

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2010

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2010

- 9:00 am Charles Iles
11:00 am Marcella Beckman
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2010

- 8:00 am Grace Keller
9:00 am Mimi Wittich

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2010

ANDREW, APOSTLE

- 8:00 am David Wahoff
9:00 am Margaret Cornish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2010

- 8:00 am Aaron Loch-Special Intention
9:00 am Buck Reilly

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010

- 8:00 am Virginia Panero
9:00 am Mark Scahill
3pm – 5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010

Francis Xavier, priest

- 8:00 am Rosella Robinson
9:00 am Frank Nesselhuf

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2010

- 8:00 am Corazon Lozada
3 – 4 pm CONFESSIONS
4:30 pm Rob Krupp, Sr. + Rob Krupp, Jr.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2010

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

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

THREE RIVERS NURSING CENTER:

Thelma Ruhstaller

WESTERN HILLS RETIREMENT VILLAGE:

Mary Catherine Dittrich, Donald Jostworth

ARCHBISHOP LEIBOLD HOME:

Irma Hornback

PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND
SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

SCHROER EYE CENTER

5314 Delhi Road

451-0010

Kenneth J. Schroer, O. D.

PLEASE NOTIFY US AT THE RECTORY

when a family member is hospitalized or homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion and/or the Sacrament of Penance.

SERVERS

December 4/5

- 4:30 pm K Hoffman, R Hoffman
9:00 am D Damico, M Damico
11:00 am P Phan, T Dao
7:00 pm A Vaughn, S Brunner

LECTORS

December 4/5

- 4:30 pm C Manegold
9:00 am J Gonnella
11:00 am R Becker
7:00 pm A Backs

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 4/5

- 4:30 pm L Kreimer, E Hornback,
J Mueller, R Strack
9:00 am M Bedel, L Kessling,
B Kessling, T Waters
11:00 am J Mauntel, H Beischel
S Hines, M Redrow
7:00 pm C Balz, J Cassiere
S Hoffman, M Thompson

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

OFFERING

(Collection Amounts for November 21 not available at time of printing)

Thank You For Your Generosity

Vocation View: Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord! In God's House is found true joy, blessings are those called to ministering His temple. (Psalm 122)

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 a joyful season.



The Laurentian

Bingo

Sunday workers: please report at 11:30

Tuesday workers: please report at 5:30

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28: C Moore, A Moorman, S Perry, P Puong Phan

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30: J Phelps, A Smith, J Smith, D Stein

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5: D Byrd, A Griffin, T Jones

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7: J McAfee, J Rinear, C Schlachter

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is safe, healthy, morally right, and effective for both achieving and postponing pregnancy – that is the natural family planning method taught by NFP International. We are pleased to recommend the NFP course. For more information and registration call Sheila or John Kippley at 661-7396.

Bayley Place is having their Christmas Bazaar on Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4 from 9:00am-4:00pm. Are you interested in starting your Christmas shopping early? Then come to the Bayley Place Bazaar at 990 Bayley Place Drive. This event is FREE and open to the public.

St. Lawrence Two and Out Cornhole Tournament and Games will be on Saturday, January 15, 2011, from 5:30pm to 12am. Proceeds are to benefit the Fifth Grade Trip to YMCA Educational Camp. “**Bring Your Own Partner**” bracket cost \$35 (pre-registered) per team. “**Mixed Couples**” bracket cost \$25 (pre-registered) per team. Monte Carlo activities, food and drinks are also available. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize money awarded for each bracket. Court sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available for only \$30. Contact Chris & Gina Hornback at 471-5157 to register your team. (Registration, at the door, prior to event, for \$45 and \$35 if brackets permit.)

from the Pastor's Desk

Advent: 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.

Also, to help you prepare well for Christmas, there are some booklets in the back of church for you with daily meditations for each day of Advent.

Please, remember that the Solemnity of the Immaculate of Conception on Wednesday, December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are: Tuesday, December 7, 3pm and Wednesday, December 8, 8 and 11am and 7pm.

Thank You! Again, I thank you for your continued generosity toward the appeal for the St. Lawrence School's Education Fund. Last Sunday, we received an additional \$2,055.76 for the Education Fund. That brings the total to 62,839.02.

After this weekend, we will suspend the collection for the Education Fund for a while. When the Finance Council is able to review how we are doing, we then will make the decision to restart, if necessary. Your generosity has been outstanding! **THANK YOU!!!**

St. Lawrence Boy Scout Troop 302 is selling laser engraved wooden Christmas tree ornaments. Each ornaments cost \$5 each or 4 for \$15. They are unique with our parish name. 100% of the profits will help send boys to camp. Thank you for your support! If you would like to order any ornaments please call Bill Aufermann, Troop 302 Scoutmaster at 921-8208.

Diocesan Publications: Jim Mazza, representing *Diocesan Publications* (our Bulletin Publisher), will be at the parish soon. He will be renewing present advertisements and seeking new ones. If interested, please call the parish office at 921-0328. We feel this is an excellent service and that the sponsors get good coverage with their ads. **THANKS TO YOU and DIOCESAN PUBLICATIONS**, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

Girls Basketball Sign-Ups: Sign-ups for girls' basketball will be held on the following dates: Sunday, November 21, from 1:30pm – 4:00pm. Monday, November 22, from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Monday, November 29, from 7:30pm – 8:30pm. Thursday, December 2, from 5:30pm – 7:00pm. All sign-ups will be in the gym. Please sign-up early, as teams must be registered in early December. Any questions please call Amy Hines at 728-9017.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: 2011 is just around the corner! Schedule time NOW for your relationship! Take a good marriage and make it GREAT with a Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Marriage Encounter weekends in this area are February 11-13, 2011 and March 18-20, 2011. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged to avoid the waiting list. For more details or reservations call Keith & Lori Maurmeier at 1-800-547-1251 Code 00.



Retrouvaille: is endorsed by Family Life, Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Has your marriage grown cold, distant, unloving or uncaring? Then please consider Retrouvaille – a program designed to help heal and renew marriages. Retrouvaille is for marriages that have lost some of their spark, for marriages on the edge of separation or divorce. The next program begins on January 14, 15, & 16, 2011. For more information call 513-793-6777. The internet address is www.retrouvaille.org. Other weekends and locations are available – call for details.



ST. LAWRENCE MONTHLY SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, is the date of our next monthly Social. We will hold our Christmas Social and it will be very special! Our "Regular" members chose the following menu for the dinner:

**FRIED CHICKEN
AU GRATIN POTATOES
SUCCOTASH
TOSSED SALAD/DRESSINGS
ROLLS/BUTTER
CHRISTMAS DESSERT
COFFEE/ICED TEA/SOFT DRINKS**

The dinner is always served at **NOON** and is then followed by bingo and/or cards games, instant, share-the-pot, door prizes and a lovely raffle. This will be a Christmas raffle! We will honor all who will be celebrating a December birthday with a special treat.

All of our "Regular" members will receive telephone calls from the "Cincinnati Belles" to verify that you will be attending our December Social. Those who do not come regularly to our Socials are surely welcome to come and we would be happy to have you. It is only necessary to call to make a dinner reservation. All telephone calls for dinner counts need to be made to Sister Helen Julia at **244-7376 NO LATER THAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29th**, so that an accurate dinner count can be given to our caterer, A Taste of Class.

Wear all of your Christmas finery and join us for our Social on Wednesday, December 1st! Santa will be here and I am certain that he will have a treat for all who attend. Be sure to come!

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center: Honor Our Lady's request for First Saturday devotion by attending the Rosary and Holy Mass at 9am on the first Saturday of each month at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, 5440 Moeller Ave., Norwood, Ohio. Afterwards join us for a faith sharing breakfast, with keynote speaker Dori Cambuzzi – sponsored by the men and women of Christ through Mary.

The Laurentian

The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

During the time of Advent, many people have an Advent wreath in their homes. While these 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 of 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 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 one – 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 the main meal of the day, with the new candle lit preferably at the main meal on Sunday, the first day of the 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 Eucharistic – 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.

