



Signs of the Times



Volume 61

First Sunday of Advent: November 28th

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How to Prepare and Celebrate Advent

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child, but in the middle of the pre-Christmas busy-ness, it's easy to lose sight of the spiritual importance of the Advent season. There are presents to make or buy, cookies to bake, cards to mail, parties to plan, gifts to wrap and trees to decorate. There's nothing wrong with pre-Christmas preparations.... In fact it can be fun and an act of love... But it's important to remember to balance the holy part of the Advent season with all of the other things we do:

Ten Ways to Get More out of Advent:

1. *Think about Advent as a time of waiting.* It creates in us a new kind of self-discipline that helps us to appreciate the present moment and look to the future with peaceful anticipation.
2. *Turn your breathing into a prayer.* Imagine that God's love is flowing through you to every part of your body. Let go of tension, worry and anything else that is not of God.
3. *Long for the Lord.* Make it a habit of silently praying, "Come, Lord Jesus."
4. *Unite with Mary.* Join Our Lady in praying the Canticle of Mary (see Luke 1:46-55).
5. *Do something nice for someone every day.* Show a little act of kindness.
6. *Get rid of grudges.* Use Advent as an opportunity to let go of any anger you might be holding onto.
7. *Pray for patience.* If you find yourself becoming anxious or upset, ask the Lord for the gift of patience. Then make a conscious effort to be a more patient person.
8. *Offer up something painful or difficult in your life.* The best way to change mental worries is to turn them into a prayer.
9. *Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).* Attend your parish penance service and take advantage of the opportunity to cleanse your soul in preparation for the coming of Jesus.
10. *Think about the special gifts and talents God has given you.* How are you using these gifts? May you have a Blessed Advent, a joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

**Our Deaf
Mass Schedule
for Jan. 2011
thru June 2011
is enclosed
in this issue!**

Diocesan News



From the Director:

Msgr. Glenn L. Nelson

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year to you all! The First Sunday of Advent always begins for us a new liturgical year. This new cycle every year helps us to renew again our commitments to the Lord and to ask for forgiveness of past mistakes and sins. The color of Purple that the priest wears at Mass is a reminder of a season of Penance (ask for forgiveness for offending God). It is almost like cleaning our house before having a big party. We would never leave a house dirty if we knew that we were having a big celebration with family and friends in our house. So, during Advent time, in preparation for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas time AND at the end of the world when he comes for the final judgment at his Second Coming, we clean the houses of our souls. I have listed in this newsletter times for when I will be offering the sacrament of Reconciliation. I hope you

will take advantage of these times to "clean your soul." A reminder you can go to confession any time as well, all you need to do is ask and I will be happy to offer the Sacrament.

Christmas will soon be here! 'Tis the Season for joy as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus in Bethlehem. We all know that things are difficult for people financially now in our nation. So we pray for those in need, especially at this holiday time. And even though we may not have many material things, we can still share our love and joy with our neighbor. If you have the time, please consider helping with our Christmas Party at the Jack Mabley Center in Dixon, Illinois on December 11. It is always a wonderful day to bring joy to some very special residents!

Remember too our own Christmas Party and Mass which will be held in DeKalb at the Newman Center on December 19th. Mass begins

at 12:00 noon and the party will follow after Mass. We will pray for good weather so that traveling will be easy. Rumor has it that Santa will be making an appearance again so "be good for goodness sake!"

Finally, please remember to thank your interpreters and Deaf Ministry Parish Coordinators who spend so much time and effort in making all our Masses accessible. They give so much of their Time and Talent and we want to make sure they know we appreciate them for bringing the Word of God to us at Mass and the other sacraments. I look forward to seeing you during this Holiday Season and I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and joyous New Year!

God bless you all!!!



Please pray for...



Those who are sick:

Members of our Deaf Apostolate who may be sick

Those who have died:

Salvatore Pusateri—September 6, 2010

Husband of Joyce and Brother-in-law to Berndette Torba

Correction from last Issue

Marie Nesmith—November 12, 2009

Mother of David and Brad Nesmith and BethAnn Zarembski
And the late Kevin Nesmith (7-11-2010)



Deaf Retreat 2011

We are currently working on a Deaf Retreat for Lent 2011 and hope to have either a one day retreat or a weekend retreat. We will advise everyone as soon as we are able to find a location for it.

HELP US GO GREEN!

As the price of postage continues to rise, we are looking for ways to save money and paper. We would like to send you the Newsletter, Deaf Mass Schedule and other important announcements by e-mail in PDF format and you can print them off at home. If you would like to help, please send an e-mail to either Cathy Signor at cathy.signor@yahoo.com or Deb Beatty at DBeatty@RockfordDiocese.org and include your name and e-mail address saying you want to go green! Thank you to all who have asked to go green already.

We also have the newsletters and announcements available on our website below.



Confessions

AURORA

St. Joseph Church
722 High Street

December 12
8:30 AM

CRYSTAL LAKE

St. Thomas Parish Center
272 King Street

December 26
8:30 AM

DeKALB

Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.

December 19
After Christmas Party
3:00 PM

Dixon

St. Patrick Church
612 S. Highland Ave.

December 11
4:00 PM
(after Jack Mabley party)

ROCKFORD

St. Rita Chapel
Lower level
4401 Highcrest Rd.

December 12
12:30PM

ELGIN

St. Thomas More Church
215 Thomas More Dr

December 26
11:30 AM



Feast of Immaculate Conception

December 8th

Holy Day
of
Obligation

AURORA

(Interpreted)
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street
7:00 PM

CRYSTAL LAKE

(Interpreted)
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak
Upon Request to
Mary Donner
Dockie50@yahoo.com

DeKALB

(DEAF MASS)
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.
7:00 PM

ROCKFORD

(Interpreted)
Holy Family Parish
Alpine & Highcrest Rds.
5:30 PM

Christmas Mass Schedule



DeKALB
(DEAF MASS)
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.

Christmas Eve
December 24 5:30 pm

AURORA
(Interpreted)
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street

Christmas Eve
5:00 PM



CRYSTAL LAKE
(Interpreted)
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak

Christmas Eve 4:00 PM



ROCKFORD
(Interpreted)
Holy Family Parish Center Chapel
Alpine & Highcrest Rds.

(Christmas Eve Children's
Mass in Gym 4:00 PM)

Christmas Day 9:30 AM



(picture on left)

The Deaf Ladies of the Visitation Bible Study Group gather for a picture at one of their study classes this Fall.

(picture on right)

The Nicolalde children help Monsignor Nelson as servers at one of our Deaf Masses.





Christmas Party

Deaf Ladies of the Visitation Proudly Host The Diocese of Rockford Deaf Apostolate 2010 "Italian" Christmas Party

Sunday, December 19th, at Christ the Teacher Parish, Newman Center, in DeKalb
12:00 Noon Mass



Deaf Mass at 12 noon ***Christmas Party following at 1:00 PM

Spaghetti, Appetizers, Garlic Bread and Beverages Provided!

Please bring your favorite holiday dessert to share!

Bring the family, Everyone is welcome and it is Free Admission!
Santa Claus will be there for the children
(Please RSVP by December 10th to Dawn Martin at PurpleRosey5@comcast.net or by
VP at 815-977-7640 so they have a count for the food)

For menu or directions, see our website listed below
<http://DeafApostolateRockfordDiocese.weebly.com>



Jack Mabley Center 2010 Christmas Party

Saturday—December 11, 2010 Dixon, Illinois

Once again the Rockford Diocese Deaf Apostolate will be hosting a Christmas Party for the residents at the Jack Mabley Developmental Center in Dixon, Illinois. Through the generosity of many volunteers and Secret Santas, we are able to provide a special day of gifts, cake, Christmas stories, prayer and a visit from Santa Claus. Special thanks is given to Cathy Signor who helps in coordinating this special day and asks Santa to stop by for the residents. Contact Cathy.Signor@yahoo.com



(Picture of magnet above)

Keep Christ in Christmas Car Magnet

\$5.00 per magnet, For the Deaf Apostolate Office to promote the true meaning of Christmas. Purchase yours today!



Send \$5.00 with your address information to:

Deaf Apostolate Car Magnet Order
Diocese of Rockford
PO Box 7044
Rockford, IL 61125