



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
December 15—December 21
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Eric G. Hansen; Marlene Morris
5:30 p.m. Stephen A. Losee; Leona O'Dwyer; Barbara
Rush; Jules J. Vulliet

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
9:30 a.m. Roberta W. Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; John
J. Cles; John M. Coogan; Mrs. Emilda
Formusa; Charles Gegg; Nellie J. Leone;
Carol Mallett; Norma McClellan; Marc
McLyneux, Jr.; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Joseph
I. Vidal

11:00 a.m. E. Carlton Guillot, Jr.; Peter Shirer; Karl
Snyder, Jr.; Jules J. Vulliet

5:30 p.m. Stephen A. Losee

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer; Jules J. Vulliet

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:30 a.m. Captain Birney A. Rousselle

12:00 p.m. Barbara Rush; Jules J. Vulliet

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer; Jules J. Vulliet

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

11:30 a.m. Ester Dawson

12:00 p.m. Jane Hennessey; Matthew J. Theriot; Jules J.
Vulliet

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Beula Dupuy; Percy P. Dupuy, Jr.; Jules J.
Vulliet

TRIDENTINE LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Gaudete Sunday

Solemn High Mass—First Sunday of the month.

Benediction—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND
BENEDICTION**—Every Sunday, 3:00pm—5:00pm

SAINT PATRICK'S RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Saint Patrick's Respect Life Committee, led by Father
Klores, will pray a rosary in front of Louisiana's largest
abortion facility, on the corner of Ridgelake Drive and
20th St. in Metairie, **Saturday, December 22, 2007 at
9:00a.m.** Everyone is invited!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR THE HIGH ALTAR

Envelopes for the annual giving of poinsettias, to be
placed on the high altar during the Christmas season, are
available in the vestibule. The listings will be published in
the Christmas bulletin and the midnight Mass program.
The final date for submitting a request is **Thursday,
December 20, 2007.**

SUNDAY OFFERING

December 9, 2007

First Collection \$ 10,393

Second Collection \$ 3,655

* Retirement Fund for Religious

CHRISTMAS SEASON 2007—MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 24, 2007—Vigil of Christmas

Security will be provided.

4:00 p.m. Mass (Ordinary Rite with carols)

5:30 p.m. Mass (Ordinary Rite with carols)

Solemn High Mass of Midnight—Extraordinary Rite

Security will be provided.

11:00 p.m. Doors open

11:15 p.m. Music begins

12:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass of Midnight

St. Patrick's Choir will perform *Mass in C (Coronation Mass) KV
317* with soloists: Sarah Jane McMahon, soprano; Therese Juneau,
mezzo soprano; Jane Wilson, alto; Rene Toups, tenor, and Chris
G'sell, bass.

Tuesday, December 25, 2007—Christmas

8:00 a.m. No Mass

9:30 a.m. Ordinary Rite with carols

11:00 a.m. Ordinary Rite with quartet (Novus Ordo)

5:30 p.m. No Mass

IN MEMORY OF—2008 ENVELOPES

Names are now being accepted for the 2008 "In Memory Of" listing
on the back of the Sunday Bulletin. Envelope forms, found in the
vestibule of the church, should be completed and returned to the
rectory office no later than **Friday, January 11, 2008.**

1. To ensure proper spelling, recording, etc., all requests **MUST** be made by completing the designated envelope form.
2. The rectory office will **NOT** be responsible for requests received without the completed envelope form.
3. The United States Postal Service is quite often heavily burdened with the amount of mail. Please do not rely on the USPS to deliver mailed envelopes before the final date **Friday, January 11, 2008.**
4. During these next **six weeks** completed envelopes can be deposited in any Mass collection basket or hand delivered to the rectory office.

The office staff appreciates your understanding and cooperation in assisting with this annual project.

**TO BECOME A REGISTERED PARISHIONER OF
ST. PATRICK'S PARISH**

Call the rectory office at 525-4413 if you would like to become an active member of St. Patrick's Parish.

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS—REYNOLDS HALL

After the Sunday morning Masses

**THE MASS IS THE GREATEST FORM OF CHRISTIAN
CHARITY**

To schedule a Mass, please fill out the Mass Form found in the vestibule of the church and deliver it to the rectory office, or place it in the collection basket.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Tom Alexander; Brett Bradley; Rene Crane; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Ann Clair Duplechin; Rose Fee; Reverend Stan Klores; Lolita Lannan; Stephen Losee; Betty McArthur; Lucille Ogden; Stephanie Summers; Hugh Ramsey; Tom Roach; Elizabeth Robert; Diane Sikes; Adele Silva, Mary Silva; Turkington Family

SECURITY PROVIDED AT ALL EVENING SERVICES

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

'ON CHRISTIAN HOPE' AND ADVENT

Pope Benedict XVI released his new encyclical letter, "On Christian Hope," Nov. 30, just two days before the beginning of Advent. Not surprisingly, the Holy Father's timing was perfect because Advent, more than any other season of the year, is rooted in the virtue of hope.

For Catholics, the real new year begins not on Jan. 1, but on the First Sunday of Advent, the day when the Church begins her annual new cycle of Scripture readings and worship. The season of Advent, deriving from the Latin verb *advenire*, meaning "to come" or "to arrive," has a two-fold purpose: first, to remind us of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and all that it implied for the salvation of the world; and second, to ready us for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time as King and Judge of creation. Like Lent, Advent is a time of preparation. Also like Lent, Advent is a penitential season — but not in the same strict way. Rather, Advent embodies the words of the liturgy, which remind us that "we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ."

Benedict's new encyclical is a rich and challenging document. It's not easily absorbed in one reading. But one of its most important lines can be found right in the opening sentences. The Holy Father reminds us that for Christians, the virtue of hope enables us to face the burdens of daily life, no matter how heavy. He writes that "the present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey." Faith in Jesus Christ leads us to hope for eternal life. Christ's life gives our lives meaning. If we really believe in Jesus Christ, we will have confidence in the future, no matter how bleak some days or some problems seem. For in the end, Jesus has already won our salvation and the happiness that comes with it.

The source of the word "virtue" is revealing; it comes from the Latin noun *virtus*, meaning "strength." The virtue that Christians call hope is not a warm feeling, or a sunny mood, or a habit of optimism. Optimism, as the great Catholic novelist Georges Bernanos once wrote, has nothing to do with hope. Optimism is often foolish and naïve — a preference to see good where the evidence is undeniably bad. In fact, Bernanos called optimism a "sly form of selfishness, a method of isolating oneself from the unhappiness of others."

Hope is a very different creature. It's a choice; a self imposed discipline to trust in God while judging ourselves and the world with unblinkered, unsentimental clarity. In effect, it's a form of self-mastery inspired and reinforced by God's grace. "The highest form of hope," Georges Bernanos said, "is despair, overcome." Jesus Christ was born in a filthy stable and died brutally on a cross not to make a good world even better; but to save a fallen and broken world from itself at the cost of his own blood. Such is the real world; our daily world; the world of Christian hope — the world that Pope Benedict speaks to when he writes in his new encyclical that "all serious and upright human conduct is hope in action" and "the true measure of humanity is [determined by our] relationship to suffering and to the sufferer."

In the words of Benedict: "To suffer with the other and for others; to suffer for the sake of truth and justice; to suffer out of love, and in order to become a person who truly loves — these are fundamental elements of humanity, and to abandon them would destroy man himself."

As we ready ourselves for the joy of Christmas this year, let's live Advent well and remember why we're supposed to be joyful. In the end, Christmas is not about gifts or carols or parties, though all

these things are wonderful in their place. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ, who brings meaning and hope to a world that needs redemption. In Him, and only in Him, is our hope.

*Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap
Archbishop of Denver*

VATICAN OFFERS RICH ONLINE SOURCE OF BIBLE COMMENTARY

The Vatican Congregation for the Clergy has unveiled a powerful new web site, linking Bible texts with commentary from the Church fathers, doctors of the Church, councils, catechisms, and other magisterial documents.

The *Biblia Clerus* site links each passage of the Bible— Old and New Testaments— with commentary taken from a rich variety of sources. In an introductory note Cardinal Claudio Hummes, the prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, explains that the site provides "Sacred Scripture, its interpretation in light of Sacred Tradition and the teachings of the Magisterium, with appropriate theological commentary and exegesis."

The sources of the commentary— many of them provided in full on the site-- include the works of the apostolic fathers, saints, Popes, and councils. The site also provides links to the Code of Canon Law (and the Code for the Eastern Church), and to the catechisms of the Council of Trent, St. Pius X, and the 1997 edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Although designed for priests, the *Biblia Clerus* site is available to the general public. The entire contents of the site can be downloaded.

Catholic World News

JOY

The theme of this Sunday is joy, and the readings fit that theme well. In the Gospel, Christ announces that the predictions from our first reading have come true in him: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

We sometimes think of these passages as referring to a time long ago, when Christ was on earth healing people — or to some time in the future, when Christ will come again and set things right.

We forget that all of these things are true, now, in our own lives. Not only are there plenty of physical healings in our day, but there are the far more important spiritual benefits to enjoy.

For example, we were once spiritually blind but have since received faith. In baptism we received the grace to walk in his ways. In confession we are cleansed like the lepers. In confirmation we are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which give us ears to hear God.

The source of today's joy is neither what Christ did 2,000 years ago nor what he'll do when he returns in glory. It's the life we are able to lead right now.

*Tom & April Hoopes
The Hoopeses are editorial directors of Faith & Family magazine.*