

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Catholic Community

December 11, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent

Served by the Missionary Oblates of
Mary Immaculate

222 West Redoubt Avenue Soldotna, AK

Office Phone: 262-4749

Office Hour 9am-3pm Tuesday-Fridays

Closed on Mondays

Parish Hall Phone: 262-5542

Web Site: - www.olph.cc

E-mail: olph@alaska.net

PARISH MISSION
STATEMENT:

*We, the faith community,
accept the call of God to
participate in the mission of
Jesus Christ by
Proclaiming the Gospel and
living the reign of God
among us as disciples.*

		<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Marlys Verba	Parish Life Coordinator	262-5542/262-4749 option 4 Home Phone: 262-8830	marlys.verba@gmail.com
Fr. Roger	Lead Pastor	262-4749, Option 3	rgrbergkamp@gmail.com
Fr. Andrew	Pastor	262-4749, Option 3	andyomi@gmail.com
Fr. Joe	Pastor	262-4749, Option 3	joejdowling@yahoo.com

SUNDAY LITURGY: Saturday 4:00pm & Sunday 9:00am

YOUTH MASS: The third Sunday of each month at 4:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE: Tuesday through Friday, 12:05pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday 12:45pm — Saturday 3:15pm - 3:45pm

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays 12:30pm — Fridays 12:00 noon

Attention: There is no Faith Formation Classes on December 25th or January 1st. There is no Children's Liturgy on December 25th of January 1st.

Sacrament of Anointing of Sick or Communion: Available during the Sunday Masses, or as needed. Because of HIPAA laws, parishioners need to notify us if going to the hospital. Remember to request Anointing of the Sick before surgery — please call the parish @ 262-4749.

Sacrament of Baptism: For children – Parents Prep. class required. Call Marlys for reservations. Best done prior to birth. For adults – Contact the office about RCIA For children 8 and older; RCIC classes — please call our office.

Sacrament of Marriage: 6 month process (several classes and FOCUS Test and/or Engaged Encounter, or Couple to Couple...contact a priest.

Funerals: contact parish office immediately after the death.

Prayer Chain: pjham@alaska.net, Pat Hamilton 262-5250

Sexual Abuse Victim Assistance Coordinator: Marlys Verba

Please Note: Submissions/articles for the weekly bulletin via email must be in by Thursdays at noon to Marlys Verba: marlys.verba@gmail.com Thanks!

Calendar for December 12 - December 18, 2011 with Daily Readings

December 12, <u>Monday:</u>	December 13, <u>Tuesday:</u>	December 14, <u>Wednesday:</u>	December 15, <u>Thursday:</u>	December 16, <u>Friday:</u>	December 17, <u>Saturday:</u>	December 18, <u>Sunday:</u>
Morning Prayer 7:30am Centering Prayer 8:00am	Morning Prayer 7:30am Mass 12:05 Legion of Mary 12:45pm	Morning Prayer 7:30am Mass 12:05 Christmas Practice 4:30pm RCIA 6:30pm	Morning Prayer 7:30am Mass 12:05	Morning Prayer 7:30am Mass 12:05 Bake Cookies 9:00am	Reconciliation 3:15pm Mass 4:00pm Brunch at Inn 10:00 – 12:00	Mass 9:00am Kairos 9-3
Zec 2: 14-17 Jdt 13: 18bcde, 19 Lk 1: 26-38 or Lk 1: 39-47	Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13 Ps 34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23 Mt 21: 28-32	Is 45: 6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Ps 85: 9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14 Lk 7: 18b-23	Is 54: 1-10 Ps 30: 2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b Lk 7: 24-30	Is 56: 1-3a, 6-8 Ps 67: 2-3, 5, 7-8 Jn 5: 33-36	Gn 49: 2, 8-10 Ps 72: 1-2, 3-4ab 7-8, 17 Mt 1: 1-17	2Sm 7: 1-5, 8b- 12, 14a, 16 Ps 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Rom 16: 25-27 Lk 1: 26-38



The Legend of the Candy Cane



A Candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would help us remember who Christmas is really about. So he made a Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard candy to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God. The Candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus. It also represented the staff of the "Good Shepherd". The Candymaker then included red stripes. He used three small stripes and a large red stripe to represent the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life.

Saturday, December 17, 2011, 4:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Dilley, Margaret Johnson, Bill Sadler, Ruthann Truesdell, Krys Williams

Lectors: 1st Reading: Carolyn Cannava 2nd Reading: Linda Houglum

Altar Server: please check in

Sunday, December 18, 2011, 9:00am

Eucharistic Ministers: Thelma Antilla, Myrna Cowan, Connie Dunn, Gloria Sweeney, Kate Forrest, Helen Knopp, Sharon Shassetz

Lectors: 1st Reading: Shannon Dwyer 2nd Reading: Pat Cowan

Altar Server: please check in

Mop & Bucket 12/12-12/17 Vicki Tarries Family

Collection Counters: 12/18: Kathryn Dunagan and Cathy Haas

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Ruth Ann & Makayla

GIVING TREE

There are many opportunities in the upcoming Advent season for sharing the Light of Christ. Our Parish has placed a giving tree in the foyer with 90 names of residents at the Kenai Merit Inn. This is our local homeless shelter in Kenai. Please take a name and bring a gift (\$10-\$20) back by December 18th for distribution to these folks! Monetary donations are accepted to buy them gifts too. There is a container in the foyer for your donations. Thank you



SIGN UP AND HELP

The sign-up sheet for the various liturgical ministers for the Christmas Vigil masses and Christmas day are posted. Please sign up for the mass that you would be attending. Thank you in advance for doing this.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

If you are interested in singing for Christmas mass, join us on Wednesday at 4:30pm in the church to practice songs.

SHARING

Big Mama, Big Sister dolls and other gift items are available in the foyer. They are all handmade by women in Naimbia Africa. Proceeds will go directly to the Maryknoll for them.

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is expecting our parish to pack Christmas food boxes on Thursday, December 15th at 1:00pm. If you and your family would like to help with this task, please sign up on the bulletin board. This is at the back of the Kenai branch of SA's.

RFR

Please give to this weekend's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This collection supports the day-to-day care of thousands of senior religious, the cost of which has increased. Help care for those who've dedicated their lives to serving the people of our church. As St. Pauls states, "Let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith" (Galatians 6:10).

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On December 18th at 10:30am in our Redemptorist Center the kids will present a Christmas Pageant. Following the event all are invited to O'Neill Hall for a Christmas Tea and Brunch. Please bring your favorite cookies to share. See you there!



GOF

Father Joe will be presenting the next GOF today, December 11th. The topic "Incarnation" is again reflecting the Creed. Won't you join us for brunch 10-10:30 with the presentation at 10:30-11:30am. Just a reminder, the GOF presentation is required for the confirmation students. Faith formation classes will meet from 10:30-11:30am. See you there!

HOLIDAY LITURGIES

Advent Reconciliation	7:00pm 12/20/11 in Soldotna
Christmas Eve Vigil	4:00pm 12/24/11
Christmas Eve Mass	9:00pm 12/24/11
Christmas Day Mass	9:00am 12/25/11

POINTSETTIA

The Pointsettia remembrance begins today. For \$12 you may purchase a pointsettia to be put in the sanctuary during Christmas. It will be your way of remembering a loved one. Please put money, along with names in envelopes by the pointsettia in the foyer. Please order your flowers by Sunday December 18th.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's second reading Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as they wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This sounds easy but it's not. The two words that make this task difficult are "always" and "all". This means giving thanks and rejoicing even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances because they are people of hope. A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope.

TEEN EVENT

On 12/16 we will be baking and bagging cookies to take to the Heritage Place on 12/18. The December Teen Event is on 12/18 and will include an afternoon visit to the Heritage Place residents. This will be followed by a Teen Mass, pizza, and a Jumping Junction private party. You must attend both events...not just one or the other. All permission slips must be turned in by 12/11. There is a separate waiver that must be completed with a \$5 fee. Please see Roni, Rose, or Brenda if you have any questions.



KENAI MERIT INN ACTIVITIES

Crafts at the Inn -12/20 Tuesday 1-3.....Ruth 2528116
Brunch at the Way Cafe-12/17 Saturday 10-12...Thelma 2629443
Jumping Junction-12/28 Wednesday 6-8.....Marlys2625542
Giving Tree is ongoing-pick a star and buy a gift for the foyer
Please take the time to contribute your energy to helping our homeless residents at the Inn. You are welcome to sign up to volunteer at the Church's bulletin board. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated.
May God Bless You!

CLEANING TIME!

Please mark your calendars for Friday, December 23rd, at 1:00pm. We will be cleaning and decorating the church for Christmas. Everyone is welcome to help in this annual event!

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we have a number of opportunities to reflect on and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is not only the greatest saint in our Church, but the model of stewardship *par excellence*. Mary teaches us the meaning of stewardship by her own life witness. On December 8, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, the conception of Mary in her mother's womb without the stain of original sin. Pope Pius IX proclaimed this truth on December 8, 1854, that Mary's preservation from original sin was a 'singular grace and privilege' given her by God. In anticipation of what God did for all in Christ, she alone was preserved from original sin "from the first moment of her conception." On December 12, we celebrate Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531 she appeared to Juan Diego on a hill outside Mexico City. A life-size figure of the Virgin as a young, dark-skinned American Indian woman with the face of a mestizo was imprinted on his cloak. The image gave the indigenous people of the Americas assurance that the Blessed Virgin was loving and compassionate toward them. On December 25, when we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, we celebrate the birth of Jesus through his mother, Mary. The Incarnation took place through Mary's own flesh, and the infant Jesus was nourished by Mary's own body. On January 1, Mary is honored as the "Mother of God," which is the highest of her titles. This title is the foundation for every other title attributed to her. She became the mother of God from the instant Jesus was conceived in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit. The title was formally announced by the Church in the fifth century.

