

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

- 9:00 am Rosary Altar Society
11:00 am Victor F. Guethlein
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009

Ambrose, bishop, doctor of the church

- 8:00 am Dorothy Walters
9:00 am Robert (Bob) Bedel

Vigil of the Immaculate Conception

- 3:00 pm Margaret Ducheny

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM

- 8:00 am Larry Weinheimer
11:00 pm Noelle Loch – Special Intention
7:00 pm Joseph Freel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009

Juan Diego, hermit

- 8:00 am Bishop Fulton J. Sheen
9:00 am Jacob Wittich

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

- 8:00 am Janet Kramer & family
9:00 am Ann Schehl-Manegold
3pm – 5pm **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009

- 8:00 am Bill Mueller
9:00 am Lucille Gloystein

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

- 8:00 am Joyce Duffy
3 – 4 pm CONFESSIONS
4:30 pm Francis Maltry

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

- 9:00 am James Geiger
11:00 am Carolyn Sunderhaus
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

RIVERVIEW RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Martha Krumpelbeck, Robert Krupp, Sr.

THREE RIVERS NURSING CENTER:

Anna Mae Jostworth, Thelma Ruhstaller

WESTERN HILLS RETIREMENT VILLAGE:

Mary Catherine Dittrich, Donald Jostworth

PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND
SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

GILLIGAN-SEIFKE-GRUETER

Opposite St. Lawrence Church

921-0302

Harry J. Gilligan III - Marcus Glass - Peter J. Gilligan

SERVERS

December 12/13

- 4:30 pm C Sunderman, S Sunderman
9:00 am S Perry, J Perry
11:00 am C Ernst, B Browning
7:00 pm J Blake, S Blake

LECTORS

December 12/13

- 4:30 pm G Rogers
9:00 am B Kessling
11:00 am C Lageman
7:00 pm S Aufermann

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 12/13

- 4:30 pm *C Hornback*, E Hornback
K Hornback, N Rogers
9:00 am *L Kessling*, J Gonnella
K Brannon, J Brannon
11:00 am *M Guethlein*, R Weinheimer
S Hines, M Wagner
7:00 pm *C Balz*, J Cassiere
M Thompson, S Hoffman

*Please be sure to stop in the sacristy before Mass to let Father know you are present. Thank you!

OFFERING

NOVEMBER 29, 2009

\$7,018.55

Thank You For Your Generosity

Vocation View: John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord. Promote the gospel in our community. (Luke 3:1-6)

Thought for the Day: Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered, and is a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectations.

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Erwin Bertke.



THE LAURENTIAN

Bingo

Sunday workers: please report at 11:30 AM

Tuesday workers: please report at 5:30 PM

Parents of the students listed below are asked to work the following Bingo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, T Dao, R Fricke, J Handorf, A Harrison

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8: S McEntush, J Phelps, C Miller, C Moore

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: A Moorman, S Perry, J Trester, A Trimpe, K Kilburn

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15: J Smith, D Stein, E Williams, J Wolf

from the Pastor's Desk

Father Bertke As many of you know, Father Bertke died on Tuesday, December 1st The Archbishop had his funeral here on Friday, December 4th. Father Bertke was a son of the parish. He grew up on Beech Avenue. He went to grade school here and was in Boy Scouts Troop 302 here at St Lawrence. He was ordained 66 years ago and served the Archdiocese of Cincinnati exceedingly well. I can't say enough of how much he meant to me and how I will miss him. I'm sure you will miss him, too! Together, let's keep him in our prayers.

Rest in Peace

Advent: I have for you some daily meditation Advent prayer books. They are available in the back of Church. An excellent help in your preparation for Christmas is to make a good confession and spend some time in **Eucharistic Adoration**. Eucharistic Adoration is Thursdays from 3-5pm during which I hear confessions from about 3:30-4pm.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Please see the schedule of Masses.

Healthcare Legislation :Information regarding the issues surrounding the current Healthcare debate can be accessed from our St. Lawrence website at www.stlawrenceparish.org

Boy Scout Troop 302 will be selling Christmas trees here at St. Lawrence, this weekend, Saturday, December 5th and Sunday, December 6th. The cost will be \$20 per tree. If you have a request for a certain height, see Sue Aufermann in the back of church after Mass. For more information call Ned Hand at 919-4846.

Mark your Calendars: The second annual St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus New Year's Eve Dance will be held on December 31st in St. Lawrence Parish Center from 8pm until 1am. The evening includes setups, beer (BYOB), dinner from the Taste of Class, sounds from Jerry Iles, hats, noisemakers and a champagne toast. Cost for the evening: \$35/per person or \$65/per couple. Pre-sale tickets only \$55 if purchased before December 13th. Reservations can be made by calling Jay or Karen Brannon at 921-8791 or Skip or Melissa Jones at 678-0033.

Learn more about your Catholic Faith: While driving your car tune your radio to 740AM, Sacred Heart Radio. Listen to call-in and talk shows that examine your faith. Hear the rosary and daily Mass! Also, visit the following website www.sacredheartradio.com.
Sacred Heart Radio, 740 AM.



Natural Family Planning (NFP): Safe, healthy, morally right, and effective for both achieving and postponing pregnancy – that's the natural family planning method taught by NFP International. For more information or for registration call Sheila or John Kippley at 661-7396

Advent Lessons & Carols will be held on Monday, December 7th at 7:30pm in the Chapel of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, 6616 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati. The annual service includes the reading of seven scriptures Lessons with Advent Carols sung by the Athenaeum Chorale & the Mount St. Mary's Seminary Schola Cantorum. Admission is free. The doors to the chapel will open at 7pm.

Movie: The new movie, *The 13th Day*, which depicts the events at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, will be showing at the Parkland Theater in Sayler Park on Monday, December 7th in anticipation of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Tickets are \$2. For directions call 600-7900 or visit www.parklandtheatre.com

Retirement Fund for the Religious: Religious face rising costs. Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually, with skilled nursing care reaching nearly \$55,000 per person annually. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Your tax-deductible donation supports the day-to-day care of thousands of elderly women and men religious. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's second collection.

Marriage Encounter Weekend! The perfect gift for your spouse! Make time for your relationship! You should take a weekend to enjoy some time with your spouse at a beautiful retreat center! Schedule some time to be together and take your good marriage and make it GREAT with a Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Marriage Encounter weekends in this area are February 12-14, 2010 at the Comfort Inn in Erlanger, Ky. and March 19-21, 2010 at the Dayton Airport Hotel. This is a great opportunity for you and your spouse to enjoy the serenity of a retreat center while growing closer to each other and God. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged to avoid the waiting list. For more details or reservations call Keith or Lori Maurmeier at 1-800-547-1251 Code 00 or on the web at www.esharing.org.



Cinderella: A Holiday treat for the whole family. The play *Cinderella* will be performed at the Dunham Recreation Center Gym (near the new ball field) on December 11th at 7:00pm, and December 12th & 13th at 2:00pm. For more information call the Sunset Players at 588-4988.

College of Mount St. Joseph: The College of Mount St. Joseph will be hosting a *Winter Baseball Camp* on December 28th, 29th, and 30th for boys' ages 8-14. For more information call Chuck Murray, Head Baseball Coach at 244-4402.



SCHOOL NEWS

"CHARGE IT" and benefit St. Lawrence School!

With the holiday shopping season approaching please remember to help our school by using your Target REDcard whenever possible. When using your REDcard, Target donates up to 1% of parent, teacher and other school supporter's purchases to St. Lawrence School. To enroll in the program call 1-800-316-6142 or go to www.Target.com/tcoe.

Elder High School: The Honors Program at Elder High School is currently accepting applications from young men who are in the 8th grade and are considering Elder. Students who are leaders in the grade schools and are willing to accept new challenges are encouraged to apply. Acceptance to the program includes the highest merit scholarship awarded by Elder High School. Applications are available online at www.elderhs.org and must be submitted by December 11th. For more information contact Patrick Tucker or Maureen Regan at 921-3744.

Seton -Elder Performing Arts Series Christmas Concert is December 12th at 8:00pm and December 13th at 3:00pm. The concert features performances by the Seton and Elder vocal and instrumental groups. Tickets are available at www.setoncincinnati.org or call at 471-2600 ext.132.

Seton-Elder Drama Club presents a holiday double feature: CSI-Christmas Scene Investigators and Merry Christmas Charlie Brown on Saturday, December 19th. The fun begins at 6:30pm in the Commons with the Cast Meet and Greet followed by the performance at 7:30pm in the Seton Performance Theater. All children and grade school students are admitted free. Adult tickets are available at the door for \$6.

Elder High School has an opening for a temporary maintenance/custodian person. Multiple duties include light bulb replacement, filter changes, monthly emergency system checks, and general grounds care including snow removal. Applicants should be proficient with basic hand tools, able to lift 75 pounds, and able to work outside during all weather conditions. If interested please complete an application available at www.elderhs.org/ContactUs/tabid/95/Default.aspx. Applications should be mailed to the school, 3900 Vincent Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45205, Attention: Human Resources or emailed to hrdept@elderhs.org. No phone calls please.

The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

During the time of Advent, many people have an Advent wreath in their homes. While the decorations are certainly festive and add to the holiday spirit, there is also much symbolism in the wreath that people may not recognize.

First, the wreath is always in the form of a circle. Since a circle has no beginning and no end, it is a symbol for God, Who is eternal and without beginning or end.

The Advent wreath is always made from evergreens. These branches, as the name indicates, are "ever green" -- ever alive. They are symbolic of Christ, Who died, but Who is alive, never to die again. The evergreen branches also symbolize our soul's immortality. Christ came into the world to give us never-ending life. Entwined around the circle of evergreens are red holly berries. They look like large red drops of blood, and symbolize the blood shed by Christ for mankind. They remind us that Christ came into this world to die for us and redeem us. It is through the shedding of His blood that we have eternal life.

The wreath has four candles, three violet ones and one rose colored candle. These symbolize the four weeks of the Advent season, our time of preparation for Christmas. Each day, the Liturgy tells us of the Hebrew expectation of the Messiah in the Old Testament reading, and the Gospels begin to introduce us to the characters of the Christmas story. At the beginning of Advent a single candle is lit, but each week another candle is lit. As the light from the wreath increases each week as more candles are lit, the wreath reminds us that the birth of the Light of the World is coming closer. So may our souls grow brighter in their love for, and anticipation of, the Christ Child as this season of grace continues.

The color of the four candles also has significance. The violet candles have a penitential appearance, much as we find violet in the church during the penitential season of Lent. The violet is to remind us that Advent is a season of preparation in which we should be spiritually preparing our souls to receive Christ on Christmas. The single rose-colored candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent,

which is called "Gaudete" Sunday. "Gaudete" is the Latin word for "rejoice", and symbolizes an element of rejoicing in the midst of our penitential preparation, for the joy of Christmas is almost here. Mixing violet with white makes the rose color. It is almost as if the joy we celebrate at Christmas (symbolized by bright white) cannot contain itself during this penitential season (violet) and burst forth a bit into the Advent season. On Christmas, the four candles are replaced with white ones -- our time of preparation is over and we enter a time of great joy.

The Advent wreath should be placed in a prominent place in our church. Many families have a smaller Advent wreath in their homes. This both reminds families of the wreath in their church and serves as a reminder of their link to the parish church. The candles are lit at the main meal of the day, with the new candle lit preferably at the main meal on Sunday, the first day of the new week. Joining around the table for a meal should remind the family of the table of the Lord around which they gather each week to celebrate the Eucharist -- the meal of the Lord that nourishes our soul.

So, the next time you see or display an Advent wreath, don't just think of it as a nice decoration. Remember all the symbolism it has for us as it reminds us of the need for spiritual preparation to fully share in the great joy of the birth of Christ, the Son of God Who gave His life for us so that we might have eternal life.

