

It is Christmas and You are Weak- Say what Fr. John???

Happy Birthday, Jesus! Don't know if I like the title to your Christmas article, Fr. John. What gives? You calling me weak? Yes- absolutely and perpetually. Me, too! But what church is all about is telling the truth, calling a spade a spade. And we are all weak, all the time. We need a Savior! And once we let the truth of the Savior start saving us, life gets really good and free. You know, the Truth will set you free- from the grave. In the end, that is what Christmas is all about. Not the red Santa suit but the red blood washing death away. That gets us back to the Child. It is always and ALL about the child. He comes in power to aid the weak. And, OH, the power. Do you know? Have you ever felt it? Acted or spoke from it? Think of all that is. All that is, was not but came to be at the command of his word! That's right - everything. And without Him, nothing came to be. You were not but now you are because he spoke you! Now here you are because of Him- and you are the Crown of everything he has made. Talk about power! And, Jesus, at each moment, is ready to unleash that power in you at the drop of a hat. All he needs is an opening, a "YES". And you are always saying either, "Come in with your power" or "Sorry, not now, buddy."

It is in weakness that the power of Christ reaches perfection (2 Cor. 12:9). How are we weak?- let me count the ways... Start at the grave- that will show us all how much we can do on our own power. Nothing! What about forgiving and gossip and lust and judging and not doing the good we want to do and doing the evil that we don't want to do (Romans 7)? And on and on...

How are you weak? In other words, how much do you know you need a Savior? Wake up to your weakness. Seek to become acutely aware of it.

Christmas is about the infinite power of God coming into our absolute weakness. But you must pray to know your absolute weakness and bluntly admit that before God and the world. It is in the humility of your absolute weakness that you can invite Jesus in to reveal to you the power of his perfection.

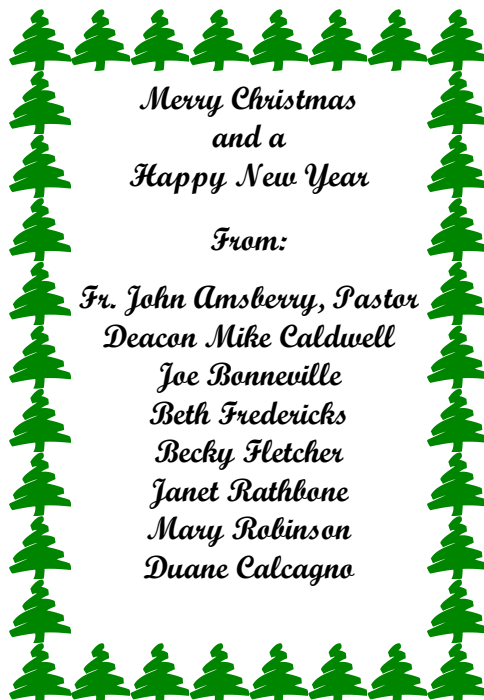
The world tells you to be strong. I am telling you to be weak and let the Savior save you from you. Live in the power of **HIM** who lives and loves and reigns forever.

A Christmas prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you from coming from heaven to earth to save me. I have been taught to be strong, to have it all together, no chinks in the armor. But what power for good or love do I have save you? You teach me to be weak and call out for your power to become perfect in me. So now I pray to you in my weakness. May the power of your love and life live and reign in me forever. Amen."

+Fr. John



Dec 26
Off for Christmas Break
Jan 9
"Preaching and Walking"
Jan 15
Life Teen Mass
Jan 16
Off MLK Day
Jan 22
"Heaven and Earth"
Jan 28
Oregon Food Bank
(Service 8:30AM-11:30AM)
Jan 30
"Treasure Hunters"



*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*

From:

*Fr. John Amsberry, Pastor
Deacon Mike Caldwell
Joe Bonneville
Beth Fredericks
Becky Fletcher
Janet Rathbone
Mary Robinson
Duane Calcagno*



Dec 26
Off for Christmas Break
Jan 8
"Rise and Walk"
Jan 15
Life Teen Mass
Jan 15
"At Your Service"
Jan 22
Issue Night
Jan 27-28
30 Hour Famine
Feb 5
No Life Night

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Dec 26, 2011

Communion Service

Tuesday, Dec 27, 2011

Communion Service

Wednesday, Dec 28, 2011

+Alberta Perkins

(Robert Perkins)

Thursday, Dec 29, 2011

+Donna and Russ LaVaque

(Becky Fletcher)

Friday, Dec 30, 2011

+Estagen Zimmerman

(Anna Marie Zimmerman)

Saturday, Dec 31, 2011

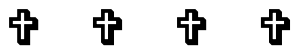
+Al Toelkes

(Phyllis Holmes)

Sunday, Jan 1, 2012

8:30AM: People of the Parish

10:30AM: All our Military at home & abroad



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Dec 26, 2011

Parish Center is Closed

Friday, Dec 30, 2011

4:00PM-Homeless Outreach

Saturday, Dec 31, 2011

2:00PM-Baptism Class-S.R.

Sunday, Jan 1, 2012

Happy New Year

Normal Mass Schedule

**December 26th and Jan 2nd
Parish Center Closed**



Winners who still need to pick up Raffle prizes:

- Joel De Leon
- Mary Ann Curtis
- Marie Christensen



Baptism: The next Baptism Class for infants will be held on Saturday, Dec. 31st at 2:00 PM in

the Social Room. Pre-registration for the class and Baptism is required. Please call Beth at the Parish Center to register. Baptisms will take place on Sunday, Jan 7th at the 5:00PM Mass.

St Vincent de Paul- We are very happy to report that our annual Thanksgiving food drive was again a resounding success. A total of 2,950 lbs. of food was collected. Combined collections at Thanksgiving and in recent weeks totaled \$5,614.25. These cash contributions will provide future rent and utility assistance and pay for food purchases. Your contributions do make a difference. In late November we were able to prevent the eviction of a family with two children, aged two months and two years. That assistance provided in a months time for the family to find alternate housing. Please pray for them and for all people in similar situations.

New Year's Weekend SVPD Food Collection

We will be collecting food at the Masses next weekend 12/31 & 1/1 For the SVPD food pantry. You may drop off your donations in the food barrel as you enter the Church. Thank you so much for your generous donations over this past year! We are truly blessed and look forward to supporting even more Families in 2012. Blessings from the St Joseph Peace & Justice Committee

High School Confirmation will be here Wed. April 11, 2012 at 7:00PM with Bishop Steiner. Mark calendar's. Confirmation team will have dinner with the bishop here at office kitchen at 5:00PM.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Budget amount: \$ 7,032.00

Amount collected: \$ 11,743.71

Over/under: + \$ 4,711.71

Sincere thanks are sent to all parishioners who lovingly contributed time and food for the many funerals this fall season. Your kindness and comfort foods are appreciated by families at their time of loss. God bless all of you. The Altar Guild



Volunteers needed to serve Coffee and Donuts on Sundays from **9:30AM-10:00AM** and **11:30AM-12:00PM**. We especially need volunteers

during **9:30AM—10:00AM**. A sign up sheet is available on the counter. If the coffee and donuts is something you enjoy please help us keep this program going. If you have questions please contact Darcy at 503-255-6181.

Thank you thank you! To all who donated to the Care packages for the homebound. And, thank you to all the children at Sunnyside Montessori School who made Christmas cards for everyone. The Harry and David sugar free candy is loved. And thank you to the people who donated gift cards; I know how much they appreciate them. Everything is so appreciated and it's so fun playing Santa Claus. You are all so generous in giving to the mentally ill and the homebound in our parish area, may God continue to bless you all. Happy New Year!

CAN/BOTTLE RECYCLING

Jan 7th & 8th

