

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2014

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

- 9:00 am Kenny Camp (d)
11:00 am Jerry Schwager (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014

- 8:30 am Hahn Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014

- 8:30 am Richard Prost (d)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2014

- 8:30 am Ellen Weddendorf (d)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014

- 8:30 am Clayton Cornish (d)

3pm-5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2014

- 8:30 am Jack &Carolynn Busse (d)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2014

- 8:30 am Nancy Remke (d)

3pm-4pm CONFESSIONS

- 4:30 pm Don Westendorf (d)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

- 9:00 am Carlos Garcia (d)
11:00 am Jack Vogele (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

ARCHBISHOP LEIBOLD HOME: Irma Hornback

BAYLEY PLACE: Rita Brinker

TRIPLE CREEK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY:

Mary Catherine Dittrich

WESTERN HILLS RETIREMENT VILLAGE:

Donald Jostworth, Mildred Weber

WEST PARK: Ernestine Huber

PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND
SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

Parnell's
Hardware & Supply, Inc.
6571 Gracely Drive – Sayler Park
941-2520
www.parnellshardware.com

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 20/21

- 4:30 pm B Dugan, B Dugan
9:00 am J Gonnella
11:00 am M Young, T Wenhold
7:00 pm M Sweet

LECTORS

December 20/21

- 4:30 pm C Manegold
9:00 am N Heitzman
11:00 am G Geisel
7:00 pm C Boyles

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 20/21

- 4:30 pm J Brehm, C Hoffman,
C Hornback, S Sunderman
9:00 am M A Bedel, J Brannon,
M Jones, S Jones
11:00 am H Beischel, J Hay,
N Lageman, M Wagner
7:00 pm K Hicks, M Thompson

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

OFFERING

DECEMBER 7, 2014 \$11,136.65
DECEMBER 8, 2014 \$1,645.86

Vocation View: God gives you a mission. Respond! Rejoice in the Spirit who is at work in you. (Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11)

Thought for the Day: It is by the path of love, which is charity that God draws near to man, and man to God. But where charity is not found, God cannot dwell. If, then, we possess charity, we possess God, for "God is Charity". (1Jn 4:8)

St. Albert the Great



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 14: J Thrasher, S Toy, J Tucker

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16: B Tucker, J Valesquez, A Velasquez-Solic

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21: S Wade, R Wallace, J Watkins

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23: A Wheelright-Soriano, Y Bail-Ramirez, M Berduo, Aguilar

Seton-Elder Performing Arts Series was created in 1969 to showcase the musical talents of students from both schools. For more than 40 years, the Series has offered musical theatre, orchestral performances and vocal concerts to sold-out crowds.

This year's Christmas Concert will be held in the Seton Performance Hall on Saturday, December 13 at 7pm and Sunday, December 14 at 3pm. All tickets are \$8 for Saturday and Sunday.

Lay Catholic Studies at the Athenaeum campus and St. Ignatius will begin August, 2015. Is God calling you to something new? The Athenaeum Lay Pastoral Ministry Program helps equip busy adults for missionary discipleship, serving families, parishes and communities more effectively. Evening and Saturday classes fit into your work and family commitments. We offer graduate and non-degreed options in a supportive environment. Come and see how lay formation can enrich your life! For more information or a personal interview call 231-1200.

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 this week's Retirement Fund collection. There is a special envelope in your packet of envelopes. Please be as generous as possible.

from the *Pastor's Desk*

Eucharistic Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration is on Thursday, from 3pm-5pm. During Eucharistic Adoration, I hear confessions from about 3:15pm-3:45pm. By the way, an excellent help in your preparation for Christmas is to make a good confession and spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Masses: Please make sure you see the Christmas Mass schedule on the enclosed insert in the Laurentian.

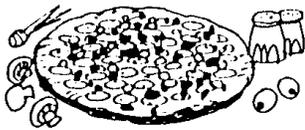
Archbishop Schnurr's Christmas gift to you. There are books in the back of church entitled "Life's Greatest Lesson". Each family is welcomed to take a copy.

Sister Helen Julia's holiday collection for families in need ends this weekend. The food barrels will be removed from church on Monday, December 15, so we will not be accepting any more food items. Thank you for helping Sister help the needy. And thanks to Sister Helen Julia.

No More Recycling: The Abitibi Recycling Company from whom we received money for the school for the recycling of paper has gone out of business. Any of you who brought paper for the recycling bin, please do not do so anymore. The recycle bin will remain but it is now owned by Rumpke and we have to pay for its use. According to the new contract with Rumpke, **the recycle bin is for school use only.**

Bus Pilgrimage to the March for Life 2015: The west side parishes will once again take a bus pilgrimage to the "March for Life" in Washington D.C., January 21-23, 2015. The cost is very reasonable, and more importantly you will have an opportunity to take a public stand for life. For more information or to sign up call Janet at 451-0331.

Buddy Card's: LaRosa's Buddy Cards are available for \$10 through St. Lawrence School. Each card is loaded with 14 money saving deals. Buy one large pizza; get one large cheese pizza free! Cards are good for twelve full months after you activate your card. This feature is especially great if you are planning to give Buddy Cards as gifts: buy now and activate the card later. You may purchase these cards in the school office between 8am -3:30pm every school day. The school gets a profit of \$5 per card. Thanks for all you do to support St. Lawrence School.



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 bloodshed 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

(cont'd from previous column)

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 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 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.



The Laurentian

St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus will be having a Cornhole Tournament/Monte Carlo night on Saturday, January 3, 2015 from 6:30pm – 12am in the St. Lawrence School Gym. Pre-registration for teams is \$35 (\$45 at the door). Spectator's admission is \$5 and includes food and drink. You must be 18 years old or older to attend. Anyone interested in registering a team can send a check and team name to St. Lawrence School at 1020 Carson Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45205. Please mark envelope "Cornhole Tourney". Any questions, please call Dave Haverbusch at 473-3982. The proceeds benefit the Fifth Grade trip to Camp Campbell Gard in the spring.

The Candy Cane

The development of the candy cane took a few hundred years. Before the invention of the modern pacifier, parents used to give their babies unflavored white sugar sticks to suck on. During the 1670's, a German choirmaster had the sugar sticks bent into a shepherd's staff and passed out to children attending the Christmas services. This holiday custom spread throughout Europe and fancy canes, decorated with roses, were used as Christmas decorations in many homes. About 1900 the white candy cane received its traditional red stripes and peppermint flavoring. At the same time the legend of the candy cane came into being. According to this legend, a candy maker in Indiana designed the candy cane to tell the true story of Christmas—a story about a virgin giving birth to a shepherd who would give up His life for the sheep.

Legend of the candy cane as told by the Indiana candy maker:

It had to be special to be a gift for the King of Kings, thought the humble candy maker from Indiana. Not just any piece of candy would do. It had to be hard candy because the church is built on solid rock and God's promises are a firm foundation. It would be formed in the shape of the Good Shepherd's staff—a "J" that would also stand for the precious name of Jesus. But it had to say more. White stripes would symbolize the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Christ. Three small red stripes would represent the scourging Jesus suffered on His way to the cross. One large red stripe would be a reminder of the blood Jesus shed as payment for our sins. It would be a gift of love that would tell His story—the greatest story ever told.

St. Lawrence Boy Scout Troop 302 will be selling laser engraved wooden Christmas Tree ornaments after all Masses this weekend. There are four different ones to choose from at \$5 each or the set of 4 for \$15. Cash or checks accepted. You may place orders for future delivery. Thanks for supporting this youth ministry.

Elder High School: 39th annual Elder High School Sports Stag is on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 5:30pm. The featured speaker will be former Cincinnati Red Sean Casey. Admission : \$60 general/ \$135 patron. Tickets are available in the Alumni Office at 921-3744 or at Brogan Oil (4210 Glenway), or by mail-in order form from www.ElderHs.org. Tables of 8-10 are available! Proceeds benefit the faculty and staff of Elder High School. For more information call Brian, Alumni Relations Director, at 921-3411.

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 by the Nativity scene. Thank you for helping God's precious ones!

In Loving Memory" In January, 2015, a section on the back of the bulletin will be available to list a deceased love one's name. The cost is \$52.00 per name and the name will remain on the bulletin for one year. This will 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 _____

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28