

December 18, 2016

ADVENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Dilemma of a Righteous Man

Joseph faced with the mystery of Mary's virginal conception of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, far from retreating quietly and in secret, leaving God alone to pursue his plan, abandons himself to providence. "He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."

Today's Bulletin is sponsored by Jeanette Lackey in memory of Evelyn & Erwin Albrecht.

MASS INTENTIONS



Thursday, December 22
10:30 a.m. Shady Oaks – Frank Branecky
Friday, December 23
8:00 a.m. The Deceased of the Annie & Frank Kalisek Family, Msgr. Robert Schmidt
Saturday, December 24
4:30 p.m. Youth of the Parish
Sunday, December 25
Midnight Our Parish Family
6:30 a.m. Benefactors of the Parish
10:00 a.m. The Welfare of All Parishioners

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY

Next weekend is *The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10
Responsorial Psalm: 98
Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel: John 1:1-18

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Annie Schmidt.

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Victor Schoenfeld.

2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment \$17,080.00
Contributions So Far \$16,957.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 123.00
Number of Families Who Have Contributed 40
Number of Families Yet to Contribute 274

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

- Patsy Zamykal*
- Marilyn Strmiska*
- Eleanor Wagner*
- Hattie & Bob Olle*
- Mary Lou Dierschke*
- Betty & Harry Maskey*
- Karin & Kenneth Filipp*
- Lisa & David Rothbauer*
- Phyllis & Kenneth Schoenfeld*
- Margaret & Larry Berckenhoff*

We thank all those who have contributed towards our 2016 D.S.A. assessment so far. We are close to paying off our debt to the diocese. We are counting on you to make our quota for the year.

ST. JOSEPH'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Frank Branecky
Rose Selzer Mary Lou Dierschke

ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of Frank Branecky
Gussie Machalec Shirley Welfl

RESURRECTION CHAPEL FUND

In Memory of Frank Branecky
Beth & Aaron Gaertner

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY – No Gold Star Club Meeting (Christmas Holidays)
WEDNESDAY – No Champions Club Meeting (Christmas Holidays)
– Knights of Columbus / Catholic Daughters Christmas Party
THURSDAY – Youth Choir Practice for Christmas Eve Mass, 5:30 p.m. in the Church.
– KC Bingo, former KC Hall
FRIDAY – Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral emergency, call the Office at any time.
– Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Meet in the Family Room.
SATURDAY – Christmas Eve. See Mass Schedule.
SUNDAY – Christmas Day. See Mass Schedule.

Pray for the repose of the soul of
Lawrence Schilhab
and the comfort of his loved ones.
May he rest in peace.



REFLECTION

The Call To Faith

With the Fourth Sunday of Advent we are on the threshold of the Time of Fulfillment. Today's readings tell us that faith is required for us to step over that threshold. Before us are set two figures: two examples of human response to the call to faith: Ahaz, who failed the test because he was unable to take the blind step of faith into trust of God, and Joseph, who despite his dilemma is a model of faith. St. Paul, in the Letter to the Romans offers us three ways of living out this faith; as a slave of Christ, devoted completely to the service of Christ, as an apostle, one sent to proclaim the gospel by the way we live, and as one set apart for service recommitting ourselves to others in service.

With the completion of the Advent Season, we have arrived at the mountain of the Lord, the place where God dwells, the place where we began, but we now see it in a new light. As we ascend the mountain and enter into the presence of God, at the time that God comes into our lives, how do we celebrate this moment?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec. 18 – Georgie Kalisek
Dec. 19 – Margaret Hoepfl Berckenhoff,
Margaret Molnoskey
Dec. 20 – Kenneth Kirkland
Dec. 21 – Edith Beran
Dec. 22 – Gregory Holub
Dec. 23 – Steve Machart
Dec. 24 – Allen Barta, Edward Nieto, Kenneth Schoenfeld

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dec. 18 – Jamie & Thomas Dornak
Dec. 19 – Deacon Milburn Kram Ordination Anniversary

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Dec. 18 – Jan. 1 – No C.C.D./YMC (Christmas Holidays)
Breakfast With Santa last Sunday was wonderful. We thank Donna Perez, our C.C.D. Coordinator for always coordinating the event and decorating the hall. Thanks also to Donna & Tommy Perez and crew for making the breakfast tacos and Catholic Life Insurance Branch #16 for sponsoring the annual event.

Christmas Pageant Schedule

Choir Practice Thursday, Dec. 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the church. Everyone who plans to sing needs to be there.

Dress Rehearsal Friday, Dec. 23, 6:00 -7:30 p.m. All participants, parent helpers and choir members must attend the dress rehearsal.

Christmas Pageant, Saturday, Dec. 24: All participants should meet in the Family Room at 4 p.m., be dressed in your costume. The pageant is during the 4:30 p.m. Mass.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE POOR

In the spirit of sharing blessings with our less fortunate brothers and sisters, a collection will be taken up at the Christmas Masses. *We encourage you to be generous.*

In the Past Our *Collection Has Helped Many Charities Including:

Shady Oaks Christmas Gifts for Residents
Lavaca Assistance Ministry Body (L.A.M.B.)
Billy T. Cattan Recovery Outreach Center, Victoria
Perpetual Help Home, Victoria
Christ's Kitchen, Victoria
Moulton 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapter & Fire Department
& many others in need

** Includes funds from the proceeds from the Fish Fry.*

Maranatha!

Today we light the fourth candle (violet) on the Advent wreath. The fullness of the lit wreath reminds us of the coming celebration of Christmas and our commemoration of the incarnation. The rhythm of Advent differs from that of Lent. It rises in a steady crescendo towards the full light of Christmas. The crescendo of Advent is reflected in the liturgical readings, which, beginning with the prophecies of the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, find their culmination on this Fourth Sunday of Advent in a series of readings that focus on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the annunciation of Jesus' birth. The readings bring together the major themes of the first three Sundays of Advent. Namely, promise, repentance, transformation and joy. We now stand on the threshold, eager for the doors to be opened so that we can step inside and enjoy the marvels prepared for us there.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BULLETIN BOARD

Advent is the season when we stand on the threshold of fulfillment. However, it is the fulfillment of an event that has already taken place. We remember it, we ritually reenact it so we never take it for granted, so we never forget that it is in and through history that the marvelous deeds of God are accomplished. Each year we pause to celebrate these events, not because they have not yet occurred but because they *have* happened and are happening now before our eyes. The celebration of anticipation is also the celebration of fulfillment, fulfillment of the promises made, fulfillment of our redemption, fulfillment of our transformation. Blessed are we who believe that what was spoken to us by the Lord has been fulfilled!

Communion to the Homebound – All homebound parishioners who want to receive Holy Communion on Christmas Day do please contact Hattie Olle by Dec. 22.

2017 Religious Calendars have been placed at the church entrances. One calendar per family please.

Christmas Day Songs of Praise - Contact Sharon Etlinger.
Christmas Altar Flower Fund Donations being accepted.