4787



ENVELOPES\$2,815.00
LOOSE.....\$132.00
CHILDREN(2) .. \$3.00
VOTIVE LIGHTS.....\$85.00
Gift Shop \$143.00
Immaculate Conception . \$398.00
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL.\$268.00

FOR THE WEEK OF:
Dec. 12, 2004

NEEDED for Expenses \$2300.00
RECEIVED: \$3,345.00

**P
S
R**

The St. James PSR classes will meet this Wednesday, December 22nd at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall.



CONGRATULATIONS TO
 Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Bequette and Mr. & Mrs. Alan Vandergriff on the occasion of their children being Baptized Saturday, December 11, 2004:

Luke Allen Bequette
Madison Paige Vandergriff



The Adult Convert Class will meet this Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 PM in the Rectory Basement.

The Rectory Office will be closed Wednesday thru Friday. We will be here but over in church working. If an emergency please leave a message and we will get back to you.

TOUCHDOWNS WITH
ST. JAMES
THIS WEEK WINNERS ARE:
High Score: Patty Boyer (94)
Low Score: Amy Branstetter (37)

READINGS:

Monday: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21 Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 1 Sm 2:1,4-8 Lk 1:46-56
Thursday: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab,8-10,14 Lk 1:57-66
Friday: Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5,16-17,27,29 Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Mt 1:1-18
Saturday: Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18
NEXT SUNDAY: Sir 3:2-7,12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 Mt 2:13-15,19-23

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS
Friday, December 24 – 7:30 PM
Saturday, December 25th - Midnight
Saturday, December 25th – 9:00 AM
SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY
December 26th – 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

St. Joseph Church, Bonne Terre
MONDAY, December 20th at 7:00 PM

EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES

St. Stephens Church, Richwoods
TUESDAY, December 21st 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM


St. James Church
Wednesday, Dec. 22nd 11:00 AM – Noon
 (Confession Time Starts & Stops Promptly)

“A SPECIAL THANK YOU”

To The Moore Funeral Home for their generous gift of the calendars for our parish. The calendars are located in the back of church.

Again, Thank You.

THANK YOU

 Thank You, to all who purchased gifts for our Giving Tree. Thanks to your generosity we had enough gifts for all those we prepared Christmas baskets for.

Thank You, The St. Vincent de Paul Society.

NEW YEAR’S EVE DANCE

The Knights of Columbus of Washington County will be having a New Year’s Eve Dance December 31st from 8:30 PM to 12:30 AM at the K. C. Hall in Old Mines, Featuring: Tom Sampson & Hoosier Daddy’s Band. Please call Don Bourbon at 438-2374 to make reservations.

OUR SYMPATHY TO

The Family and Friends of Betty Mercille. The Funeral Mass was Monday, December 13, 2004 here at St. James Church.

GOOD NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24
 John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

To believe is to accept and acknowledge the presence of God in one's life. How often we assume that faith is primarily doctrine and law, a list of dos and don'ts to which we must subscribe. We thus fail to see that faith involves a person.

Today's readings deal with the reality of faith. Isaiah gives us a negative example, Matthew a positive one. Paul develops the notion of personal commitment as the underpinnings of faith. All three see belief as acceptance of God's presence.

Ahaz, the Judean king, realizes that the Israelite and Aramean kings are seeking to overthrow him. Isaiah urges Ahaz to remain calm, to ask for a sign from Yahweh. The ruler rejects this notion and so reveals his impiety. Isaiah gives a sign anyway: The wife of Ahaz will bear a child to ensure the integrity of the Davidic dynasty. The child's symbolic name defines faith -- "Immanuel," that is, "God is with us."

Paul addresses the Christian community of Rome. He speaks about Christ who has conferred on him the office of apostle. Paul views his task this way: "To bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name" (Romans 1:5). For Paul, acceptance of salvation is marked by faith-filled obedience.

The gospel passage intends to explain the irregular genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17). If Jesus does not have a human father, how can he be called "son of David"? Matthew's solution is to have Joseph accept legal paternity for the Child, ensuring his Davidic ancestry. Joseph's openness to God's will makes possible the "God with us" that is at the heart of all belief.

Our celebration of this time must reflect a deep and total acceptance of Christ and his message of peace on earth and goodwill toward all people. As Advent closes and Christmas dawns, we look to the Person born again in our hearts, the Person who is "God with us."

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