

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH **THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**

Sunday, December 3rd

K of C Breakfast—8:30 to 11:00 AM (2)
Children's Liturgy of the Word—8:15 AM Mass
Faith Formation Prayer Service—10:15 AM (1)

Healing Mass—3:00 PM

High School "GIFT" Program—5:45 PM (3)
Parent meeting—7:15 PM

Monday, December 4th

Eucharistic Adoration with Confessions —5 to 8 PM

Tuesday, December 5th

Gospel Faith Sharing—11:30 AM (3)
Pastoral Council Meeting—7:15 PM (3)

Thursday, December 7th

Ladies of Charity Meeting—6:30 PM (2)

Friday, December 8th

Holy Day of Obligation—Immaculate Conception
Masses—6:00 and 8:00 AM, 7:30 PM

Saturday & Sunday, December 9th & 10th

Return Giving Tree Gifts

Legend

Church (1) Padua Hall (2)
Religious Education (3) Ewald Center (4)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF **DECEMBER 4TH—10TH**

Monday: Michael Horstkamp
r/b Jean Elliott

Tuesday: Teddy Cox (L)
r/b Weilmuenster Family

Wednesday: Irene Divver
r/b Irene O'Brien

Thursday: Sam Bradley, Sr. (birthday)
r/b The Family

Friday: Thomas J. Garrett
r/b Gracie Rymer
Concetta Schmitz (L)
r/b Weilmuenster Family
Vaughn Evans (L)
r/b Cunningham Family

Saturday: Lou Decolator
r/b Chet & Mickey Lord
Ernest Arhar
r/b Judy Foist & Shirley Kallal

Sunday: Parishioners
Lucille Dellosa
r/b Dellosa/Moltz Families

"AND I WILL GIVE THEM REST"

Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Buckley, Jr., Frances Francis, and all deceased members and their families.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please pray for all members of our parish serving our country both here and overseas.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

A Coming Christ in Advent

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony's,

This Sunday we begin a new Church year. The Holy season of Advent is upon us. There are four liturgical seasons in the Church. Like Winter, Autumn, Spring and Summer, the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time cause us to ponder different aspects of life.

Years ago, I was sent to the beautiful commonwealth of Kentucky to engage in the study of philosophy. One of the courses we took was called the Transcendental, which essentially meant that invisible principals together held all created things. The four things that derive their existence from transcendentalism are one's goodness, beauty and truth. While all things that exist participate in this philosophical schema, God is the very fullness of all these things. In Him is existence itself. That life that we have is but a participation in the life that God himself, through our parents gave to us.

Advent is a season of preparation. The Lord Jesus came in the fullness of time; but He did not come without the necessary preparation planned out by the Heavenly Father. The liturgical season of Advent gives you and I a chance to relive that beautiful time of preparation. In this season we will hear the powerful message of the prophets and the "pre-cursor" to Jesus, who is John the Baptist. We are both challenged and comforted by their messages. The season of Advent is very short this year. We really don't get a full fourth week, so we need to make the most of every opportunity. There are various pieces of great literature to help us prepare. One of the books I use personally is the one by Rev. Raymond Brown called, "A Coming Christ in Advent." In this book Fr. Brown helps us understand the meaning of the first chapters of St. Matthew's gospel and that of St. Luke. I would highly recommend this short and to the point book of seventy pages. Another is from Fr. Benedict Groeschel called, "Meditations on the Incarnation." These are just a couple. Then, of course you can read the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah, I have called the Christmas prophet because we hear more from this prophet than all the others in the Advent/Christmas season.

So, whatever your choice may be, do something specific for the preparation your heart needs to make this Advent fruitful. We know that the people in the consumer industry place an enormous importance on their sales towards the end of the year. So, the more should we, the Christian faithful, prepare diligently for the coming of our Savior. I will be writing throughout the whole of Advent on various themes, so even if you use this bulletin article as a spiritual means to grow, at least it's something. I know I don't write as well as the "professionals", but it's a slice of my own heart that I share. I hope you have a very fruitful Advent and Christmas season.

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

FAITH FORMATION AND "GIFT"

Check out the Advent booklet and materials,
"Prepare Your Hearts & Homes for Jesus"

Reminder: Keep Christ in Christmas posters
are due December 10th.

"GIFT"

The high school "GIFT" program will be meeting this Sunday, December 3rd, at 5:45 in the Religious Education Building. Parent meeting is at 7:15. Snacks and drinks to share are always welcome.

PARISH ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

December 12th, 7:00 PM

Additional Priests Available for Confessions

ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES DURING ADVENT

December 4th, 5 to 8 PM— (w/ Eucharistic Adoration)

December 18th, 5 to 8 PM—(w/ Eucharistic Adoration)

December 23rd, 11 to 12 PM and 3 to 5 PM

PARISH TREE OF LIFE

The tree will be decorated next week with special ornaments in memory of the deceased buried by clergy of St. Anthony's during 2017. The 9:00 AM Mass on Saturday, December 16th will be offered for these people and ornaments can be taken home after Mass. We will be happy to also provide ornaments for parishioners who have parents or siblings who have passed away this year. If you would like an additional ornament please contact Sister Ann at 443-646-5724 by December 11th.

GIVING TREE

Thank you to parishioners who are participating in our annual Giving Tree project and took envelopes requesting gifts for the needy. The guidelines were revised and clients were asked to list gifts under \$50.00. Gifts can be returned the weekends of December 9 & 10 and 16 & 17.

PARISH THEME CARDS

The Spiritual Life Committee will be handing out December "Called to Relationship with Jesus" cards after all Masses this weekend. Extras will be available in the back of the church throughout the month.

HAVE YOUR "BEST ADVENT EVER"

Be Bold, Be Catholic

Rediscover the joy in the season with **Best Advent Ever!** A free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas with daily short inspirational videos, practical tips and real-life stories of hope. Sign up at:

DynamicCatholic.com/advent

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vicki Baxter, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Marlene Bradshaw, Ralph Carrello, Bill Carroll, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Luke Engler, Jo Finch, Anthony Fowler, Taylan Fowler, Louise Floren, John P. Flynn, Noah Christopher Haas, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Roza Ivanac, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, Rick Kollinger, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Mark Mann, Walter Matziet, Kelly McCarley, Jennifer Melanab, Margie Edwards Morgan, Joanne Nielsen, Mary Ogle, William Owens, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Ray Pyles, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Joel Rivera, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Geri Rosen, Kristy Salek, Bunny Tate, Joseph Tayman, Betty Theurer, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Shannon Wink, Richard Walton.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10TH, 2017

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Isaiah emphasizes that from the desert to the mountains, all people must prepare for "the glory of the Lord to be revealed." Rather than looking only at God's power, Isaiah focuses on God's kindness, comparing it to a shepherd who feeds and cares for his flock.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

For those who are impatient for the Second Coming, Peter explains that time is different to God than to people. He reminds them that they should be grateful for the extra time to prepare, and concentrate on striving to become all that God would want them to be.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

In this passage, John the Baptist stressed the importance of the coming of the Messiah. He acknowledged that he was only the messenger, and unfit to "stoop and untie his sandal straps." John urged them to prepare for one far holier than he, who would walk among them.

GOSPEL QUESTION

What needs to be awakened in you as a disciple to see the awesome deeds of God?

CONTRIBUTIONS

As always, we are most grateful for your generous contributions to our parish.

November 19th—\$7,775.50

November 26th—\$7,705.11

CARDINAL HICKEY OPEN HOUSE

January 28th, from 12:30 to 2 PM, Cardinal Hickey Academy will hold their open house! Get more information on how to start a faith based education for your children. We are now enrolling Pre K—8th grades. If you can't wait until then, visit our website at www.cardinalhickeyacademy.org or email us at development@cardinalhickeyacademy.org.