

Third Sunday of Advent

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SATURDAY, December 12

Confessions 3:00pm at St. Francis Xavier

8:00PM – SJ – Hispanic Mass

4:00 PM- SFX + Mary Denhof by Lucille Finkler

5:30 PM- SJ+ Mary Lou Klein by M/M Leo Klein

SUNDAY, December 13

9:00 AM – SC – St. Catherine, St. Francis Xavier
& St. Joseph Parish Family

11:00 AM – SJ + Maury Lothschutz by Cecilia
Lothschutz

MONDAY, December 14

Adoration and Confessions 5:15-6:15pm – SFX

9:00 AM-SFX + Janese Gorecki by Barb Dietrich

TUESDAY, December 15

10:30 AM-SJ +Adam Schoenborn
by Bertha Schoenborn

WEDNESDAY, December 16

NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 17

8:30 AM- SC + Fr. Ernest Bernott by E. Bernott Estate

FRIDAY, December 18

9:30 AM-SJ + June Armock by Geraldine Brown

SATURDAY, December 19

Confessions 3:00pm at St. Francis Xavier

4:00 PM- SFX +Theresa Beuschel by Kathleen Videtich

5:30 PM- SJ+ Ray Umlor by Noreen & family

SUNDAY, December 20

9:00 AM – SC + Ed Postema by Darleen Stepping

11:00AM-SJ+ St. Catherine, St. Francis Xavier
& St. Joseph Parish Family

From Deacon Ed's Corner:

Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year, encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of hope and preparation of our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth.

The use of the Advent wreath is a Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. The wreath and candles are full of the symbolisms tied to the Christmas season. The wreath signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine and holly signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The wreath helps to remind us the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

In turn, the candles also have their own special meaning. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, with one candle being lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents peace and is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's long, frustrating search for a place to stay in Bethlehem where Jesus could be born.

The third candle, which we celebrate this Sunday is pink. An ongoing joke is: "Nice vestments, Father, but pink is just not your color!" And the inevitable response: "It is not PINK! It is ROSE!" It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is rose because that is the liturgical color for joy. This week is also called Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us to rejoice, for Christ is coming near. With the lighting of this candle, the light has begun to win out over the darkness.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the last purple candle representing the final week of prayer and penance. This final candle symbolizes love. It reminds us of the love that God has for us. A love so immense that He gave us His only begotten Son, that so whoever believes in Him will not die, but have everlasting life.

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This is the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ and the color white is for purity, because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Christmas is always such a busy time of year, but I hope that you have been able to spend some quiet time in prayer and meditation on the why we celebrate. Jesus, of course! He desires to reside in our hearts so that we may know the hope, peace, joy and love that is promised for all eternity to those who embrace Him.

Advent blessings to you and yours!



Our annual giving tree at St Joseph will look a little different this year. We will have a box for personal hygiene products, socks, hats & And a box for gift cards...food place cards, gas cards, Amazon cards, Meijer & Family Fare cards. To help families in need. Thank you, Christian Service Committee.

Giving back to God 12.06.2020



Adults: \$2211. CHHD: 10 HH: 25
Rel Retirement: 20
Total:\$ 2260

Thank you for your support!

Liturgical Notes



Rosary Intention for December- Let us pray for those who have left the practice of the faith, that the Lord will touch their hearts and bring them home again.



12/13 - Holy Hour - SFX 7-8PM – reflection
by Father Andrew

CLUSTER INFORMATION



Part-Time help needed: Snow removal for DPA and church sidewalks. Clearing snow, and salt application. Hours are 6:00AM 7 days a week if needed. \$15.00 per hour. Please call

St. Joseph's office.

We have received a few calls asking for Fr. Fred's address so we thought we would share it once again:
Fr. Fred Brucker, 7367 Pine Grove Dr. Jenison, MI 49428.

"I Heard God Laugh" by author Matthew Kelly is available for everyone to take home thanks to a generous donation. The book can be found in the entrance to each church.



2021 calendars are also available at each church. Thank you to Throop Funeral Home and Hessel-Cheslek Funeral Home for donating calendars to our Cluster Parishes.

Weekly Scripture Readings

- Monday, Dec 14-Nm 24:2-7
- Tuesday, Dec 15- Zep 3:1-2,9-13
- Wednesday, Dec 16- Is 45:6b-8,21c-25
- Thursday, Dec 17-Gn 49:2,8-10
- Friday, Dec 18- Jer 23:5-8
- Saturday, Dec 19- Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a
- Sunday, Dec 20 -2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14-16

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel reports "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don't start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

Question of the Week

**Fourth Sunday of Advent December 02, 2020
Acceptance of God's will**

- Reading I 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 9-11, 16 (the Lord's promises to David)
- Reading II Romans 16:25-27 (doxology)
- Gospel Luke 1:26-38 (the annunciation of the Lord)
- Key Passage Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38)
- Adult: How do you open your heart to what God wants for you? How do you follow the pathway that leads to happiness?
- Child: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #4404

Grand Knight: Chris Stebbins – 616-299-8424
Email: pentagonwa@aol.com
Website: www.4404.councilnet.us
Meeting: First Tuesday of the month – 7:00pm
at St. Vincent DePaul Bldg. Corp. Hall
St. Vincent DePaul Bldg. Corp. Hall Rental
Ed & Cindy Denhof: 616-302-0368
MSGR. LEO ROSLONIEC 4TH DEGREE ASSEMBLY #3492
Faithful Navigator Rick DeVries
Email rickldevries@yahoo.com Phone 616-813-1874
Meeting: Third Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm at St. Joseph's Hall

And the winners are:

Ron Courtade, Bill Alt and Ron Looks won the delicious hams and Tracy Muller is the big winner of \$250! Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets.



DIVINE PROVIDENCE ACADEMY

Contact Information

Principal: Kate Beuschel
 Phone: 616-581-4242
 Email: kbeuschel@wingsdpa.org
St. Catherine's Campus Secretary: Anne Lewis
 Email: alewis@wingsdpa.org
 Phone 231-853-6743
 Fax: 231-853-2664
St. Joseph's Campus Secretary: Suzanne May
 Email: smay@wingsdpa.org
 Phone: 616-899-5300
 Fax: 616-899-5491



**Home & School
Association**

During the season of Christmas, we have decided to remove the envelope boards. Thank you to everyone who has been so kind and donated. The envelopes will make an appearance again the January! If you would like to donate, please feel free to drop an envelope in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office or in the mail.

To date we have collected \$14,270! Thank you so much to everyone who has donated. We appreciate you! **To reach our goal we still need to collect \$5,830.** It's a lot but we are hopeful it can happen!

ST. CATHERINE'S PARISH NEWS & INFORMATION

Parish Prayer Line: Mara Kroll: 231-853-6880
 Ethel Nutt: 231-853-6733

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 20, 2020

SACRISTAN: Brenda Goodno
LECTOR: Rich Grover
MUSIC: Eileen Hoogterp
USHER: Ron Pavlich & Gary Nutt



COLLECTION FOR DEC 13, 2020
 32 Adults - \$2,329.00, 2 Youth - \$2.00,
 Loose - \$21.00, Votive - \$12.00,
 Electronic - \$790.00, for a total of
 \$3,154.00. Helping Hands - \$665.00

CCHD - \$10.00. Religious Ret - \$70.00. Flower
 Collection - \$515.00.

Thank you for your support!

Men's Club News: Your chance to win is available from any Men's Club member or call the Parish Office.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH NEWS AND INFORMATION

Parish Prayer Line: Lucille: 616-899-2367
 Kate: 616-678-5838
 Parish Office: 231-853-6222

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 19, 2020

SACRISTAN: Sharon Denhof
LECTOR: Michelle May
MUSIC: Eileen Hoogterp
USHER: Tim Walker



COLLECTION FOR DEC. 13, 2020
 13 Adults - \$984.00, Loose - \$10.00,
 Votive - \$4.00, Electronic - \$230.00, for
 a total of \$1,228.00. Flower Collection -
 \$192.00. Helping Hands - \$10.00

Thank you for your support!



Giving Tree "A Children's Christmas" - We welcome all to help make Christmas special for three local families in need, through our Christian spirit of caring, sharing and giving, by selecting a tag(s) from the Giving Tree. Please place your wrapped gift, with the tag attached, under the tree on or before December 19th, 4:00 P.M. Mass. We invite everyone from our Cluster Parishes who come to St. Francis to take part. May God Bless you all for your compassion and generosity.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH NEWS & INFORMATION

Prayer Line: Linda Nowatzke-616-899-2166
 Theresa Miller-616-899-5561

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE DECEMBER 19 & 20

SACRISTAN
 December 19-5:30PM-Deb Clelland
 December 20-11:00AM- Ben Benefiel
USHERS
 December 19-5:30PM -Joe Looks & Tony Rosloninec
 December 20-11:00AM- Ryan Umlor & Ken Alt
Lector
 December 19--5:30PM- Heather Brown
 December 20-11:00AM- Deb Tenbrink
Music
 December 19-5:30PM- Eileen Hoogterp
 December 20-11:00AM-- Eileen Hoogterp