



The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our GOD

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The Christian Imagination

Over and over again, we hear of men and women, and sometimes children, doing what we all thought could never be done. The world is full of stories where the seemingly impossible becomes possible. We should feast on such stories because they can help nurture our sense of what is possible in life. Our readings today are filled, not with what men and women can do, but with what God can and does do in our world. God makes the wilderness into a garden, opens blind eyes, cures deaf ears, gives courage to the cowardly, sets the oppressed free, makes the lame walk, cleanses the lepers and even raises the dead. God can make all things new. This is what we celebrate today. Now the trick is to take that wonderfully hopeful idea and allow it to enter our communal and individual world. The saints were not afraid to imagine a world that was different from the world in which they lived. When we simply sit back and accept what is because that is all we know, and are not able to imagine how things could be any different, then nothing much is going to happen. If a community has no vision of how to move into the future, it seems highly doubtful that God is going to use that community to bring about any needed changes. God needs hearts and imaginations that are wide open and unafraid. A philosopher who was thinking about what he would want in life wrote these words: "If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility never. And what wine is so sparkling, what so fragrant, what so intoxicating, as possibility". (Soren Kierkegaard). Peace, Fr. John Vella (December 16th, 2007)

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Tues. Dec. 18	9:00 am	RIP Jeannette Arpin	Louise Begyn
	9:00 am	RIP Bill & Nellie Wolski	Steve & Dolores Zegalski
Wed. Dec. 19	9:00 am	Kelly Lamborn	Ken, Karen & Steven
	9:00 am	RIP Maurice Chicoine	Last Will
		Confessions in Deloraine	
Thurs. Dec. 20	9:00 am	RIP Bob & Erna Ray	Ray Family
Fairview Home	10:30 am	RIP Doug Janz	Deacon John & Carol MacKenzie
Fri. Dec. 21	9:00 am	RIP George Pavlin	Velma
	12:15 pm	RIP Mario Adamo	Maria & Family
Sat. Dec. 22	10:00 am	RIP Edwin Olson	Ella & Family
	5:00 pm	For all Parishioners	Fr. Dominic & Fr. Raju
	7:30 pm	RIP Glenn Vandaele	Lorraine & Family
Sun. Dec. 23	9:00 am	RIP Dennis & Yvonne De Roo	Mary De Roo & Family
	10:30 am	RIP Larry Moniz	Art De Sousa
	12:30 pm	RIP Mark Miller	Jeannette & Family
Rivers	Dec. 23	11:00 am	For All Parishioners
	Dec. 24	8:00 pm	For All Parishioners
	Dec. 30	11:00 am	For All Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Ann Babiak, Marguerite Bicknell, Jeanne Boutilier, Margaret Buckmire, Irene Copet, David Deis, Ann Delgaty, Noah Dheilily, Jared Dryden, Justin Enns, George Feledchuk, Mervin Fleury, Nora Fleury, Mary Gaab, Megan Gardham, Marcelle Granger-Gentes, Kay Gray, Pauline Hayde, Patricia Kallusky, Brett Lawrence, Tess McLaren, Kathleen MacDougall, Derek Manshanden, Alisa Moran, Joan Napper, Moses Peech, Tony Petrucci, Hazel Philipott, Minnie Plaseski, Vanessa Sanko, Rena Schwalm, Monica Seitz, Coralie Serle, Gary Sproule, Jean Tarnowski, Doreen Thompson, Rosa Weiss, and all our shut-ins.

Brandon Area League for Life Annual Dinner will be held on January 20, 2008 in St. Augustine's Square at 5:00 pm. A roast beef dinner will be served. Guest Speaker will be Dr. Larry Rados. Tickets: \$10.00. Tickets are available at the Parish Office, Wing & A Prayer, Gerry Kennedy, Karen Fitzpatrick, Christopher Dubois, Jackie Miles or Wendy McComb.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Catechism of the Catholic Church 456-460: Why the Word became flesh 547-550: Signs of the kingdom of God

Mon.	(Genesis 49:2, 8-10) (Matthew 1:1-17)
Tues.	(Jeremiah 23:5-8) (Matthew 1:18-24)
Wed.	(Judges 13:2-7, 24-25) (Luke 1:5-25)
Thurs.	(Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10) (Luke 1:26-38)
Fri.	St. Peter Canisius (Zephaniah 3:14-18) (Luke 1:39-45)
Sat.	(1 Samuel 1:24-28) (Luke 1:46-56)
Sun.	4th Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 7:10-14) (Romans 1:1-7) (Matthew 1:18-24)

There will be a **lector's workshop** on Wed. Dec. 19 at 10:00 am in the church. It is imperative that you attend one of these sessions because of procedural changes.

VOCATION VIEW: "As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." (James 5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God.



THE WEEK AHEAD.....

Mon.	17	Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm
	17	Confirmation	7:00 pm
Tues.	18	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	9:30 am
	18	Legion of Mary Meeting	7:00 pm
Wed.	19	Quest for Christ	4:00 pm
	19	RCIA	7:00 pm
Thurs.	20	Quest for Christ	6:30 pm
	20	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Fri.	21	Mass followed by Adoration	12:15 pm
	21	Confession	4:00-4:45 pm
	21	Benediction	5:00 pm
Sun.	23	Spanish Community of St. Augustine's	1:00 pm

FINANCES: RECEIPTS:

Collection for the Weekend for Sunday Dec. 09, 2007	
Offertory Collection (Brandon)	\$8707.00
School Fund Collection	\$ 40.00
Rivers Collection	\$ 360.98

NEW TO OUR PARISH? CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND PLACE IT IN THE SUNDAY COLLECTION BASKET

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

NEW PARISHIONER REQUIRES ENVELOPE

MOVING OUT OF PARISH CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Stewardship Reflection of the Week

Cultivate.... *The Christian Steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates and cherishes them.* What good are the gifts we receive if we do not cultivate and develop them? When we cultivate our gifts they bear much fruit! Our faith too is a gift. We are called to be good stewards of what we believe. Cultivating and developing **our faith** is the most important form of stewardship for a Catholic today! To what extent are you cultivating your faith and your relationships with God and one another?

Vigil Lamp

The light burns in memory of
Schick & Hartmann Families

Christmas Poinsettia

You are invited to participate in the liturgical enhancement of our church this Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of your loved one. Sign up sheets are at all exits of the church. Please include payment (Clearly marked Christmas flower) in your weekly envelope or make payment at the office.

The Knights of Columbus will again sponsor their "Keep Christ in Christmas Lighting Contest". If you have an outdoor Nativity Scene and would like to enter please phone Don Solkoski at 727-3695 or Rudy Bidinosti 727-5780 and leave your name, address and phone number. Prizes are: 1st \$50.00 and a engraved Holy Family figurine, 2nd \$35.00, and 3rd \$25.00.

Faith Sharing Questions:

Question for Children:

Why is Christmas such a time of happiness for people?

Pregunta para los niños:

¿Por qué la Navidad es un tiempo de felicidad para las personas?

Question for Youth:

John was a prophet who prepared the people for Jesus' coming. How can you be a prophet this week to prepare friends, family, and strangers for the coming of Jesus at Christmas?

Pregunta para los jóvenes:

Dios te habla todos los días: Isaías nos dice que nuestros oídos y ojos serán abiertos en Cristo para oír la voz de Dios. ¿Qué escuchas que te está diciendo Dios?

Question for Adults:

What is there in this promise from the Prophet Isaiah that gives you hope? How have you seen this promise fulfilled in Christ?

Pregunta para los adultos:

¿Qué hay en esta promesa del profeta Isaías que le da esperanza? ¿Ha visto esta promesa satisfecha en Cristo?

Hospitalized Parishioners: No human system is perfect.

Often we discover that one of our parishioners, who was seriously ill, was hospitalized and we were unaware of the fact. Despite the patient or family specifically stating at the time of admission that they want to be visited by Catholic clergy, somehow their name is never recorded on the Catholic list. If you or a family member are seriously ill, are having major surgery, desire to make a confession or receive holy communion, then ask someone reliable to phone the parish office.

Prearranging a Funeral: Funerals are frequently prearranged by thoughtful individuals. Prearranged funerals have their merits. If you are considering prearranging your funeral you may consider speaking to your priest about Catholic funerals before visiting the funeral directors. There are a few directives which Catholics should consider.

Parking: Please **do not** park and block the two walkways leading into the west entrance to the church. With the high snow banks people fall trying to get around the obstructing vehicle.

Christmas Pageant: Any children interested in participating in the 4:00 pm Nativity Mass please call the office and leave your name and phone number.

Knights of Columbus

Free Throw Championship for Boys and Girls ages 10-14 on Saturday, January 13, 2008 at St. Augustine's Gym. Call Nolan Adam at 745-8933 for more information and registration forms are available at the church office.

