

**WORD FOR SUNDAY**



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 1:39-45; (R1) Mt. 5:1-4; (R2) Heb. 10:5-10

The prophet Micah was a peasant, his contemporary, the great Isaiah, was an aristocrat. Thus Isaiah centered his prophecies on royal Jerusalem, whereas Micah concentrated his on the country village of Bethlehem, of the district of Ephrathah. Bethlehem had figured as David's birthplace, but was too insignificant to play any further part in the history of royalty. First Hebron and then Jerusalem had been chosen as the seat of David's government. But Bethlehem, wrote Micah, "would one day be glorified by the birth of the Messiah whose origin is from of old" (eternity). When Magi sought the King of the Jews, scribes quoted Micah's prophecy to them: "From you (Bethlehem) shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel" (R1).

The second reading looks back into the ancient origins of this ruler. It reveals Jesus' obedience as reaching back to eternity. In the bosom of the Trinity, Jesus said, "I have come to do your will, O God" (R2). His Father's will was that the Son accept the human condition, which includes death. The will of the Father willed by the Son is His will (or testament) to us, which is to accept God's will no matter the cost.

Because it was God's plan to raise up a Savior, not from royal Zion, but from lowly Bethlehem, He left Israel at the mercy of her enemies — "therefore the Lord will give them up" — but only for a while, "until the time when she who is to give birth has borne."

Through the centuries which the vision of prophets pierces, only persons gigantically great can be distinguished. One such person, however indistinctly perceived, always looms large throughout the great prophecies of Redemption — a woman. In the first gospel, "I'll put enmities between thee and the woman" (Gen. 3:15); in Isaiah, "a young woman shall bear and conceive a son" (Is. 7:14); and she is also mentioned by Micah (R1). In other words, salvation was to come through one who always associated

**CATHEDRAL CHOIR**

The Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir will sing at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at a liturgical service combining nine scripture lessons and related Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served afterward in the rectory hall.

At 6 p.m. Dec. 19, the choir and organ can be heard on station WXXI-FM (91.5) in music prepared for Christmas. Anthony Rimore is organist and choir director.

**BE-MAR INC.**

Roller Skating For Schools  
Any Afternoon or Evening  
Our 20th Year...  
4815 Clover, Horseys Falls  
Call Collect (716) 824-1826

**ST. ANDREW'S PARISH**  
Prescriptions  
Carefully Compounded

**MANDELL'S PHARMACY**  
OF ROCHESTER INC.

Mal Wheeler • Hy Mandell

467-0879 • 467-0785

DRUGS-COSMETICS-SUNDRIES  
Portland Ave. at Norton

with himself a woman. How in keeping with the fundamental lines of revelation is the honor the Church pays to Mary!

In the gospel we see that that woman is Mary. She bears the Savior in her womb when she visits her cousin Elizabeth and so is the true Ark of the Covenant.

The visitation story is reminiscent of the transfer of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (2 Sm. 6:2-11). This was done amidst joy, song and dance. The Ark was first brought to the house of Obededom where it stayed for three months and brought many blessings. When Mary, the true Ark, visited Elizabeth, there too was joy: "the baby leapt in my womb for joy." Mary stayed at the house of Zechariah for three months and she brought untold blessings to that house.

The Ark of the Covenant was not only the symbol of God's presence among His people, it was also their palladium in battle. The Ark connoted warfare. When Elizabeth greeted Mary, her words augured victory in battle, for she used the selfsame words with which victorious women in the Old Testament had been greeted. It was Deborah in her victory song, who first greeted Jael, the slayer of Barak, with "Blessed art thou among women" (Jg. 5:24); and Uzziah repeated the same greeting to Judith who had slain the invader of Israel, proud Holofernes (Jdt. 13:18). Thus, Mary, the true dwelling place of God among men, was seen by Elizabeth and St. Luke and the early Church as the woman who assures final victory over evil and inaugurates an era in which sin and unhappiness, the serpent's head, are crushed and conquered.

Mary is the dwelling place of God among men, the true Ark of the Covenant. No more does God dwell in temples made by men's hands, but in living persons. After the example of Mary, every Christian is meant to be a sign of God's presence in the world, a monstrance radiating Christ — God again and again being brought to men through men!



SISTER MARY FRANCES

**Teacher Takes Vows**

Sister Mary Frances Wegman professed her final vows as a Sister of Mercy on Dec. 6 in St. Andrew's Church, during the celebration of the Eucharist.

She selected "Learn from Me for I am gentle and humble in heart" as the theme of the ceremony. Father Thomas Mull was the main celebrant and homilist. Fathers Bernard Dollen and Winfried Kellner were concelebrants. Sister Mary Judith, superior general of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy, officiated at the Rite of Profession. St. Andrew's Children's Chorus, trained by Sister Fran, and St. Andrew's Folk Group sang during the liturgy.

One of 11 children, Sister Fran is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Linus Wegman of Westfall Road. She lives in the foster home community at Andrew's Center on Barberry Terrace and has taught at St. Andrew's Grammar School since 1973.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1970 after graduation from Our Lady of Mercy High School, and made her first temporary vows in 1973. She attended Monroe Community College and was graduated from SUNY Brockport in 1975 with a B.S. in Psychology.

**HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM?**

An Advent Concert by the new Gregorian Chorale  
Rev. Benedict Ehmann, Director  
A Holy Hour with the church's Advent Treasure in Scripture and Gregorian Chant.  
Sunday, Dec. 19, 4-30 p.m.  
Holy Apostles' Church  
Lyell Ave. & Austin St.  
Everyone welcome - no admission

**THINKING OF MAKING PIZZA FOR THE HOLIDAYS?**

Make Your Own Pizza The Easy Way With



**LIPANI'S TENDER PIZZA CRUST**

SPECIAL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS ONLY  
For Every 5 Regular Loaves of Bread You Purchase, You'll Get 1 FREE

BIG SELECTION OF ITALIAN COOKIES  
CHRISTMAS COOKIES  
DIET COOKIES

We Will Make Your Pizza For Any size Group For Your Holiday Parties

**LIPANI'S BAKERY**  
532 N. PLYMOUTH AT JAY

OPEN 6 A.M. - 9 P.M.  
Every day Incl. Sundays 546-8548



make your ... **EVE**

**RESERVATIONS NOW!**

Limited - Call now  
**464-8800**

EVERY YEAR SINCE WE'VE BEEN HERE, PEOPLE TELL US WEEKS AFTER HOW WONDERFUL IT WAS, SO JOIN US.

**GOURMET DINNER** 8 pm to 10 pm

**OPEN BAR** 8 pm to 2 am

Entertainment • Music • Non-smokers, Champagne Toasting • Free Continental Breakfast

**\$64.95**

per couple  
Inc. Tax & Grat.



**1273 CHILI AVE.**  
at Expressway

**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

- QUALITY STANDARDS
- DIGNITY IN SERVICE
- INTEGRITY IN BUSINESS



**F. N. McELWEE**

Funeral Home, Inc.

Phone 394-2220

Francis H. McElwee

200 Buffalo St., Canandaigua, N.Y.  
90 E. Main St., Victor, N.Y.

**HARLOFF**

Funeral Home

586-5948

ST. JEROME'S  
PARISH  
E. ROCHESTER

**BURNS - HANNA FUNERAL HOME**

1795 Ridge Rd. E. 467-5745



**Paul W. Harris**  
FUNERAL HOME INC  
570 Kings Highway South (corner Titus)

SPACIOUS PARKING

Private casket selection room 544-2041

AIR CONDITIONED

**Arndt Funeral Home**

Air Conditioned Parking for over 50 cars  
Ronald John Arndt - Funeral Director  
Parishoner at St. John the Evangelist

1118 Long Pond Road near Maiden Lane 225-6350