



ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

820 E. Charles Street
Muncie, IN 47305

December 23, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday—Friday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

PHONE: 765-288-9223

FAX: 765-289-9262

e-mail: stlawrencemuncieparish@dol-in.org

Website: www.stlawrencemuncie.com

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. David Hellmann, Pastor.....Ext. 11
fr.dhellmann@dol-in.org

Rev. Robert Williams, Retired;
In Residence.....Ext. 19

Dick Shirey, Business Mgr.....Ext. 22
dshirey@parish.dol-in.org

Jason Hart, Dir. of Liturgy & Music.....Ext. 15
jhart@stlawrencemuncie.com

Jeanette Carnes, Secretary.....Ext. 10
jcarnes@parish.dol-in.org

Joe Beatrice, Maintenance.....Ext. 16
jbeatrice@dol-in.org

Lois Short, Parish Bookkeeper.....Ext. 12
lshort@stlawrencemuncie.com

Marsha Clark, HR Tech.....Ext. 22
mclark@parish.dol-in.org

Sheila Henry, CCD.....765-729-1229

**Kristina Powell, Housekeeper
and Deacon's Pantry**Call Parish Office

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2801 E. 16TH ST.

PHONE: 765-282-9353

FAX: 765-282-0475

Rob Frey, Principal

r.frey@stlawrencemuncie.org

LORD'S DAY MASSES:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday: 12:15 p.m.—Spanish Mass

HOLY DAYS:

As announced in bulletin

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 3:00-4:00 p.m.

(Anytime by appointment)

BAPTISMS:

Call the Parish Office to make an appointment with the Pastor.

WEDDINGS:

Must be arranged at least six months in advance.

NEW TO ST. LAWRENCE? WANT TO REGISTER?

Register online at www.stlawrencemuncie.com; fill out a registration form on the tables in the back of church; or stop by the office.

TRINITY COMMUNITY CENTER:

St. Vincent dePaul 765-282-2842

Soup Kitchen of Muncie 765-287-8439

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Wednesday, 12 Noon. Send items to: stlawrencemuncieparish@dol-in.org.

**PARISH CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

SUN. 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
8:00 a.m.	Mass (L/D Members of George and Mary McGraw families)	CH
10:00 a.m.	Mass (✠Dean McPherson)	CH
12:15 p.m.	Spanish Mass (✠Mary Ann Nivens)	CH
MON. 24		
7:40 a.m.	Morning Prayer	CH
8:00 a.m.	Mass (✠Margie and Fred Watson) Parish Office Closed	CH
Christmas Vigil Masses:		
4:30 p.m.	Mass (St. Lawrence Parish)	CH
6:30 p.m.	Bi-lingual Mass (L/D Members of Coutinho family)	CH
11:30 p.m.	Prelude begins for Midnight Mass	
TUES. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
Midnight Mass	(Family of Ralph and Josette Mitchell)	CH
9:00 a.m.	Mass (✠Jean Greenlee)	CH
WED. 26	St. Stephen, The First Martyr	
NO MASS		
THURS. 27	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist	
NO MASS		
FRI. 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	
NO MASS		
6:00 p.m.	Wedding Rehearsal	CH
SAT. 29	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	
8:00 a.m.	Mass (✠Fr. Robert Traub)	CH
9:00 a.m.	Church Cleaning	
2:00 p.m.	Wedding: Kylie Marcus & Gavin Rich	CH
3:00 p.m.	Confessions	CH
4:30 p.m.	Mass (✠Gene Boros)	CH
SUN. 30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
8:00 a.m.	Mass (Welfare of Hilton and Sherrill Families)	CH
10:00 a.m.	Mass (St. Lawrence Parish)	CH
12:15 p.m.	Spanish Mass (✠Robert and Leona Kinnaman)	CH

Dear Parishioners, and Friends of St. Lawrence:

As we close out the Advent Season with the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the 24th until the vigil, I do not think that it is too early to say Merry and Blessed Christmas to you.

The other day someone asked which is the greatest feast day? The reply was “Easter.” So, I replied: “The two greatest feasts are Christmas and Easter. As Christmas had to happen for Easter to ever take place.” Can we ever separate the two? Both are central to our faith.

As we celebrate this Christmas, let us recognize that in God becoming a human being, He became one with us. The human story cannot be told apart from God. It is the highest point of the human story and points us to the destiny of the story of humanity: “God became human so that all humankind can share in His divinity and be one with Him as He has become one with us.

Our humanity is not and does not separate us from God. It is in our own human story that we discover God and are united to God. Our human story is the story of our relationship to God so this is the sacred story of all humankind – the context in which our life is lived growing in greater unity to God or divorcing ourself from Him. There is no other story or ultimate purpose of our life.

Also very important to our humanity is that Jesus, becoming human, reveals to us what is authentic and true to being human. He is the fulfillment of “God created all in His image and likeness, in the divine image He has created us.” In Jesus, the divine and human are not in conflict – there is a complete harmony/unity of His humanity and divinity. The more we grow into union with Christ, the more we are in union with His divinity. Our holiness is not separated from our being human. The more truly we are human (in the image of Jesus Christ), the more truly are we becoming holy and living a holy life. We cannot be a holy person and a bad human being. To be truly human means to be holy – in the divine image in which God created us

Holy and Blessed Christmas to you.

*Sincerely,
Fr. Dave*

LISTED BELOW ARE THE MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS FOR DECEMBER 29 AND 30 FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY, SEE PAGE 6 (ALSO DEC. 31, JAN. 1)

	Readers	Altar Servers	E.M.H.C.	Ushers
4:30 P.M.	Nick Flowers Jack Greiner	Ava Echelbarger Andrew Shaw	Kathy Taylor Marianne Vorhees Skip Vorhees	Jim Carnes Jeff Crabtree Steve Lansing Walter Vester
8:00 A.M.	Mitchell Dudley Rob Frey	Rachel Waechter	Steve Baule Sydney Baule Lynette Varner JoEllen Ward Tom Ward	Jerry Bricker Mary Burford Norm Gayda Jack Sharp
10:00 A.M.	Jennifer Johnson Mary Cox	Alex Cox	Bridget Cole Les Coutinho Marianne Echelbarger Myron Echelbarger Stephanie Echelbarger	John Coutinho Jeff Huff Greg Smith Mike Wallace

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).
Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).
Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).
Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember the following parishioners in your prayers this week: Beth Kaiser, Sonja Bickey, Larry Tricker, Isaiah Greiner, Dan Wade, Joe Morgan, Dale Goth, David Traub, JoAnn Brown, Miriam Walker, Charles Hiatt, Adam Pence, Alex Pence, Anthony Pence, Joseph Jenkinson, Clara Persinger, Harry Metzger, Martha Jean McIntosh, Dorothy Duncan, Linda Goth, Pete Whitcomb, Betty Wright, Beverly Dalton, Shirley Jordan, Kameron Kadinger, Joe Duncan, Shirley Phillips, John Persinger, Mary Kerrigan, Mary Bering, Dick and Lucille Kanney, Pat Daunt, John Haack, Sharon Newton, Larry Rigel, Ronald Macken, Joyce Doyle, Marie Rhorer, Bob Bering, for the family of Alex and Kim Flores, Lauren Muzzarelli, Cristina Jones, Stacey Vencel, Joshua Cole, Richard Biehl, Dick Hahn, Marsha Clark, Clifford Tweedy, Rod Clements, Ed Kratochvil, Mary Hadley, Chuck Pearson, Noah Cross, Raymond Gaff, Betty Anderson, Dixie VanCamp, Judy Cool Beaty, Stephanie Echelbarger, Pat Savage.

PRAYER CHAIN

Please call Joan McKinley 716-7073 for the St. Lawrence Church Prayer Chain request.



Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December

Evangelization: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith. God Our Father, In this season of Advent, we pray that all Christians, who are involved in the service and spread of faith, may find in their dialogue with today's culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

Pray for Priests & Seminarians

Sun.	Fr. James Bates	Liam Thompson
Mon.	Fr. Joshua Bennett	Andrew Thornton
Tues.	Fr. Robert Bernotas	Jeffery Todd, Jr.
Wed.	Dcn. Chris Bock	Elliot Zak
Thurs.	Dcn. Ed Boes	Dcn. Sean Aaron
Fri.	Fr. Gerald Borawski	Michael Block
Sat.	Fr. Michael Bower	Jordan Boone

PARISH MINISTRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Saint Lawrence Catholic School

stlawrencemuncie.org

765.282.9353

Rob Frey, Principal: r.frey@stlawrencemuncie.org

Our mission is to provide a Catholic Christ-centered education through an atmosphere of love and compassion for all students.

Saint Lawrence Catholic School wishes everyone a relaxing and joyous Christmas!

School resumes on Thursday, January 3.

Thank you for purchasing Scrip cards in December! We had a great month, selling \$6,545 in cards with an additional \$685 in Pizza King cards. This resulted in a **profit of \$1,065.41** for our school's Tuition Assistance Fund. This money is of great help to families who struggle to pay tuition, and it helps to keep children in our Catholic school. The next chance to buy Scrip will be in late January.

“They Said It”

What is the best thing about going to school at St. Lawrence? *I love gym because we get to play baseball. Bryson, grade 1*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Weekend of December 16, 2018

St. Lawrence Parish.....	\$7,494.25
School Support.....	\$ 620.00
Children’s Envelopes.....	\$ 1.00
Deacon’s Food Pantry.....	\$ 86.00
Fuel Fund	\$ 195.50

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Our next class will be on **Monday, January 7 beginning at 6:30 p.m.** The session will conclude by 8:00 p.m. and will be held in St. Agnes Hall—the building directly behind the church which faces Hackley St. Use the side/alley entrance.



Eucharistic Adorers Ministry

The next opportunity for Adoration will be on **Sunday, January 20**, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. If you are interested in joining our ministry, please contact Marilyn Sherrill at 765-396-3583 or 765-744-4086.



WOMEN’S PRAYER/ BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The next meeting of the Women’s Prayer/Bible Study Group will be **Wednesday, January 16 at 2:30 p.m.** in St. Agnes Hall. If interested in attending, please call the Parish Office.

Hearts of Hope Ministry

This Ministry meets on a regular basis—once a month in **St. Agnes Hall. Time: 3:30-5:00 p.m. or 6:30-8:00 p.m. Our next meeting will be January 22.** All are welcome who have lost a loved one or anticipate the loss of a loved one. Join us! If you have any questions, contact Deb Saxon at 765-760-4800.

FOOTPRINTS SEWING GROUP

Footprints Sewing Group will begin our new year **January 3**. We will again be meeting in **St. Agnes Hall at 9:30 a.m.** Our mission is to show God’s love for the world through gifts of handiwork created and freely given to those in need. Come join us! If you would like additional information about this ministry, contact Carmen Simmons 765-808-1917 or Jayne Waechter 765-288-8920.



Religious Education

CCD CLASSES for grades **K thru 5** do not meet again until **Sunday, January 6** from **11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in St. Agnes Hall**. If you have any questions, contact Sheila Henry at 765-729-1229.

CONFIRMATION CLASS – Our next class will be **Sunday, January 6, from 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** in St. Agnes Hall. Contact Jason for additional information at jhart@stlawrencemuncie.com.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (MSYG) for grades **6 and 7** will not meet again until **Sunday, January 6** from **5pm-6:30pm** in St. Agnes Hall. Bring a friend and come enjoy time together!

Ministers to Homebound

This ministry will meet the first Tuesday of each month instead of every other Tuesday. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 8.** (The first Tuesday is New Year's Day.) **Our meetings take place in St. Agnes Hall at 1:30 p.m.** If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, contact JoEllen Ward at 765-212-2548.

2018 FRUITFUL HARVEST UPDATE ***"Walking Together in the Light of Christ"***

We are now at \$124,000 in pledges for the 2018 campaign. Our assessed goal is \$137,176. If you have not already made your pledge, it is not too late. You can still send it in or drop in the collection basket. You can also donate online at: www.dol-in.org. Go to the "How Do I" tab and click on "Make a Gift." There you will find the Fruitful Harvest 2018 Appeal. A huge thank you to all who have made their pledge.

The Word Became Flesh for you!

Unite with Christians around the globe in the celebration of Christmas! Attend Mass in Vatican City with Pope Francis. Enjoy beautiful musical concerts from Europe and travel to sacred sites of the Holy Land – all by watching EWTN! Find EWTN in our area by visiting www.ewtn.com and enrich your faith this Advent and Christmas season!

Our Parish Mission and Vision

Mission: St. Lawrence Parish, a people of prayer and service glorifying God. **Vision:** Through prayer and service, St. Lawrence Parish deepens its love for and knowledge of God.

Reflection and Messages from Sue Wilhelm ***Adult Faith Formation Director***

I am a member of the Household of God. God is head of my household.

My prayer for each household as we ready for these days of Christmas celebration is that time is taken before the crèche. The manger scene reminds us of the humility of God, to come among us, and be born in utter lowliness. It matters not if our home is rich or poor, what matters is that we welcome the Divine presence, recognizing the gift we are given in Jesus. "The Word was made flesh and made His dwelling among us." we read in the prologue of John's Gospel. There is no greater gift. Perhaps you can recite as a family the last stanza of a poem by Christina Rossetti:

"What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him?
Give my heart."

Taize Prayer

Mark your calendars for **7:30pm on the 3rd Friday, January 18th**. Taize prayer is based on the Scriptures with short phrases sung repetitiously to aid one in meditation. If you are looking for an opportunity to quiet the noise, and attend God's invitation to deepening relationship, please join us. This service will last about an hour.

Contemplative Prayer Group

If you would like to learn ways to deepen in your own prayer practice, here is an opportunity. **The fourth Saturday of each month beginning January 26th** this prayer group will meet at St. Agnes Hall after the 8:00am Mass. Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer and studying the spiritual giants who have written about prayer will be our focus. (Coffee and a light bite will be provided.)



Please pray for those serving our country in the military – especially:

Davis Brown, William Cox, Jared Hargis, Kyle Jones, Kyle & Leandra Long, Jon Powell, Stephen Smith, Kyle Stewart, Christopher Tolmachoff, and Matt Johns.



In case of an emergency, an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) is located in the vestibule of the church.

**Ministry Assignments for
December 24 and 25**

Monday, December 24 – Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m.:

1st Reader: Mike Brand
 2nd Reader: Rob Frey
 Altar Servers: 2 Volunteers Needed
 EMHC: Steve Baule
 Sydney Baule
 Jeanette Carnes
 Jim Carnes
 Mike Dransfield
 Mary Ann Kratochvil
 Cindy Spears
 2 Volunteers needed

Monday, December 24

Bi-lingual Vigil Mass at 6:30 p.m.

1st Reader: Volunteer Needed
 2nd Reader: Volunteer Needed
 Altar Servers: 2 Volunteers Needed
 EMHC: 3 Volunteers Needed

Midnight Mass – December 25

1st Reader: Deborah Miller
 2nd Reader: Mitchell Dudley
 Altar Servers: 2 Volunteers Needed
 EMHC: Deb Saxon
 Lynette Varner
 7 Volunteers Needed

Christmas Day – 9:00 a.m. Mass

1st Reader: Les Coutinho
 2nd Reader: Kathy Taylor
 Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed
 EMHC: Nancy Hansan
 Della Gregory
 1 Volunteer Needed

*Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy
Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)*

December 31 –Candlelight Vigil Mass at 4:30pm:

1st Reader: Mitchell Dudley
 2nd Reader: Lucia Hart
 Altar Servers: Need 2
 EMHC: Mike Dransfield
 Nancy Hansan
 Kathy Taylor
 Need 2 volunteers

January 1 – 9:00 a.m. Mass

Reader: Lynette Varner
 Altar Servers: Need 1
 EMHC: Need 3

**150th Anniversary
St. Lawrence Church**

Our “kick-off” event will be a
Candlelight Mass at 4:30 p.m. on December 31
 This is the Vigil Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation.
 More details will follow in future bulletins.

An event is being planned for each month during the
 entire year. Our big events will be:

February 13 – Frank Runyeon will be back to *THE*
 present the Gospel of Luke.

February 15 – St. Lawrence School-Mystery Dinner

June 15 – Gala – (dinner and band) at Cornerstone.
 Tickets will be sold for this event.

August 10 – 4:30 p.m. Mass – Bishop Doherty will
 be here to celebrate Mass with us and there will be a
 dinner following at the K of C Hall.



ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

150TH ANNIVERSARY KEEPSAKE

Beautiful High-End Brass Ornament
 of St. Lawrence Church, created by the
 Charleston Mint. If you are interested in
 purchasing an ornament or two, they are available in the
 Parish Office. Call 288-9223 to reserve your ornament!

“SAVE THE DATE”

6TH Annual Mystery Dinner

Benefitting St. Lawrence School

Masquerade Murder

February 15, 2019 – K of C Hall – 5:30 p.m.

\$45 Individual tickets; \$300 Table of 8

Community Event

Muncie Fire Department

Annual “Tiny” Adams Memorial

#1 Fire Station

421 E. Jackson St.

Christmas Eve, December 24

11am-5pm

See Santa on a fire truck; free pictures with Santa;

drawings throughout the day for

25-30 new bicycles.



Leaving for the winter? Please consider online
 giving. Go to www.osvonlinegiving.com/4289 or call
 Dick Shirey at 765-288-9223, Ext. 22. He will help
 you work through the process in no time.

Stewardship Bulletin Reflection 12-23-18

Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so, as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life. Today's Gospel passage from Luke describes Mary's actions immediately after her "yes" to the angel Gabriel's message. "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth." Mary immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship – Hospitality and Service.

What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service brings to Elizabeth.

Our Blessed Mother's example of a stewardship way of life is one that we, her children, can follow in our own lives today. With all the gifts God gives us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today.

We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.

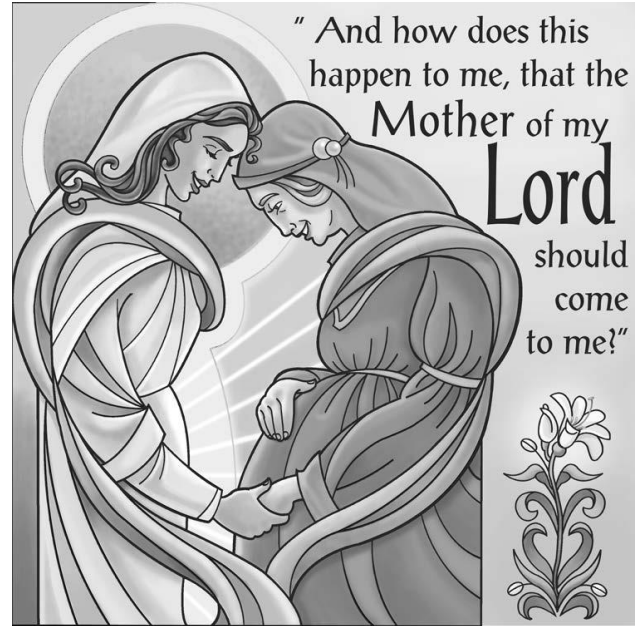
MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018**

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

— Luke 1:42

