

# Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2008



## Announced Masses

Sat	12/06	4:00 pm	Joe Iobbi/Helen Abramczyk Frances Gajtkowski/Family
Sun	12/07	10:30 am	Joe Iobbi/Cookie, Jim & Angel Sam Pelle/Virginia Knott
		12:00 pm	Mary T. Stafford/ Connie Walker Schirmer
Mon	12/08	8:00 am	Mary Kavanagh/Bob & Ellen Healey
		7:00 pm	People of the Parish/Fr. Ken
Tue	12/09	8:00 am	Elizabeth Brunick (1st anniv.)/Fr. Ken Hallahan & SJOA Par. Fam.
Wed	12/10	8:00 am	Mary Nikituk/Joe Nikituk
Thu	12/11	8:00 am	Regina Weirauch/ Regina Weirauch
Fri	12/12	8:00 am	For the Intentions & Health of Kathleen McGarragle & Ed Dolan
Sat	12/13	4:00 pm	Elizabeth B. Staller/Fr. Ken Hallahan & the SJOA Par. Family
Sun	12/14	10:30 am	Michael Yurkow/Cookie, Jim & Angel
		12:00 pm	Joseph J. Stafford/ Connie Walker Schirmer

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**The People's Tithe**  
**1st Sunday of Advent: \$**  
**2nd Collection: CCHD: \$**  
*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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## What's Happening Around SJOA

### Sunday, 12/07/08:

Religious Ed.—English	9:15 am	School
Religious Ed.—Spanish	10:45 am	School

### Monday, 12/08/08:

**NO YOUTH GROUP MEETING**

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*The Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Monday, December 8th is a  
Holy Day of Obligation.  
Masses at 8:00 am & 7:00 pm  
The rectory office will be closed in  
observance of the Holy Day*

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**Parish Advent Penance Service**  
**Saturday, December 13, 2008 - 2:30 pm**  
**This is the last opportunity for Confessions**  
**before Christmas. No Confessions scheduled**  
**for Christmas Eve.**

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**Hanging of the Greens**  
**Sunday, December 21st, 1:30 pm**  
**Many hands make light work! Please come and**  
**help to decorate our Church for Christmas!**



# Second Sunday of Advent



## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Once again, on behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone for your outpouring of sympathy and condolences at the death of my mother, Margaret Hallahan. The family was very touched by the large number of people at the funeral, the priests and deacons at the altar, the lovely music and the flowers from the rectory staff and the Latina community.

My relatives have returned to their homes in California, Georgia, Ireland and Guyana with comforting memories of a woman who was loved by family and friends and supported throughout her life by her faith community.

My mother received most of her formal education from the Catholic school system. She had a strong circle of friends at Hallahan High School, at St. Catherine Labouré Parish in Harrisburg while raising her children, and in St. Peter Celestine Parish in Cherry Hill as a member of the parish choir during her teaching career. At the end, the Catholic Church provided a wonderful sendoff, a ritual farewell that gave us all comfort and hope.

Thanks again to all of you for your faithful support.

Thanks to Soccoro Martinez, Gil Ronaldo the guitarist, and all who helped with the celebration of “La Purisima,” the Immaculate Conception of Mary last weekend. This is the patronal feast of both Nicaragua and the USA.

The shrine in the sanctuary was beautiful and the celebration lifted up our spirits as we praised the mother of Jesus as our model of faith. She was the first to believe that God could enter human history and bring us a message of hope and salvation.

That message has a great deal of meaning to me at this time in my life and I thank everyone who helped on Sunday to reaffirm my faith in our Catholic tradition.

Advent is a time of expectation and waiting. We hope for something new, we await something unexpected by God in our lives. As the winter begins, it is a good time to sit quietly, to meditate and to remember all of the ways that God has blessed us in the past.

Remembering those blessings, we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord in a new way at Christmas time. A blessed Advent to all.

Peace,  
Fr. Hallahan

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## Kairos Retreat—Young Adults

Kairos, which means God’s Time, is a Jesuit based retreat that has been offered nationally in Catholic high schools and colleges.

Every day of the retreat includes Mass, prayer services, morning and evening prayer, and discussion. Topics include Piety, God’s friendship, and obstacles to God’s friendship. The success of Kairos is attributed to the retreats being peer lead and facilitated. There is a secret to the Kairos retreat, and in order for retreatants to know the secret, they must attend the retreat. The part of what makes Kairos so special is that it appeals to all people.

This Retreat will be held at the John Paul II Center, Vineland beginning at 9:00 am on Friday, December 19th and conclude with Mass on Sunday, December 21st. The cost is \$150.00, which includes meals and lodging. For more information, call Pat Wirbick at (856) 583-2877 or pwirbick@camdendiocese.org.

## From the Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In recent decades, the number of elderly religious has grown dramatically and now outnumbers the number of wage-earning religious. Today, nearly 60 percent of men and women religious are past age 70. Seven percent are past the age of 90 and almost 5,000 elderly religious are now in need of skilled nursing care. Religious men and women did not become eligible for Social Security benefits until 1972 and their benefits are just one-third of the average recipient’s. At the same time, health care costs have skyrocketed.

Religious communities are responsible for meeting the costs of caring for the aging men and women of their communities. In spite of the economies of scale that are obtained from community living, the cost of health care and living costs in most religious communities far exceed income from investments, from government programs and from compensated ministries.

To assist religious communities in meeting this crisis in underfunded retirement, church officials and religious leaders twenty years ago established the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and launched the Retirement Fund for Religious. Grants from the Retirement fund for Religious have helped to ensure appropriate care and handicapped accessible housing for Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who are now past age 70.

This year, the **Retirement Fund for Religious** collection will be taken up in parishes of the Diocese of Camden **December 13-14**. I ask you to give generously to this year’s appeal to ensure that these dedicated women and men will age with grace, dignity and adequate care.

May God continue to guide you and bless you.

Fraternally,  
Most Rev. Joseph A. Galante, DD, JDC  
Bishop of Camden

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## Stewardship Reflection

### *Stewardship Servants*

*“It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaved home and places his servants in charge, each with his work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.” (Mark 13:34)*

**God has left us as His servants in charge here on earth. We are “collaborators in creations.” Each Steward has unique talents and positive potential which can be used to accomplish this work.**

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## A Family Perspective

**Today’s gospel raises many questions: Was the Baptist’s family embarrassed by his lifestyle, diet, clothing and message? Did they avoid or ignore him or advise him to come home and be ‘normal?’ Advent, a time to challenge our hearts, raises another question: Who in your family needs our acceptance?**