

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2012

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012

- 9:00 am Jake Wittich (d)
11:00 am Carolyn Herrmann Bush (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012

- 8:00 am Ann Schehl Manegold (d)
9:00 am Ann Buenger (d)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012

- 8:00 am Ed Donaldson (d)
9:00 am Estelle Feldman (d)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

- 8:00 am Eric Willis (d)
9:00 am Rosalie & Lisa Lemkuhl (d)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

Saint Lucy, virgin, martyr

- 8:00 am Khiem Pham (d)
9:00 am Catherine Pohlmeier (d)
3pm – 5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012

Saint John of the Cross, priest, doctor of the church

- 8:00 am Joe & Rose Sowder (d)
9:00 am Jerry Schwager (d)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

- 8:00 am Charles (Bud) Meyer (d)
3pm – 4pm CONFESSIONS
4:30 pm Tom Shappelle (d)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2012

- 9:00 am Betty McNamee (d)
11:00 am Jack Vogeles (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

SERVERS

December 15/16

- 4:30 pm N Hornback, B Hornback
9:00 am O Hand, J Perry
11:00 am E Stacy, S Schulz
7:00 pm D Weingartner, B Aufermann

LECTORS

December 15/16

- 4:30 pm Sister Helen Julia
9:00 am J Gonnella
11:00 am G Geisel
7:00 pm A Backs

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 15/16

- 4:30 pm C Hoffman, C Hornback,
J Mueller, R Strack
9:00 am J Brannon, K Brannon,
M Jones, S Jones
11:00 am N Hornback, P Phan,
E Prater, R Weinheimer
7:00 pm M Thompson

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

OFFERING

DECEMBER 2, 2012

\$11,787.19

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

MOUNTAINCREST NURSING CENTER:

Tommy Martino

WESTERN HILLS RETIREMENT CENTER:

Donald Jostworth, Mildred Weber

TRIPLE CREEK RETIREMENT VILLAGE:

Mary Catherine Dittrich

PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

Max Hofmeyer & Sons Plumbing
Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
Plumbing Repairs
921-1133
4279 Delhi Road

Thank you for your generosity!

Vocation View: As the coming of the Messiah gives strength and courage to ancient Jerusalem, we continue to find the same courage and strength from the Hope of Our Lord's return in glory.

Baruch 5:1-9

Thought for the Day: If we have obtained the grace of God, none shall prevail against us, but we shall be stronger than all who oppose us.

St John Chrysostom



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 9: J Hart, J Howard, E Lageman, S Knollman

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11: M Vu, J Terrell, N Durbin, A Morales-Borrallas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16: K Dattilo, J Huiet, T Jones, A Long

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18: G Martin, A Ousley, D Nguyen, M DeLeon-Reynoso

A Gift for Baby Jesus: St. Lawrence will once again collect for the Pregnancy Center West. The manger will be set up in front of the Nativity Scene in Church from December 16 to January 13. We will be collecting new and used baby items (baby clothes, diapers, blankets, bottles, food, etc.) that the Center will be giving to those in need. As always, thank you for helping God's little ones.

Volunteers Needed: We are looking for caring and compassionate individuals with a desire to provide women with a message of hope. Volunteers must be committed to Catholic Church teaching regarding the gifts of life, sexuality, marriage and family. Our team of volunteers includes college students to retirees. You do not need prior experience in counseling or social work. Training is provided. For more information contact Pregnancy Center West at pcwest@fuse.net or call 244-5700. The center is located at 4900 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Advent/Christmas Calendar: The Institute for Christian Formation has once again created an online Advent/Christmas calendar for each day of the Advent and Christmas seasons for the 2013 Liturgical Year. This calendar is a go to source for information and resources about seasons and saints, scripture, church teaching, prayer, traditional activities and recipes, and much more! Geared to a wide-based audience, there is something for everyone. Visit our website at www.instituteforchristianformation.org and click on the Advent/Christmas calendar link.



Sister Helen Julia's Christmas holiday collection of food and monetary donations for families in need is underway. I know that our St. Lawrence parishioners and friends will be generous so that Sister will be able to assist all those families who are in need. This collection continues through December. Sister has placed her Ministry envelopes in the back of church and the food barrels are placed at the break (next to the pillars) for your food donations. By the way, I would like to thank Sister for doing this wonderful work of charity for St. Lawrence, and I thank you for your efforts in helping to provide a wonderful Thanksgiving for those in need. God bless you!!

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 on Thursdays from 3-5pm, during which I hear confessions from about 3:30pm-4pm.

2013 Calendars are in the back of church. Thank you to the St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus whose generous donation made it possible for us to have the calendars again this year.

Knights of Columbus: The Cornhole Tournament/Monte Carlo 2013 will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2013. Cost is \$30 per team and \$5 per spectator. Evening includes Bud Light beer, pop, and food. Doors open at 6:30pm. Monte Carlo will be held in the old gym and the cornhole will be in the new gym. Cash prizes for tournament winner. Poker, games, raffles and instant prizes too! The proceeds will send the fifth grade students to YMCA Camp Campbell Gard for a spring retreat. Register your team or reserve a table by contacting Bill Aufermann at 260-8762. You must be 21.



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.

Retrouvaille means “rediscovery”. It is for couples that have experienced a breakdown in communication, whose marriage has become unloving and uncaring and those who are thinking of separation or divorce, or who are separated, but want to try again. Retrouvaille is a Catholic sponsored program open to all faiths. The next program will be January 11, 12, 13, 2013. To register write to Retrouvaille, 2338 Upland Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206, call 793-6777 or visit www.retrouvaille.org. Family Life Offices of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH and the Diocese of Covington, KY endorse this program.

March for Life Pilgrimage: The west side parishes will once again take a bus pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington D. C. The dates are January 24-26, 2013. This will be the 40th anniversary of the tragic Roe v Wade decision that legalized abortion. For more information or to sign up, call Janet at 451-0331.

College of Mount St. Joseph will be hosting a **Winter Baseball Camp** on December 27 and 28 for boys in grades 2-8. For more information, please visit www.MSJSports.com/baseball or call 244-4402.

The Laurentian

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Advent is a time of waiting. But you don't have to wait to schedule time to get away together NOW. Make a great change in your marriage! Make time just for the two of you! Take your marriage and make it GREAT with a Marriage Encounter Weekend! Rekindle those feelings of yesterday. The mission of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the Church and in the world. The next Marriage Encounter weekends in this area for 2013 are February 15-17, at the Holiday Inn, Eastgate, March 15-17 in Dayton, Ohio (location TBD), and April 12-14 at the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, Ohio. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged to avoid a waiting list. Look for other upcoming weekends in 2013 at www.wwme.org or www.esharing.org. For more details or reservations, call Dave & Jan Stockleman at 1-800-547-1251 Code 00.

Pregnancy Center West gladly accepts baby items to give to young mothers in need. We can always use diapers and infant formula, onesies, wipes, baby outfits (sizes newborn-3T), car seats (no more than 8 years old), pack-n-plays, swings, and just about anything else for babies! Items may be used, but must be in good condition. Please call us at 244-5700 or e-mail pcwest@fuse.net to arrange a convenient donation drop-off time. Your gifts make it easier for struggling moms to choose life!

Cincinnati Catholic Alumni (Singles) Club: will be having a Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 16 at Slatt's Pub, 4858 Cooper Road in Blue Ash at 5:30 pm. If interested call Andi at 821-2440. Singles are invited.

St. Boniface Church is proud to welcome VAE: Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble for "A Candlelit Christmas" on Saturday December 15 at 7:30pm. Vocal Arts Ensemble, Cincinnati's premier professional chamber choir, is joined by the angelic voices of The Cincinnati Boychoir for this holiday tradition, led by guest conductor and Artistic Director of the Cincinnati Boyschoir, Christopher Eanes. Candles will illuminate St. Boniface Church as we take you on a journey of cherished holiday music. Tickets are \$10 - \$25. For more information or to buy tickets call 744-3505 or visit www.vaecinci.org.

St. Antoninus Pro-Life/Pro-Family Commission and St. Teresa Respect Life Group will host nationally acclaimed speaker, Jenn Giroux, and her ministry "Speaking of Motherhood" on Monday, January 7, 2013, at 7:30pm in the St. Antoninus undercroft. The topic for the evening will be "Pure Love: Raising a New Generation to Say 'Yes' to God." The event is free, but a free-will offering will be taken. For more information, contact Mariellen Rehtin at 513-467-1616.

Respect
LIFE

Ten Commandments and Catholicism: For the Year of Faith, Deacon Gerry Flamm will give a five part series discussing the Catechism of the Catholic Church's teaching on the Ten Commandments, with pertinent highlights from Fr. Robert Barron's Catholicism Series as illustration for us. Join us for any or all of the series: Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the library of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, 5440 Moeller Ave., Norwood. Free will donation. For more information call 351-9800.

New section on the bulletin: "In Loving Memory"
In January 2013, a section on the back of the bulletin will be available to list a deceased loved one's name. The cost is \$50.00 per name and their name will remain on the bulletin for a year. This will help defray the cost of printing our bulletin for the entire year. If interested, please clip and fill out the slip below and put it in the collection basket or mail to: St. Lawrence Church, 3680 Warsaw Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45205. (Diocesan Publications will bill you.)

Loved One's Name _____

Your Name _____

Phone Number _____