

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016

- 9:00 am Rosary Altar Society
11:00 am Phillip Kelly (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016

- 8:30 am Marjorie Byrne (d)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016

- 8:30 am Patrick Kunkel (L)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

- 8:30 am George Claxton (d)
3:00 pm Marcelo Cazala (d)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2016

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 8:30 am Bernice Dowden
11:00 am Dennis Bedel (d)
3pm-5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
7:00 pm Rita Brinker (d)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016

- 8:30 am Jake Wittich (d)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

- 8:30 am Ed & Ruth Brehm
3pm - 4pm CONFESSIONS
4:30 pm Paul Mechley (d)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

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

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

ARCHBISHOP LEIBOLD HOME:

Loretta (Bo) Bacon

BAYLEY: Margie Frommeyer

HILLEBRAND: Ed Kramer

THE HOME AT HEARTHSTONE:

Mary First

PRISTINE OF RIVERSIDE:

Rose Marie St. Clair

PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND
SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

NIEHAUS
Law Office, LLC
5600 Harrison Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45248
251-4900

David D. Kammer – Anne M. Niehaus

SERVERS

December 10/11

- 4:30 pm Charlotte Sunderman
9:00 am Dan Mittermeier
11:00 am Emma Pitman
7:00 pm Jayonna Beamon

LECTORS

December 10/11

- 4:30 pm Gary Rogers
9:00 am Jerry Gonnella
11:00 am Karen Prater
7:00 pm Sue Aufermann

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 10/11

- 4:30 pm Joe Brehm, Clete Hoffman,
Michael Rogers, Sarah Sunderman
9:00 am John Remke, Stacey Remke,
Cindy Schneider, Matt Schneider
11:00 am Jerry Grimm, Nick Lageman,
Phuong T. Phan, Rose Weinheimer
7:00 pm 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 20, 2016	\$10,583.38
NOVEMBER 27, 2016	\$8,032.94
MISSION COLLECTION	\$2,263.94
HVAC OTHER COLLECTION	\$1,120.00
TOTAL HVAC	\$232,296.45

Thank You for your Generosity!

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

St. John Chrysostom

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the repose of
the souls of Mildred Brockman, Joan Snider and
Tommy Britt 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 4 Keyli Ramirez, Yifry Reynoso, Kristy Roblero

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6: Stacey Stewart, Ayla Thompson, Kinberly Wilke, Bradin Young

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 Markus Blair, Hannah Caster, Cody Corbett

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

Diocesan Publications: Jim Mazza, representing Diocesan Publications (our bulletin publisher) is renewing present advertisements and seeking new ones. If interested, please call the parish office at 921-0328 or Jim directly at 748-3007 or at jmazza@diocesan.com. THANKS TO YOU and DIOCESAN PUBLICATIONS, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

"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 _____



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It **IS** a **holyday of Obligation** and is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States. The obligation may be fulfilled by participating in Mass on Wednesday, December 7 at 3:00pm or Thursday, December 8, at 8:30am, 11:00am or 7:00pm.

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.

2017 Calendars are in back of church.

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



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.

Congratulations to the following student from St. Lawrence who made the **HONOR ROLL** for the first quarter at Mother of Mercy High School:

First Honors: Paighton C. Baker

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.



Mother of Mercy: Spend Christmas on campus at Mother of Mercy High School. Eighth grade girls are invited to Mother of Mercy’s most popular future Bobcat event, Christmas on Campus on Friday, December 9, 2016 from 6pm-11pm. Have a blast doing fun, holiday activities – from dancing, to crafts, to baking. And kick off the holiday season with a pizza party! Dress in your most creative Christmas ensemble for gifts and prizes. RSVP at www.motherofmercy.org/christmasoncampus. Admission is \$5.

The Laurentian

The CMO Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, December 4 at 3:00pm. This free holiday concert, under the direction of Mr. Dave Allen, features classical, traditional and modern selections, the Metropolitan Singers and a special appearance by Santa himself! Get in the spirit of the season and enjoy an afternoon filled with beautiful music. For more information visit us on Facebook, at www.GoCMO.org or call 941-8956. Donations are always welcome.

The Freshman Concert will be on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00pm in the Seton High School Performance Hall. Listen to the sounds of the newest members of our performance series as the Freshman Chorus and Beginning Band present their first high school concert. You'll be amazed by their holiday spirit!

Also, 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.

The Athenaeum of Ohio: Advent Lessons and Carols at the Athenaeum will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 7:30pm, in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, 6616 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230. This inspiring annual service, on the eve of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, includes the reading of seven scriptures Lessons with Advent Carols and Marian hymns sung by the Athenaeum Chorale and the Mount St. Mary's Seminary Schola. All are welcome and admission is free. Standing room only audiences are anticipated so guests are encouraged to arrive early. Doors to the chapel open at 7pm.

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.

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, Eeyore, 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 dates are Friday, December 9 at 7:00pm, Saturday, December 10 at 2:00pm and Sunday, December 11 at 2:00pm. To purchase tickets call the Arts Center at Dunham at 588-4988. The center is located at 1945 Dunham Way off Guerley Road.

Cincinnati State's Interpreter Training Program will provide sign language interpreting for the deaf community on Saturday, December 10 at 2:00pm.

Holy Hour: Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations will be every second Thursday of the month. This month it will be on December 8 at 8pm at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, Ohio. The Holy Hour is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations & Children of Mary. For more information contact Fr. Daniel Schmitmeyer by email at dschmitmeyer@cathoiccincinnati.org. or Children of Mary at chuldrenofmary@juno.com. Come and bring a friend!