

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Suggested Intercessions for the Month of December

December 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For an increase of present-day messengers who are willing to lay down their lives and prepare the way of the Lord, we pray to the Lord.

December 11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That we may respond to the will of God without fear, knowing that the one who calls is faithful, we pray to the Lord.

December 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That, inspired by Mary's "Fiat," we may respond with a courageous "yes" to God's plan for our lives, we pray to the Lord.

December 25 CHRISTMAS

That the Babe born of Mary may inspire us to give of ourselves in loving service of others, especially doing the little things with great love, we pray to the Lord.

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for December / January

December 4th, 2005 (2nd Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the US Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live—the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

December 18, 2005 (4th Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

It is through Mary's "yes" — "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." — that the promise of God's Kingdom enduring forever is fulfilled. Do you say "yes" to God?

January 1, 2006 (Mary, Mother of God)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The first reading today recalls God's special blessing upon the Israelites. The Lord has been gracious to us as well, pouring into our hearts that spirit which knows Him as Father and makes us His children. May we, like Mary in today's Gospel, treasure these things in our hearts and live gratefully!

January 15, 2006 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today's first reading, we hear Samuel respond eagerly, "Here I am!" each time the Lord calls him. May we, too, be listening for the call of God in our lives and be ready to say like the Psalmist, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

January 29, 2006 (4th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Moses told the people, "A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen." God still provides among His people the gifts and talents necessary to continue the work of His Church. What gifts are yours to share?

December 11th, 2005 (3rd Sunday of Advent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

December 25th, 2005 (Christmas Day)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my life?

January 8, 2006 (Epiphany of the Lord)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

January 22, 2006 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

There is a certain urgency in today's Gospel as Jesus calls His first disciples—Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus *immediately!* To what is Jesus calling me—at *this* moment, in *these* circumstances.

Intercessions for Life

DECEMBER 2005

Dec 4th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For those who have grown very old,
and especially those abandoned by their families,
that our parish might recommit ourselves
to love and cherish them this Christmas;
We pray to the Lord:

Dec 11th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all mothers who are pregnant,
that this season of expectant joy
might deepen within them a sense of awe
at the mystery of life stirring within them;
We pray to the Lord:

Dec 18th FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For those whose work
contradicts the Gospel of Life,
that we might love them enough to speak the truth
in charity and love;
We pray to the Lord:

Dec 25th CHRISTMAS

That on this feast of newborn love,
all men and women might recommit themselves
to the defense of all human life
from conception to natural death;
We pray to the Lord:



“Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity. The right to life does not depend, and must not be declared to be contingent on the pleasure of anyone else, not even a parent or a sovereign.”

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, February 25, 1994

The Lord offers the gift of children, seen as a blessing and a grace, a sign of life that continues and of the history of salvation extending to new stages. ... Begetting is thus a gift that brings life and well-being to society. We are aware of this in our days in the face of nations that are deprived, by the demographic loss, of the freshness and energy of a future embodied by children.

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, Aug. 31, 2005

Iwould submit --- that defining “person” by using terms such as “embryo” or “fetus” is confusing, outdated and meaningless. Such terms cloud the issue of when human life begins. The better view would be for the Legislature to adopt a bright line point in time, and that point in time must be the moment of conception.

Florida Judge Robert J. Pleus, Jr., In re Guardianship of J.D. S., 864 So. 2nd 534 (Fl.

The creation of a new creature, not ourselves, of a new conscious centre, of a new and independent focus of experience and enjoyment, is an immeasurably more grand and godlike act than even a real love affair; how much more superior to a momentary physical satisfaction. If creating another self is not noble,

I have a new grandson. His name is Nicholas. ... [We] were able to view a sonogram and determine that Nicholas was a boy. ... You could tell he was alive because he moved his arms and legs. ... If all the judges in the world and all the justices on the Supreme Court decided that Nicholas was not a person and merely a “fetus” until his birth, I would know them blind to reality. Before this birth, Nicholas was alive. Nicholas had an identity. Nicholas was a person. Nicholas has been a person since conception. Our rule of law can no longer remain blind to the realities of human life.

Florida Judge Robert J. Pleus, Jr., In re Guardianship of J.D.S., 864 So. 2nd 534 (Fl. Dt. Ct. 2004) (dissenting)

El Señor ofrece el don de los hijos, considerados como una bendición y una gracia, signo de la vida que continúa y de la historia de la salvación orientada hacia nuevas etapas... Así pues, la generación es un don que aporta vida y bienestar a la sociedad. Somos conscientes de ello en nuestros días al ver naciones a las que el descenso demográfico priva de lozanía, de energías, del futuro encarnado por los hijos.

Papa Benedicto XVI, Audiencia General, 31 de agosto de 2005