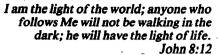
# The Bible Corner

## **Cindy Cottone**



Nearly 2,000 years ago, three kings left their own lands and set out on a trip through lands that were strange to them. It was a dangerous trip, but they were willing to risk everything, even their own lives, to follow the great light from a star. This star was the Star of Bethlehem and was a sign to these kings that a great promise was about to come true. For God had promised long ago to send His only Son, Jesus Christ, to be a Savior for all mankind.

The three kings wanted to visit the greatest king that had ever lived. They finally did reach the humble stable where Jesus was born and gave their gifts to the light of the world.

Advent means the coming of an important event. It is the joyous time of year in which we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is not so much a waiting time as it a time for us to prepare for our own trip with our gifts

for Jesus. It is a time for us to prepare our hearts an our minds to receive our Savior and King. During Advent, we must look at our lives to see if there is any reason why Jesus would not want to come and live there. There are many ways we can get ourselves ready and progress on our trip toward Jesus during the four weeks of Advent. What gifts can we give to Jesus at the end of our trip? Some suggestions are listed below:

. Make an Advent calendar — Make a calendar of the month of December. Advent began on Sunday, December 1. Plan a special activity for every day of Advent. These activities can be things like: writing a letter to relatives or friends that you won't see this holiday season, letting them know that you are thinking of them.

Offer to help someone elderly in your neighborhood with an odd job.

Do something special for your mother or father.

Be nice to someone at school who needs a friend.

Make special Christmas cards for

family members and friends.

Let your brother or sister use one of your special toys.

Spend a few minutes in prayer each day thanking Jesus for coming into the world. Write a thank-you prayer to Jesus for all the gifts He has given you.

At the end of Advent, on Christmas, your calendar can be a gift for Jesus.

2. Make an Advent wreath — This can be simply made by using an old coat hanger to form the circle. The circle is a symbol of God's love for us. It is eternal, without beginning or end.

You can use some real pine branches or artificial ones to attach to the circle. There should be four candles in your Advent wreath, so as you get closer and closer to Jesus, the light grows brighter.

The purple candles are lit first. This color represents sorrow for our sins, for the times we didn't follow Jesus. Advent is a time to think about someone we may have hurt and ask for forgiveness. It is also a time to forgive someone who may have hurt us. As our hearts are filled with love, we are making a home for Jesus to live in.

The pink candle is lit the last week of Advent. It stands for the joy of Jesus coming at Christmas.

3. Gifts — Jesus came to teach us about love. He said that whenever we try to do good things for others, it is like doing them for Him. Jesus' love reaches out to us through other people. Our gift to Jesus can be giving money to a

charity. It can be giving a toy, game or puzzle to people who collect these items for needy children. Gifts don't always have to cost money to be special. Is there someone who needs your help? The giving of our time to someone is another gift we can give to Jesus.

4. Read special stories in the Bible about Jesus and the people who were closest to Him during His time on earth - a)The coming of Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament many centuries before His birth — Isaiah 40:1-11.

b) John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus. He preached to the people about how they should be sorry for their sins and lead lives that would please God. Then they would be ready to meet Jesus - Luke 3:1-18.

c)Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. She was very frightened when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her of God's plan. Even though she was afraid, Mary said yes and was obedient to God -Luke 1:26-38.

d)Joseph was Mary's husband. An angel told Joseph about Jesus in a dream - Matthew 1:18-25.

e) God gave the world a gift of love: Jesus Christ, our Savior — John

f) The three wise men followed the Star of Bethlehem to Jesus — Matthew 2:1-12.

g) The Nativity: Jesus is born: Luke

#### **Share Christmas with Inmates**

Mail and visitors are needed by organizers of the fourth Residents Encounter Christ weekend at Groveland Correctional Facility in Sonyea, N.Y. A precious commodity to inmates, mail is needed for use throughout the weekend, December 27-29. A short letter or Christmas card is deeply appreciated. Writers need not include their last names or return addresses.

On Saturday, Dec. 28, volunteers are needed for the "hootenanny." This is a part of the encounter during which people from outside the prison are invited in to share, sing and pray with the inmates.

For more information, call John Vallimont, (716)367-3154, or Jerry Carli, (716)381-6542.

Religious Education Committee and

sponsored by the Diocesan Council for the

Separated, Divorced, Bereaved and Remar-

ried. The program is also presented in

connection with Angela Gallo and the Office #

To register, or for a additional informa-

tion, call the religious education office at

The Rosary Society of Our Lady of Mercy Church, 36 Armstrong Road, Greece, will meet Monday, Dec. 2. A prayer service will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m., followed by a business meeting. All ladies of the parish are welcome.

Virginia Eckert will present a demonstration on making h'ors d'oeuvres and holiday

punch. Members are asked to bring wrapped personal items and unwrapped baby items for contribution to the Melita House.

'Entertainment 86 Dinner Club' books will be available at the meeting for \$20. They will also be available to all parish members by calling Ellie Bittner at 663-1097.

Refreshments will be served.

### **Teen Panel Discussion**

An awareness program for young people 13 to 22-years old will be offered Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., in the large meeting room at St. Pius Tenth School, 3000 Chili Avenue, Rochester.

The panel presentation, "Changing Lifestyle — Through the Eyes of Teens, deals with adjustments that children must make in response to various changes in lifestyle — especially those related to living in a single-parent home. The program is sponsored by the St. Pius Tenth Adult

Victoria and Bach, and the chamber choir

will perform acapella renditions by Hassler,

Admission is free, but due to limited seating tickets are being issued through the

college's music department. For tickets or

additional information, call the Nazareth

music department at (716)586-2525, ext. 614.

**Friars Receive Support** 

In a recent letter signed by Father Flavio

Carraro, O.F.M Cap., general minister of

the world-wide Capuchin-Franciscan order

and by Father Jacques Belanger, O.F.M.

Cap., president ot the order's Justice and

Peace Commission in Rome, the member of

the New York-New England Capuchin Pro-

vince of Saint Mary have been urged to

support their suffering brothers in Lebanon.

the Lebanese Capuchins, allowing them to

recognize the solidarity of their Franciscan

family. It also suggests several concrete steps

to taken by the New York-New England

**Fast for World Harvest** 

Our Lady of Mercy High School students

will give up eating Thursday, Nov. 21. They

will join hundreds of thousands of people

across the country in Oxfam America's 12th

to self-development projects Oxfam sponsors

in the poorest countries of Asia, Africa and

The money students save will be donated

Fast for a World Harvest.

Latin America.

The letter is an expression of support to

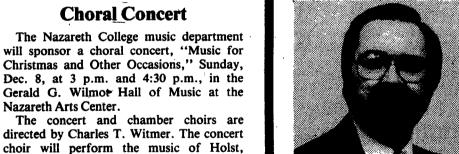
Billings and Scarlatti.

Capuchins.

### THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

of Family Minsitry.

(716)247-5269.



#### **EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR** Is grief stressful?

One of the most intense and prolonged producers of stress is grief that results from the loss of just psychological: there are actulasting benefits.

nning for a worry-free future. Entombment

**SCHAUMAN FUNERAL** 

2100 St. Paul St. 342-3400

McQuaid Jesuit High School sponsors several prayer groups that meet weekly. On Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1 p.m., participants gather for an hour to

reflect on scripture and share their insights,

**Prayer Groups** thoughts and experiences in a warm, relaxed

**Rosary Society Meeting** 

The groups meet in the school's conference room adjacent to Room 11 near the chapel. For more information, call (716)473-1130...

a loved one. The reaction is not ally physical effects. Our body secretes more hormones to help it cope with stress. Over a period of time the increased strain of grief and the higher hormone level can predispose us to illnesses. Research indicates that the best way to manage stress is to discuss it, to express our feelings, go about reorganizing our life and to take good physical care of ourselves through good eating and sleeping habits, and reasonable exercise. Extra care of our mental and physical health during this period of stress can have long

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets, not because we expect the worst to happen, but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen. Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in

Cremation HOME



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Just send a photo (recent, or from days-gone-by), and a few special words you would like us to print for you (30 word limit). The cost is \$25.00

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