

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2018

LIVING GOD'S WORD

Advent is a time to enter more deeply into conversation with God. Pray with the words of the psalmist, who encourages us to turn to God, who will make known the way, teach us the right paths, and draw us into divine kindness, constancy, and friendship.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 3, 2018

Monday, Dec. 3, St. Francis Xavier
8:15AM Intention of Catholic Extension Donor
Tuesday, Dec. 4, St. John Damascene
NO MASS-STUDENT RECONCILIATION
Wednesday, Dec. 5
10:30AM Rev. Federico Higuera
Thursday, Dec. 6, St. Nicholas
NO MASS
Friday, Dec. 7, Vigil of Immaculate Conception
6PM Dorothy Niermann by Craig & Susan Yallaly
Saturday, Dec. 8, Immaculate Conception
5PM Art & Martha Maes by Bruce & Mary Brown
Sunday, Dec. 9
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 2 THRU DEC. 9

Sunday	9AM Mass First Reconciliation after 9AM Mass PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:15AM
Monday	8:15AM Mass 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon 6PM PTO Meeting
Tuesday	NO MASS-Student Reconciliation
Wednesday	10:30AM Mass at Three Springs
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	1:30PM Dismissal-BUS SERVICE 4:30-7PM Chicken Fry at K of C 6PM Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: Lately I seem to need a reminder to live our faith more strongly in the changing situations of life. I need to remember that God is Lord and we must conduct ourselves to please God, as Paul tells the Thessalonians. God will make us increase and abound in love so that our world can see God with us. God continues to be made flesh in us. So look for signs that Jesus, the just shoot of the house of David, is in our midst. He promises to do what is just and right in every land, so look. You and I just might be the signs to which others look. Whether your skies are dark or bright, your clouds heavy or light, stand erect, raise your head, and see God near. Many storms plague our world. Do what you already know to do and make Christ's coming more evident this Advent.

TITHE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Mary Help of Christians: \$20,598.00
\$838.00 Improvement Fund; \$75.00 Donations;
\$3.00 Child Env.; \$11.00 Votives
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,863.19
Fiscal Year Week: 22
YTD Actual Giving: \$150,990.00
YTD Budget Need: \$154,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$3,010.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$136.82)

THANK YOU to the generous anonymous donor for their gift of \$15,000.00 to help with the collection deficit.

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Dec. 8 & 9: 5PM, Koby Jany, Ethan Colvis; 9AM, Luke Miller, Nolin Crain, Madison Kribs

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Jesus, increase in us and help us abound in love for all that we may help our world see you in every life situation that we face.

CHURCH STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FRIENDLY REMINDER: Contributions and pledges are rolling in. Thank you! Please try to return your self-addressed stamped pledge card in the next few weeks. Also, please make any edits to your address or comments on the back of the card.

PTO FRIED CHICKEN DINNER will be held on Friday, Dec. 7, at the K of C Hall from 4:30-7PM.

3rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRIVIA NIGHT: Come dressed in your ugliest, tackiest Christmas sweater and be prepared to answer questions relating to all things Christmas! Prizes for tackiest sweater and winning table. Doors open at 6PM, trivia starts at 7PM. Bring your own food and drinks. Alcohol is allowed-Tis the season! \$20 per person-adults only. Reserve a table by calling the school office (826-3120) or contact Dainelle at 559-0555 or dpowell43011@gmail.com.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST at SMS on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 7-10AM. The plates are \$6 and include 3 pancakes, sausage patty, scrambled eggs and a baked apple. Carry outs will be available.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

OUR CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE: If you are not able to deliver your gifts to Three Springs or Craig Manor, please return your gifts to church by Sunday, Dec. 16. Please remember that the diapers for the Food Pantry DO NOT have to be wrapped.

ANGEL TREE TIME! It's time to purchase a crocheted angel for \$10 or renew your angel from past years for \$5 to decorate the Christmas trees in the back of church. Money may be given to Donna Ritter or place it, the memorial name, and your name in an envelope marked "ANGEL" and drop it in the collection. All proceeds are donated to the church. Last year we raised \$595.00. Thank you!

COLD WINTER WEATHER has arrived earlier than usual and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council desperately needs blankets and coats to distribute to those in need. Gently used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages-toddlers, children, teens and adults (men & women) and blankets of all types/sizes are being requested. Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office, #13 Vieux Carre Drive, Suite 2, East St. Louis or call 618-394-0126 for more information.

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: _____