

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – NOVEMBER 27TH, 2011



Jesus' admonition "Beware, keep alert!" was spoken to listeners holding heightened expectation that the Messiah was about to come to restore Israel to its former power, wealth and glory. This limited expectation prevented them from recognizing Jesus as the Messiah already among them. In our Advent watchfulness, what are *we* looking for, and whom do *we* expect? To answer these questions in all their implied fullness, we must broaden our limited expectations not only about Advent but even about God's presence to us in our daily living.

If we expect Christ's presence, we'll find it because God is always present to us. "God is faithful" (second reading). From the beginning of time God has created "awesome deeds that we did not expect" (first reading). God "has in every way enriched [us]" and assured us that we "are not lacking in any spiritual gift" (second reading). One challenge of being watchful and alert is that we open our eyes to the simple, everyday ways God is present to us with gifts we cannot even imagine. An attitude of watchfulness and alertness increases our expectation so that we are far more able to recognize God's presence in the goodness people and events reveal.

When we have expectations, we are watchful and alert; without expectations, we easily become faint and dull. In these short weeks of Advent, let us make a special effort to let go of our cares and worries a bit and enjoy for at least a few minutes each day the luxury of taking time to remember God's faithfulness, to alert ourselves to the many blessings we have received, and to recognize God's love and care in our everyday busyness and concerns. Let our inner peace be a contrast to the frenetic pace of the season. Let our hearts be turned toward the God who is ever present. Our God is coming! Beware, keep alert!

2012 ST. JOSEPH'S MISSAL The new missal is available for purchase before and after Mass this weekend. The price is \$3 a copy. You can also buy it at the parish office during the week. Each registered household should have at least ONE copy for their perusal.

Those who bought the Missal last weekend can also get a copy of the new prayer card.

COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY A second collection will be taken this weekend. We received requests for extra help as the Holiday Season draws near. Our generosity will make this *CHRISTMAS* a little more special for those in need.

NOVEMBER Is when we intentionally remember our deceased family, friends and benefactors. A Book of Remembrance is available for you to write down the names of **DECEASED** family members for whom we will pray throughout this month. On **Monday, November 28th**, the 9:00 am Mass will be celebrated in honour of the faithful departed.

POTLUCK SUPPER On Saturday, November 26th, after the 5:00 pm Mass, please join us for this evening's potluck supper. If you forgot to bring a dish, come and share the fellowship. You can help with doing the clean-up after. Thanks a million!



RELIGIOUS CRAFTS FROM THE HOLY LAND

Next weekend, on December 3rd and 4th, after all the Masses someone will be here to sell the olive wood crafts as a means to support the Christian minority families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. This is our little way of assisting the livelihood of the remaining Christians rooted in the Land of Christ. You can buy the crafts for gifts or collection.

YOUTH MINISTRY COLLECTION A second collection will be taken up next weekend to assist the work of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in providing parish youth ministry formation through training and support. Please be generous in supporting the youth of our parish.

† MASS INTENTIONS †

Monday	Nov. 28	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For all deceased relatives & friends of Holy Name Parishioners.
Tuesday	Nov. 29	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intention of Jeffrey Yee.
Wednesday	Nov. 30	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Federico Labis, Sr.
Thursday	Dec. 1	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Henry Au.
Friday	Dec. 2	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For Thanksgiving.
Saturday	Dec. 3	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intention of Frances Ong. <u>5:00 p.m.</u> For the repose of the soul of Romeo Meneghello.
Sunday	Dec. 4	<u>9:00 a.m.</u> For the special intention of Sr. Marie Remedios. <u>11:00 a.m.</u> For the special intentions of All Holy Name Parishioners.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT begins the season of Advent. Through it, we prepare ourselves to await the coming of God himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, who became a human being to bring humanity back into communion with the Triune God.

FIRST SATURDAY ADORATION/ BENECTION "Come and Be Still" for awhile this coming Saturday when we have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 8:30 am until Mass time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HNJ CWL CRAFT FAIR On Sunday, December 11th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Last chance for shopping at our Craft Fair. Raffle will be drawn at 12:30 pm. Come to our Tea Garden and enjoy some homemade goodies with tea. The Gift of the Heart Foundation Choir will entertain us with Christmas carols.

Bake Sale—Donations gratefully accepted. Drop off on Saturday, December 10th after the 9:00 am Mass.

CHRISTMAS CHEER AT THE BURNABY YOUTH CUSTODY CENTERS On Tuesday, December 13th, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, Evelyn Florendo will put on a Christmas party for the residents at the Detention Centre. After 28 years of doing this, she and her team have decided to form a foundation to celebrate the Christmas spirit in prison. A small donation is welcome, but she is still accepting small gifts to give to the inmates. Drop off your donations at the rectory office and presents in the box at the vestibule of the Church.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE Our parish will have Advent penitential service on Tuesday, December 13th, at 7:00 pm. Several priests will be here to hear confessions. Please mark this date in your calendar. Other parishes also have confessions, their dates and times are listed on the bulletin board.

BULLETIN AD We have some advertising spaces that will be available in the back of our weekly bulletin. The cost is \$200 for the whole year, which begins in February and goes to the end of January, 2013. Please reserve your space ASAP and send us a business card size of your advertisement. Thank you.

“FELLOWSHIP AND PRAISE” St. Mary’s Parish Migrant Ministry invites you to “Fellowship and Praise” and “A Morning with Philippine Consul General, Joey Ampeso”. Sunday, Nov. 27 - 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s School Gym, 5251 Joyce St., Vancouver. Experience the love and care of a faith-based community and believe that God is present even in the most difficult times of our lives. For information contact: stmarysmigrant@yahoo.com or call 604-435-9611.

NEWMAN CHARITY BALL The Newman Club of UBC and the Newman Association of Vancouver are hosting a Charity Ball and the Archbishop will be attending to open the event in prayer. This event will take place on Friday, Dec. 2 – 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish, 3778 West 28th Ave., Vancouver. All proceeds from ticket sales -\$20/student, \$35/adult - and the cash bar will be going towards making shoebox Christmas presents for those at the Door is Open and also to Crabtree Corner. Contact newmanclububc@gmail.com or call 778-928-8820.

LITTLE FLOWER ACADEMY ENTRANCE EXAM

Little Flower Academy would like to invite all prospective 2012-2013 Grade Eight candidates to apply for the ENTRANCE EXAM on Saturday, December 10, 2011. Applications are available on our school website www.lfabc.org or by contacting Kathi Wilson at 604-738-9016 ext 114.



Scripture Readings



1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16b-17,64:1, 3-8; Ps. 80;
1Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Nov. 28, Mon., Isaiah 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Matt. 8:5-11, 13++

Nov. 29, Tues., Isaiah 11:1-10, Ps. 72; Luke 10:21-24

Nov. 30, Wed., **St. Andrew, apostle**
Romans 10:9-18; Ps. 19; Matt. 4:18-22

Dec. 1, Thurs., Isaiah 26:1-6; Ps. 118; Matt. 7:21, 24-27

Dec. 2, Fri., Isaiah 29:17-24; Ps. 27; Matt 9:27-31

Dec. 3, Sat., **St. Francis Xavier, priest**
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps. 147; Matt. 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8++

2011 PROJECT ADVANCE:

Touching Many Lives!

Total pledges/gifts: \$102,632.25

of donors: 226 out of 540 Registered Households
Archdiocese Assessment: \$35,900 plus \$3000 expenses
Total Parish Goal —\$100,000

Congratulations... we reached our goal!!! Those who are still thinking of making your pledge, please put it in the Sunday collections; or mail it to the Parish Office. Your PARTICIPATION is just as important as your gift.

Thank YOU!!! Deadline: December 31st for this year's tax-receipt.

STEWARDSHIP: A Disciple's Response

The season of Advent is upon us, and in today's Gospel Jesus delivers a simple message through the pen of Saint Mark: "Beware! Be alert!" Christian stewards understand what Jesus meant when he said, "It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task." Good stewards realize that to each one a task is assigned by God. They have been set in a particular place and station in life, and have been gifted with unique relationships. How do we respond to the tasks or honour our relationships in a way that keeps us alert for the return of Christ?

LIGHT OF THE WORLD MOSIAC

Sarah Hall, who designed and made the stained glass windows for our church's three side entrances, has been commissioned to create a mosaic based on John's gospel—the "Foot of Cross." You can examine her prayerful and beautiful design in the vestibule. If you wish to sponsor/donate a leaf-plaque on the *Jesse Tree of Life*, please contact the parish office for more details. You are encouraged to keep this spiritual enterprise in your prayers.

