

MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/10/2017

Ninth Annual Advent Rorate Candlelight Latin Low Mass on Tuesday December 12 @ 7 AM

Girl Scouts will meet on Friday, December 15. Please call the parish office to join!
PSR class meets on Saturday, December 16 @ 10 AM in the St. Francis room

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

PRO-LIFE CORNER: THE DIVINE CHILD'S BIRTH

Advent leads the Church to the Silent Night when God Himself is revealed as one of us. This season leads us to the joy of His birth. If God has joined His nature to ours, how can we ever allow our nature to be despised? If He has come to bring us Divine Life, and will return to take us to the skies, how can it be all right to throw people in the garbage? May His birth shed protection on all about to be born, and as we work to end abortion, may we "wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Savior, Jesus Christ." www.priestsforlife.org

REFLECTION: John the Baptist made it clear to the people that they should not consider him to be the Messiah. He was a voice crying in the desert calling people to make straight the way of the Lord. He preached repentance inviting people to stop their evil practices and embrace new life in the Baptism of Christ. John categorically refused to attract people to glorify him in his mission. He proclaimed the truth in his life and died for the truth. The mission of every Christian is like that of John the Baptist, chiefly to help people experience Christ in their own lives. This is possible if, for example, our support for the poor, care for the sick, the homeless, strangers, etc., are done not for self-interest but purely in love of God and the neighbor. To do a good job for Christ, we should allow the Spirit of the Lord to control our minds, words and actions. This will enable us to extend the Joy of Christ to many people regardless of creed, language, nationality, relations etc., like John the Baptist who was for all people. – Rev. Benjamin Koka 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 12th at 7:00 AM in the morning, at St. Stephen Catholic Church. Music will be provided by "Cantualis" choir. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. Simply write SVdP on the memo line of your check - make a difference!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus' birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you've ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is *presepio*, from the Latin word for "surround" or "hedge."

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the *presepio*, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a *Where's Waldo?* children's book. The oldest surviving *presepio* is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living *presepio*. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find *presepios* with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREE BARE? WHO CARES? We care that our generous parishioners have stripped the Giving Tree in order to help at-risk mothers and infants again this Christmas. Thank you! Now just remember to wrap those gifts with the ornament outside and put the packages under the tree in church by December 17. They will be delivered to the Cleveland Pregnancy Center by our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.
— *Mark 1:3*

CELEBRANT SCHEDULE			
MASS TIME:	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	11:00 AM
Dec. 9 & 10	Rev. B. Koka	Rev. Franz	Rev. C. Shao
Dec. 16 & 17	Rev. Franz	Rev. B. Koka	Rev. B. Koka
All Sundays & Holy Days at 9:30 AM: Rev. Bede Kotlinski			

December 2 & 3 Offertory Contributions	
General Collection:	\$4,556.12 Children: \$1.29 (5)
Issued:	220 Returned: 99
Christmas Flowers:	\$677.00
Maintenance:	\$60.00
Thank you for each and every contribution!	

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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		December 9 & 10	
	Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 8 AM	Sunday 11 AM
Lector	Doris Durica	Barb Rieth	Martin Joyce
Euch.Min	Candra Krisch	John Rieth	Diane and Paul Beargie
Acolytes:	Terry Shannon	Kevin Kroesen	Colin & Lucas Joyce

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES		December 16 & 17	
	Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 8 AM	Sunday 11 AM
Lector	Russ Nieling	Barb Rieth	Diana Lipfird
Euch.Min	Candra Krisch	John Rieth	Diane and Paul Beargie
Acolytes	Terry Shannon	Kevin Kroesen	

SAINTS/OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 12/10 (o) = Optional

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent;
International Human Rights Day

Monday: St. Damasus I

Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe;
Hanukkah begins at sunset

Wednesday: St. Lucy

Thursday: St. John of the Cross

Saturday: *Las Posadas* begins

READ THE BIBLE WITH THE CHURCH (Daily Mass Readings)

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

religious communities. "Your generous contribution for our retired sisters and enables our active ministry," writes a collection for the medications, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure members can continue the good works of their information may be found at retiredreligious.org

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH SERVICES

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 Suterland

Monday, December 11 Chapel

6:30 PM † Helen Shannon

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 AM Latin (Church) (Our Lady of Guadalupe)
† Frank Santora

6:30 PM (Chapel)

† Gregory Calver

Wednesday, December 13 Church

6:30 PM Latin Mass (St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr)
† † Myron & Patrick McDevitt

7:00 - 8:00 PM Holy Hour

Thursday, December 14 Church

6:30 PM Latin Mass (Feria of Advent)

† Raymond Jacko

Friday, December 15 Chapel

6:30 PM † Mary Bridgid Kenny

Saturday, December 16 Church

4:15 - 4:45 PM Reconciliation (Confessions Heard)
Pray the Holy Rosary

5:00 PM Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent
† Helen Ujvari

Sunday, December 17 Church

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM † † Madeline T. & Roland M. Sittler

9:00 AM Reconciliation (Confessions Heard)
Pray the Holy Rosary

9:30 AM Tridentine Latin Mass

† Chrisann Blankenship † Dawn Tucker
† Theresa Bewley Dailey

Living & Deceased Members of the Bewley Family
The Deceased Members of the Smith Family

11:00 AM Sunday Mass

† Marie Hogue

Call the office at 216.631.5633 to schedule a Mass.

We are scheduling for 2018.

The customary for a Mass is \$10.00