

Adult Faith Formation

Committee Members:

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To deepen our understanding
of our Faith and increase our
Love for God

December 2009

December Focus

The season of Advent is here and Christmas is fast approaching! Take time to reflect on the mystery of God made man, His virginal birth, and the great gift of Himself as our Lord and Redeemer. Family is so important during this time of year and we have a prayer in this newsletter for a happy family. We also have information about the upcoming Parish Mission. The Mission is focused on the Blessed Virgin Mary and everyone — men, women, and children alike — will benefit from hearing Fr. Michael Therese speak about Mary as a model. Come join us!!

*Have a Blessed Advent Season
and a
Very Merry Christmas!!*



“Sion, sing, break into song!

For within you is the Lord with his saving power.

*Rise and shine forth, for your light has come,
and upon you breaks the glory of the Lord.*

*For the darkness covers the earth,
and the thick clouds, the people.”*

verse text — Sion, Sing, refrain and verse 1

Upcoming Events

- > St. Albert Parish Mission—January 10th & 11th. See info in this newsletter.
- > Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP), coming to St. Albert's. See the info. box below.

Parenting Tip of the Month

Just as many families go to great lengths to decorate their homes for Christmas, so does the Church. And the most important addition to any Christmas display is the Nativity Scene. Below is a prayer your family might say before the manger scene—whether it be your own at home or the one at St. Albert's. The manger scene to the left is St. Albert's very old and beautiful Nativity Scene.

*Let the just rejoice,
For their Justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
For their Savior is born.
Let the captives rejoice,
For their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice,
For their Master is born.
Let free men rejoice,
For their Liberator is born.
Let all Christians rejoice,
For Jesus Christ is born.*

*St. Augustine of Hippo
(AD 354-440)*

Dictionary for the Laity

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Christmas mystery

Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night:

*The virgin today, brings into the world the Eternal,
And the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.
The angels and shepherds praise him*

*And the magi advance with the star,
For you are born for us,
Little Child, God eternal!*

Source—CCC 525



Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)

Keep the dates open.

Women's retreat

January 23rd and 24th

Men's retreat

January 30th and 31st

Watch the back of church for
information flyers and
sign-up sheets.

*Come join others
in renewing and deepening
your relationship with God.*

*St. Albert
Parish
Mission*

*Mary, Model
of
Faith, Hope,
and Love*

*January 10th and 11th
7:00 p.m. in Church
11400—57th St. NE
Albertville, Minnesota*

Speaker:

*Fr. Michael
Therese
of*

*The Community
of St. John
Laredo, Texas*

Freewill offering accepted



How has Mary touched your life?!

*Come and hear how she
can be a model to grow
in faith, hope, and love of Jesus.*

Pope Benedict XVI December Prayer Intentions

General: That children may be respected and loved and never be the victims of exploitation in its various forms.

Mission: That at Christmas the peoples of the earth may recognize in the Word Incarnate the light which illuminates every man and that the Nations may open their doors to Christ, the Savior of the world.

St. Lucy — December 13th



Lucy was a rich young Christian of Greek ancestry, and was raised in a pious family. Her Roman father died when she was a young girl and her mother, Eutychia, arranged a marriage for her. However, she vowed her life to Christ. For three years she managed to keep the marriage on hold. To sway her mother about her new faith, Lucy prayed at the tomb of St. Agatha, and her mother's long hemorrhagic illness was cured. Her mother accepted Lucy's desire to live for God. Her rejected pagan bridegroom denounced Lucy as a Christian to the governor of Sicily. The governor sentenced her to forced prostitution, but when guards went to

fetch her, they could not move her — even when they hitched her to a team of oxen. The governor ordered her to be killed instead. First she was tortured by having her eyes torn out. Following that she was surrounded by bundles of wood which were set afire; but they went out and did not continue to burn. She prophesied against her persecu-

tors, and was executed by being stabbed to death with a dagger to the throat. Her name is listed in the Canon of the Mass.

Legend has it that her eyesight was restored by God before her death. This and the meaning of her name (light, bringer of light) led to her being a patron of eye problems, eye diseases, and blindness. She is also known as a patron saint for those who have maladies like her mother's.

Feast of St. Lucy celebrations have been occurring for centuries, mainly in Scandinavian countries, southern Europe, and parts of the United States. In the United States, people in areas of Minnesota, and other states with Scandinavian roots, continue to celebrate the feast day. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the 16th century, St. Lucy's Feast Day fell close to the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere, making it a fitting time for a celebration of light.

In traditional celebrations, St. Lucy comes as a young woman with lights and sweets. In some forms, a procession is headed by one girl wearing a crown of candles (or lights), while others in the procession hold only a single candle each, singing songs about St. Lucy, as well as Advent and Christmas carols.

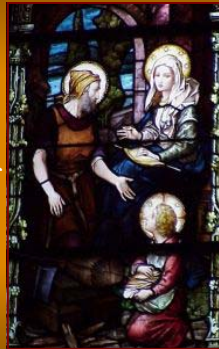
Source—Saints.sqpn.com and Wikipedia

A Prayer for Priests

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and to act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed; in their doubts never despair; in temptation never be destroyed; in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit, and help them to praise your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary your mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Feast of the Holy Family

The Sunday between Christmas and the New Year is dedicated to the Holy Family. We are living in a time when the family and sanctity of marriage is under attacked. On this feast petition the Holy Family to intercede for your own family concerns.



Prayer For A Happy Family

Lord Jesus, during your hidden years at Nazareth You consecrated family life. Grant that we may fashion our lives after the example of your Holy Family. Through the intercession of your glorious Mother Mary and St. Joseph, help us to live according to the pattern You gave us. Establish our family in your peace and grace. Welcome us all at the end of our lives, and bring us to dwell with You forever in union with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

- the following is another excerpt to reflect on as we acknowledge Pope Benedict XVI's "Year of the Priest" -

Reflections on the Priesthood

by St. John Vianney

"The priest will not understand the greatness of his office till he is in Heaven. If he understood it on earth, he would die, not of fear, but of love."

Source—The Little Catechism of the Cure of Ars

With Grateful Thanks!



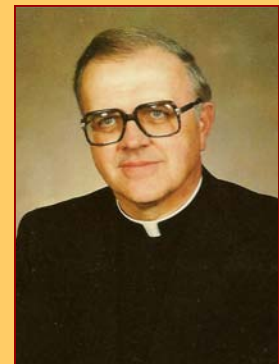
Fr. Don Joseph Paris, OMI

Born: 11/10/1926

Ordained: 1953—Died: 12/29/1998

**Served St. Albert's from
1978 to 1981**

With Grateful Thanks!



Fr. Vincent Ott, OMI

Born: 06/10/1930

Ordained: 1956

**Served at St. Albert's from
1982 to 1988**