Weekly Events

Monday
9:00 p.m. • Holy Hour • Main Church

Tuesday
9:00 p.m. • Chi Rho Bible Study • LSU Old Kitchen
9:30 p.m. • Rosary Club • Marvins’ Chapel

Wednesday
3:30-4:15 p.m. • Song of Praise Choir • Music Room

Thursday
3:30-4:20 p.m. • Song of Praise Choir • Music Room
12:00-1:00 p.m. • Chi Rho Lunch Fellowship • Wambam Court

Sunday
4:00 p.m. • Vespers • Marvins’ Chapel
8:00-9:00 p.m. • Student Ministry Team • Lower (Fr. Halley) Chapel

St. John’s Worship Schedule

Monday-Friday
7:00 a.m. • Marvins’ Chapel
Noon • Main Church
5:00 p.m. • Vespers • Marvins’ Chapel
9:00 p.m. • Protestant Evening Worship, Main Church

Saturday
5:30 p.m. • Main Church

Sunday (Main Church)
8:00 a.m. • 10:30 a.m. • 4:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. • 10:00 p.m. (Candlelight)

Discernment Retreat for Men
[Silent retreat for young men considering a vocation to the Jesuits.]
Saturday-Wednesday, 16-20 December
Contact: Fr. Tom Lawler, SJ, at the Jesuit Vocation Office for more information or to register. 414-937-0949 or visit: www.thinkjesuit.org

Ignatian Retreat
[A silent directed retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.]
Tuesday-Sunday, 2-7 January
CU Retreat Center

Magic Bulletin
Editor-in-Chief
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Breaking Into the Word
Alison Kinney • alison.kinney@creighton.edu
Katherine Leach • kleach@creighton.edu
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Q&A
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Layout
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Do you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see in Magic? This is a student bulletin and we want to hear from you!
Send an e-mail to: kleach@creighton.edu

Advent in a Hectic World
Alexandria Sutton

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves to receive God’s gift of Jesus. It is a time of preparation, waiting and hope.

During this time, the Church turns our attention to the God who fulfills promises. The Gospel of Luke, with its dramatic images and symbols, communicates hope to those people in fear. Luke uses a sense of urgency and violent words to get our attention. We often get caught up in material things and the holiday shopping, especially as college students. Luke challenges us to take time to step back and reflect. Let us not get caught up in our everyday lives and focus instead on what the season is all about.

As we prepare to enter this season of waiting for this great gift of love, the coming of the Messiah, we are called to be vigilant at all times—especially during this chaotic time of the year. Jesus offers us encouragement not to get discouraged by the trials, tribulations and temptations that lead to disorder.

Thanksgiving has just happened. Christmas shopping is in full swing. Let us take time to acknowledge what the Christmas season is about. Be sure to allow time in your schedules for reflection, silence or other means that help you experience a break from your busy lives to remember the depth of God’s saving power.

As we plan to gather with our families and friends this Christmas season, let us not forget the beginning of a new liturgical year and the coming of Jesus. As we worship today and throughout Advent, remember that God comes to save us, strengthening our hearts with abundant, unconditional love.

Magic is our student bulletin, a place where students can share their faith and ideas. We welcome contributions from anyone on campus who is interested in participating in the life of the community. Please send your ideas, reflections, and stories to kleach@creighton.edu.

Mental Health Awareness Week
3 December 2006 • First Sunday of Advent

Today’s Readings
Jeremiah 33:14-16
The Lord will raise up for David a just shoot.

Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14
"He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way."

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all..."

Your redemption is at hand.

I am the one for whom God waits!
I am awaiting the One who is awaiting me!
Embrace the season of waiting with hope.
It is a good teacher.
It will lead you to your depths where God is contemplating you.

—Macrina Wiederkehr

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FAITH AND JUSTICE: RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A Sense of Urgency
Adam Guck

Conduct once wrote, "He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own." This week's verses place a great deal of emphasis on living justly, being a good person, and doing so with a sense of urgency. The second reading calls us to "strengthen our hearts." So often it is thought that to live for others and to be charitable, our lives must come to a screeching halt. Rarely do we put time and effort into our relationships and give of ourselves wholly and completely.

This is especially true around the holiest time when we only set aside enough time and energy to drag that "must have" then for our loved ones. What we sometimes forget is that even the smallest of gestures—a smile, an embrace, or a kind word—can be just as potent.

The holiday season is a time for us to step back from our daily routines and assess the kind of people we are. When you sit right down to it, we are all defined by the company we keep and how well we keep it. Put in these terms, it's no wonder we should strengthen our hearts with a sense of urgency.

Adam Guck is a senior majoring in biology. You can contact him at adamguck@creighton.edu.

Upcoming Events

Monday, 4 December
Monteal Health Awareness Info Table
12:00-3:00 p.m.  •  Student Center Plaza

Tuesday, 5 December
Monteal Health Awareness Panel Discussion
Bring your own lunch
12:00 p.m.  •  IBA

Wednesday, 6 December
KFC "Spa Days"

Thursday, 7 December
"What Matters to Me and Why?" Speaker Series
12:30 p.m.  •  Student Center 104

What Happy Faces Are Hiding Rose Szabo
7:30 p.m.  •  Student Center Ballroom

Spring Break Service Trip Info Night
9:00 p.m.  •  Student Center Ballroom West

Friday, 8-11 December
Finals Week

Wednesday, 13 December
Advent Reconciliation Service
7:00 p.m.  •  St. John's Church

Saturday, 16 December
Baccalaureate Mass
9:00 a.m.  •  St. John's Church

Mid-Year Commencement
11:00 a.m.  •  Kiewit Fitness Center

Monday, 17 December
Monteal Ministry Weekend:
Christmas Day Rehearsal
11:30 a.m.  •  St. John's Music Room

Wednesday, 19-21 December
Monteal Winter Ski Vocation Retreat
Winter Park, Colorado

Monday, 24 December
KFC Free Week

Wednesday, 26 December
Classes resume

Thursday, 28 December
Spring Break Service Trip
Applications due
4:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

This Week...

Mental Health Awareness Week

Building Awareness, Reducing Risk

Nearly 50 percent of college students report feeling so depressed at one time that they were unable to function. One in four have a diagnosable, treatable mental health disorder. Yet two thirds of young people don't seek help.

In an effort to increase awareness and reduce stigma, Peer Education at Creighton is hosting a Mental Health Awareness Week. People do not need to suffer in silence. Having a mental health issue like depression or anxiety is just like having diabetes, asthma, or cancer. All are medical illnesses that can be treated. In fact, with treatment 80-90 percent of people fully recover.

But we don't always have the words to express what we are feeling. We are scared, and don't want to feel vulnerable—but seeking help gives us strength and improvement. Confimation must be turned into conversation. We may not choose our health, but we must make a choice to care.

Please, take care of yourself and your friends; address mental health issues on campus.

Lauren Dwyer
Mental Health Awareness Week Coordinator

Resources...

Creighton Counseling Center
Free and open to all students
Location: Branches Hall, 3rd Floor
Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday
Phone: (402) 280-2733
Website: http://www.creighton.edu/studentlife/counseling/andpsychologicalservices/

Hall of Info
Information, videos, resources, connections, and more
Website: http://www.hallofind.com/

Suicide Hotlines
1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)
1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

Praying Advent
Visit http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/

Cardoner Corner

The Vocation of Christmas
Joshua Marshall, Cardoner Intern

The Hall is lit, the halls are decorated and everyone is slowly coming to terms with the mass of work finals week brings. But as we near the end of the semester and the year 2006, we have already one year and begun another. It is the end of the church's year and the beginning of Advent—the beginning of a new Christian year. It is a time for deep thought and contemplation of what all this means: beginning and ending, anticipation and preparation.

We are asked in the readings this week to prepare for the fulfillment of a promise, to prepare to be blessed in holiness, to prepare for all sorts of things. Hopefully, in this time of preparation and anticipation we "increase and abound in love for one another and for all!" and strengthen our hearts. Bowing, we are told, that our hearts do not become bowing with the "frailties of daily life." When settling into this end of the year—the fraying of things, the wrapping up of events and objects—it is good to remember to be open in our hearts. It is through this openness of heart we can start to learn what it is we should be doing in this time of preparation. Through taking time to distance ourselves from the little annoys which draw us away from our vocation in the various areas of our life. Remember that despite the stresses and anxieties of finals, papers, traveling, family events and the New Year we are continuously called to be students, brothers, sisters, daughters, sons, family, friends, Christians. And to be with others. When we are told to increase and abound in love for one another we are told we are to be prepared. We prepare for the coming by being open to "the other" and allowing them to change and dramatically affect our lives.

As we settle into this Christmas season, the end of the year and the beginning of the next, we are reminded to be vigilant and prepared to receive the fulfillment of the promise. We are called to be loving, compassionate, and friendly. It is in this way, with an understanding of ourselves in community and focus on the other, that we live out our vocation as Christians and as men and women for all others.

 Merry Christmas and good luck on Finals.