

December 3, 2006 - First Sunday of Advent

In the Heart of Christ

Dear Friends in Christ:

The journey has begun. The journey to Christmas, the four week period of preparation we call Advent. But we know that in reality only the last week of Advent is explicitly devoted to the remembrance of Christ's 1st coming. The majority of Advent focuses our attention on the 2nd coming of Christ at the end of time. It is between these two events you and I must live.

There has been much ado about Pope Benedict's travel to Turkey and his now famous talk given in Regensburg, Germany. The extremists on both sides miss the point, as is so often the case. The Islamic radicals and even the Christian radicals see this as the trumpet call of a new holy war. It's not. On the other side, there are those who say the Pope was mistaken, displayed a poor choice of words or he didn't really intend to say anything about Islam. Yeah, right! Both extremes not only miss the Pope's point, but also the reality of the world as it is today.

Radical Islam is a threat to western society and culture. The violence that has been perpetuated in the name of Islam cannot be ignored nor should it be leveled against all Muslims. But radical, militant Islam is a challenge. As followers of Jesus, we proclaim that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Obviously, the Muslim world hasn't gotten the message. The question we should ask ourselves is, why not? Well, perhaps it is the same reason Hollywood and Madison Avenue haven't gotten the word about Jesus. Partly, it is because both the secular, relativist, consumerist, materialist society of the West and the Muslim world embrace belief systems naturally opposed to the message of the gospel. If Jesus is the one and only savior of the world then L'Oreal, Nike, Dell, Tom Cruise and Rosie O'Donnell are not! If Jesus is truly the savior and Son of God, if his words are spirit and life, what's that make Mohammad and the Koran? The biggest reason the word hasn't gotten out is this: we have failed to live the Word and share the Word! We are sinners - all of us fail each day. But that's not the scandal. The scandal is when we fail to acknowledge our faults and pretend like we have no faults. This is why modern society mocks and scorns us as Christians. This, I think, is why the Muslim world seeks our demise as a religion.

This Advent we long for the future coming of Christ in glory and for his presence in our lives and in the world we live in today. The glory of Christ alive today is our love for each other, our forgiveness of each other, our mercy towards each other and our humble striving to be the best people we can be everyday out of love for Jesus Christ!

Have a blessed Advent,

Welcome! We welcome our newest registered parishioners: Benita Francis, Michael & Beatriz Segrist. If you are interested in becoming a part of our parish family, complete a registration card located at the entrances to the church, mail it in, give it to an usher or place it in the collection basket or call the parish office.

Oremus, let us pray for the sick in our parish:

Robbin Backes, Pamela Banks, Veronica Carney, Kathleen and George Chipman, Isabelle Clark, Joe Corona, Liz A. Darilek, Marlene Dira, Concetta Dumas, Tyler Farrar, Marvin Fikac, Baby Boy Freed, Jan Futrell, Leon Gottselig, Paula Hagan, Juanita Hernandez, Diana Hudson, Mr. & Mrs. T.W. Hudson, Sarah Knobles, Jessica La Bove, Sally Landram, John LaTour, Mindy Mata, Ray Mendiola, Nick Mireles, Sylvia Nudi, Annie Marie Porras, Stephanie Podraza, Amy Potts, Reese Gerard Potts, Anna & Frank Sprta, Augusta Spurr, Helen Syzdek, Popp Theriot, Mr. & Mrs Sal Tellez, Faye Stallings, Tannie Trappolino and Emma Walker.

Banns of Marriage

We Pray for those preparing for marriage:

Matthew Lester & Amanda Mouton
Daniel Menerey & Michelle Vu
Michael Brown & Jane Tran
Tuan Anh Bui & Loan Thi-Anh Tran
Anh Le & Be Loan

Mass Intentions for the week: We pray for the living and the dead

Saturday December 2

5:30pm Harry Buri †
7:00pm Sarah Brennan

Sunday December 3

7:00am Nick Oropeza, Jr †
8:00am Marcie Brennan
9:30am Missa Pro Populo
11:00am Bridget Murphy
1:00pm David Zermeno †
5:30pm Laurence Simon †
7:00pm Nancy Kaik Nazar †

Monday December 4

7:00am Edward E. Quin †
12:10pm Albin Syzdek †

Tuesday December 5

7:00am Emma Bellew †
12:10pm Robert Bellew †

Wednesday December 6

7:00am Greg Hales †
12:10pm Guadalupe Pena

Thursday December 7

7:00am Greg Hales †
12:10pm Margaret McCarthy †

Friday December 8

7:00am Bernadine Pizzitola †
12:10pm Marcus Jonte
5:30pm Joey Benz

Weekday Mass Readings

Monday, December 4

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

Tuesday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 6

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

Thursday, December 7

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

Friday, December 8

Gn 3: 9-15, 20; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1: 26-38

Saturday, December 9

Is 30: 19-21, 23-26; Mt 9: 35-10:
1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 10

Bar 5: 1-9; Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:
1-6

PARISH LIFE

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!! Parish clean up day is Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9-12. Join the liturgical ministers, RCIA candidates and catechumens as they prepare the church and grounds for all our wonderful Christmas celebrations. To add your name to the roster, contact Yvonne or Chris in the parish office.

Martes Margaritas!!!!

The Parish Life Committee
invites you
to join us and fellow parishioners
for

A Happy Hour

This Tuesday

December, 5 @ 5:30 p.m.

at

La Mexicana Restaurant
Montrose @ Fairview.

Looking for a different kind of Christmas gift this year?

Try Italy

The Parish Life Committee wants to hear from you. Contact Maria Forero if you'd like to hear more about our plans for a Roman holiday in 2007: 281/395-2517 or mariaforero@ubs.com.

Remember to Pray for
Someone

This Advent Season

YOUNG ADULTS

Theology on Tap

Monday, Dec. 4
6:30pm—7:30pm

*Amazon Grill
5114 Kirby Drive.*

Gold, Frankincense and Gucci?

For more information www.sacredheartouston.org

Young Adult Bible Study *Our Father's Plan.* Enrich your faith, explore scripture. Come right after work. No pre-registration needed, materials are provided. Every Wednesday night, 7:00 p.m. To join our group or for more info visit the parish website:

FAMILY LIFE

The Nursery & Cherub Room

For Infants and Pre-schoolers

Available

*During the 9:30 and 11:00 am Mass
every Sunday.*

You Asked For it!!!!

The Parish Life Committee invites all children and youth of the parish to submit a design for a parish t-shirt. Two designs will be selected from the entries - one for younger parishioners and another for teens.

Entries should be submitted to Yvonne Gill in the Parish office or can email to ygill@sacredheartouston.org.

MARRIED WITH CHILDREN?

Don't let your faith life become a bad comedy.

Give your family the best by strengthening your spiritual life. **The Saint Anne's Society** is for mothers with small children. **Familia (Family Life In America)** has groups for men and women which meet weekly. Call the parish office for more details or check the website:

www.sacredheartco-cath.org/saintannesociety

LITURGY & LIFE

CONGRATULATIONS to those who celebrated the Rite of Acceptance last Sunday. As they enter the *catechumenate* and move forward to becoming Catholic, please pray for all the RCIA inquirers and these catechumens and candidates: Paul Apple, Miriam Cruz, Megan Flowers, Chad Hogue, Nicki Huynh, Adam Le, Ana Martinez, Steve Polack, Ivanna Richardson, Sean Roberts, Jesse Rodolfo, Kim Tran, John Broussard, Nichola Carr, Diana Ducroz, Jonathan Finley, Scooter Jackson, Masani Mazzoni, Jimmy Moon, April Patrick, and Debbie Weihe.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sung Solemn Vespers

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 PM.

*A lecture on the Magnificat at
6:00 pm in the church*

Mass Schedule

Friday, December 8

A Holy Day of Obligation

7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:30 pm.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

All are invited to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday, December 12th. A procession will begin at 6:45pm with Mass at 7:00pm. A dessert reception will be held in the Parish Hall immediately following the Mass. All are invited!!!

Hearts Sound, the contemporary music ensemble singing at 5:30 pm Sunday Mass, rehearses at 4:30 pm Sundays in the St. Gregory Room. All who are interested in joining this group should contact Jose Reyes at reyesde@yahoo.com or call the Co-Cathedral Music Dept. , 713/659-1561, ext. 30.

STEWARDSHIP

Did you know that the Co-Cathedral parish assists thousands of people who are in need every year? Your generosity to the monthly social services collection in the monthly offertory envelopes assists with the financial needs of the poor and elderly. We also aid other local agencies who serve the homeless in the downtown area. Our Monthly Food Drive helps feed the hungry through our St. Vincent De Paul Society Food Pantry, Magnificat House and Casa Juan Diego.

T'is the Gift Giving Season

During these days of December we busy ourselves with seeking out that special gift for those who have in some way enriched our lives. In that same spirit, when we contemplate our gift to our Lord we remember that we give not to receive gratitude but to express gratitude to him who is the source of all that we have.

Year End Donations. If you would like to make a special year end gift of appreciated stock there are special tax advantages for this year. For more information please consult your financial advisor or call the Archdiocesan Development Office at 713-659-5461. Please be sure to inform them that your gift is for the benefit of the **Co-Cathedral PARISH.**

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend will benefit the Retirement Fund for Religious (Sisters' Collection). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Misplaced your weekend bulletin?
View the Wish List on the parish website.

*"Can you not spend
one hour with me?"*

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursdays 7:30am –5:45pm

Benediction at 5:45pm



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

This Christmas give a gift that will benefit others and enhance our parish year round and for years to come.

Make a donation or a Memorial Gift

to

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Mass Vestments

Coordinated Mass Set

- Marian Chasubles & Stoles

Celebrant	\$1000
Concelebrant Chasubles	
3 Needed	\$500 ea.
- Deacon's Dalmatic & Stole

3 Needed	\$750 ea.
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Sacred Heart Statue

You can help in the refurbishing of our beloved statue of the Sacred Heart. Donations of any amount are welcome!

- Lighting \$1500
- Landscaping \$2500
- Moving \$3000
- Refurbishing \$8000

Music Ministry

We are blessed with a wonderful music ministry. The organ has had substantial improvements in the last year. We added 73 pipes, Last year's Wish list paid for 51 and now we need to pay for the remaining 22. Our choir continues to grow and we are in need of additional choir robes.

Be an "Organ Donor"!

- Organ Pipe

\$150 ea.	Needed 22
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- Choir Robes

\$125 ea.	Needed 20
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- Sheet music \$50 ea.

Religious Education

- Case of Bibles \$150
- Case of Catechisms \$150

To make a Christmas Wish List item come true,
please complete the form below with your donation. You may mail this to the
rectory, drop it by the Parish Office during regular hours or drop it in the Sun-
day collection in a sealed envelope.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Christmas Wish list item: _____

Amount: _____

(Optional)
In honor/memory of _____

Method of payment

Cash: _____ Check: _____

Credit: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard

Card Holder: _____

Number: _____

Expiration: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank You for your generosity.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST. Gerald, Bishop of Braga
December 5

In the latter half of the 11th century, Bernard, the Archbishop of Toledo, was delegated by the Pope to initiate ecclesiastical reform in Spain. He called in various French clerics and monks, among whom was St. Gerald, Abbott of Moissac, who was appointed choir director of the Cathedral of Toledo.

So well did this saintly man fulfill his duties and so much did he influence the people for good that when the See of Braga became vacant, Gerald was selected by the clergy and people of that city to be their Bishop. Gerald visited his diocese eradicating the abuses that had cropped up, especially that of the administering of ecclesiastical investiture by laymen. St. Gerald was called to his heavenly reward on December 5, 1109, in Bornos, Portugal.

FAITH ALIVE

***Advent and Christmas are coming.
How long has it been for you?***

Every year people wait to the last minute for confessions and, like shopping days, we can miss out. Don't delay, beat the rush. Confessions are heard daily 15 minutes before each weekday Mass at 6:45 a.m. and 11:55 a.m. and on Saturdays at 4:45 p.m. Let the mercy of God's forgiveness come to you through the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is no sin that God does not want to forgive!

SACRA PAGINA

Prayer Group

Second and Third Tuesday of Each Month
6-7pm in the Old Chapel

A small faith sharing prayer group contemplating the sacred page (*sacra pagina*) of Scripture.

Discover the power of God's Word in your life!

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Presidium
Legion of Mary**

The largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church.

Do you want to learn more about the Catholic faith?

Do you want to enrich your prayer life?

Do you want to grow closer to Jesus and his Mother, Mary?

Join us. Thursday evenings, 7pm, room 26.

ADULT ED

The Legacy Series

A continuing education and sacrament preparation program for adults

Part III: CHURCH HISTORY

Classes begin January 7

*Call now to pre-register
Two Convenient Times on Sundays*

Morning:

9:30 am -10:45 am

Afternoon:

4pm - 5:15pm

In the Old Chapel.

***It's never too late for an update!!
Get Spiritually Fit!***

ygill@sacredhearhouston.org

713/659-1561, ext.15

***Women
in the Old Testament***

*A Catholic Bible Study Series
Starting in January*

*To pre-register contact Yvonne in the
parish office.*

FTCM: Formation Towards Christian Ministry.
The Co-Cathedral will once again be a host site for FTCM classes. Semester three begins on Saturday, January, 20. All sessions will be offered on Saturdays from 9am—4pm. Registration is now open through January 15. Forms are available by contacting the Archdiocesan Office, 713/741-8730 or the Co-Cathedral, 713/659-1561, ext. 15.

Coming in 2007

First Sundays: January 7

Living Your Strengths Journey: Feb. 1

Good Sense Budget Course: Feb. 3