

Fourth Sunday of Advent

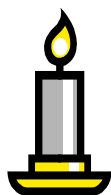
December 24, 2006



Announced Masses

Sat	12/23/06	4:00 pm	William & Ursula Galasso/Family
Sun	12/24/06	10:30 am	Mary Verrecchio/The Palmer Family
		4:00 pm	Wayne J. Clark/Mother-in-law, Mary
		6:00 pm	Open
Mon	12/25/06	9:00 am	Mary Nikituk/Joe Nikituk
Tue	12/26/06	8:00 am	Spencer Smith, Jr. & Spencer Smith, III/Marie Smith
Wed	12/27/06	8:00 am	Bob Laarkamp (Birthday)/ Marge Laarkamp
Thu	12/28/06	8:00 am	Henry Laarkamp (Birthday)/ Marge Laarkamp
Fri	12/29/06	8:00 am	People of the Parish/Fr. Ken
Sat	12/30/06	4:00 pm	William & Ursula Galasso/Family
Sun	12/31/06	10:30 am	Agnes Landis/Joe Nikituk
		12:00 pm	Open

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Sanctuary Lamp
The Sanctuary Lamp is burning this week
In Memory of George Kleisz
requested by Martha Kleisz

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Entered Eternal Rest
Anna Zambetti
Sally Blatherwick
(Bea Breannan's Niece)

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The People's Tithe
Third Sunday of Advent: \$
Thank you for your continued generosity!

Sick List

Please pray for those who are ill and those who care for them:

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*May the love, the peace, the
happiness the Holy Family share fill
your heart and home at Christmas
and in the new year.*

*The Rectory office will be closed
on Monday, December 25th.*



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29 Hour Prayer Vigil for Murder Victims

The murders in Camden City call us to stop and reflect on what we can do to diminish violence in our families, our communities, our city, and our country in the coming year.

From 6 am Saturday, December 30th through 5 pm Sunday, December 31st there will be a 29 Hour Prayer Vigil and Fast here at St. Joan of Arc Church. Each hour, the memory of a Camden murder victim will be held in prayer, one hour for each person who has been killed. At 7 pm on Saturday there will be a solemn reading of the names of the victims of violence.

Eight Camden parishes will have a 3 hour time frame to come and pray. St. Joan of Arc's time is schedule for Saturday, December 30th from 9 pm to 12 midnight. However, all are welcome to attend at any time during the vigil.

His disciples asked Him, "Why couldn't we drive the demon out?" Jesus replied, *This kind can only come out by prayer and fasting.* (Mark 9:28-29)



Fourth Sunday of Advent



Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas to all!! May the birth of the Christ Child bring joy into your hearts and your homes.

On Christmas Day, I'll cook breakfast for my mother in her apartment, then visit friends in the afternoon. In the evening, I'll join my brother-in-law and his family at their home in Cherry Hill. I hope that all of you will join family, friends and loved ones to create for yourselves a warm hearth during the winter season.

Thanks to everyone who decorated the church for Christmas. Mary Anne O'Shea, Mike Jones and custodian, Ed Cole, took the lead last Sunday. They were joined by more than 40 people who strung the laurel, raised the trees and set up the manger scene. Debbie Carroll and friends later added the poinsettias on Thursday night.

Once again, I was pleased to see our English and Spanish communities, children, teens and adults, working together to make our one church a beautiful environment for the celebration of the birth of the Savior.

During the nine days before Christmas, two novenas are occurring at the same time. In our own parish, the Latino community is celebrating the "Posadas," remembering the moment when there "was no room for them at the inn."

In the "Posadas," a crowd of people approach a house at 6:00 p.m. and ask for lodging. At first, the people inside refuse, but later relent when they realize it is Joseph and Mary. Everyone enters the house, prays a litany to Mary and then enjoys some food. Often, the children are rewarded with a *piñada*, filled with candies. They break the *piñada* and get the candies inside as they fall to the ground.

The list of homes where the Posada is held was distributed at the Spanish Mass.

The other novena is the *Misa del Gallo* [the Mass of the Rooster], celebrated at St. Peter Celestine Church in Cherry Hill. The Mass begins at 5:30 a.m.!! I have attended every one of these liturgies this year, joining my Filipino and American friends at the parish where I served for 5 years in my youth.

Both novenas are a good preparation for Christmas.

I hope that everyone has a joyful Christmas, remembering the salvation brought to us in the message of the angels, the presence of the shepherds, the humility of the manger and the love of Joseph and Mary.

Peace,
Fr. Hallahan

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RPM Development Presents Fairview Village Homes

Beautiful two and three bedroom historic homes available with completely new interiors including hardwood floors, central heating and cooling system, remodeled kitchen with new gas stove, dishwasher, and refrigerator. Renovated exteriors. Home prices range from \$70k to \$100k. Estimated monthly mortgage payments range from \$600-\$900.

For more information, please call (856) 541-6012 or visit us at 1201 Yorkship Square, Camden, NJ 08104.

Stewardship Reflection

Love One Another

"The kindly man will be blessed, for he gives out of his sustenance to the poor." Proverbs 22:9

Stewardship is living out Christ's instruction to "love one another as I have loved you."

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Diocesan Job Postings

There are three job openings with the Diocesan Housing Services for its newest facility, Stonegate at St. Stephen's Senior Housing. The positions are: Service Coordinator-part time, 20 hours/week with paid time off (vacation, holiday and sick); Occupancy Specialist-part time, 20 hours/week with paid time off (vacation, holiday and sick); and Maintenance Person-full time with benefits.

Complete job descriptions/requirements are available at the rectory for anyone who might be interested in these positions. Call (856) 962-8642 for details.

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Emergency Preparedness Ham Radio Operators

Amateur Radio is an important emergency management resource. Amateur Radio operators, popularly known as Ham Radio operators, can provide essential communications during disasters, when all other lines of communications (telephone lines, cell phones) have failed.

As part of its Emergency Preparedness efforts, the Diocese of Camden would like to identify up to two (2) Ham Radio operators in each parish that would be available to assist in the event of a disaster or emergency that would impact the operations of diocesan and parish offices and institutions.

If you are a licensed Ham Radio operator and would be willing to assist in this effort, please fax your name, address and phone number and the name of your parish to the Office of Communications, Diocese of Camden at (856) 338-0826 by January 12, 2007.

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Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The application season for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) began on November 1st. LIHEAP provides financial help to those income eligible customers with their winter heating bills. With an average benefit amount of \$400.00 for gas heat, LIHEAP can make a difference for individuals and families who struggle to make ends meet.

To apply for assistance in Camden County, contact Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity (CCCOEO) Offices at Point Plaza, 5287 Marlton Pike & Rt. 70, Pennsauken, NJ 08109, (856) 910-1180, or 538 Broadway, Camden, NJ 08104, (856) 964-6887.

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5th Sunday Collection Next Weekend

Next weekend's Second Collection will be our 5th Sunday Collection. Proceeds from this collection will be used to offset heating costs for our parish buildings. Thank you for your continued support.