

The Advent Wreath (Paul Turner)



An Advent wreath symbolizes our longing for the coming of Christ. The wreath is a circle of evergreen branches into which are set four candles. Traditionally three candles are violet and one is rose, but four violet or four white candles may also be used.

The wreath symbolizes many things. Evergreens signify God's enduring promise of redemption, evident like green branches in the midst of snow. The circle signifies our hope for the return of Christ, whose kingdom will h a v e n o e n d .

The colors of the candles match the traditional colors of the vesture for the four Sundays of Advent. Violet garments signify our penitent hope for salvation. The rose color, which may be worn on Advent's Third Sunday, signals that the season is nearly over – joy is at hand!

The wreath's most luminous symbol is its growing light. One candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent; two on the Second, three on the Third and all four on the Fourth. In the northern hemisphere, Advent comes at a time when the days decrease to their shortest length. As the hours of darkness increase, we light more candles on the wreath. The wreath, which symbolizes the coming of Christ, grows in intensity as the anniversary of Jesus' birth draws near.

The Advent wreath may be used at home or at church. It should be blessed on the First Sunday of Advent after the homily at Mass, at evening prayer Saturday night, or during a prayer service including biblical readings and Advent songs. At home, the wreath could be blessed by a family member and lit during the evening meal, to remind every one of the true meaning of this holy season. *Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, MO, holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome. Copyright © 2006 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505, Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, Mo.*



December 2013



CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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Edmundite Campus Ministry Events

MASSES Sunday

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
(No 7p.m. Masses Dec. 15-Jan. 5 due to academic break; will resume January 12)

Mondays 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday
11:30 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER

Monday-Friday, 7:40 a.m.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24
Vigil - 8:00 p.m.

December 25
Christmas Day - 11:00 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

January 1 - 10:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Sunday, December 1

Worshipping Community Program

December 7, 2013: Advent Evening of Reflection. 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Edmundite Dining Hall. All are welcome to join us for a simple meal and reflection on the readings throughout the season of Advent. RSVP is required; please contact Anna Lester at 654.2897.

December 9th: Cookies & Cocoa. To help ease the burden of exam week for students, Edmundite Campus Ministry will be serving hot cocoa and cookies from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Alliot Lobby. Everyone is welcome!

WorldWide Marriage Encounter - Anniversary Weekend: Open to married couples and priests who have already attended a retreat. **December 6th thru 8th, 2013** at St. Anne's

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events *(Continued)*

Shrine, Isle La Motte, VT. Please contact Dave & Jennie Erkson at erksonmevt@comcast.net or at 800.434.4218 for further information.

Lessons & Carols: Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00 pm, Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel. The Saint Michael's College Chorale under the direction of Nathaniel G. Lew offers its annual service of Lessons & Carols. This year's service features familiar carols and Christmas choral works including works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Vivaldi. College Organist Susan Summerfield and soprano Allison Mills join the Chorale for the performance. Free and open to the public.

December 15th Schola Concert: Festival of Gregorian Chant and Seasonal Music by the Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola (free and open to the public). Optional donations accepted (see programme at time of concert); **3:00 p.m.** in the Chapel.

Volunteers needed. We are looking for volunteers to help decorate the chapel after the 11:00 a.m. Mass on December 22nd. If you are interested, please contact 654.2333. Thank you!!!

January 4, 2014: Annual Twelfth Night Celebration featuring the Essex Children's Choir and the Adirondack Ballet Company of Plattsburgh with the Vermont Choral Union. Works by Benjamin Britten, John Rutter, Traditional Carols and more. Held at the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel, 6:30 p.m. Twelfth Night is a collaboration between the choir and adult artists, a holiday tradition of song, dance, instruments, and narrative. This joyous occasion, enhanced by the beauty of the chapel, artistry of the musicians, and audience participation, brings to close the celebration of Christmas. Donations requested. Snow date: January 5th at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 863-9161.



Thanksgiving Food Drive: Thanks to everyone; donations of more than 30 bags were completed for meals for Joseph's House in Burlington in time for Thanksgiving.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Henri J.M. Nouwen



VITA is a group of students who are committed to ministering to other students through practicing our faith and leading many of the liturgical, retreat, and service programs. Student-led programs include:

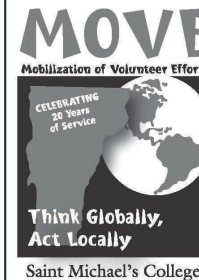
Link: A large group that meets weekly and combines discussion, meditation, music and more to help bridge the gap between our college and faith lives. **Wednesday, December 3rd, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the Upper Room of the Chapel.

Connections: Come join us for weekly small faith-based discussion with an emphasis on Scripture and reflections on your faith life in college. Beginning again in January on **Thursdays, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in Alliot 125 (Anna Lester's office).

Dessert & the Divine: Enjoy food and fellowship with other Christians! We will gather on the last **Wednesday in January**, at 8:00 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Chapel.

Advent Focus 2013

Make your hearts firm, for our salvation is near.



December 3rd thru 6th: International Market: Items from last year's service trips will be sold. Please help support our International programs by purchasing holiday gifts from around the world. Alliot Hall, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Donations for the trips are welcome; please contact Heidi St. Peter at 654.2674.

