

December 15, 2013: Second Sunday of Advent



*"This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.
Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been
none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of
heaven is greater than he." — Mt. 11:10-14*

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, Dec. 15 (Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11)

8:00 am- Alfonse, Dorothy, Evelyn & Ervin Grahmann
10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Monday, Dec. 16 (Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27)

7:00 am- Louis, Stazie & Jerome Haas
10:00 am- Daniel Strauss (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, December 17 (Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17)

7:00 am- Fred, Pauline, John Henry & Gene Schindler

Wednesday, December 18 (Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25)

7:00 am-Living & deceased members of Donald G.
Berger Family

8:05 am- Rudy & Mary Opela

Thursday, Dec. 19 (Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25)

7:00 am- Richard Wachel
10:00 am- Julius & Agnes Seitz (Stevens)

Friday, December 20 (Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38)

7:00 am- Paul P. & Mary Janak
8:05 am- Deceased members of Henry & Emilie
Schroeder Family

**Saturday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius, Priest &
Doctor of the Church (Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45)**

5:30 pm- Alvin Schneider, Jr., Jerry & Bertha Mozisek

**Sunday, December 22 (Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt
1:18-24)**

8:00 am- Robert & Rosa Helmcamp
10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Church Bulletin: Theresa Hemmi in memory of Urban Hemmi.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Charles & Dorothy Jansky in memory of Adolf, Mary, Jerome, Fred & Joe Jansky.

Vigil Light: In memory of Lucario & Cappellano Families.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$6,754; Immaculate Conception-\$1,790; Loose-\$1,073; Children-\$13.

Christmas Flowers: Donations are being accepted for the flowers during the Christmas Season. Please drop off your donation at the Rectory, or place it in an envelope with your name and drop it in the collection basket.

Perpetual Adoration will continue through Christmas and New Year's holiday. If you are unable to fulfill your normal adoration hour, please find a replacement or contact your hourly captain.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

-Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m., Family Center.
Call the Rectory in advance to register for the class.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

-Rosary & Evening Praise, 5:30 p.m., Church.
-Choir practice, 6:15-8:30 p.m., Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., K.C. Hall of Fame Room.
-Knights of Columbus & Catholic Daughters Christmas Party begins at 6:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

-CCD: K-12th Grade, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
-Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Cry Room.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

-RCIA Class, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Family Center.

Among our sick: Donna Avant, Lorene Christ, Matt Pohler, Wilbert Kalinec, Mary Bonorden, Josephine Muniz, Vivian Janak, Bobbie Lee Drozd, Donna Steffek, Glenn Rabel, Lisa Grissom, Richard Grahmann, Colin Grahmann, Emil Hermes, Georgia Schaefer, Pat Hanslik, Leroy Loth, Barbara Kubena, Kathy Davis, Yvonne Muska, Russell Janak, Elrose Ehler, Marilyn Palmquist, Doug Blumberg, Terry Mitchon Bludau, Melissa Pilat, Gregory Dornak, Andrew Pesek, Wilton Hrcirc, Frances Kallus, nursing home residents, & the homebound.

Advent Penance Services:

St. Joseph, Yoakum – Monday, December 16, 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph, Moulton – Tuesday, December 17, 5:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart – Thursday, December 19, 5:30 p.m.
(Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner does not participate.)

Confessions at Sacred Heart:

Friday, December 20: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 21: 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m.
Sunday, December 22: 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Monday, December 23: 12:00-1:00 p.m.; 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Confessions at St. Mary:

Saturday, December 21: 10:00 a.m.

Confessions at St. John:

Sunday, December 15: 10:30 a.m.

Confessions at Ascension Parish, Moravia:

Saturday, December 21: 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Retreat at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria for single Catholic women 18-50, January 11-12. For reservation, call 575-7111, email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com, or go to www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information.

Calendar Membership: **Dec. 5:** Alice & Leroy Janak-\$100; **Dec. 6:** Monica Chambers, Victoria-\$100; **Dec. 9:** Joseph Morris, Victoria-\$50; **Dec. 10:** Cole Easterling, Columbus-\$50; **Dec. 11:** Daniel Matula-\$50.

From the Desk of Msgr. John

We are celebrating the Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday – Rejoicing Sunday. We are less than two weeks away from Christmas. Hopefully, we have been preparing ourselves well spiritually for the birth of Christ. Please take advantage of our confession times, especially on Thursday when we will have several priests hearing confessions.

We will soon be working on new pictorial directories for our four parishes. Following are the dates for taking pictures:

St. Mary: January 7-11

Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia & St. John the

Baptist, St. John: January 21-26

Sacred Heart: February 4-8 & 11-15

You will be contacted as time goes on to schedule an appointment for your photographs.

CCD News ~~

Dec. 18: Regular class day.

Dec. 25 & Jan. 1: Classes dismissed.

Sacred Heart Catholic School News ~~

Dec. 17: K-2nd Grade Christmas Program, 6:30 pm, Gym

Dec. 18: H.S. Reconciliation 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Early dismissal 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 19: Early dismissal 9th-12th Gr. 12:00 noon.

Early dismissal PreK-8th Gr. 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 20: Early dismissal 12:00 noon. No extended care.

Sacred Heart Youth ~~ We thank all the kids who made the visit to spend time with the residents at Rehabilitation center. We had a great time playing games on Sunday afternoon and were spiritually uplifted. There will be no youth night in the month of December, however we invite all youth to participate in whatever way they can with the St. Nicholas ministry program. For information on how to volunteer please speak with Angela McConnell or Mr. Smolik. We ask that all continue to contemplate the need that we have for Christ in our hearts as we spiritually prepare for Christmas. God bless!

Knights of Columbus & Catholic Daughters
Christmas Party, Tuesday, December 17, K.C. Hall. Social Hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with Roast Beef Dinner served at 7:00 p.m. Catholic Daughters members are to provide snacks. Free will donations will be accepted.

SHCS Extravaganza! Saturday, February 1, 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., Knights of Columbus Hall. Cost per ticket is \$125, which covers the entry fee for two people, refreshments for the entire evening, a steak dinner with all the trimmings, and a dance with live music by “Cactus Country.” Tickets are available at SHCS Office, Sacred Heart Credit Union and the Rectory. *This would make a great Christmas gift!*

“Keep Christ in Christmas” magnets are available for purchase at the K.C. Hall. Call 798-2311.

3rd Sunday of Advent –

“The poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” Jesus caps His catalogue of miracles with this unexpected statement. In the same sentence where He reminds His listeners that He has cured the blind, the lame, the deaf, the sick, and even raised the dead, Jesus concludes by mentioning preaching the good news to the poor. How did that make the list of supernatural cures? What's so miraculous about good news?

Well, in this case, the news is that the Messiah has finally come, in the most miraculous of ways, as the incarnate Son of God conceived in the womb of a virgin. This is a message of spiritual healing: He comes to “save His people from their sins” (Mt 1:21).

The poor are not just those in physical poverty, but those whose sins have impoverished their souls. This of course applies to us. The poverty of our own sinfulness – of the alienation we create between ourselves and God – can be overcome by the forgiveness offered to us in Christ. Because of this, we have cause to rejoice!

On this Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we are encouraged to rejoice. We pause in this season of anticipation to remember that, in truth, our hopes have already been fulfilled. God has “visited and brought redemption to His people” (Lk 1:68). He is among us, saving us even now! We need not look to the past to witness Christ's astonishing acts. His work in our souls, right here and now, is miracle enough.

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ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS:

These prayers are prayed at the lighting of each candle every day during Advent. The candles are left burning during the evening meal, at prayers or at bedtime.



Third Week of Advent: Light two purple candles and one pink candle.

Let us pray. We humbly beg You, O Lord, to listen to our prayers; and by the grace of Your coming bring light into our darkened minds. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Fourth Week of Advent: Light all four candles.

Let us pray. Stir up Your might, we pray You, O Lord, and come; rescue us through Your great strength so that salvation, which has been hindered by our sins, may be hastened by the grace of Your gentle mercy. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Advent Prayer:

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the kingdom of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.