

**DECEMBER 2011**

# ***RISING***



**REV. WAYNE RUNNER, RECTOR**

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

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## **A message from the Rector :**

The Season of Advent is perhaps the busiest, most hectic time of the year. Advent is not supposed to be a breathless romp to Christmas Day when we can finally put our feet up, relax, and exhale. It is easy to forget that this sacred season is less about holiday cheer than about a hold child. Advent is less about preparing for the Christmas holidays than preparing for the Christ. So often as part of the preparation clergy tell you what you should do to prepare during the season of Advent. I thought it would be fun (and different) to tell you what NOT to do during Advent. I offer the Top Ten List of Things NOT to do during the season of Advent:

# 10 Do NOT forget your rituals.

Don't treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. Embrace rituals in your personal and family life that help you stop and ponder the gift of the Incarnation. Listen to Christian hymns and sacred music in your home, not just popular songs about Santa Claus, Rudolph, and Frosty the Snowman.

# 9 Do NOT add to the frenzy.

Children will be frenzied enough about the excitement of Christmas from their friends and culture; they need no further encouragement in the home. Do not be frantic about last minute shopping, entertaining, and decorating.

# 8 Do NOT forget your Bible.

Advent is an excellent time to look up the scriptural narrative that leads to the birth of Christ. (Luke 2)

# 7 Do NOT try to be perfect for the holidays.

God will still love you if the Christmas tree has a bare spot on one side, if a bulb in one of the window candles is burned out, if you cannot find just that perfect gift for your Uncle Bob, or if you lost the gravy recipe your grandmother left you.

# 6 Do NOT overdo your schedule.

Learn to say no to some of the demands that beg for your presence, however worthy they may seem. Know your limits.

# 5 Do NOT overdo gifts.

Children on average receive 60 % more for Christmas than they expect. Keep the focus on Jesus, God's supreme gift to us, rather than on our gifts to each other.

# 4 Do NOT go into additional debt.

This is easier said than done. But remember that the gift-giving of Christmas is supposed to be a sign of our gratitude to God for his gift-giving of Jesus.

## From the Rector's Desk continued....

# 3 Do NOT expect the culture to follow your lead.

A truly Christian approach to the month of December will be countercultural. Resist the message that Christmas is about the latest fashions or electronic gadget or video game. We are virtually bombarded with messages from the culture that we need to "shop till we drop." Jesus came into the world to die for a very different reason.

# 2 Do NOT forget the less fortunate.

The real Christmas story is set amidst those who know enduring poverty and danger. Advent is an excellent time to remember that most people do not enjoy a prosperous life.

And the # 1 thing NOT to do during Advent is:

Do NOT wait until Christmas Eve to come to church ! Worship in the church is beautiful during the season of Advent . Allow Advent worship to instill in you a sense of expectancy and alertness for the coming of God into our world, into your very life. The scripture readings for Advent not only give shape and context for Jesus' birth, but bathe us in a certain spiritual watchfulness as well. It is that heightened spiritual disposition that will best serve us as God seeks to come to us as Jesus. May we be prepared to receive him when he comes.

*Fr. Wayne +*

## Our 2011 Giving Tree ... from Karen Runner



Beginning this Sunday we are sponsoring a **Giving Tree** for the Jonnycake Center.

You will find the tree in the Narthex with tags. Each tag represents an item to be purchased.

There are tags for ages 0-12 for toys and tags for 13-18 for gift cards.

Please do not wrap the gifts. Jonnycake sets up a 'store' for the parents to shop and they will wrap the gifts there.

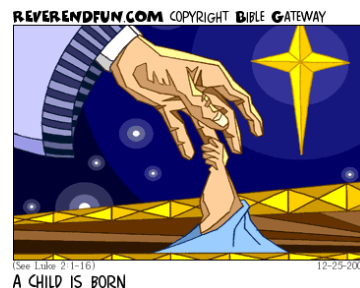
There will be a box in the Narthex to place your purchases in each week.

If we run out of tags and you would like one let me know, I can get more.

Thank you all for your generosity. KR

When Christ entered our world, he didn't come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives.

...Rich Miller



No borders on Faith, No Boundaries on Hope,  
No Limits on Love

Join us for a concert of seasonal songs featuring

**Voce Angeli**

South County's all female youth ensemble

**Church of the Ascension**

**Saturday December 10, 2011 at 7:30pm**

**Sunday December 11, 2011 at 2pm**

Suggested donation \$10

For additional information contact:

Joanne Arnold at 401.782.4403

or visit:

[www.ascensionwakefield.org](http://www.ascensionwakefield.org)



Advent  
Home  
Eucharist



Monday - November 28, 7:00pm hosted by Fr. Wayne & Karen -- the Rectory  
 Monday - December 5, 7:00 pm hosted by Fred & Maureen Buck - 4 Penny Lane, Wakefield  
 Monday - December 12, 7:00pm hosted by Sigrid Hewitt - 33 Dawn Court, Wakefield  
 Monday - December 19, 7:00pm hosted by Karen Crosby - 180 Broad Hill Way, Wakefield

All services will begin at 7:00pm .

Sharing in these special worship services is a wonderful way to keep Christ in the Christmas Season.

Jonnycake Update from our Ascension Liaison - Karen Runner



Hi All,

We are still looking for volunteers to **deliver Christmas/Holiday food baskets to our seniors**  
 (Narragansett & South Kingstown).

Christmas/Holiday Baskets are delivered on Friday, Dec. 16th., 9-1

Jonnycake  
Food Baskets



Also, we will need some volunteers/elves to **help with Santa's Workshop**  
 located at St. Francis Church on High Street, Wakefield.

Santa's Workshop Dates & Times are: Wed. Dec. 14, 9:30-12:30 & 12:30-3:00

Thurs. Dec. 15, 9:30-12:30 & 12:30-3:00

Fri. Dec. 16, 9:30-12:30 & 12:30-2:30

Please call the office @789-1559 x17

or email at [volunteer@jonnycake.necoxmail.com](mailto:volunteer@jonnycake.necoxmail.com)

In addition, for the month of December (same as Thanksgiving) they are looking for  
 the following food items to be included in the food baskets:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Gravy                                      | Evaporated milk                    |
| Quick bread mix                            | Jiffy pie crust mix                |
| Canned pumpkin or other canned pie filling | Cash donations to purchase turkeys |

These are items they can't get from the food pantry. They **do not need** vegetables or stuffing.

Anything you can do will be gratefully appreciated.

If you have any questions about any of this please let me know.

Thanks,

Karen Runner

Jonnycake Liaison



Jonnycake Gift Donations  
Please Do Not Wrap Gifts



## Christmas Worship Services

### Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 pm Family Eucharist & Pageant

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist

### Christmas Day, December 25

9:00 am Christmas Eucharist

December 24, 2011

5 PM Family Eucharist and Pageant



#### "I'd Like to Meet With the Rector"

Fr. Wayne is available for meetings or pastoral visits on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Please call **783-2911** to make an appointment.

He is available for emergency care 24/7.

**Emergency # 824-2308**

We're Reading

*Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay



Sared & Profane  
Book Club

Check the January *Rising*  
for our next meeting date.

Plan to join us for  
Dinner and Discussion

**ECW Update from Diane Powers**



**St. Mary's ECW will meet December 14 at noon in the conference room.**

Our hostesses will be Bette Thresher and Joan Lisi.

Members are asked to join other Ascension members and choose a tag from the  
**"Giving Tree"**

and purchase the suggested gift.

This is sponsored by the Jonnycake Center, Karen Runner is our liaison person.



In my stewardship talk to the parish I said, "it's not the amount you give, it's your commitment of making a pledge." I still stand by that statement but obviously the amount is also important. The commitment of making a pledge helps to show how supportive the parishioners are and of course the amount pledged helps us to do our ministry. So THANK YOU to everyone who made a pledge whatever the amount. I also want to share with you that in addition to making a pledge one parishioner was so moved by our plea to help that they gave an additional gift of \$ 25,000. THANK YOU.

Fr. Wayne +

**With Thanks from Sigrid Hewitt**

On a warm fall afternoon, we gathered to give the Ascension grounds a fall sprucing up. Thanks to all who worked: Kirk White, Brant White, Ron Smith, Laura Krekorian and Callie, Sandra Fish and her granddaughter August, Etta Bates, Nancy Dreier, Fr. Wayne, Paul Jordan and Sigrid Hewitt. We had a good time and laughed a lot. Tree branches came down, invasive vines were torn out, shrubs were trimmed and a most impressive array of filled leaf bags lined the driveway. Luckily, the leaves have found a new home in Jim Connor's garden (thanks also to him for hauling them away). Thanks also to Wendy Roberts who came very quietly on another day and cleared away our summer annuals. We'll probably need another short "rake and blow" session to catch the last leaves, but then Ascension's grounds will be quiet and serene until the daffodils come up in spring. Once more, many thanks to all who took part.





# Altar Flowers

**Christmas Flowers may be given in Thanksgiving and as Memorials  
Please complete Attached Form and return it to the Parish office by  
Sunday December 18, 2011**

**All Memorials And Thanksgiving Offerings will be included  
in a Memorial Booklet**

**Suggested Donation: \$25**

**All monies donated will be used to purchase Christmas flowers  
for our Christmas Celebration.**



**Please Print**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Thanksgiving for:** 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Please Print)** 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach Additional Sheets As Necessary**

# Kid's Page

## SAVIOR ORNAMENT


This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

### What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

### What you do:

















1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.



## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

 7+6 strength	 9+1 shepherd	 30-5 the	 7+5 ends	 50-26 live	
 21-10 will	 27-24 reach	 10+7 flock	 40-20 stand	 15+4 security	 8+8 his
 35-31 Lord	 17-3 greatness	 10-3 earth	 10+5 will	 5+1 will	

"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_

15                      20                      10                      17

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ ... And they \_\_\_\_\_

13                      4                      11                      24

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_

19                      16                      14                      8

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_"






3                      12                      28                      7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely; for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HE - Holy Eucharist CS - Church School EP - Evening Prayer SS - Sunday Supper				1	2	3 <b>Christmas Bazaar 9-2 5 PM HE</b>
4 8 AM HE 9:45 CS 10AM HE 4:30 PM E P SS 5 PM	5  <b>7 PM</b>	6	7	8	9	10 <b>5 PM HE</b>
11 8 AM HE 9:45 CS 10AM HE 4:30 PM E P SS 5 PM	12  <b>7 PM</b>	13	14 Vestry 7:15 PM	15 ECW 12 Noon	16	17 <b>5 PM HE</b>
18 8 AM HE 9:45 CS 10AM HE 4:30 PM E P SS 5 PM	19  <b>7 PM</b>	20	21	22	23	24  HE and Pageant 5 PM HE 10 PM
25  Christmas Eucharist 9 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31

**The Church of the Ascension**

**370 Main Street**

**Wakefield, RI 02879**

WE'RE ON THE WEB! [ASCENSIONWAKEFIELD.ORG](http://ASCENSIONWAKEFIELD.ORG)

**Go GREEN!!!**

**Receive your Rising electronically and save!  
Contact the parish office to have your copy sent by e-mail.  
Thanks!**

**Saturday December 3, 2011 9a - 2 p CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**Advent Home Eucharist- 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19 See Inside for locations**

**Voce Angeli - Choral Concert**

**Saturday December 10, 2011 7:30 PM**

**Sunday December 11, 2011 at 2 PM**

**To Benefit Ascension**

**Vestry Meeting December 13, 2011 7:15 PM**

**ECW December 14, 2011 12 Noon**

**12/24 Christmas Eve Services**

**5 PM Family Eucharist with Pageant**

**10 PM Christmas Eve Eucharist**

**12/15 Christmas Eucharist at 9 AM**