

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2010

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010

(Our Lady of Guadalupe)

- 9:00 am Frank Maltry
11:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Jerome James & Son
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

Lucy, virgin, martyr

- 8:00 am Robert Mills
9:00 am Dan Liming-Special Intention

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010

John of the Cross, priest, doctor of the church

- 8:00 am Robert Hoffman
9:00 am Jerry Schwager

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010

- 8:00 am Mary Nastold-Special Intention
9:00 am Bob Rinear

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010

- 8:00 am Special Intentions
9:00 am Julia and William Hahn
3pm – 5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2010

- 8:00 am Deacon George & Mil Kelly
9:00 am Paul McVay

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2010

- 8:00 am Tina Eckstein-Meyer
3 – 4 pm CONFESSIONS
4:30 pm Jack Voegel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010

- 9:00 am Jeannette & Donald Rottinghaus
11:00 am Jack Voegel
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

THREE RIVERS NURSING HOME:

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!

ADCO Heating & Air Conditioning
471-3390
24-Hour Emergency Service
3414 Glenway Avenue

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 18/19

- 4:30 pm N Hornback, B Hornback
9:00 am S Perry, J Perry
11:00 am C Miller, D Mittermeier
7:00 pm B Aufermann, D Weingartner

LECTORS

December 18/19

- 4:30 pm L Kreimer
9:00 am J Gonnella
11:00 am G Geisel
7:00 pm N Thompson

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 18/19

- 4:30 pm *J Mueller*, C Hoffman
E Prater, R Strack
9:00 am *M Bedel*, J Remke
S Remke, T Waters
11:00 am *J Hay*, K Brannon
K Brannon, M Guethlein
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

DECEMBER 5, 2010	\$9,826.48
EDUC. FUND APPEAL 12/5/10	\$448.00
APPEAL FUND TOTAL	\$65,724.02

Thank you for your generosity!

Vocation View: "Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." Be resolute in following the Lord, whether convenient or difficult. (James 5:8)

Thought for the Day: It is necessary, too, that we shun the occasions, which have been the cause of sin. We must have recourse to fervent prayer, receive frequently and worthily the sacraments. He who does this will be sure to persevere.

St John Vianney



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, DECEMBER 12: S Britton, M Wolf, K Studt

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14: B Aufermann, S Blake, S Brunner, J Clark

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19: D Damico, T Faith, O Hand, D Weingartner

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21 A Hines, M Ledonne, M Venturini, R Hoffman

Gift for the Baby Jesus: St. Lawrence will once again be collecting new and used baby items. The items will be donated to Pregnancy West, who will in turn help those in need of the baby items. They are in need of diapers of all sizes, formula, baby food, new and gently used baby clothing, car seats, walkers, etc. Please put donations in the manger by the communion rail. Thank you for helping God's precious ones!

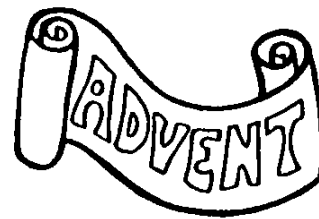
Natural Family Planning (NFP) is safe, healthy, morally right, and effective for both achieving and postponing pregnancy – that is the natural family planning method taught by NFP International. We are pleased to recommend the NFP course. For more information and registration call Sheila or John Kippley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

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 time I hear confessions from about 3:30-4pm.

Christmas Masses: Please make sure you see the Christmas Mass Schedule 2010 on an insert in the Laurentian. Everyone is required to go to Mass for Christmas **AND** on Sunday, December 26, that's two Obligation Masses in a row.



Thank You! Last Sunday, we received an additional \$448.00 for the St. Lawrence Education Fund. That brings the total to 65,724.02. That's just terrific! Your generosity has been outstanding! **THANK YOU!!!**

Retirement Fund Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priest offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious supports basic necessities, such as prescription drugs and nursing care. Please give generously to The Retirement Fund for Religious.

Parkland Movie Theater: Catholic Movie Night at the Parkland Movie Theater in Sayler Park will show Mary, the Mother of God – The Footprints of God's Series, featuring Steve Ray as your guide, follow Mary on Her extraordinary journey on location in Turkey, Israel and Greece. A travel documentary, biography, Bible study, apologetics course and church history all in one! The movie will be shown on Sunday, December 12 at 1pm and 5pm and on Monday, December 13 at 7pm. All shows are 2.00.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Advent is a time of waiting...but you don't have to wait to schedule some time to get away together and make your good marriage GREAT with a Marriage Encounter Weekend! It makes the perfect Christmas gift to each other! 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 or on the web at www.esharing.org.



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.



Advent: Advent family activities at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center: Nativity sets on display throughout the Center beginning December 6, from 8am-8pm. Christmas concerts! Join us to listen to the angelic voices of these choirs as they set the mood for this Holy Season. Monday, December 13, 7pm Psallite children's choir; Sunday, December 19 at 7pm, Schola Regina Caeli Cantorum. Both concerts open to all, free will donation. 5440 Moeller Avenue, Norwood, Ohio. For further information call 351-9800.

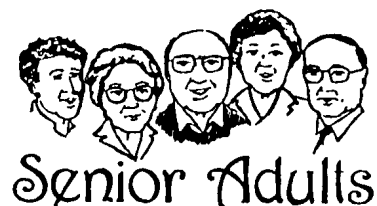
Seton-Elder Performing Arts Series presents *The Christmas Concert* in Seton Performance Hall on Saturday, December 11 at 8:00pm and Sunday, December 12 at 3:00pm. All tickets cost \$7 each for both Saturday and Sunday. For more information or if you have any questions please call Mary Sunderhaus at 251-3324 or sunderhausm@setoncincinnati.org.

The College of Mount St. Joseph will be hosting a *Winter Baseball Camp* on December 27th, 28th, and 29th for boys in grades 2-8. For more information contact Chuck Murray, Head Baseball Coach at 244-4402.

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 or e-mail aufermann@stlawrenceparish.org.

Moms! Looking for a monthly evening away to learn more about how your faith can help you in raising your family? Mother's Encouragement Group, lead by Pam Bettner of Presentation Ministries offers you this opportunity – the 3rd Wednesdays of the month, from 7pm – 9pm at Our Lady of the Spirit Center, 5440 Moeller Ave., Norwood, Ohio. Bring a friend! For more information call 351-9800.

Cincinnati Goodtimers-Seniors Group meets on the second Thursday of every month at Nathaniel Greene Lodge, 6934 Wesselman Rd. All are welcome for dancing and fun from 7:30-10pm. Cost is \$6 per person. Includes entertainment, soft drinks and snacks. Call Cathy or Bill Powers at 598-6196.



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.

