



# ADVENTures a weekly newsletter

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*A message from Fr. RJ:*

We rejoice this Christmas in the varied ministries inside and outside the parish that offered us the opportunity to share the Gospel in the year 2011. All glory to Christ for the success and growth of the ministries at Advent:

2011 saw our Alpha program develop into a mature and healthy ministry. For those unfamiliar with Alpha, it is a 10-week course that we offer each spring and fall on the Christian faith. Each session starts with a shared meal, followed by a short video presentation, and then discussion in small groups. Some may come to Alpha to investigate whether God exists. Others wonder what life is all about; still others wonder whether there is life after death. Others may have attended church, but feel that they have never really understood the basics of Christianity and want to learn more about their faith. Beginning in 2012, we will offer, in addition to the basic Alpha course, a second course entitled "A Life Worth Living," which is an exploration of the Book of Philippians. Each course can offer you a valuable opportunity to explore the meaning of life.

This year also saw the flourishing of our involvement in the Metanoia Project. Designed as an outreach to the shelter-resistant homeless, the Metanoia Project offers us the opportunity to minister on a one-to-one, small scale ideal for our parish. We are excited that we have been invited to expand our involvement in the Project and include a short evening prayer service on the evenings that we host Project dinners. Together with the Brookside dinners we host, and the Isaiah Tree gifts given to members of St. Luke's in Cleveland, the Metanoia Project expresses Advent's concern for the homeless and hurting on Cleveland's Westside.

We saw the faith of our members, both adults and youth, nourished this year by the Faithweaver Sunday School program which uses materials from Group Publishing that skillfully mesh the teaching that our children receive in their classrooms each Sunday with the lesson studied by their parents in their own group. The success and popularity of the program spawned a vacation bible school which also used Group curriculum, and utilized a theme described as "Hometown Nazareth." This curriculum was enjoyed so much by the kids and the adults who attended and helped that we'll be offering a Group theme again next year - and we are excited to announce that the activities will include, instead of crafts, science experiments and activities.

## Service Schedule

### Close Advent after Coffee Hour

12/25 Max Gage  
01/01 Peter Meckes

### 8:00 a.m. Acolyte/Chalice

01/01 Marcia Duennes

### 8:00 a.m. Lector & POP

01/01 Marcia Duennes

### 10:00 a.m. Chalice Bearers

12/24 Jack Morgan & S. Rice  
12/25 D. McCormick/ D. Moore  
01/01 R. Augustine/D. Moore

### 10:00 a.m. Lector

12/24 Jack Morgan  
12/25 Barbara Gage  
01/01 Jennifer Meckes

### 10:00 a.m. Ushers

12/24 Ray Augustine  
12/25 Max Gage & P. Meckes  
01/01 Peter Meckes & Irv Frank

### 10:00 a.m. Acolytes

12/24 Rose & Angelo  
12/25 Jack Morgan  
01/01 Madison & Paul

### Altar Guild

12/25 Sally Morgan  
01/01 Betty Clark & Judy Polly

### Prayers of the People

12/24 Anne Crothall (#4)  
12/25 Dick McCormick (#5)  
01/01 Denise Geyer-Keller (#6)

### Intercessory Prayer

12/24 Fran Woodland  
12/25 Mary Lou Dixon  
01/01 Ray Busony

### Coffee Hour

01/01 B&A-Teddi & Sharon

### Counters

12/27 Ray Augustine  
01/02 Sally Morgan

### Nursery (all dates)

7:50-11:15 a.m.  
Cathie Murphy

Speaking with any of those who helped (Don Moore, Ray Busony, Bunny Meriam or Sally Morgan) will convince you of the fun to be had by getting involved next summer.

The kids at Advent had many other opportunities for fun, fellowship and service during the year, the most memorable being the St. Nicholas Day celebration. What a great party that was and we collected a boat-load of toys for Toys for Tots! The kids also ice skated together at Halloran Ice Rink, hiked at Whipps Ledges, swam at Huntington Beach, made caramel apples, enjoyed Game Nights, coded books for a Cleveland school, planted and maintained the flower urns on the terrace, and joined our worship team as acolytes and members of the choir. We love that our kids want to spend time together and are always up for fun.

A trip taken by a group of women at Advent to the Women of Faith Conference last October bore amazing fruit: a deepening of the close and supportive relationships among the women and children at Advent; many new fellowship events and opportunities; and a new bible study group entitled "Sisters in Christ." This group meets twice each month on Sunday evenings in the homes of the attendees, and gives those interested in a Bible study another option - our other study groups include those that meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays between services, and the mens' study group which meets on Wednesday mornings.

We look forward to continuing in the work that we have been called to do, and enjoying each other in faith and fun, in the year 2012. Thank you, Lord Christ, for bringing each one of us to this place.



*A letter from Rose Janscy about the Metanoia Project:*

Dear Friends of Metanoia,

"Thank you" for your overwhelming generosity. You have either donated, cooked, delivered, or served food to our guests at the Hospitality Center. Working together we are providing meals and friendship to men, women, and children who do not have the means to sit at a table with family and enjoy a home cooked meal. *We* are their family. *They* are our brothers and sisters in Christ. By giving of our time, talent, and treasures, we are letting them know that we have room at *our* table for them.

The guests have told me that they really enjoy the food you prepare and your kindness as you serve the meal. It truly makes a difference in their lives to know people care about them, and we do.

May you and your family and friends enjoy a most blessed Christmas. I look forward to working with each of you, again, after the New Year. A special note of thanks to Kelly and her group who are cooking and serving the Christmas meal, and to the members of Advent Church who are providing the meal and hospitality on New Year's Day.

God bless you.

Peace and Love, Rose

*Thanks from St. Luke's:*

Heather Wood from St. Luke's in Cleveland picked up thirty-five brimming gift bags and boxes full of presents for the children and adults at that parish. THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this very important outreach program. Heather said they are very grateful for the numerous donations given to St. Luke's by the members of Advent.