

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## DECEMBER 16, 2018

### LIVING GOD'S WORD

When we pray the Our Father at Mass the priest voices a prayer that asks the Lord to free our minds of worry as we look forward to Jesus' coming. Joyful hope gives us the spirit and the confidence to do all that we can, expecting that Christ's saving power will be present in our midst.

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 17, 2018

Monday, Dec. 17  
8:15AM Louis Baumgartner by Don & Jerry  
Tuesday, Dec. 18  
8:15AM Shirley Cushman by Connie Holzum  
Wednesday, Dec. 19  
10:30AM Lori Boever by M/M Richard Boever  
Thursday, Dec. 20  
NO MASS  
Friday, Dec. 21, St. Peter Canisius  
NO MASS  
Saturday, Dec. 22  
5PM Roberta Jany by Lucille & Delbert  
Sunday, Dec. 23  
9AM For the Parish

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 16 THRU DEC. 23

Sunday	9AM Mass PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:15AM
Monday	8:15AM Mass 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon Lasagna/Fried Chicken
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 1-4) 3:30PM Faculty & Staff Christmas Party
Wednesday	10:30AM Mass
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off 2:50PM Dismissal - BUS SERVICE
Friday	NO MASS/NO SCHOOL/NO DAYCARE
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass NO PSR CLASS

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:** What is "the best"? Pope Francis recently said that the temples of our hearts are best safeguarded through service (Homily, 11/24/17). Jesus makes clear that what is "best" can be found in our hearts, where his Spirit dwells. There we can find freedom from anxiety, joy in gratitude, and the peace that comes from sharing, inviting, speaking truth, and discerning what we really need. When we discover that Emmanuel, God-with-us, dwells in our hearts, Christ comes again, we rejoice, and our lives continue to "Proclaim the joyful message that our God is coming to earth."

#### TITHE WEEK OF DECEMBER 9, 2018

Mary Help of Christians: \$5,408.00  
\$789.00 Improvement; \$825.00 Immaculate Conception;  
\$681.00 Religious Retirement; \$30.00 Votives; \$2.00  
Donation

WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00  
YTD Average Weekly Tithes: \$6,809.21

Fiscal Year Week: 24  
YTD Actual Giving: \$163,421.00  
YTD Budget Need: \$168,000.00  
YTD Budget Difference: \$(4,579.00)  
YTD Weekly: \$(190.80)

**SERVERS SCHEDULE** for Dec. 22 & 23: 5PM, Miranda Rodewald, Grace Welborn; 9AM, Luke Miller, David Grau, Elseah Congiaro

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** God of joy and peace, remove any anxiety, bitterness, doubt, or resistance that keeps me from finding you deep within me.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** at American Legion on Wednesday, Dec. 19, from 12:45-5:45PM. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter ChesterMemHosp to schedule an appointment.

**THANK YOU!** Your gift to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Thank you for your generosity!

**NEED A LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT?** Gala Dinner Auction Tickets are available for \$35. Call Ron Korando (618-615-2509) to reserve your seats for Saturday, March 2.

**COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY** will be taken up at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Envelopes are in your packets. Parishes and agencies throughout the diocese request monies from this collection during 2019 to assist those who are in need with food, clothing, shelter, utility payments, healthcare and medications, funeral and burial expenses, transportation and emergency assistance of all types. Please consider giving generously. Thank you!

**80'S BIG HAIR BINGO** will be Friday, Jan. 18, at St. John the Baptist Parish Center, Red Bud. Doors open at 6PM. Bingo begins at 7PM. Reservations encouraged; please call 618-282-3222. Maximum of 12 players per table. Prize for best dressed table. Walk-ins welcomed.

**PLANNING A WEDDING?** If you are planning a wedding within the next six months there will be a Pre Cana Day on Saturday, Jan. 26, at Holy Trinity Parish, Fairview Heights. Contact Deacon Thomas Powers (618-628-8825) for registration information.

**KEEPING THE WATCH DURING ADVENT:** During this busy Christmas season make sure to make time for Advent. Watchfulness is a major Advent theme as we are encouraged to watch for signs of Christ's presence and make room for His arrival. What signs in the world reveal that Christ is present? In what ways can your actions help other recognize Christ's presence? Where are you being sent to serve people in need? Pray to be filled with joy as we serve our brothers and sisters in need. May the joy Christ brings this Advent season inspire us to care for each other as one human family. Amen

**GOD COMES:** What shall we do? God, indeed, is coming. Near at hand. At the door. Be busy! Be lovingly-kind, like God. Do mercy work. Being merciful does not require extraordinary behavior. It simply means, be human. That is, be holy. Prove that God is here by wrestling with conversion to Christ in ongoing ways-be genuine, be just, be fair. The gospel offers some suggestions: Clean out the closet, share from the pantry, do not take what others need. Do mercy. Be mercy. How will I be holy, be the "saint next door"? What mercy work will I do to share with those in need?

**IT'S TIME** to place your offering for a Poinsettia & Votive Lights in Memory of Family Members  
**POINSETTIA OFFERING:** \$25.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTIVE OFFERING: \$5.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_