John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

Matthew 3:1
Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century. John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: “...the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals” (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
DECEMBER 8
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MASS TIMES:
8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M.,
12:00 PM (Latin), 5:30 PM
WEEKLY OFFERING

**November 20, 2016**
Offertory: $25,859.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development: $4,768.00
Latin Mass: $490.00
Military Service: $344.00
SVDP: $694.00

**November 24, 2016**
St. Vincent DePaul, Thanksgiving: $4,992.00

**November 27, 2016**
Offertory: $19,328.50
Latin Mass: $764.00
SVDP: $575.00

Thank You

St. Vincent de Paul is very low on food! We are in need of tuna, canned chicken, rice, beans, cereal, pasta and sauce. We have also had a need for soap. We are very grateful for your kind, generous hearts!

If any parishioner is in need of assistance St. Vincent DePaul would be honored to help you. Any requests will be kept strictly confidential. Call the SVDP President at 908-256-1871.

PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS - Please join us every Thursday immediately after the 8:00 Mass to pray for priests.

RESURRECTION PRAYER LINE MINISTRY
For prayer requests or to sign up as a volunteer call: 481-1170.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:

When admitted to the hospital please register as Catholic and notify the parish office immediately, 481-7171.

Resurrection priests visit the hospitals daily.

To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission.

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by St. John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

RESURRECTION CALENDAR

**All events take place in the Parish Center unless otherwise stated.**

- **Adoration**, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- **Bereavement & Beyond Ministry**, Every Monday, 8:30 a.m.
  For more information call Alouise 481-8168
- **Coffee & Donuts**, Sundays after 10:30 Mass
- **Craft Club**, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
- **Men’s Club**, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00 p.m., Sept. - May
- **Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena**, Saturdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, church
- **Prayer for Priests**, Thursdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, chapel
- **RCIA**, Sundays, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass, for info, 482-6883
- **Rel. Ed.**, September - May
- **Resurrection for Life**, for info, call Judy at 287-1237
- **Rosary**, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30 p.m., chapel
- **Rosary Makers**, 3rd Thursdays Oct. thru May, 9-11 a.m.
- **St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting**, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 p.m. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749, or email, svdp@resurrectionch.org
- **Teams of Our Lady**, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
- **Women’s Guild**, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30 a.m.
  Sept. - May

RESURRECTION FOR LIFE

For any requests call Alouise at 481-8168.

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Thank You
Advent Waiting

by D. Todd Williamson
Permission by Loyola Press, www.loyolapress.com

Advent: Why Do We Wait?

What is the message of Advent? Why are we waiting? Advent is a season of preparation: we shop for gifts, plan parties, and decorate our homes for the coming of Christmas. Sometimes it is easy to forget the real mission of Advent: preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. We are bombarded by commercial messages in which the reason for Christmas—Emmanuel, “God with us”—is absent or overlooked. However, the rituals and practices of our Catholic liturgies during this season can join us together with the People of God. United, we can offer messages of challenge and hope and express our desire for God’s presence in our midst.

Advent blends penitence, preparedness, and joy. We are called to consider our lives and to repent—or turn around—from those things that keep us from God. In this way, we repent and prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord. This theme of preparedness permeates the liturgies of Advent. Lastly we are called to be joyful as we get ready to celebrate the incarnation of our Savior in Bethlehem.

We wait for the coming of Christ in human history at Bethlehem, in our hearts each day, and at the end of time. The readings of Advent direct us to be prepared as we “do not know the hour or the day” of Christ’s coming. But it is the present to which we should give our attention. Christ comes to us each day in word and sacrament, in prayer and grace, and through the people in his Church. Can we try to be aware of his presence and power within our lives? Can we be open to his call and let him work through us in the world?

What is the message of Advent? For what are we waiting? Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! Help us to know you, love you, and serve you. Increase our faith. Help us understand. Let us be your eyes, ears, and hands on earth. Let us show your love. Come!

Receiving Advent

by Tom McGrath
Permission by Loyola Press, www.loyolapress.com

One year during Advent, our parish priest invited us to write down on a slip of paper a word that named something that is keeping us from getting closer to God. He suggested it might be a fear, a resentment, or an attitude that shuts us off from the love God so wants to give. We were to fold the paper over a few times, grasp it tightly in one hand, and make a fist around it while he began to preach on the Scripture readings.

After a minute, my hand began to ache. At two minutes, my hand grew numb. At three minutes, the hand started shaking uncontrollably. He told us to open our hands. I found how hard it was to do that. After grasping the piece of paper so tightly, my hand had stiffened and seemed to have a mind of its own.

I can’t remember what else he said that day, but I have never forgotten that lesson. Hold on to a resentment, fear, or bad attitude long enough and you will become paralyzed.

As I begin Advent every year now, I start with the realization that I need to let go of any and all spiritual impediments I’m hanging onto. Advent is a time of receiving. It’s hard to receive if your hands are clasped shut. So I begin Advent once again with this prayer: Holy Spirit of God, open my hands, my eyes, my ears, all my senses, and all of my heart so I will be ready to receive your Advent blessings.

And then I sit there in the Advent darkness, my hands open before me, waiting on God.

Please join us for Coffee & Donuts, in the Parish Center, after the Sunday 10:30 Mass. All are welcome!!!
WOMEN’S GUILD NEWS

To the Ladies of the Parish:
The Guild will have a special Christmas breakfast at the Parish Center following the 8am Mass on Wednesday, December 21st. Our guest speaker will be Deacon Reardon with St. Luke’s message of the Nativity. Please call Joan at 432-0656 or Rosemary at 482-1526 to make a reservation. There is no charge but we are asking for a special Christmas donation for the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Bring a friend or house guest and share some Christmas time with us. We will have a 50/50 drawing and door prizes. Looking forward to wishing you a Merry Christmas in person.

All reservations must be made by noon on Monday, December 19, 2016.
RCIA is here for you!
Resurrection Parish Center
Call us to ask your questions.
We are here to listen...
Peace, Hope, Love
Awaits us through Faith
Inquiry Classes available
Call: Joanne MacPeek
418-7171 ext. 216

Resurrection Parish Mission Statement
Convinced that Jesus communicates a new life to those who believe in Him, and that He was raised from the dead in order that we might live, we are united to the risen Lord as a people born anew to a life of hope.

The Christmas wafer (opłatek, plural opłatkii) is a Central European Christian Christmas tradition celebrated in Polish families during Christmas Eve Vigil.

The unleavened wafers are baked from pure wheat flour and water, are usually rectangular in shape and very thin; they are identical in composition to a round wafer which becomes the Host after the Consecration during Mass in the Roman Catholic Church. Being only a reminder of the Body of Christ used in private homes, Opłatki lack sanctification by a priest or bishop. The Opłatki wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus to the Star of Bethlehem.

Cost is $3.00 for a pack of 5 wafers.

Wednesday Mornings
10:00 am - 11:30 am
Join us!
Dec. 7 - The Deep Breath of Prayer
Personal Encounter w/ Jesus Christ
"Be still and know that I am God..."
Psalm 46:10

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Come and See!

Pope Francis says:
“There is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail.”
Take Time for a Deep Breath of Prayer each day!
Make our Prayers Full of People!
PLEASE HELP FEED THE HUNGRY!

Your food donations will help St. Vincent DePaul, Catholic Charities, Soup Kitchen, South Ft. Myers Food Pantry. Drop food in boxes at vestibules in the church or Parish Center. The following is most needed: Canned fruit and vegetables (corn/peas/carrot/green beans), Canned meat (tuna/chicken/sausages/ham/Spam), Spaghetti noodles and sauce, Macaroni and Cheese, Maseca flour (small bags), Canned diced tomatoes, Tomato sauce, Cereal, Canned soups (prefer chicken), and Dry beans (pinto/red/kidney).

Thank you and God Bless!

ATTENTION ALL MEN!

Our guest speaker this month will be Dennis Solon, the Training Director & Program Presenter for the Southwest Florida Human Trafficking Coalition. The title of his message is Your World & the World of Human Trafficking. You will be astounded as to the magnitude of this issue which exists in our very front yards.

The program will be at the Church of the Resurrection on Wednesday, December 7, 2016. We begin at 6 PM with pizza (subs if we are a sellout) and refreshments for a $10 donation and conclude by 8 PM. Reservations are required — please register on line at www.faithandale.com

2017 Program

January 19 General Tom Draude, USMC
February 16 Dale Ahlquist, American Chesterton Society
March 16 Steve Ray, Catholic Convert, Speaker & Author

Event with Faith & Wine Lee County
April 6 Rev. Dennis Cooney, Pastor of St. Raphael

RESURRECTION FOR LIFE

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FT. MYERS EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY

“A Nation That Kills Its Own Children Is a Nation Without Hope.”

~ Pope John Paul II

PLEASE DON’T FORGET THE POOR BOXES; THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE POOR!

Christmas Angel Tree

This is the last weekend for our annual Christmas Angels Project to help families in need. Please bring all wrapped gifts with the Angel securely attached to the package to the Church of Parish Center no later than Sunday, December 4th.

On behalf of all the wonderful children that will benefit from your generosity, we thank you very much.

Anyone interested in helping sort and distribute gifts, please meet in the Parish Center on December 6th at 8:30 am. This is a fun-filled morning for everyone. For more information please call Vikki Melchiorre at 481-5144

Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosk
Check out our newest CD’s, DVD’s, Books and Pamphlets at the front entrance of the church.

It’s a great way to increase your knowledge and understanding of our beautiful Catholic Faith.
**Calling All Moms...**

You are invited to share in a new ministry for mothers!

**SWF Catholic Moms:** Where mothers are nourished, strengthened and cherished, and families are celebrated!

Come join fellow Moms......

Every first and third Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 in the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall

For more information contact Amanda Gavini at: 239-222-0452 or girlyamanda@yahoo.com

**Christmas Flowers**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS as a thanksgiving, as a memorial to a loved one, in celebration of someone’s birthday or anniversary, please use the Christmas Flower Offering envelopes located at the entrances of the church. Place the name of the person you wish to honor, your name and phone number and return via the collection basket, or you may call the Parish Office, 481-7172.

During Advent there are no flowers in church.

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**Volunteers Attend Special Mass at Epiphany Cathedral**

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who attended the special Volunteer Mass and luncheon at Epiphany Cathedral on November 19th.

Your loyal service to Resurrection Parish is greatly appreciated!

May God bless you for all that you do!!

Pictured with Bishop Dewane is Margaret Tompkins, Mercedes Lima, Chloe Gier, Margaret Woelfel Barry Wicks, Paula Wicks, Denny Woelfel

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**ARE YOU NEW TO RESURRECTION PARISH?**

We would like to welcome you to our parish family. In order to better serve you, please fill out a registration card which is located at the entrances of the church and leave it with an usher or put it in the collection plate. You may also register by stopping by the church office. A reminder that one needs to be a registered member of a parish in order to be a Baptismal or Confirmation sponsor.

**WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST PARISHIONERS:**

M/M Patrick Morrow, M/M George Ramos, Anita J. O’Connor, Jeanne Goodwin, Gloria Goodall.

May they experience the love of Christ here at Resurrection Parish, and may we all help them feel welcome in their new church home.
TV Star
FRANK RUNYEON
in:

THE 3½ STORIES OF CHRISTMAS

“REMARKABLE!”
PEOPLE MAGAZINE

“INSPIRING!”
ST. LUKE’S, FOSTER CITY, CA

“THE CHILDREN WERE ENTHRALLED!”
ASSUMPTION, FAIRFIELD, CT

Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the Christmas story are tied together for the first time:

From the light of Creation to the manger in Bethlehem, from the origin of Saint Nicholas to the secret of the Christmas Angel himself!

Tuesday, December 20th
5:15 Pizza Dinner
6:00–7:00 PM Live Show

Church of the Resurrection
8121 Cypress Lake Drive, Ft. Myers
RSVP by Dec.18: deanna@resurrectionch.org or 482-6883
~ Donations Accepted ~

FRANK RUNYEON has starred in over 1,000 television shows over the last 20 years... opposite Meg Ryan on AS THE WORLD TURNS, on SANTA BARBARA, FALCON CREST, GENERAL HOSPITAL, LA LAW and MELROSE PLACE. He is also an honors graduate of General Theological Seminary and Princeton University.

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