

10 WEEK SPECIAL
 Duane Neu's Mobil Mart
 1508 Buffalo Road
3 pack cigarettes
\$3.75 (tax included)
 Coupon Good only: 12/4 - 12/10/88

Does Your Pharmacy Deliver?
We Do - FREE!
 Southwedge Pharmacy
 678 South Avenue
 442-2520
 For the best Pharmacy Service
 in Rochester

Columnists

Make ready for the Child

By Father Albert Shamon
 Sunday's readings: (R3) Luke 3:1-6; (R1) Baruch 5:1-9; (R2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11.
 Christianity is not a religion dreamed up in somebody's head, as Buddhism was by Buddha. Christianity is an historical event: the entry of God into time.

In dating this event, Luke follows the method of ancient historians. First, he gives the political situation, then the religious. Yet Luke was more than a historian.

He begins with the Emperor of Rome, for Rome ruled the world. Tiberius Caesar succeeded Augustus as sole ruler in A.D. 14. The 15th year of his reign was probably A.D. 28 or 29. Rome was then the center of the world, but events in Palestine would change that Roman world.

So Luke mentions four lesser rulers who ruled in or near Palestine with the permission of Rome — Pilate, Herod, Philip, and Lysanias. Their names are not so important as the areas they ruled. Pilate was governor of Judea; Herod, tetrarch of Galilee; Philip, tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis; and Lysanias, tetrarch of Abilene.

Luke was perhaps tracing the route the gospel message would take when it left Judea and moved to Rome itself. It would leave Judea and Galilee, go north to Ituraea and Trachonitis, just below Damascus, then further north to Abilene and Antioch, then to Rome, where Tiberius Caesar ruled.

For St. Luke, John the Baptizer was one of the hinges on which history turned.

Back in the days of Isaiah (740 B.C.), monarchs traveled in slow, simply constructed chariots. To enable the king to make some kind of speed, sappers (military engineers) were sent on ahead to build the road over which the king had to travel.

St. Luke sees John as a sapper, preparing the way for the Lord, the King of kings. But the preparation he insisted on was a preparation of the heart and a change of lifestyle. "Make ready the way of the Lord," he thundered — that is, clear away the obstacles, make the path straight with no detours. Fill up the valleys so that time is not wasted winding through them. Don't travel around mountains

A Word for Sunday

and hills, level them. Where the way is crooked, straighten it out. Where there are potholes, fill them in so that the rough ways will be made smooth.

The result of all this road building? The King will get through — "and all mankind shall see the salvation of God"


At this time of the year, a lot of things can sidetrack us — especially our Christmas shopping. But do not be detoured. Do not waste time on nonessentials. When the shepherds went to Bethlehem, "they went with haste" (Luke 2:16). They headed straight for the manger. That's the only way to go.

When President Dwight Eisenhower was vacationing one summer in Denver, his attention was called to an open letter which told how six-year-old Paul Haley, dying of incurable cancer, had expressed a wish to see the president.

Ike agreed, and his aide arranged for a visit after the president's round of golf. Ike, however, changed the schedule and went straight to the boy's home on a Sunday morning in August. Mr. Haley answered the door, unshaven and wearing blue jeans and an old shirt. Behind him stood his little son, Paul. Ike said to the boy, "Paul, I understand you want to see me. I'm glad to see you." Shaking hands with the boy, the president led Paul to see his limousine, then took his leave.

Two points are relevant here. First, the president went straight to the child, perhaps thinking, "What if the boy should die before I end my round of golf?" The second point is that the father was quite embarrassed when he opened the door dressed in old clothes and unshaven. How unimportant, really. But many people will get all decorated for Christmas, thinking only of their appearances, and forget the Child.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

How can counseling help the grieving?


When you are grieving professional counseling can help to clarify and relieve feelings that you may have about the deceased or about the uncertain future that the death of a loved one has created. Learning how to live with tension, manage unpleasant feelings and look forward to the future are some goals for good counseling. Sometimes there are other difficulties of a longstanding nature such as excessive reliance on alcohol, excessive dependence on the deceased, or poor interpersonal relationships that also can be effectively managed during grief counseling. Good counseling is best provided by professionals who have training in grief and who are knowledgeable about the feelings and stresses of the grief process. Call the local Mental Health Association or call us for referrals to sensitive trained counselors.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect your 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 planning for a worry-free future.

Burial Cremation Entombment

SCHAUMAN-SULEWSKI
FUNERAL HOME
 2100 St. Paul St. 342-3400

IN PRAISE OF GOD



The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne
Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer

Put your faith in action. Fill your heart with His everlasting love. Experience the inner peace that comes from caring and serving selflessly.

Our apostolate is to nurse and shelter people of any race, creed or color who are incurably-ill with cancer. We provide this care in our free homes located in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia, Minnesota and Ohio. As more women join our congregation, we plan to open new homes in other states.

Not all of our sisters are nurses, but as part of our apostolate, all must directly help in the care of the patients. If you would like to know more about our work and community and religious life, contact:

Sr. Anne Marie
 The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne
 Rosary Hill Home
 600 Linda Avenue
 Hawthorne, New York 10532
 or call: (914) 769-4794

Please send me more information about your Community. R-NY

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

A stranger's mysterious message

By Cindy Bassett
 "Jacob, wake up!" his wife called. "I hear someone at the door."
 "Ruth, you are hearing things again. It's probably just the wind on that loose door. I promise to fix it first thing in the morning ..." Jacob said.

"But Jacob, what if there are bandits?" Ruth persisted.

"Then they will find nothing to steal and go elsewhere," Jacob replied drowsily.

Except for the two owners, the Bethlehem Inn was empty tonight as usual. For this unpretentious town was not on any of the major trade routes. It might have enjoyed a more prosperous existence if it had been frequented by the caravans of traders going south to Egypt. Most of the citizens of Bethlehem were sheep herders and their lives were meager by any standards.

The next week — even if only for a brief time — all that would change. For suddenly, Bethlehem would swell with the crowds of people who would come for the census. A decree, ordered by Emperor Caesar Augustus, required everyone to return to his birthplace and register. No doubt the ruling powers of Rome intended to raise taxes again.

Bethlehem was not only the birthplace, but the only town Ruth and Jacob had ever known. To those who might easily dismiss the place as unimportant, Ruth was quick to boast that Bethlehem was the birthplace of David, the greatest king of Israel. Here David had tended his father's sheep even after the prophet Samuel had anointed him as King Saul's successor. In the humblest of surroundings, David had learned how to be a servant of the Lord.

Again, Ruth thought she heard a gentle tapping on the door. She glanced at her husband, but Jacob was fast asleep. So she went down alone to investigate.

"Good evening," the man at the door said kindly, even though Ruth had opened the door a scant crack to peer out.

The visitor was a tall man with light features. He was certainly not from the area, for most of the men in Bethlehem had ruddy skin weathered from years of exposure to the outdoors.

"Do you seek lodging for the night?" Ruth

The Bible Corner

asked, even though she had already noticed that he carried nothing at all.

"No, thank you. I am just passing through," he replied.

"It is dangerous to be traveling the roads alone at this hour," Ruth advised. "May I offer you something to eat?"

"That's very kind of you," the stranger replied with a smile.

After he had eaten, the stranger asked Ruth, "Is this the only place of lodging in the region?"

Ruth nodded.

"Then I imagine you shall be full next week with the people coming for the census," he said. "You should get the stable ready out back, too."

"That is where we keep our livestock," Ruth said. "I don't think anyone would want to sleep out there."

"Bethlehem was the birthplace of a king a long time ago," the stranger said. "The prophets have foretold that out of Bethlehem will come a new ruler for the people of Israel."

The stranger stayed for just a few minutes more and thanked Ruth for her hospitality. Just before he left, he turned to her and asked, "Will you be ready?"

The next morning, Jacob dismissed Ruth's claims of a visitor during the night. "You must have been dreaming," he repeated, especially when she kept after him about cleaning the stable.

When Jacob finally did go out back, he was thoroughly confused by what he saw. For the stable had already been swept clean, and in the center, someone had placed a small feed trough which the animals used, and filled it with straw.

Meditation: "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing, some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2).

1989 CATHOLIC ALMANAC

The Correct Answers

1989 Catholic Almanac
 No. 259-8, kivar, \$13.95;
 No. 262-8, cloth with dust cover, \$18.95

When you have the 1989 Catholic Almanac, you have the correct answers to questions on virtually every aspect of Catholicism around the world. Each year, this unique resource is completely revised, so you won't want to miss this newest edition. Order today!

The 1989 Catholic Almanac is also available at Logos and Trant's bookstores in Rochester.

The Courier-Journal
 1150 Buffalo Road
 Rochester, New York 14624

Please send me:
 _____ copy(ies) of the 1989 Catholic Almanac, no. 259-8, kivar, at \$13.95 each;
 _____ copy(ies) of the 1989 Catholic Almanac, no. 262-8, cloth with dust cover, at \$18.95 each.

Name _____
 Address _____ Apt. _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment must accompany order.
 Make checks payable to the Courier-Journal