

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

- 9:00 am Lewis & Jeannette Allen (d)
11:00 am Steve Iles (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (USA)

- 8:30 am The Dying

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

- 8:30 am Carl & Loretta Poth (d)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016

Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

- 8:30 am Jerry Schwager (d)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

- 8:30 am James Byrne (d)

- 3pm-5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

- 8:30 am Richard Prost (d)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016

- 8:30 am Jerome Bleh (d)

- 3pm – 4pm CONFESSIONS

- 4:30 pm Don Westendorf (d)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

- 9:00 am Jack & Helen Voegelé (d)
11:00 am Lisa Limerick (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

ARCHBISHOP LEIBOLD HOME:

Loretta (Bo) Bacon

HILLEBRAND: Ed Kramer

THE HOME AT HEARTHSTONE:

Mary First

PRISTINE OF RIVERSIDE:

Rose Marie St. Clair

RENAISSANCE WEST: Margie Frommeyer

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

DELHI BARBER

Victor Fabro, Owner

402 Greenwell & Delhi Pike

608-3969

No Appointment – Walk in Anytime

All Haircuts - \$12.

SERVERS

December 17/18

- 4:30 pm Sarah Haverbusch, Joseph Haverbusch
9:00 am Jerry Gonnella
11:00 am Emma Lageman
7:00 pm Jayonna Beamon

LECTORS

December 17/18

- 4:30 pm Cathy Manegold
9:00 am Lois Kessling
11:00 am Gerry Geisel
7:00 pm Matt Thompson

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 17/18

- 4:30 pm Bailey Dugan, Clete Hoffman,
Chris Hornback, Larry Kreimer
9:00 am Mary Ann Bedel, Melissa Jones,
Skip Jones, Bob Kessling
11:00 am Holly Beischel, Janet Hay,
Nick Lageman, Mary Wagner
7:00 pm Mason Clayton, Matt Thompson

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

OFFERING

DECEMBER 4, 2016	\$9,411.27
HVAC OTHER COLLECTION	\$2,425.00
TOTAL HVAC	\$234,721.45

Thank You for your Generosity!

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". (1 Jn 4:8)

St. Albert the Great

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the repose of
the soul of Elizabeth Phillips who died recently.



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 11 Markus Blair, Hannah Caster, Cody Corbett

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13: Mileybi DeLeon-Reynoso, Conner Eichhorn, LaMyrah Gentry

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18: Kiyah Gill, Michael Haverbusch, Cristy Jeronimo-Gonzalez

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20: Jasmin Lopez-Nolasco, Fatima Lowery-Peralta, Deanna Nguyen

"In Loving Memory Spaces": In January, 2017, a section on the back of the bulletin will be available to list the name of a deceased loved one. The cost is \$52 per name and their name will remain on the bulletin for one year. Or now, you can purchase a small space on the back for just your loved one or ones and insert their picture and birthday and have your own space to remember your loved ones. One space is \$220 per year and two spaces are \$440 per 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.

Make checks payable to Diocesan Publications

Loved One's Name _____

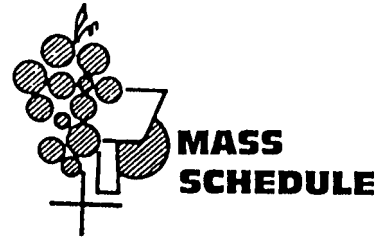
Your Name _____

Phone Number _____

25th Anniversary Celebration of Lessons in Carols: Open your hearts to the coming of Christ by attending Lessons in Carols on Monday, December 19, 2016, at 7:00pm at St. Antoninus Church, 1500 Linneman Road. The special evening of music and prayer provides an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Music will be offered by the Giving Glory Contemporary Music Group, directed by Peg Delaney. For more information please contact Kevin Delaney at 405-7606 or Peg Delaney at 260-2073.



Eucharistic Adoration: An excellent way to prepare for Christmas is to make a good confession and spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration. Eucharistic Adoration is on Thursdays, from 3pm-5pm. During Eucharistic Adoration, I hear confessions from about 3:15pm-3:45pm.



Christmas Masses: Please make sure you see the Christmas and New Year's Mass schedule on the enclosed insert in the Laurentian.

Congratulations!!! To the LaSalle Lancers and St. Xavier Bombers for winning their state championship titles in football this year.

Religious 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. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!



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 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.

(cont’d from previous column)

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.

Sacred Heart Radio: For good catholic radio listening, tune into Sacred Heart Radio on 740 AM or log on to 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.

2017 is just around the corner! Schedule time NOW for your relationship! Take your good marriage and make it GREAT with a Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Marriage Encounter weekends in this area for 2017 are February 17-19 at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center 5488 Moeller Avenue, Norwood, Ohio, October 20-22 at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center and November 3-5 at Maria Stein Spiritual Center 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, Ohio 45860. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged. For more details or to make reservations call Dave & Jan Stockelman at 251-1940 or 1-800-547-1251 Code 00 or on the web at www.esharing.org or www.wvme.org.

The Laurentian

St. Lawrence Athletic Association Hall of Fame Banquet will be held Wednesday, December 14 in the Parish Center. Doors open at 6pm with dinner being served at 6:30pm. The 2016 Hall of Fame inductee is Roy Zupan. Also, that evening we will be holding our annual elections for the Athletic Board positions. We are in search of volunteers to help with sports and coordinators of sports. Any questions, contact Chris Caine via text or call at 276-6681.

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 17-January 8. 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 precious little ones.

Seton-Elder Christmas Concert: Join us for some familiar holiday tunes as we celebrate this wonderful season on Saturday, December 10 at 7:00pm and Sunday, December 11 at 3:00pm, featuring the Seton Concert Choir, Elder Glee Club, Seton Highlighters Dance Team, Elder Band and the Seton Elder Show Choir. All tickets are reserved seating and cost \$8.00. For more information or to buy tickets call Mary Sunderhaus at 471-2600 x132 or sunderhausm@setoncincinnati.org.

Elder High School Football: Reunion from 1991. Join us to reminisce and celebrate that memorable season 25 years ago on December 10 at 7:00pm at Jim & Jack's at 3456 River Road. Spouses and significant others are welcome. Free admission. Appetizers provided. Cash bar. For more information contact Matt Deters at mdeters@gandwinc.com.

Sunset Players next production will be The House at Pooh Corner by A. A. Milne. Christopher Robin has decided to run away with his friends Pooh, Piglet, Eyeore, Tigger and the gang after hearing a dark, mysterious threat that he's to be sent to Education. Nobody knows exactly what that is or what they can possibly do without him? As the situation becomes clearer, Christopher Robin isn't so sure that running away is the answer. Show date is Sunday, December 11 at 2:00pm. The center is located at 1945 Dunham Way off Guerley Road.

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.

