

# Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, November 30, 2008

## We Begin A New Liturgical Year

### We Begin With Preparation

Advent is the season in which we prepare for the great celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. During the next four weeks we are invited to contemplate the richness of God's gift to us in Christ, as we, along with the Church:

**Wait:** We remember Humanity waiting for the coming of the Savior. We wait and pray for the Second Coming of Jesus as our Lord and Judge.

**Convert:** We examine our lives and listen to the call of John the Baptist to make the ways of our hearts ready for forgiveness and love.

**Hope:** We remember how God has fulfilled his promises to the grace and salvation through Jesus, and we pray and celebrate in hope for ourselves and for all God has made.

We mark the time leading up to Christmas in various ways. Three of the most popular are the Advent Wreath, The Advent Calendar, and the Jesse Tree.

The Advent Wreath had its origins in Germany in the 16th century. The wreath - a circle of evergreen symbolizing God's eternal love - holds four candles, 3 in a violet color and one in a rose color. Violet is the traditional color of Penance during Advent; and the rose color symbolizes the joy which should exist on the 3rd Sunday (when that one is lit), telling us that our period of penance is soon coming to an end with

the coming of the Christmas Child. As we light each candle on the four successive weeks of Lent, we are reminded how the church was once in darkness, and gradually, through the coming of the Son of God, became illuminated with the Advent of Jesus on Christmas Day.

The Advent Calendar which this year begins on Dec. 1st, give us a particular quote of scripture each day to remind us of the four thousand years we spent anxious waiting for the coming of the Christmas Infant.

And finally, the Jesse Tree is a way of remembering our Jewish roots as well as the roots of our Messiah who sprung from the house of David. A Jesse tree is usually made of paper and decorated each day of Advent with symbols of God's saving activity: an Ark, Stone Tablets resembling the ten commandments, a dove or the like.

Then the most perfect way of preparing for Advent is to confess ourselves before the Feast of Christmas so that when the Infant Jesus is born and comes into our hearts on Christmas Day, He will find therein a suitable resting place immaculate and pure to remain for the coming year.

### 2009 Calendars Are Ready

We are putting out the 2009 Calendars for the coming year. We ask you to take one calendar per family for the beginning and if there are calendars left over after Christmas, and you want additional ones, then take all you want. Please think of others and leave calendars for them as well. And above all, try to remember to patronize those who made the free distribution of these calendars possible for our Church, namely, Guidetti Funeral Services as well as Graziano Funeral Services. We thank both of them for their donation of calendars. The Graziano Funeral Services donated the calendars by the Catholic Art. And the Guidetti Funeral Home donated the Franciscan Art Calendars. Both are beautiful in their own right.

## Christmas Decorations

We are also, as is evident in the Church, getting ready for Christmas. We ask you to make your donations for our Christmas Decorations and Flowers as soon as you can to enable us to pay for them. Right now, we have put much of our expenses on charge cards. We hope and pray that we will be able to cover these expenses with your donations.

## Collection for Retired Religious

The second Collection next Sunday will be taken up in all the churches of the Archdiocese for Retired Religious working in our Archdiocese. They have sacrificed their lives for you to serve in education and in Church services. The least we can do is give them a comfortable place to retire in during their years of retirement. Please be as generous in this second collection as possible

## Fr. Fabian To Undergo Surgery

We ask you to remember the Pastor in your prayers on Thursday morning. He will be entering St. Vincent's Hospital for surgery on his Carotid Artery which is presently 98% blocked.

Hopefully, the surgery will be successful and he will be out of the hospital before the weekend and back to Parish work by Sunday. A remembrance in your prayers will be most deeply appreciated.

## Parish Sick & Deceased

Please be mindful of the Parish sick and deceased, especially those of your own family members who may be in need of your prayers. It is the last week of November, the month dedicated to the Poor Souls. Remembering them is a consoling thought.

## A Weird Co-Incidence

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846; John F Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860. John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights. And both wives lost their children while living in the White House.

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday; and both Presidents were shot in the head.

NOW IT GETS REALLY WEIRD .....

Lincoln'S Secretary was named Kennedy; While Kennedy's Secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners; and both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson.

Andrew Johnson succeeded Lincoln and he was born in 1808; Lyndon Johnson succeeded Kennedy and he was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth who assassinated Lincoln was born in 1839; and Le Harvey Oswald , who assassinated Kennedy was born in 1939. BOTH ASSASSINS were known by their three names and both of their names are composed of fifteen letters.

NOW HANG ON TO YOUR SEAT ...

Lincoln was shot in a Theatre named "Ford". And hid in a warehouse. Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and his assassin hid in a Theatre.

Both Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

AND HERE'S THE KICKER ....

A week before Lincoln was shot he was in Monroe, Maryland; A week before Kennedy was shot he was with Marilyn Monroe

## Are You HAPPY?

The Happiest of People don't necessarily have the best of everything. But they do make the MOST of everything that comes along their way.