

**Looking Ahead**

Sun. Nov 30

7:00pm Senior Youth Group, PC main

Mon. Dec 1

7:00 – 8:00pm

Confirmation Catechist's

Training – PC#1

7:30 – 9:00pm SVDP Meeting, PC#2

7:30 – 8:30pm Advent Prayer Group, St. Joseph's Rm

Tue. Dec 2

7:00 – 10pm Adult Choir Rehearsal in church

Wed. Dec 3

6:00 – 7:00pm PHCP, Gr 7/8, St. Alb/Jos Rms

Thu Dec 4

7:30 – 9:00pm RCIA, PC#1

Fri. Dec 5

10am Mass at Fairview Lodge

Sat. Dec 6

2:00 – 3:30pm Children's Christmas Choir rehearsal, PC

3:30 – 4:30pm Youth Choir rehearsal, PC

**Advent Prayer Group**

7.30pm to 8:30pm

St. Joseph's Room

Monday Evenings – Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th

Come and enjoy a quiet time preparing for the celebration of Christmas - both a beginning and an end of the Church's year.

What is Advent Prayer Group? We come together to read the Sunday scripture and discuss questions based on their meaning in our life today. *Spiritual Committee, Pastoral Council*

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday November 30th at 7:00 pm. Our main focus for the evening is a presentation on the Mass by Fr. Liborio Amaral, the vocations director for the Archdiocese. High school youth are welcome to join us. For more information, please Mike Tice at 905-430-0713 or Lynne Childerhouse at 905-668-5206.

SVDP**" Help is at Hand"**

Parishioners: If you know of a family within the Parish in need of help at Christmas time, or a Senior or a shut-in with little or no family support that would benefit from a Christmas Basket, please call and make us aware of their need of some help. Thank You.

Call Rita Hadden 905-668- 1889 or email rhadden@rogers.com

SVDP Can Banks

Can banks can be picked up at the back of the Church after Mass this weekend, **Please return can bank donations with your name and address on the label by December 14th** in order to receive a 2008 tax receipt. Thank you for your continued generosity. **NOTE: IT'S EASIER TO ATTACH A RETURN ADDRESS LABEL TO THE CAN.**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND**

Each year you are invited to assist with the

cost for decorating the Church for Christmas and throughout the Christmas Season. Special envelopes are available at the back of the Church for this purpose. You can deposit them in the regular collection over the next few weeks. Just put your envelope number or name on the front for income tax purposes. As always, we appreciate your support and assistance at this time of year!

2009 St. John The Evangelist Calendars

The 2009 parish calendars are available at the back of the church, compliments of W.C. Town Funeral Chapel. Please take one.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE****Wednesday, December 24**

Vigil of Christmas

7:00pm
9:00pm
11:00pm

Thursday, December 25(Holy Day of Obligation)
Nativity of the Lord

9:00am
11:00am

Friday, December 26

Feast of St. Stephen

7:00pm

Monday December 31

Vigil, Mary Mother of God

5:00pm

Wednesday, December 31

Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

5:00pm

Thursday, January 1(Holy Day of Obligation)
Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God

9:00am
11:00am

**Talent Search for Coffee House 2009**

Members of our St. John the Evangelist Parish family are encouraged to participate as guests in our 9th Annual Coffee House to be held on Saturday January 24, 2009. Dates for ticket sales will be announced soon.

For those not familiar with the Coffee House, it is a fun-filled evening with a number of youth and adult performers such as musical groups, solo artists performing delightful music, dance, poetry, etc.

If you are, or if you know a talented parishioner of St. John's such as an actor, singer, dancer, musician, stand up comedian, etc. and would like to perform at the Coffee House, please

contact Robert D'Cruz at 905-668-9558 AFTER 5:00PM. by Sunday November the 30th 2008.

Campaign Life Coalition - Christmas Cakes

Campaign Life Coalition is once again selling its Christmas cakes to support their work commitment for human life from the moment of conception until natural death. The cakes are made with choice fruits, pecans and creamery butter. Cost: \$25.00 for the 2.5 lb cake in a decorative tin and \$15.00 for the 1.7 lb bar cake. The cakes will be available after all Masses in the foyer.

Right to Life Christmas Cards December 6/7, 2008

Right to Life Cards package of 10 cards for \$7.00. You can purchase cards at the back of the church after Mass or in the parish center during Social Sunday. Otherwise, contact Mary Louise LaBarre 905-430-1332 or e-mail: mlabarre@sympatico.ca

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. 5:00 pm **Mary Pillepich**
Nov. 29 req. by *Gianni & Marina & Family*
Mon 8:20 am **In honour of Sir Michael Checkley, KGCHS**
Dec. 1 req. by *The Rome Pilgrims*
Wed 7:00 pm **Josephine Gellately**
Dec 3 req. by *The Hannon Family*
Thu 8:20 am **Maurizio Misasi**
Dec 4 req. by *Anna & Mario Misasi*
Fri. 8:20 am **Special Intention**
Dec 5 req. by *A Parishioner*
Sat. 5:00pm **In honour of the Knighthood of John Ecker, KHS**
Dec 6 req. by *The Rome Pilgrims*

Toronto Serra Clubs

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Some are called to teach, preach and witness those teachings as priests and religious. God may be calling you to a Church vocation. If you think God is calling you to be a priest or religious, call Fr. Liborio (416) 968-0997. email vocations@vocations.ca

**PARISH
SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILIATION SERVICE
THURS. DECEMBER 18, 2008
7:30PM
4 priests**



THE ADVENT WREATH

Using the Advent Wreath in our homes during this advent season is a wonderful way to focus our family's attention on the spiritual preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth.

MEANING

The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen boughs reminding us of God's continuous love and Christ's promise to bring us to salvation. The four candles signify the four weeks of advent and the four thousand years the Jewish people waited for the Messiah. The candle colours; three purple candles call to mind our preparation and signify the kingly status of Christ; the one pink candle, lit on Gaudet Sunday, the third week of Advent, is one of Joy. As we light the number of candles for each appropriate week, the light intensifies as our preparations and anticipation increase. The time is near!

BLESSING the Advent Wreath

1. A Family member read: Isaiah 9: 1-2, 5 – 6
2. A family member reads the blessing: O God by your word all things are made holy. We offer to you this Advent Wreath. which we ask you to bless. Help us to use it to prepare our hearts for the great coming of your Son. Help us to receive him into our hearts with joy.

First Week of Advent Family Liturgy

1. A family member lights one purple candle.
2. A family member reads the bible reference.
3. Together read the First Week prayer: Almighty God be present in our family. Forgive all things we have done that we should not have done; and all things we failed to do that we should have done. Help us to learn how to be your children, in Jesus' name. Amen.
4. Family recites the Our Father and Sign of the Cross
5. Youngest family member extinguish the candle.

The Readings for the 1st Week of Advent

Sun. Isaiah 63:16B-17, 64:2-7;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37
Mon. Isaiah 2:1-5; ; Matthew 8:5-11
Tues. Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
Wed. Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37
Thurs. Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Fri. Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
Sat. Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35, 10:1, 5, 6-8

FAIR TRADE COFFEE – THE GIFT THAT GIVES TWICE

Development and Peace members will sell coffee, tea and hot chocolate powder at the December 7th Social Sunday after all Masses in the Parish Centre. Consider Fair Trade products an option for your Christmas shopping and support a just cause!



**Knights of Columbus
St John the Evangelist
Council #4895
Regular Meeting
Wednesday December 3, 2008 @ 8pm**
Knights of Columbus Hall
133 Brock Street North

Special Christmas Breakfast All You Can Eat

hosted by Knights of Columbus
Saturday December 6, 2008
(Whitby Santa Claus Parade)
7am – 11am
133 Brock St. N., Whitby
\$3/Adults, \$2/Child, \$10/Family
Pay at the door

2009 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The offertory envelopes will be available on the weekends of December 13/14 and 20/21, then again 27/28. You may take any box number. Please print your name and address on the first two donations and our secretary will record it for income tax purposes. You may also use an address sticker for convenience. Through the year, it is no longer necessary to record your name and address, however it would be very helpful if you would *record the donation amount* on the envelope. It is very important to DESTROY ALL ENVELOPES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS as the old number belongs to someone else in 2009 and you risk your tax credit going to someone else.