

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/03/2017**

**Friday December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation Latin Mass is at 7 AM, English Mass is at 6:30 PM**

Girl Scouts will meet on Friday, December 1. Please call the parish office to join!

PSR class meets on Saturday, December 9 @ 10 AM in the St. Francis room

Ruth Haggerty and Kevin Brennan will be wed on Saturday, December 9 @ 2 PM. Congratulations!

**Save the Date! CANTUALIS** will perform at St. Stephen's on Tuesday December 19 @ 7:30 pm

**PRO-LIFE CORNER: ACTIVE WAITING...**

The Second Vatican Council reflects upon the relationship between the coming of Christ and our activity to prepare for it. In the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, we read, "Far from diminishing our concern to develop this earth, the expectancy of a new earth should spur us on, for it is here that the body of a new human family grows, foreshadowing in some way the age which is to come....When we have spread on earth the fruits of our nature and our enterprise -- human dignity, brotherly communion and freedom -- according to the command of the Lord and in his Spirit, we will find them once again, cleansed this time from the stain of sin, illuminated and transfigured, when Christ presents to his Father an eternal and universal kingdom...." (#39). In other words, the spirit of Advent should naturally bolster our pro-life efforts, and the progress we make in promoting human dignity becomes the "building blocks" for the eternal kingdom.

www.priestsforlife.org

**REFLECTION:** Advent is the season of special preparation for and expectation of the coming of Christ. It encourages us to examine our lives, to reflect on our need for God to enter our lives and to prepare earnestly for, and eagerly wait the coming of Christ. Jesus illustrates the need for alertness and readiness by comparing the situation of his disciples to that of a gate-keeper in a house when the owner was out of the country. Since the gate-keeper did not know when the owner of the house would return, "in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning," he must always be ready if he did not want the owner to find him asleep. In the same way, there is no reason for Christ's followers to be fearful or worried, provided we are ready every day for Jesus' return. If we are awake and ready, the coming of the Son of Man is an event to be greeted with joy. Thus our whole life should be a preparation to meet the master. — Rev. Caroli Shao, AJ

**Ninth Annual Advent Rorate Candlelight Latin Low Mass to Honor Our Lady of Guadalupe** will be celebrated by Rev. Bede Kotlinski, OSB on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM in the morning, at Saint Stephen Catholic Church. Music will be provided by the "Cantualis" choir. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**CELEBRANT SCHEDULE**

**MASS TIME:**      **5:00 PM**                      **8:00 AM**                      **11:00 AM**

Dec. 2 & 3      Rev. C. Shao      Rev. B. Koka      Rev. Franz

Dec. 9 & 10      Rev. B. Koka      Rev. C. Shao      Rev. B. Koka

All Sundays & Holy Days at 9:30 AM: Rev. Bede Kotlinski

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Advent calendars appear now in many homes, and newfangled formats are even available on line. Children have fun opening the doors and windows keyed to the days counting down to Christmas. Behind each door is a picture related to the Christmas mystery, perhaps a scripture verse or saying, but more and more these days something totally unconnected to religious life, like a small toy or a chocolate treat, appears instead. The Advent calendar is not very old as traditions go. We can trace it back to German-speaking Christians, both Protestant and Catholic. Lutherans might have originated the custom by placing chalk marks on doors starting December 1, lighting candles every day, or placing a new religious picture on the wall each day during Advent. The oldest known hand-made calendar goes back to 1851, and the first printed ones appeared in 1908 in Germany with Bible verses behind the doors. By far the most interesting calendar is a building, the town hall (*Rathaus*) of Gengenbach in Germany's Black Forest. Every year the townspeople invite an illustrator of children's books to create twenty-four paintings or motifs for each of the twenty-four main windows of the building. Every night the people gather to see a new window opened and illuminated.

Very few commercial Advent calendars pay much attention to the core values of our liturgical calendar: the pivotal place of Sunday, the importance of Advent feasts like Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, and the clear shift in tone on December 17 from Advent longing and preparation toward imminent hope in Christ's coming. That kind of creativity is left up to you! —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**LOVE TO SHOP? BUY SOMETHING** for the Giving Tree! Mothers with at-risk pregnancies and their infants will thank you. Choose an ornament from the tree and purchase the gift described. Gift-wrap it with the ornament attached to the outside. Place your gift under the Giving Tree in church by December 17. Our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will deliver your gifts to the Cleveland Pregnancy Center. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

The first choir practice will be after the 11 am Mass on December 3. Everyone is welcome, please join us!

**November 25 & 26 Offertory Contributions**

General Collection: \$2,670.12 Children: \$3.15 (7)

Issued: 220 Returned: 86

**Utilities:** \$424.00

**Maintenance:** \$60.00

Thank you for each and every contribution!

## First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

*Please pray for the following:*

Patricia Burfield    Deacon Moises Cruz    Burley Blankenship  
Chris Rose        Sidonia & Hans Speier    Roger Gregory  
Mike Schmidt      Ann Miller Kufner        Agnes Hogan  
Sharon Sneed      Victoria Bailey            Judith Kenny  
Michalyn Blasius    Lawrence Blasius

The persons served by our Community Kindness Food Pantry and St. Vincent de Paul Society.

If you would like someone added to this prayer list, please call the Parish Secretary at 216-631-5633. Thank you.

| LITURGICAL MINISTRIES <u>December 2 &amp; 3</u> |               |               |                             |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
|   | Saturday 5 PM | Sunday 8 AM   | Sunday 11 AM                |
| Lector  | Russ Nieling  | Barb Rieth    | Robert Filippi & Dan Caboli |
| Euch.Min  | Candra Krisch | John Rieth    | Diane and Paul Beargie      |
| Acolytes:                                       | Terry Shannon | Kevin Kroesen |                             |

| LITURGICAL MINISTRIES <u>December 9 &amp; 10</u> |               |               |                             |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
|  | Saturday 5 PM | Sunday 8 AM   | Sunday 11 AM                |
| Lector   | Doris Durica  | Barb Rieth    | Robert Filippi & Dan Caboli |
| Euch.Min   | Candra Krisch | John Rieth    | Diane and Paul Beargie      |
| Acolytes   | Terry Shannon | Kevin Kroesen |                             |

### SAINTS/OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 12/03 (o) = Optional

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent  
Monday: St. John Damascene  
Wednesday: St. Nicholas  
Thursday: St. Ambrose;  
                Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
Friday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed  
                Virgin Mary  
Saturday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin  
**READ THE BIBLE WITH THE CHURCH (Daily Mass Readings)**  
Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;  
                Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;  
                Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;  
                Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;  
                Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8  
Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14;  
                Mk 1:1-8

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

In the Catholic Church, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin **Mary** is a holy day of obligation. Celebrated annually on December 8, it is also the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America. The Immaculate Conception is the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was graced by God in such a way that she was preserved from sin from the first moment of her existence.

“Immaculate” thus refers to the absence of sin or stain, and “Conception” refers to Mary’s very beginning. This belief has nothing to do with the sexual manner of Mary’s conception, nor with the way in which she later conceived her own child through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit (the virginal conception of Jesus). Rather, it **points** to God’s graciousness to this woman as she came into the world sinless or “full of grace.”

## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH SERVICES

### Saturday, December 2 Church

**9:30 AM Latin Mass** (St. Vivian, Virgin & Martyr)

† † Herbert and Dorothy Ratner

**4:15 - 4:45 PM Reconciliation** (Confessions Heard)

Pray the Holy Rosary

**5:00 PM Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent**

† Helen Ujvari

### Sunday, December 3 Church

First Sunday of Advent

**8:00 AM** The Members of this Parish

**9:00 AM Reconciliation** (Confessions Heard)

Pray the Holy Rosary

**9:30 AM Tridentine Latin Mass**

† Kevin Broderick

**11:00 AM Sunday German Mass**

† Aubrey Mielnik

† Linda Jane Marquard

### Monday, December 4 Chapel

**6:30 PM** † Nancy Sepko

### Tuesday, December 5

**7:00 AM Latin (Church)** (Feria of Advent)

† Wencel Frank

**6:30 PM (Chapel)**

† Thomas Shannon

### Wednesday, December 6 Church

**6:30 PM Latin Mass** (St. Nicholas, Bishop and Confessor)

† Daniel Kruzer

**7:00 - 8:00 PM Holy Hour**

### Thursday, December 7 Church

**6:30 PM Latin Mass** (St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor)

† Margaret Milczewski

### Friday, December 8 Church

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

**7:00 AM Latin Mass**

Intentions of the Thomas O'Donnell Family

**6:30 PM** † Mario Pekar

### Saturday, December 9 Church

**4:15 - 4:45 PM Reconciliation** (Confessions Heard)

Pray the Holy Rosary

**5:00 PM Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent**

† Helen Ujvari

### Sunday, December 10 Church

Second Sunday of Advent

**8:00 AM** The Members of this Parish

**9:00 AM Reconciliation** (Confessions Heard)

Pray the Holy Rosary

**9:30 AM Tridentine Latin Mass**

† Kristal Denise Lucas

**11:00 AM Alumni Sunday Mass**

The Living and Deceased Members of the Alumni

† † Dawn & Russell Sutherland

Call the office at 216.631.5633 to schedule a Mass.

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/03/2017**

**Friday December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation. Latin Mass is at 7 AM. English Mass is at 6:30 PM**

Girl Scouts will meet on Friday, December 8. Please call the parish office to join.

PSR class meets on Saturday, December 9 @ 10 AM in the St. Francis room

Ruth Haggerty and Kevin Brennan will be wed on Saturday, December 9 @ 2 PM. Congratulations!

**Save the Date! CANTUALIS** will perform at St. Stephen's on Tuesday December 19 @ 7:30 pm