

MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF 12/17/2017

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

Reminder, the **Children's Christmas Mass** will be on Sunday, December 24th at 5 PM, **St. Nicholas** will be there!
Mass on December 25, **Christmas Day** will be at 9:30 AM Traditional Latin Mass and 11 AM English (Novus Ordo)
The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25.

PRO-LIFE CORNER: CHRISTMAS: GIFT OF LIFE

"The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture. At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). The source of this "great joy" is the Birth of the Saviour; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfilment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21)" (Pope John Paul II, "The Gospel of Life," n.1).
www.priestsforlife.org

REFLECTION: Today is the Third Sunday of Advent - also known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word meaning "rejoice." St. Paul says, "Rejoice always!" It's not a suggestion, like "cheer up, " or "look on the sunny side." It is, rather, a command, "Rejoice." Not only when things are going well. Not just when I am getting my way but always. "Rejoice always." St. Paul can command joy because joy requires a conscious choice. St. Paul does not tell us to wait until we have all our ducks in a row. He says, "Rejoice always." The first thing he says is to pray. Paul says, "Pray without ceasing." Even when things go wrong. The second step to joy is gratitude. Paul says, "in all circumstances give thanks." This Advent let us make an examination of conscience take a year-end inventory on our lives. Then make a good confession. Confession can lighten our conscience and a clear conscience leads to joy. To sum up: Sadness is easy. Joy is a decision. St. Paul tells us we will find joy by praying without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstance and refraining from every kind of evil. Rejoice always. Amen. – Rev. Caroli B. Shao, AJ

DON'T FORGET THAT GIVING TREE GIFT!

Gift-wrap it with the ornament attached to the outside. Place it 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 all of your donations and support of this annual event!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Last week, we looked at a form of nativity scene called a *presipio*, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the *presepio* was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double *presepio*, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.

In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a *presepio* in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows—the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at New Year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of *presepios* and crèches honoring the Nativity.
—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord. Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas. Simply write SVdP on the memo line of your check - make a difference!

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.
—Georg C. Lichtenberg

CELEBRANT SCHEDULE			
MASS TIME:	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	11:00 AM
Dec. 16 & 17	Rev. Franz	Rev. B. Koka	Rev. C. Shao
Dec. 23 & 24	Rev. B. Koka	Rev. Franz	Rev. B. Koka
All Sundays & Holy Days at 9:30 AM: Rev. Bede Kotlinski			

December 9 & 10 Offertory Contributions	
General Collection:	\$2,578.12.12 Children: \$1.03 (5)
Issued:	220 Returned: 93
Food Pantry:	\$483.00
Utilities:	\$216.00
Thank you for each and every contribution!	

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 20170**

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 16 & 17</u>			
	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:	Russ Nieling	Kevin Kroesen	

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES <u>December 23 & 24</u>			
	Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 8 AM	Sunday 11 AM
Lector	Doris Durica	Barb Rieth	Glenn Sneed
Euch.Min	Candra Krisch	John Rieth	Diane and Paul Beargie
Acolytes	Terry Shannon	Kevin Kroesen	

SAINTS/OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 12/17 (o) = Optional

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Thursday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Saturday: St. John of Kanty

READ THE BIBLE WITH THE CHURCH (Daily Mass Readings)

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
 Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;
 Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;
 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;
 Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;
 Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
 Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, better position to care for our elders," donation helps her religious provide for aging you for

donating t

Additional information may be found at

MERRY CHRISTMAS from your friends at AM 1260 The your Christmas more meaningful by joining variety of special programming on Christmas Day from EWTN celebrating season! www.am1260therock.com.

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH SERVICES

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

Monday, December 18 Chapel

6:30 PM † Carlotta Forst

Tuesday, December 19

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

† Michael Rybucki

6:30 PM (Chapel)

† Katey Kilbane

Wednesday, December 20 Church

6:30 PM Latin Mass (Ember Wednesday of Advent)

† Ed Butcher

7:00 - 8:00 PM Holy Hour

Thursday, December 21 Church

6:30 PM Latin Mass (St. Thomas, Apostle)

Special Intentions of Michael Schmidt

Friday, December 22 Chapel

6:30 PM † Grace Wyrnn

Saturday, December 23 Church

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

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

Sunday, December 24 Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Members of St. Stephen Parish

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

9:30 AM Tridentine Latin Mass (Vigil of Christmas)

† Coletta Spuhler

11:00 AM Sunday Mass

† Iva Lee Sneed

† Mary Lasby

5:00 PM Christmas Vigil Children's Mass

†† Dawn and Russell Sutherland

Call the office at 216.631.5633 to schedule a Mass.