

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2010

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2010

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010

Nicholas, bishop

- 8:00 am Bertke Family
9:00 am Welfare of David Crowley

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010

Ambrose, bishop, doctor of the Church

- 8:00 am Phillip Kelly
9:00 am Matt James

Vigil of the Immaculate Conception

- 3:00 pm Donna Reeves

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM

- 8:00 am Noelle Loch
11:00 am Ruth Kluesener
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010

Juan Diego, hermit

- 8:00 am Karches & Dee families
9:00 am Jacob Wittich
3pm – 5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010

- 8:00 am Marcella Pessler
9:00 am Ann Schehl-Manegold

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010

- 8:00 am Claire Hartling
3 – 4 pm CONFESSIONS
4:30 pm Don Westendorf

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

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

SERVERS

December 11/12

- 4:30 pm Carmen Sunderman, Sarah Sunderman
9:00 am Michael Rogers, Oliver Hand
11:00 am Victoria Nguyen, Alexandria Hines
7:00 pm Jacob Junker, John Junker

LECTORS

December 11/12

- 4:30 pm Gary Rogers
9:00 am Lois Kessling
11:00 am Cathy Lageman
7:00 pm Sue Aufermann

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 11/12

- 4:30 pm *Ernie Prater*, Katie Hornback,
Nate Hornback, Noelle Rogers
9:00 am *Bob Kessling*, Matt Brannon,
Melissa Jones, Skip Jones
11:00 am *Nick Lageman*, Josh Godbey,
Jerry Grimm, Thuy Phan
7:00 pm *Charles Balz*, Janis Cassiere
Shirley Hoffman, Matt Thompson

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

OFFERING

NOVEMBER 21, 2010	\$8,452.10
NOVEMBER 28, 2010	\$8,117.59
EDUC. FUND APPEAL-11/21/10	\$1,387.00
EDUC. FUND APPEAL 11/28/10	\$1,010.00
APPEAL FUND TOTAL	\$65,276.02
CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEV.	\$310.50

Thought for the Day: If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor.

St. Charles Borromeo

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Coletta Holzmeister, Carol Lanham, Carol Louis, Scott Sturwold, and Harold Wagner.



PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND
SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

R & J TRAVEL
Rose Hennessey
941-0043

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 5: Devin Byrd,
Armani Griffin, Tea Jones

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7: Jonathan McAfee,
Jonah Rinear, Cory Schlachter

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: Seth Britton,
Megan Wolf, Caitlan Studt

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 Ben Aufermann,
Shaun Blake, Shylo Brunner, Jordan Clark

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.)

BASKETBALL NEWS

Girls' basketball sign-ups for grades 3 through high school will take place on Sunday, December 5 from 1:30pm – 3:30pm and Monday, December 6 from 7:30pm – 8:30pm. All sign-ups will take place in the gym. These will be the final signups. Any questions, please call Amy Hines at 728-9017.

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.

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.

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

Thank You! For the last two Sundays (11/21 and 11/28), we received an additional \$2,397.00 for the St. Lawrence Education Fund. That brings the total to 65,276.02. That's just terrific! Your generosity has been outstanding! **THANK YOU!!!**

For the time being, we have suspended the second collection. After the Finance Council reviews how we are doing, we will make the decision to restart the second collection, if necessary. Again, **THANK YOU!!!**

Retirement Fund helps senior religious. As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund. Your tax-deductible donation to the Retirement Fund for religious supports the day-to-day care of thousands of elder sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Please share in the care and give generously to next week's retirement fund collection. There is a special envelope in your packet of envelopes.

St. Dominic is hosting a lunch with Santa on Saturday, December 11 from 10:00am – 3pm in O'Connor Hall. For less than \$7.00, enjoy lunch, games, crafts, pictures with Santa, a secret Santa shop for the children and much more. Any questions contact Melissa Martini at 646-3096.

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.



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 and Sunday, December 19, 7pm, Schola Regina Caeli Cantorum. Both concerts are open to all, free will donation. 5440 Moeller Avenue, Norwood, Ohio. For further information call 351-9800.

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the St. Lawrence students who made the Honor Roll for the first quarter at Seton High School:

First Honors: Jessica Frey, Emma Hand, Noelle Rogers

Second Honors: Jacqueline Bauer, Jaynee Goines, Elena Hand, Mary Hartfiel, Shanna Hickey, Kathleen Hornback, Jessica Moses, Jennifer Nguyen, Lam Pham, Nicole Rogers

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.

Price Hill Skyline: St. Lawrence Day at Price Hill Skyline on Warsaw Avenue is this Sunday, December 5. St. Lawrence will receive 10% of all sales that day. Please mention St. Lawrence when you pay your bill.



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.

