

The Second Sunday Of Advent

December 7, 2025

Mass Intentions

December	8	8:00 AM	Thomas Sierzega requested by Patti Gravante
		7:00 PM	People Of The Parish
December	9	8:00 AM	Donald Houseknecht requested by Jerry & Karen Kupris
December	10	8:00 AM	Don Shaeffer requested by Karen Gochenaur & Kathy Heller
December	11	8:00 AM	Father John P. Murray, CM
December	12	8:00 AM	I/O Barry & Marian McCoy requested by Deacon Robinson
December	13	5:00 PM	Mary Niedzwicki requested by Jerry & Karen Kupris
December	14	8:00 AM	People Of The Parish
		10:30 AM	Father Richard Kehoe, CM

Liturgical Ministries December 13-14

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Servers
5:00 PM	Gary Hilbolt	Yvonne DePaulis	Terry Meek
8:00 AM	Trudy Heffley	David Pray	C. Harlan, H. Krieger
10:30 AM	Julie Richelderfer	Evan Ticehurst	Robinson Family, E. Wilson

Schmidt Center Cleaning

December 14	Gabby Brandt & Jen Meek
December 21	Kim Lane, Marian McCoy

Next Sunday's Readings

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

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Christian Stewardship

Last Sunday's Collection amounted to: \$6,672.08

The Collection One Year Ago amounted to: \$4,286.00

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 7th (Advent Sunday II)

Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM

CCD Classes, 9:15-10:15AM

Monday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception)

Mass, 8:00AM

Evening Mass, 7:00PM

Tuesday, December 9th

Mass, 8:00AM

OCIA, 6:45PM

Wednesday, December 10th

Mass, 8:00AM

Prayer Group, 8:30AM

Thursday, December 11th

Mass, 8:00AM

Friday, December 12th

Mass, 8:00AM

Saturday, December 13th

Church Cleaning, 8:00 AM

Confession, 4:00-4:45PM

Mass, 5:00PM

Sunday, December 14th (Advent Sunday III)

Masses, 8:00 and 10:30AM

CCD Classes, 9:15-10:15AM

Advent Vespers/Dinner, 4:00 PM

“Come, Come, Emmanuel!”

From the Pastor's Desk:

Today's Gospel is a challenging one, inviting us to consider how much spiritual fruit we are bearing in our lives. St. John the Baptist tells us, "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," reminding us that the depth of our conversion will be measured by our fruit. Speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, John

says it is not enough to say that "We have Abraham as our father." If he

were speaking today, John might put it this way: it's not enough to say

"I'm Catholic!" or "I belong to X

Parish." Our

lives must show outward

evidence of the inward conversion we have undergone. The good news for us today is that we can pause and take stock of how well we are



bearing spiritual fruit. Pay attention to what areas might need pruning or fertilizing to ensure that when we come to the Lord's threshing floor at the end of our lives, there is a bountiful harvest he can gather into his barn.

Our first reading gives us a glimpse of God's kingdom: The Son of David will rule with wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge, judging "the poor with justice" and striking "the ruthless with the rod of his mouth." In his kingdom "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb" and yet "there shall be no harm or ruin." What a poetic way of describing the harmony and wholeness that God longs for in society! As disciples, this is our mission. We're called to work so that God's kingdom vision can become reality. As we work for peace and justice, we're doing our part in the Church's work of evangelization. As the U.S. bishops reminded us in their letter *Communities of Salt and Light*, "justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission."

In the Gospel, John the Baptist says of Jesus, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Our ability to bear spiritual fruit comes from the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Take a moment to reflect on where you see the gifts (see the first reading from Isaiah!) and fruits of the Holy Spirit in your life. How might the Spirit of God be working to increase your spiritual fruitfulness this Advent?

Remember the Sick of our Parish in your charity and prayers: Marietta McQuaid, Marie Dishman, Suzanne Matunis, Pat Widdowson, Gene Odato, Annetta Round, Shirley Scotta, Samantha Strazisar, Ellen White, Louise Kline, Emerson Zahn, Virginia Klug, Ron Scheib, Karen Peters, Jeff Galgon, and all the long-suffering in our community and at Perry Village.

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

Deacon Robinson's Contact Information: Contact Deacon Robinson at his cell phone (602-6298) or deacon.robinson@analogyapologetics.com.

Notification of Hospitalization: If you or a family member is hospitalized or if you know of

someone homebound who would like to be visited, please notify the parish office so Father Sharman can make a pastoral visit. Each month Holy Communion is brought to our homebound parishioners.

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 14th 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.

Church Cleaning for Christmas: We will gather to clean the church for the coming Christmas Season on Saturday, December 13th at 8:00AM. An hour of your time will help us welcome our guests and parishioners to our parish church for the Christmas Season. If you can assist us, please sign up at the bulletin board in the narthex.

Church Decorating for Christmas will take place on Tuesday, December 23rd at 6:00 PM.



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 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 21st.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Our nation's patronal feast day is the Immaculate



Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated this year on Monday, December 8th. In the Church calendar, it is a solemnity and a holy day of obligation. Mass in honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Monday, December 8th at

8:00AM and 7:00PM.

The Advent Spirit: The mood of the Advent season is one of somber spiritual preparation that increases in joy with each day that draws us closer to the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. So, the worldly "Christmas" commercialism that surrounds it in the Western world should be overcome as much as possible. We should strive to keep the liturgical season of Advent holy, penitential, reflective, and prayerful, always remembering, as they say, that "He is the reason for the Season." Jesus came once in the flesh; He comes to us now in spirit and power through His Word and His sacraments; He will come again in glory at the end of the age!

"Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God Who knew the way out of the grave." (G. K. Chesterton)

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Masses
Wednesday, December 24th
4:00PM and 6:00PM

Mass on Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25th
9:00 AM

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight His paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*