

The First Sunday Of Advent

December 3, 2023

Mass Intentions

December	4	8:00 AM	Sister Augustine Marie Molnar requested by Frank & Alice Vilk
December	5	8:00 AM	Elsie Nauss
December	6	8:00 AM	Sara Zettlemoyer requested by Dave & Patty Suydam
December	7	8:00 AM	Intentions Of The Fordyce Family req. by Jerry & Karen Kupris
		7:00 PM	People Of The Parish
December	8	8:00 AM	Mike Landis requested by Mark & Ginny Ticehurst
December	9	5:00 PM	Sara Zettlemoyer requested by Pat & Kathy Raugh
December	10	8:00 AM	Sister Augustine Marie Molnar req. by Jerry & Karen Kupris
		10:30 AM	People Of The Parish

Liturgical Ministries December 9-10

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Servers
5:00 PM	Sue Guarducci	Mary Zimmerman	The Hoffman Family
8:00 AM	Trudi Heffley	Pat Pray	Helena Krieger
10:30 PM	Nicole Wood	Rosanne Wheatley	The Robinson Family Jacob Innerst

Schmidt Center Cleaning

December 3

Robin & Mike Chiccini

December 10

Madeline Rogers & Pat Harshberger

Next Sunday's Readings

Please prepare for Mass and the Homily by reflecting on these texts from the Sacred Scriptures

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Christian Stewardship

Last Sunday's Collection amounted to: \$4,150.72

The Collection on this date one year ago amounted to: \$4,055.40

November Parish Contingency Collection amounted to: \$1,257.00

May God Bless you for your generous and responsible stewardship!!!

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 3rd (1st Sunday of Advent)

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM/9:45-10:15AM

Masses, 8:00AM and 10:30AM

CCD, 9:15-10:15AM

Monday, December 4th

Mass, 8:00AM

Advent Parish Penance Service, 7:00PM

Tuesday, December 5th

Mass, 8:00AM

Wednesday, December 6th

Mass, 8:00AM

Prayer Group, 8:30AM

Thursday, December 7th

Mass, 8:00AM

Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception, 7:00PM

Friday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception)

Mass, 8:00AM

Saturday, December 9th

Confessions, 4:00-4:45PM

Mass, 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 10th (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Confessions, 7:00-7:45AM and 9:45-10:15AM

Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM

CCD, 9:15-10:15AM

Advent Vespers/Covered Dish, 4:00PM

“Come, Divine Messiah”



From the Pastor's

Desk: As we light the first candle on our Advent wreath, we try to focus ourselves on the awesome coming of Christ. How often do we feel alone and isolated – even from God? How often do we search for divine

guidance, clear-cut answers, intimate relationships – only to find darkness, silence, and emptiness? How many times do we attempt to console ourselves with some material or physical ‘substitute’ for love? And Jesus tells us “beware, keep alert...Keep awake.” We do not know when God will come, but our faith tells us that God is

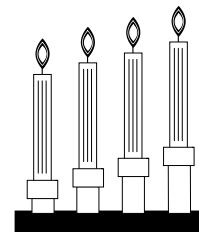
always there. Advent is less about waiting for birth and more about waiting for rebirth. It is less about frantic preparations for society's twist on Christmas and more about peaceful preparations for meeting Jesus face-to-face when He comes again for us. This Advent season is not given us to coddle us into warm and cuddly feelings for a baby about to be born in a stable at Bethlehem; it is to shock us into contemplating our own eternity, eyeballing the One who “comes down” for us, whether we are ‘alert and awake’ or not. *O Lord, we know that You are coming with all Your saints in heaven. Truly will that day dawn with a wonderful light!*

Remember the Sick of our Parish in your charity and prayers: John Kapp, Rosemary Anderson, Cathy Steiner, Marietta McQuaid, Marie Dishman, Suzanne Matunis, Jeanette Fasick, Pat Widdowson, Kay Dorundo, Mike and Kathleen Brennan, Gene Odato, Annetta Round, Marian Shatto, Joann Speis, Joni Lawrence, Don Shaeffer, and all the long-suffering in our community and at Perry Village.

Deacon Robinson's Contact Information: You may contact Deacon Robinson at his cell phone (602-6298) or through his email: dcnrobin@ptd.net.

Online Information: You can access the weekly bulletin and information at our parish website at www.stbernardsnbpa.org.

Advent Wreath Materials: As we prepare for the Advent Season in spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ, all the materials you will need for creating a home Advent Wreath will be available in the narthex on the weekend of December 2/3. Our parish will supply the oasis, ribbon, and candles. All you will need, in addition, is a waterproof container and some evergreens to complete your wreath. This is one way we can keep Christ in Christmas as we prepare to celebrate His birth.



The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Friday, December 8th. A Vigil Mass for this holy day of obligation will begin Thursday, December 7th at

7:00PM and Mass on the feast day will begin at 8:00AM.

Advent Penance Service: As we spiritually prepare during the Advent season to celebrate Christ's birth again in glory, please make the Sacrament of Penance part of your family's preparation. A penance service is scheduled for Monday, December 4th beginning at 7:00 PM.



Four additional priests will be present to help us celebrate this Sacrament of God's mercy and love.

The Mitten Tree: Each year at Christmas, our parish reaches out to our own parish family and the community and provides approximately 100 gifts for those less fortunate. Again, this year, everyone is invited to select an ornament from our Mitten Tree and fulfill a Christmas wish for the needy. For many people, these are the only gifts they will receive. The



Mitten Tree is located at the main doors of the Church. Only one gift per tag!! **Your gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 17th.**

Advent Vespers and Covered Dish Dinner: All parish families, especially our children, are cordially invited to an Advent Vesper Service and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, followed immediately with a covered dish dinner in the Parish Hall on Sunday, December 10th at 4PM. A special visitor will arrive for the children. You are requested to bring a salad, vegetable dish, or dessert. The meat course will be provided by the parish. Please sign up at the bulletin board so adequate provisions can be made. For further information, please call Erin Jenkins at 834-6946.



Christ in Christmas Cards designed by our CCD students are being offered for sale by our Knights of Columbus. The cost is \$8.00 for an assorted

package of 15 cards, and you can purchase them at the kitchenette.

Be Considerate of Others: In consideration of parishioners listening to the readings from Sacred Scripture or to the homily, or if people are kneeling during the consecration of the Mass, please wait until the congregation stands to seat yourself. Walking down the aisle while everyone is seated and listening to the readings or homily is very distracting. If you are late for Mass (*which sometimes cannot be helped*) or if you need to leave Mass for some reason, please return to your seat only when the congregation stands! This will help eliminate distractions during Mass for parishioners and the celebrant.

Use of Parish Kitchen and Facilities: In accordance with the norms of our insurance company, Catholic Mutual, a person must be 16 years old to work or enter the kitchen. If parishioners want to use the kitchen or other parish facilities, which you are always free to do, please reserve the space with the parish office and sign the insurance form at least one week before your event. If your event is parish related, no additional insurance is needed. If personal, you must secure additional insurance from your own insurance company or through Catholic Mutual in case of accidents or physical harm. Call the parish office for further information.

Church Decorating for Christmas will take place after Mass on Saturday, December 23rd at 8:00 AM. Your gracious assistance is needed to help with the Christmas trees and poinsettias that beautify our sanctuary. Please sign up at the bulletin board if you can assist us.



**“THE SOUL OF ONE WHO SERVES
GOD ALWAYS SWIMS IN JOY,
ALWAYS KEEPS HOLIDAY, AND
IS ALWAYS IN THE MOOD FOR
SINGING.”** (St. John of the Cross)

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