

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2010

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010

- 9:00 am Jeanette & Donald Rottinghaus
11:00 am Jack Voegelé
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010

- 8:00 am Schmolt & Sanzere families
9:00 am William J. Hahn

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2010

- 8:00 am Rosemary Malloni-Special Intention
9:00 am Virginia Panero

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2010

- 8:00 am Special Intentions
9:00 am Jack Ruberg

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2010

- 8:00 am Joseph & Ann Wagner
9:00 am Dr. Fran Repka

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2010

- 8:00 am Dorothy & Jim Lang
9:00 am Charlotte & Ray Gels

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 3:00 pm Bernie Geiser
5:00 pm Kitty & Jack Kloepfer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2010

CHRISTMAS

- Midnight (Christmas Carols and Music-11:30 pm)
For All in Whose Memory or Honor
Flowers were Donated
9:00 am John & Pat Junker-Special Intention
11:00 am Lisa Limerick
4:30 pm NO MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2010

- 9:00 am Walt Meirose-90th birthday
11:00 am Herbert L. Bill, Sr. & family
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

BAYLEY PLACE: Ruth Jean Boschert, Joan Kramer, William Weidner

MERCY FRANCISCAN AT WEST PARK: Clara Eichhold, Alice Helton, Don & Eileen Meyers

MOUNTAINCREST NURSING CENTER: Betty Haass, Tommy Martino

PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND
SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

Oppenheimer Financial Advisor
723-9200
Laurence J. Wulker, CFP
Director – Investments

SERVERS

December 26

- 9:00 am
11:00 am
7:00 pm B Aufermann, D Weingartner

LECTORS

December 26

- 9:00 am J Gonnella
11:00 am C Lageman
7:00 pm S Aufermann

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 26

- 9:00 am L Kreimer
L Kessler, B Kessler
11:00 am J Hay, T Phan
J Grimm, N Lageman
7:00 pm

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

OFFERING

DECEMBER 12, 2010	\$7,277.17
EDUC. FUND APPEAL 12/12/10	\$415.00
APPEAL FUND TOTAL	\$66,139.02
RETIREMENT FUND	\$739.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Vocation View: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel had commanded him. "God's invitation demands a response. If He is calling you, pray for the courage to respond wholeheartedly, as did St. Joseph. (Matt 1:24)

Thought for the Day: Whoever gives himself to work for Christ cannot expect to have a free moment, for even to rest is not to do nothing: it is to relax with activities that require less effort.

St. Jose Maria Escriva



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

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26: M McGinnis, D Miller, V Nguyen, P Rivera-Juarez

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28: C Smith, A Thompson, C Trimpe, A Vaughn

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.

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 at the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood OH and March 18-20, 2011 at the Bergamo Retreat Center in Dayton, OH. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged to avoid the waiting list. For more details or reservations call Dave & Jan Stockelman at 1-800-547-1251 Code 00 or on the web at www.esharing.org.

from the **Pastor's Desk**

A Blessed and Joyous Christmas to each and every one of you. God Bless you!



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. So, that's two Obligation Masses in a row.

Thank You! Last Sunday, we received an additional \$415.00 for the St. Lawrence Education Fund. That brings the total to 66,139.02. That's just terrific! Your generosity has been outstanding! **THANK YOU!!!**

Religious give thanks: Women and men religious throughout the country offer heartfelt thanks for your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift makes a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Elder High School: All 7th and 8th grade boys are invited to join Elder students for Glow Bowling Night on Sunday, January 2, 6-8 PM at Western Bowl, 6383 Glenway Ave. The cost is \$2 (payable at the door) and includes two games and shoe rental. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please pre-register by Monday, December 20th so we know how many to expect.

New Year's Eve with the Lord. Tired of spending New Year's Eve with the television? Retreat with us at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit, ushering in the New Year in prayer with the theme of "God's Presence in our Lives". Deacon Gerry Flamm presiding with the rosary, discussions and benediction. \$65 per person includes late evening refreshments and a delicious breakfast. For reservations or more information call 351-9800.

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 concert! Join us to listen to the angelic voices of these choirs as they set the mood for this Holy Season. Sunday, December 19 at 7pm, Schola Regina Caeli Cantorum. The concert is open to all, free will donation. 5440 Moeller Avenue, Norwood, Ohio. For further information call 351-9800.

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.)

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.



Meals and Transportation: Need help with meals or transportation to appointments or for shopping. Do you know someone returning from a hospital stay and may need nutritious meals? Community Services West may be able to help! See if we can help you! We can arrange for meals or transportation for shopping, errands, medical appointments or into the Senior Centers. For more information call our office at 353-3011

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.

