

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2011

## MASSES OF THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011

- 9:00 am Iles & Ruhstaller families  
11:00 am Margie Cornish (d)  
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

### MONDAY DECEMBER 19, 2011

- 8:00 am Charles Delp (d)  
9:00 am Jerry Schwager (d)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

- 8:00 am Ralph Ruscher (d)  
9:00 am Theresa C. Calme (d)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011

- 8:00 am Paul Moosbrugger (d)  
9:00 am Pilgrims

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011

- 8:00 am Eugene Strack (d)  
9:00 am Carol Louis (d)  
3pm – 5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2011

- 8:00 am John V. Schinner family  
9:00 am Rosalie & Lisa Lemkuhl (d)

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 2011

#### VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

- 8:00 am Deborah Deitsch (d)

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

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

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011

#### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

MIDNIGHT (Christmas Carols and Music—11:30pm)

For All in Whose Memory or Honor  
Flowers were donated

- 9:00 am Marcia Owens (d)  
11:00 am Lisa Limerick (d)  
7:00 pm NO MASS

#### St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

BAYLEY PLACE: Ruth Jean Boschert, Ida Krupp,  
Florence (Babe) Lott, William Weidner

MERCY FRANCISCAN AT WEST PARK:

Clara Eichhold, Eileen Meyers

MOUNTAINCREST NURSING CENTER:

Betty Haass, Tommy Martino

## SERVERS

### December 24/25

- 3:00 pm  
5:00 pm  
MIDNIGHT  
9:00 am Oliver Hand  
11:00 am  
7:00 pm NO MASS

## LECTORS

### December 24/25

- 3:00 pm J Mueller  
5:00 pm C Manegold  
MIDNIGHT  
9:00 am J Gonnella  
11:00 am E Prater  
7:00 pm NO MASS

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### December 24/25

- 3:00 pm *J Hay*, R Strack  
5:00 pm *J Grimm*, L Kreimer,  
H Beischel  
12:00 am M Jones, S Jones  
9:00 am *B Kessling*, L Kessling  
11:00 am  
7:00 pm NO MASS

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

## OFFERING

DECEMBER 11, 2011	\$8,663.32
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT	\$1,652.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	\$1,766.92

Vocation View: Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always. (Luke 1:26-38)

Thought for the Day: It is necessary 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

## PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

Eagle Savings Bank  
6415 Bridgetown Road  
574-0700  
5681 Rapid Run Road  
347-3700

## 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 18:** J Bryant, T Jones, A Long, R Esterkamp

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20:** G Martin, L Medina, A Morales, A Lorenzo-Hernandez

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25: NO BINGO**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27:** D Nguyen, T Piper, J Schlachter, I Swis

**St. Lawrence School** will host a Cornhole Tournament and Monte Carlo Night on Saturday, January 7, 2012, from 6:00pm to midnight. The event benefits the fifth grade class trip to YMCA Camp Campbell Gard. Team registration is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Cash prizes, free admission for spectators and Monte Carlo players. For more information or to register contact Bill Aufermann at 260-8762. Tables can be reserved for your group at no charge. Must be 18 to attend.

**Seton-Elder Performing Arts Series** presents **THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** in the Seton Performance Hall on Saturday, December 17 at 8:00pm and Sunday, December 18 at 3:00pm. All tickets are \$7.00 for Saturday and Sunday. If you have any questions, please call Mary Sunderhaus at 251-3324 or [sunderhausm@setoncincinnati.org](mailto:sunderhausm@setoncincinnati.org)

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** The search for longest married couple continues. In addition to the longest married couple for the entire United States, recognition will also be given to a couple from each state and territories who has achieved that distinction. In the case of the United States couple, appropriate gifts will be presented to them at a ceremony to be held at their location during Valentine's week. The state winners will receive personal recognition and a special certificate of achievement from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement. For more information go to [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org). The next Marriage Encounter weekends in this area are February 10-12, 2012, at the Holy Spirit Center and March 23-25, 2012, (location TBD). Call Dave & Jan Stockleman at 1-800-547-1251 Code 00 or [www.esharing.org](http://www.esharing.org).



**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 2011 on an insert in the Laurentian

**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.

**New Mass Prayers:** I think we are doing pretty well with the new Mass prayers. I know it is sort of disorienting and irritating. But, I'm sure that over time it will all feel quite natural again. So, keep up the good work.

**2012 Church Calendars:** Due to a generous donation by our St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus we are able to provide church calendars this year. The calendars are in the back of church--please feel free to take them.



### *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 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 bursts forth a bit into the Advent season. On Christmas, the four candles are replaced with a 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 at 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.



Christmas  
Blessings

## The Laurentian

**Sacred Heart Radio:** For good Catholic radio listening, tune into Sacred Heart Radio on 740 AM or log on to [www.sacredheartradio.com](http://www.sacredheartradio.com). For good catholic TV, tune into EWTN. These media outlets promote excellent material about your Catholic faith and how to live your faith in the world today.



### Seton High School Winter Theatre Camp:

This winter Seton High School will present Aladdin, Jr. Rehearsals on Saturday mornings beginning January 14 thru March 10 from 10am-noon. Dress rehearsal will be held Friday, March 9 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. The performance will take place on Saturday, March 10 at 7pm. \$5.00 tickets will be available the week of the show. The camp is open to all girls and boys in grades 3-9. Every student who attends Theatre Camp will be in the show. Auditions for lead roles in Aladdin, Jr. will take place December 21 at 6pm in Seton Performance Hall. (Please enter Seton through the courtyard doors.) \$100 camp fee, which includes a t-shirt, must be paid in full to audition for a lead role. Questions, call Lori 471-2600, ext. 136.

**Retrouvaille** is a Catholic sponsored, confidential program open to all faiths. It offers a chance to rediscover yourself, and your spouse. It is for couples who have experienced a breakdown in communications, become unloving and uncaring, thinking of separation or divorce or who are separated.

Retrouvaille presents techniques of communication that enable a couple to take a good look at most areas of their relationship.

The next program in Cincinnati will begin the weekend of January 20, 21, and 22, 2012. For further information and registration call 793-6777 or outside Cincinnati/Dayton area call 800-470-2230 or visit the website at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org) and request a brochure to be mailed to you.

**Gift for the Baby Jesus:** St. Lawrence will once again be collecting new and used baby items. The items will be donated to Pregnancy Center 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 area in the main vestibule. 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.



**The College of Mount St. Joseph** will be hosting a Winter Baseball Camp on Tuesday, December 27, Wednesday, December 28, and Thursday, December 29, for boys in grades 2-8. For more information or any further questions please call Chuck Murray, Head Baseball Coach, at 244-4402.



**St. William Church:** Join the St. William Choir, Soloists and CMO Chamber Orchestra on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 7:30pm for a performance of Sections I and III of Handel's Messiah, under the direction of Music Director David F. Allen. There is no charge for the performance; a free will offering will be taken at the door. For more information, please contact St. William Church at 921-0247 or visit their website at [www.saintwilliam.com](http://www.saintwilliam.com).