

Second Sunday of Advent — *December 6, 2009*

“And with your spirit”

Several times during the Mass, the priest or deacon greets the people with “The Lord be with you” or a similar phrase. In English, congregations have responded, “And also with you,” but a closer translation of the Latin is, “And with your spirit.” (“Dominus vobiscum.” Et cum spiritu tuo.”) Most congregations speaking other languages have always answered with the equivalent of “And with your spirit.”

The response is based on a phrase from the New Testament. St. Paul concludes four epistles with the desire that the grace of Jesus Christ will be with the spirit of the letters’ recipients: Galatians 6:18, Philippians 4:23, 2 Timothy 4:22, and Philemon 25. Paul prays that Christ will inhabit their innermost being — their spirit.

At Mass, the words “The Lord be with you” express a wish, but the wish is already happening. The Lord is present with those who gather in his name. When the people respond, they say essentially the same thing. They wish that the Lord will be with the spirit — the innermost being — of the priest or deacon. Indeed, the Lord is present because of the sacredness of the minister and of the liturgical action underway.

In the Catholic liturgy, the greeting “The Lord be with you” is made only by a priest or deacon. Therefore the response to the spirit of the minister may carry another meaning: it may also refer to the Holy Spirit who came upon the minister in his ordination. But at a simpler level, squarely on the basis of scriptural evidence, the response carries a message equivalent to the greeting. Both the minister and the people are wishing that the Lord will be with the other, and the Lord is present to them because of the purpose of their gathering.

Readings For Next Sunday

December 12 & 13

1st Reading...Zep 3:14-18a

2nd Reading...Phil 4:4-7

Gospel...Lk 3:10-18

ALTAR SERVERS

(Week of December 7)

Monday	Noon	Jim Gates, C. Hoehler, T. Monarch
Tuesday	Noon	To Be Contacted, H. Lane, A. Grant
Wednesday	Noon	Bud Koshewa, M. Marti, A. O'Shea
Thursday	Noon	Steve Sternberg, A. McCormick, C. Buchar
Friday	Noon	Communion Service
Saturday	4:30pm	+J. Vining, C. Vining, E. Boyce
Sunday	10:00am	+K. Gibson, A. Clemons, M. Crawford

+denotes Crossbearer

MASS INTENTIONS

(Week of December 7)

Monday	Noon	Jane Raque
Tuesday	Noon	St. Raphael Community
Wednesday	Noon	Blake Holland
Thursday	Noon	Margaret Boland
Friday	Noon	Communion Service
Saturday	4:30pm	Foster Parker
Sunday	10:00am	St. Raphael Community

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

(December, 2009)

4:30pm....David Worland (cpt), Joe O'Toole, **Need 4**
10:00am... Frank, Anne(cpts) & Ben Raymond, Pat Wessel, Ray, Anthony & Dan Hart, Kenny Hoehler

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

(December 12 & 13)

4:30pm...Team B...Carmel Davis, *Cpt.*, Carol Cornell, Bob Massey, Lloyd Vest, Cele Sauter, Jim Gates
10:00am...Team C...Steve Alvey, *Cpt.*, Clara Jacob, Willa Schaeffer, Dennis Cowhig, Angela Dutton, Abbie Creed

LECTORS

(December 12 & 13)

4:30pm...Rebecca Marcum & Sheila Kaelin
10:00am....Ken Haner & Angela Dutton

GIFT BEARERS

(December 12 & 13)

4:30pm...Hutchins Family
10:00am...Mark & Kristina Kaminski

Stewardship Reflection

Tithing for November 29.....11,893

The harvest of justice is the tangible benefit we perceive when people take seriously the role of steward. Their vision becomes outer-directed toward those in need.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

High School:

High School youth group sessions are moving to **Sundays from 7 to 9 pm**. We will be having a **planning session** for 2010 events on Sunday, December 13th from 7 to 9 pm.

Junior High:

Junior High youth group sessions are moving to **Monday from 6 to 7:30pm**. We will be having a planning session for 2010 events on Sunday, December 14th from 7 to 9pm.

Adults:

Are you interested in helping with youth ministry? Do you feel that God is calling you to work with youth? Youth ministry is currently looking for adult volunteers to help in many capacities.

There are many different ways to help out, for example:

- Cooking a dish
- Being a chaperone
- Mailing letters
- Being a ministry mentor
- Event Planning
- Being a prayer partner

If you are interested in volunteering contact **Nick Cummins**, Coordinator of Youth Ministry at: 458-2500 ext. 141 or nkcummins@bellsouth.net.

MASS CANCELANCATION DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

As a reminder, when Catholic Elementary school classes are canceled due to inclement weather (Monday-Friday), masses for that particular day(s) are also canceled.

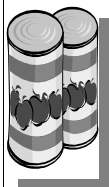
Holy Day of Obligation...**Feast of the Immaculate Conception** Tuesday, December 8.

8:15am (All School Mass) & Noon

Early Bulletin Deadline

Information to be published in the December 26/27 bulletin must be in the Parish Office **no later** than Tuesday, December 15 at 10am.

Information to be published in the January 2/3 bulletin must be in the Parish Office **no later** than Monday, December 21 at 10am.



Art Beck St. Vincent DePaul Food Basket collection will continue through December 12 and 13. Boxes will be in the vestibule of church for your donations. Please check the expiration dates on items being donated. The goal this year is 200 baskets so your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

Please patronize the sponsors of our bulletin. Their support makes this bulletin possible.

This week's bulletin sponsor is **Morris Deli**.

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve — 4:30pm

Christmas Day — 10:00am

New Years Day — 10:00am

ST RAPHAEL MEN'S CLUB NEWS ...Please join us at our December General Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2009.

Meeting Agenda

7:30 PM

Prayer

Discussion of old & new business

7:45 PM

Guest Speaker

Scott Wiegandt (Director of Athletics, Bellermino University)

Buffet served immediately after our guest speaker. See You in the School Cafeteria for Food, Fun, & Fellowship!

Advent Penance Service...
Sunday, December 13 at 3pm.



Retirement Fund helps senior religious. "As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund," notes a woman religious. Your tax-deductible donation supports the care of elderly and frail religious and helps to provide such basic necessities as prescription drugs and medical services. Please give generously to next week's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. www.retiredreligious.org

The **SARAFUN** Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 13, 2009 in the cafeteria. Social hour: 5:30pm, Dinner: 6:30pm. Reservations are required. Don't forget your gift.

Health & Hope, a new support group for Catholics struggling with a mental health diagnosis, will meet Thursday, December 17 at 7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Adult Center. Spiritual readings, discussions and refreshments are included. All are welcome. For more information call Steve at 895-1184 or Jackie at 637-9786.

Please offer your prayers for our sick family & friends in the St. Raphael Parish community:

Bernadine Allbritten, Mary Lee Anderson, Helen Bethards, Charles Bauer, Mary Rose Brizendine, Jo Ann Carroll, James Caudill, Richard Chandler, David Charmoli, Victoria Clark, Pat Conner, Robert Coury, Martha Creed, Connor Day, Mary Jeannette Durham, Sara Fante, Daniel Flynn, Frances Gibson, Sue Harris, Marcella Horney, Rosemary Johnson, Mary Kautzman, Damion Kline, George Koestel, Henry Krebs, A.C. Leonhardt, Cleo Leonhardt, Charles Lucas, Marilyn Malone, Andrew McKinley, Tom Meyer, Malinda O'Daniel Ron Parrino, Connie Peters, Dr. Richard Phelps, Angelo Rappa, Tina Ray, Jean Reinstedler, Joesph Sauter, Elfriede Smith, Elmer Smith, Scott Spalding, Jack Sweeney, Dorothy Thomas, John Tichenor, Anna Maria Verwest, Jane Wagner, Carol Walls, Mary Warken, Lillian Werkman, James Whelan, Marty Wiehebrink, Dorothy Wimsatt,

(In an effort to keep the prayer list up-to-date, please notify the Parish Office of any additions or deletions.)