

FOCUS: God's healing love offers comfort and hope to a hurting world

Isaiah offered hope and comfort when the Israelites were suffering at the hands of their enemies. The Israelites were experiencing the natural consequences of relying on neighboring nations instead of relying on God or listening to his prophetic warnings. Nevertheless, God continued to love his people. Isaiah promised them that a time would come when God himself would teach them the way they should go and heal their wounds.

We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel reading. Jesus traveled through towns and villages teaching about God's kingdom. And we hear earlier in Matthew, and in Mark's Gospel, that the crowds were amazed because, unlike the Jewish teachers before him, Jesus taught with authority. Jesus' authority wasn't revealed through his words alone, but through his actions and the power of his healing miracles. Jesus was moved by compassion for the hurting people he encountered. He expressed the need for more workers to welcome troubled hearts and souls into God's kingdom of love. He commissioned the Twelve Apostles to lead his Church in carrying on his saving mission. He equipped them with the authority to proclaim the Gospel, to cure the sick, and to drive out demons, to name but a few.

Now along these lines, as members of Christ's body – the Church – we share in its mission. At the end of every Mass, we're sent out to share the Good News with others. God has empowered us to cope and even grow through our challenges. We can use our own experience to reassure others going through challenging times.

Maybe we can't cure physical ailments, but what about those blinded by denial? We can speak the truth in love. What about those crippled by anxiety or depression? We can offer patience, understanding and encouragement. Maybe we know someone who is suffering the pain of isolation. We can provide some relief from loneliness with a simple smile, phone call or "thinking of you" card.

What if we're the ones hurting? We can take comfort knowing that God hears our cries, and will bind up our wounds when we turn to him and accept the help he provides. During these Advent days, let's remember our darkness will turn to light as we prepare to welcome the Light of the World.

NATIVITY CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES

The second of our Nativity Advent Concert Series will feature The University of Southern Mississippi Civic Choral who will perform on Thursday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m. We welcome these extraordinary musical groups to our Cathedral and encourage you to attend these free performances.

CATHEDRAL RECTORY CLOSED

The Cathedral Rectory will be closed on Thursday, December 8th for the Immaculate Conception. We will reopen on Friday, December 9th.

CCD INFORMATION

CCD classes are held on Wednesdays, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Dec 5	Is 35:1-10, Lk 5:17-26
Tues	Dec 6	Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14
Wed	Dec 7	Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30
Thur	Dec 8	Gn 3:9-15, 20, Eph 1:3-6, 11-12, Lk 1:26-38
Fri	Dec 9	Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19
Sat	Dec 10	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11, Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun	Dec 11	Is 35:1-6a, 10, Jas 5:7-10, Mt 11:2-11

YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collection	8,411.00
Capital Improvement	215.00
Nativity Elementary School	34.00
Nativity Maintenance	561.84
Christmas Flowers	419.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	9,640.84
CASH NEEDED	\$14,400.00

SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUNDS

Our original goal of \$150,000 has been met. However, payments, as scheduled on current pledges, will not be completed until January, 2017. Please continue to use the orange envelopes for these payments. Likewise, many of you who did not pledge are participating by weekly or monthly gifts through the orange envelopes. Please continue your generosity. The response from you, our parishioners, has been extremely gratifying and will enable us to complete all the maintenance items delineated in our original appeal letter in January 2016. After our original survey of maintenance items, additional needs have developed. We assure you all funds received will be prudently expended.

TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE	\$162,463
PAYMENTS TO DATE	\$150,741
BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES	\$ 11,722

RCIA

This week the RCIA class will be learning about the Four Marks of the Church Father James Smith, and LaTanya Nowak will be leading our Prayer Service. Please pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as they continue their journey of faith together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

NO HOLY HOUR ON DECEMBER 8TH:

With December 8th being a Holy Day, Holy Hour has been cancelled for this month.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

This week we will celebrate The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will have a vigil Mass on December 7th, at 6:00 p.m. We will have Masses on December 8th, at 6:30 a.m. in the Cathedral 8:00 a.m., in the Cathedral at Noon and at 6:00 p.m. in the Cathedral.

WELCOME TOMASZ GOLAB AND MARCIN WIKTOR

Two of our diocesan seminarians will be staying at the Nativity Cathedral rectory during their Christmas break. Please welcome bac Tomasz (Thomas) Golab and Marcin (Martin) Wiktor who will be arriving at Nativity On December 9th and staying until January 6th. It is a pleasure to support our seminarians.

SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<p>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</p> <p>DEC 10 4:00 p.m. 1 Gerrie Weldon 2 Brad Butterfield 3 Liz Joachim 4 Kathleen Coskey 5 Jim Coskey</p> <p>DEC 11 7:00 a.m. 1 Jim Shugart 2 Colleen Kavanagh 3 Danny Kavanagh</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 a.m.</p> <p>1 Maggie Landry 2 Bobby Weaver 3 Belinda Corley 4 Barry Gilmore 5 John Brauchle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m.</p> <p>1 Deacon Ben 2 Deacon Mike Gilly 3 Nanette Burke 4 Marianne Sherman 5 John Sherman 6. Sondra Williams 7. Johnny Williams</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30 p.m.</p> <p>1 Annette Luther 2 Angela Cannon 3 Teresa Ballinger</p>	<p>LECTOR DEC 7 6:00 p.m. <i>Linda Bourgeois</i> DEC 8 NOON <i>Michael Kessler</i> DEC 8 6:00 p.m. <i>Janice Fields</i></p> <p>DEC 10 4:00 p.m. Rhonda Clark</p> <p>DEC 11 7:00 a.m. Joe Powell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Terry Simons</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Don Marie</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Maggie Landry</p> <p>CANTORS</p> <p>DEC 10 4:00 p.m. Mary Lancaster</p> <p>DEC 11 9:00 a.m. Phil Frisby</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m.</p> <p>CHOIR</p>	<p>ALTAR SERVERS</p> <p>DEC 10 4:00 p.m. Carlo Ashton Brinden Butterfield</p> <p>DEC 11 7:00 a.m. Makayla Pfarrer Wyeth Stewart</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Annabelle Landry Veronika Landry Julia Landry Sofia Carreon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Michael Pfarrer Hadyn Hollis Greysen Ross McRae Ross</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles</p>
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 5 Mens Club at 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 6 - Men of St. Joseph Prayer Group, 7 a.m. – SHC
 RCIA at 6:00 p.m., SHC
 BINGO at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec 7 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
 CCD classes at 5:30 p.m.
 Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m.
- Dec 8 Holy Day Mass at 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.,
 Noon and 6:00 p.m.
 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.
 Cathedral Rectory will be closed.

THIS WEEK'S CLEANING TEAM IS "D"

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for **December 6th**: Widel (Misty Broussard), Landry (Maggie), Mathis (Bill Lawson), Mejias (Alfredo & Blanca), Miller (Glenn & Kim), Riojas (Ramon & Amy) and Sanchez-Alvarez (Edgar & Juanita). **Parents: please remember, if you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.** Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

HOLY LAND GIFTS- OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS

Saida & George Rashmawi, who are volunteer members from the Roman Catholic Church in Bethlehem in the Holy Land, will be returning to our parish the weekend of Dec. 10/11. They will speak to us about the Christian struggles in the Holy Land. They will also have some beautiful Olive Wood carvings which are all handmade by the Christian people in Bethlehem, for sale after all the Masses this weekend.

MASS INTENTIONS

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Dec 5	Mary Rosella McAuliffe	Eileen McAuliffe
Tue	Dec 6	Chester Balias Fly.	John T. Collins
Wed	Dec 7	Collins-Sims Fly.	Jean Kridle
Thur	Dec 8	Dan Williams	Maurice Ambrose McAuliffe
Fri	Dec 9	Gaspar/Mary Piserich	Jean Kridle
Sat	Dec 10	8 Shirley LeBlanc	4 v Gabe/Doris Kasovich
Sun	Dec 11	7 Damien Andrew DeRoever	9 For Parishioners
		11 Thomas Edward Connell	5:30 Josephine Esposito Allen

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Helen Ross, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Barbara Kridle Maynard, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Joe Powell, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr, Beverly Hammond, Kathleen Hebert and Claire Sekul Hornsby.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week for those who suffer with depression and anxiety during the Holiday season. That our Lord may give them comfort and remind them that He is their light.

NATIVITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*All are invited to attend the annual Nativity School Choir concert on Monday, Dec. 5th at 6:00 p.m. The students in grades 3-6, under the direction of Nanette Burke, will entertain you with a selection of sacred as well as secular Christmas music. *Nativity students will join together for a December 8th Liturgy at 9:00 at the school. All are welcome to attend. *The annual Nativity School Christmas Store will be held on Friday, December 9th. Children will be able to select two or three gifts for family members, free of charge. Donations of small items for parents/grandparents are welcome! Helpers are needed on Thursday to set up and Friday to help wrap the gifts. For more information, please call the school at 432-2269. *The November winner of the \$3,000 raffle was Chere Stevenson, a Nativity parent as well as the PE teacher. *Although school will be closed for the Christmas holidays from December 19th through January 2nd, Nativity School will offer Holiday Child Care on December 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30. For more information, please call the school office at 432-2269.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

- Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel
- Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
- Christmas Eve - 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
- Christmas Eve - 11:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
- Christmas Day - 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY/HONOR

Sunday, December 18th our Second Collection will be for Christmas flowers. However, please continue to submit your envelopes with your donations and the names of your loved ones and friends you would like to honor. We will also have envelopes in the pews. We want to be sure their names appear in our Christmas Day bulletin.