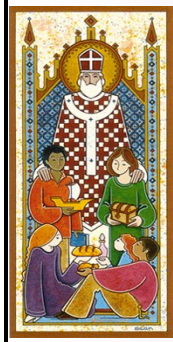


CHILDRENS FAITH FORMATION

ST. NICHOLAS STOCKING SIGN-ALONG & COOKIE POTLUCK, too!

Monday, December 5th, 6:30 pm, GA



- Wear your craziest socks
(Pajama party cancelled)
- Bring a plate of cookies to share
- And your homemade decorated sock ...
to hang by the chimney with care!

The children and teens will be celebrating this feast together! Check your shoes at the door and sock-it to us! We will sing-around the piano with St. Nicholas Advent songs; teen skit, St. Nick games, enjoy cookies & milk, and more!

ST. NICHOLAS AND JESUS

In these days before Christmas, we can celebrate the feast of Nicholas (December 6th) as a time to refocus on Jesus. St. Nicholas showed us how to find Jesus in the poor, the oppressed and abused. He was devoted to charity, but charity always linked to justice.

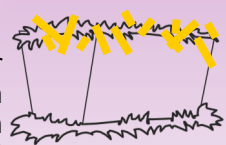


Nicholas teaches us that faithful followers of Jesus defend those who are wrongly accused. Today we can see the face of Jesus not only in prisoners around the world, but also in anyone who suffers from false accusation. After all, wasn't Jesus himself executed on false charges?

Finally, St. Nicholas shows us how to find Jesus through prayer and religious zeal. Let's relish the spirit of joy and charity embodied in Santa's gift-giving, but let's not forget the real St. Nicholas, who, like all the saints, points to Jesus. That's the truest Christmas spirit.

PREPARING FOR JESUS

Our children are preparing a comfy manger for Jesus by doing good deeds and writing them on straw paper strips. Children, please bring in your good deed straws to the PH bulletin board at anytime during PH hours before Christmas Eve.



UPDATED FFF SCHEDULE

- **Monday, December 5th,** Topic: St. Nicholas Stocking Party (FYI: St. Nicholas' Feast Day is December 6th)
- **Monday, December 12th,** Topic: Mary, Mother of Jesus and Christmas
- **Monday, December 19th, NO CLASS**
- **Monday, December 26th, NO CLASS**

If you need another calendar / agenda, please email Donna at donnak@ihmco.org and she will send you one.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Young Angels (YA) = High School
Kids for Christ (KFC) = Middle School
Steve & Sheryl Senesac, Youth Ministers
s_s59tops@msn.com ~ 970-535-4825

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ♦ **Monday, December 5th** St. Nicholas sing-along and cookie potluck. Youth will be presenting a short skit.
- ♦ **Service Saturday, December 10**
All youth will meet at the Senesac's home at 1:30 pm. We will be wrapping gifts for the nursing home residents, making Christmas cards and babysitting. We will then go to Reconciliation at 4:30 pm followed by Mass at 5:30pm.
- ♦ **Monday, December 12th, 6:30—8:00 pm.** High Schoolers will be going to the nursing home with Regina. **Middle School Christmas Party!** Bring a \$5.00 gift for the white elephant gift exchange and a Christmas snack/cookies to share. We will have hot chocolate, treats and games!
- ♦ **Monday, December 19th,** (No Mass or class at GA) **High School Christmas Party at Senesac's 7:00—9:00 pm** Bring a Christmas snack to share and a \$5.00 gift for a white elephant gift exchange.
- ♦ **Tuesday, December 20th 11:00 am** Middle School to visit nursing home and bring cards. Meet at GA at 11 am.



Please *RSVP* to Sheryl for all the above

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (DECEMBER 8th)

The coloring sheet below is designed to help children (and all Catholics for that matter) understand that the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary being conceived without original sin; it is *not* referring to when Mary conceived Jesus.

Symbolism in this picture includes Mary in the womb of St. Anne (wearing her signature veil). St. Anne and Mary both have their backs turned towards the apple tree to visually state that Mary was conceived without original sin. There are three beams of light coming down from the sun that stand for the trinity. Also, the snake (Satan) is unhappy about what has happened here.



Guardian Angels Catholic Church

December 4, 2011

Second Sunday of Advent

PREPARE



Dear Friends and Families of Guardian Angels Parish,

Last weekend we got off to a fine start in introducing the new translation of the Mass along with the requested practice of the Church that Mass be chanted as much as possible. Yes, there were a few glitches, mostly from me. I was surprised to discover that despite much home practice, my mouth didn't always wrapped around the words when in the thick of things as the actual Mass itself. I found myself paying attention more closely to the words themselves. After 35 years, I'd mostly memorized the 2nd edition of the Roman Missal; now I have to pay attention. This is a good thing because it invites us all to listen more carefully to the words of the Mass. In so many ways these words are either from the Bible itself, which is God speaking to us, or from the most ancient text of our Church, which is our ancestors speaking to us across all this time.

Like the prophet Isaiah says in the first reading, I find these ancients words, phrases and formulas of ritual a great comfort in a very stressful world. While the new translation sometimes reads awkwardly, I have to remember that it is not meant to be ordinary speech. This is the concept behind the new translation that I like the most. Everyday speech is just that – everyday! A transcript of your speech would really surprise most of us for its lack of grammar, idiosyncratic sayings, broken and mumbling speech, mispronunciations, street talk, text-speak, to say nothing of all the “ums”, “uhs”, “like”, and “aaahs” we say to let our minds catch up with our mouths; we're always trying to think of what we're going to say next and formulate the words. This is harder than you think.

God does not speak that way to us at all. When the prophet Isaiah says, “for the mouth of the Lord has spoken,” it is performative speech act. That means that what was said is actually what will and does happen. Speech and action are absolutely one and the same. This is not so much true of us humans. We wordcraft and wordsmith to make it just so. Rather than making us more clear we begin to sound like clumsy corporate lawyers, we are less than transparent, we put a spin and polish on our words. God does not do this.

Gods speaks through the Law and the Prophets very clearly. It's we who hesitate to understand or interpret the words to our advantage. Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah is one of my personal favorites in the whole Bible. This perhaps was the passage that stimulated the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, who wrote the famous serenity prayer, to say that preaching was all about “comforting the afflicted, and afflicting the comfortable.”

The advice of St. Paul then strikes us even more strangely as he writes about the coming of the Day of the Lord. I understand what Paul means by waiting in holiness and devotion, but then he adds “and hastening the coming of the day of God.” How do we do this? It surely must be charity that hastens the day of the Lord, and peacemaking,

continued on page 2...

15179 County Road 7
P.O. Box 444
Mead, CO 80542
970-535-0721

Pastor: Fr. Gregory Ames
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Alan Hartway
Website: www.MeadAngels.org
Email: info@garcc.org

Office Hours:
Sunday 8:30—Noon
Monday 9:00—Noon
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Mass Schedule:
Mondays 5:45 pm
Saturdays 5:30 pm
Sundays 9:00 and 10:30 am

Reconciliation:
Saturdays 4:30 pm—5:15 pm

Sacraments: Call Office
(Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, Funerals)

continued from page 1...

and I think all the fruits of the Holy Spirit. For these are the earthly things that will endure in heaven, so to practice them is to hasten the day when heaven descends upon us and catches us up into God's everlasting life and love. What are you doing to hasten the day of the Lord? Imagine it as a coming holiday, much like Christmas all our careful plans and attentions and fusses we make. Then imagine doing the same so that Jesus may come again.

John lives out the message of the prophet Isaiah. People of his day, recalling the words of the prophet, would have seen in John the Baptist that the Messiah was not far off. John is preparing the way of the Lord. We all have been baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit. Now our question is this: Is my life preparing the Day of Lord? This is the question for your week's contemplation.

Christmas will come and go fast enough, but the Word of the Lord endures forever!

God bless in this good work so that with God's grace it comes to fulfillment and completion.

Sincerely yours,
Fr. Alan



The pleasure of your company is requested
At a Mass and Reception for our

Centennial Finale

Ring in a new century of faith

Saturday December 31, 2011 - 5:30 pm

Save the Date!



Guardian Angels

Catholic Church
and Parish Hall

RSVP
970-535-0721

STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Gregory K. Ames
303-452-2041 @ IHM

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Alan Hartway, C.P.P. S.
ahcpps@aol.com
303-819-4741

Office Administrator: Roberta Grimaldi
info@garcc.org

Director of Worship: Laura Gillett
lauragillett228@gmail.com

Family Faith Formation Director: Donna Kroll
donna@ihmco.org

Youth Ministers: Sheryl and Steve Senesac
s_s59tops@msn.com, 970-535-4825

Accountant: Karen Surbrugg
karens@ihmco.org

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday December 5, 2011— 5:45 pm

Saturday, December 10, 2011— 5:30

Lector: Molly Rose Loran
EME: D. Hofmeister & E. Freehling
Server: Jake or Nick Yuska
Hospitality/Gifts: Klocek Family

Sunday December 11, 2011— 9:00 am

M of C: Mike Hipsher
Lector: Marita McDonough
EME: Angel & Pat Sanchez
Server: Emily & Kristina Cavey
Hospitality/Gifts: Blossom Family

Sunday December 11, 2011— 10:30 am

Lector: Jeff Aragon
EME: Helen Jasmund & Michele Waite
Server: Kevin Gillett
Hospitality/Gifts: Bracken Family

Collection Counters: Ernie Jasmund & Dorothy Kinch
Altar Linens for December: Susie Finke




 **Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th
5:30 pm and Midnight

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th
9:00 am and 10:30 am

Monday, December 26
No Mass Archdiocese closed

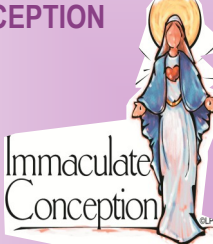
 **WOMEN'S GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE**


Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 pm
Elaine Freehling's home
1409 WCR 36 Berthoud 970-535-4491

All women are invited!
Please bring 3+ dozen homemade cookies.
(Some to swap and some to share!)

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
(Holy Day of Obligation)
Thursday December 8, 2011
No Mass at GA

Masses at: **St. John the Baptist in Longmont**
6:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:10 pm, 6:00 pm
St. John the Evangelist, Loveland
8:30am, 12:15 pm, 6:30 pm

 Immaculate Conception


 **"BETTER TO GIVE... THAN TO RECEIVE"**

and GA parishioners gave generously! Thank you for your generosity for this year's giving opportunities.

- Food Donations for Mead Food Bank.** This December we are asked to donate boxes of cereal or oatmeal. Please bring these items to the church or parish hall during the month of December.
- Caring Hands gifts from our **Advent Giving Tree** ornaments need to be dropped off by Monday, December 18th. **NO GIFT WRAPPING REQUIRED.**
- And parishioners who selected gifts to the residents of **Applewood Nursing Home** need to bring them in by Saturday December 10 so our youth can wrap and deliver these packages.

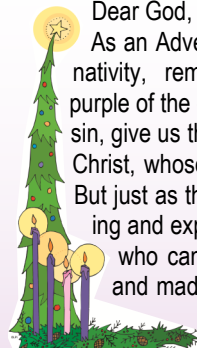
Readings for the Week of December 4, 2011

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear God,
As an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son's nativity, remind us always of the reason for our joy. As the purple of the candles stand for both penance and atonement for sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs, and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world. But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and expectation, give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at His birth.
Amen.



Guardian Angels, young and old!

The youth are here again to help you!
We would love to babysit your young ones and / or wrap your gifts for you Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1:30-4:00pm

Please call Sheryl at 970-535-4825 if you need us.
We will be doing this at the Senesac's residence (Country Kids preschool).
There is no charge - it is a gift to you from the youth!

OUR CATHOLIC JOURNEY CONTINUES...

Monday, December 5 after 5:30pm Mass

No reading assignment this week! Father Alan will have a new topic to discuss this evening in church while the children have their St. Nicholas cookie party. Next week, Dec. 12, we will cover Chapters 10 & 11 before the Christmas break. Class will resume on Monday, January 9 when we will discuss Chapter 12.


THIS WEEK'S CLASSES & MEETINGS


- ◆ **Sunday, December 4, 5:00pm**—RCIA class
- ◆ **Monday, December 5, 6:30pm**— Catholic Journey
- ◆ **Wednesday December 7, 6:30pm**—AA meeting
- ◆ **Thursday, December 8, 9:30am**—Adult Catechism Study
- ◆ **Thursday, December 8, 11:00am**—Rosary Group

P R A Y E R CORNER

Our brothers and sisters need our prayers.
Please pray for the following:
Alice Monroe
(illness)

If you wish to add someone to the list (illness, employment, etc.), first ask for their approval and then submit their name to the office. Names will run for 4 weeks, unless other arrangements are made.



 **Our Offering**

November 27, 2011	\$ 2,835.00
November 28, 2010	\$ 2,755.00
Children's	\$ 44.73

Second Collection this week for Retired and Infirm Priests
Thank you in advance for your generosity.