

WOMEN'S GUILD CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We will meet at The Italian Village Restaurant, Noon, Dec. 7, 2005. You have your choice of: Manicotti - Chicken Marsala - Prime Rib. Tickets are available from Lois Conliffe or the Gift Shop. Sign up now.

**“WARM UP FOR WINTER”
THEME BASKET!** Tickets are on sale now at the Gift Shop for this basket at \$.50 for 1 or \$1.00 for 3. Support the Women's Guild's out reach programs by purchasing tickets. The drawing will be held December 18th.

**QUIET DAY NOVEMBER 30
AT 9:30 AM** Please join us in our Annual Quiet Day. The Rev. Shirley Trail will be our leader in preparing us for Advent and the coming of our Lord. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin boards.

ADVENT PRAYER BREAKFAST

On Saturday, December 3rd at 9 AM, we will share a light breakfast. A meditation will be presented by The Rev. Shirley Trail, followed by Prayer. Please join us. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin boards.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who filled shoe boxes with gifts and made donations to “Operation Christmas Child.” The shoe boxes will be distributed by Samaritan's Purse to children around the world. We here at St. Michael's contributed 43 gift filled boxes that will bring happiness to boys and girls who otherwise wouldn't receive any presents. The children also receive Christian literature introducing them and their families to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ADVENT WREATHES

The Sunday School students will be learning about the meaning of the Advent Wreath during this season. If anyone would like wreath for their home, there are available through the Sunday School. See Carol Weekley or Peggy Gorczyca.

THANK YOU from Peggy Gorczyca and family for all the prayers and cards during Peggy's recent surgery.

A TRIBUTE

Six years ago, a lady came to St. Michael's to serve as our church secretary. She has “outlasted” three rectors and recently informed me that she felt it was time to retire. Madeline, we will truly miss you. Adjusting to new priests with their varied styles of management, new technology including the new “copier” you are trying to make friends with, and other changes at St. Michael's has not always been easy but you have done so very well. On behalf of the church, I wasn't to acknowledge your valuable contributions to our life here and to wish you God speed and God's blessings as you relax at home with a hot cup of coffee. I'm sure, at times, you won't miss driving to the church through the snow.

Currently, I am making a decision about a new secretary. This decision will be announced soon. *Father Chuck*

VICAR'S VIEWS

November 27th, the fourth Sunday of the month, marks the beginning of the liturgical season of Advent. The word "Advent", (Latin *adventus*) refers to the coming of Christ. The four Sundays in Advent always precede Christmas day. This season also marks the beginning of our Church year. It marks a time in which we are to prepare, not only for Christmas, but also for the return of Christ as judge at the last day: ie. The second Advent.

What changes will you see at our church with the coming of this new season? As you enter the church, you will notice that the color green has been replaced with a beautiful shade of blue. The homilies and collects will highlight the various themes of the season. We will be using Rite I instead of Rite II for our eucharistic celebrations. The lighting of the Advent wreath will take place each Sunday. Our children will be learning about the meaning of the wreath. It is my hope that every household will have an Advent wreath as a visible witness.

We have planned several activities during this time as well. On Wednesday, November 30th, our annual Advent Quiet Day will be led by our Deacon, Shirley Trail, who will also be presenting a meditation at our prayer breakfast on December 3rd at 9 AM. For further information, please call the church office. On December 7th, the wonderful tradition of the Christmas Luncheon will continue to be sponsored by our Women's Guild. The "Greening of the Church" will take place on December 21st.

This season is a wonderful antidote to the plague over commercialization of the

"Christmas season." It invites us to come aside, to focus on the true meaning of the season, to worship God in the 'beauty of (His) holiness, and to prepare ourselves to properly celebrate his birth. This year, plan to make it a priority to worship and deepen your devotion to our Lord and Savior.

In Christ, *Father Wheeler+*