

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 23, 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 24, 2018

Monday, Dec. 24
5PM Frank, Mary, & Robert Wojcik
Tuesday, Dec. 25, Nativity of the Lord
9AM Joe & Shirley Cushman by Joe, Gina, & Family
Wednesday, Dec. 26, St. Stephen, Martyr
NO MASS
Thursday, Dec. 27, St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
NO MASS
Friday, Dec. 28, The Holy Innocents
NO MASS
Saturday, Dec. 29, St. Thomas Becket
5PM Alice Kaiser by Brian Niermann
Sunday, Dec. 30
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 23 THRU DEC. 30

Sunday	9AM Mass NO PSR Class
Monday	NO SCHOOL-NO DAYCARE 5PM Christmas Eve Mass
Tuesday	9AM Christmas Mass
Wednesday	NO MASS NO SCHOOL-NO DAYCARE
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off NO SCHOOL DAYCARE OPEN-BRING LUNCH
Friday	NO MASS NO SCHOOL DAYCARE OPEN-BRING LUNCH
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass NO PSR

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that by doing God's will, Christ has consecrated us to God, once and for all. Doing God's will mean that we visit our world with the unconditional, merciful love God made visible in Jesus Christ. In these last two Advent days, invite Jesus to visit you in prayer. Make time to visit him. Let that visit help you discover God's will and open your eyes to see the face of Christ where we might least expect it. Be the face of Christ for those often neglected by us and our world. There was no room for Christ in the inn. Like Mary make room in the inn of your heart and carry him into our world.

TITHE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16, 2018

Mary Help of Christians: \$7,176.00
\$482.00 Cemetery; \$80.00 Religious Retirement;
\$1.00 Child Env.; \$13.00 Votives
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,823.88
Fiscal Year Week: 25
YTD Actual Giving: \$170,597.00
YTD Budget Need: \$175,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$4,403.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$176.12)

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Dec. 29 & 30: 5PM, Ethan Colvis, Grace Welborn; 9AM, Gage Hopkins, Garret Hopkins, Gene Bicket

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: In people often ignored by society because they are considered unworthy and small, like Bethlehem of Judah, we see Christ's face, and he comes to us again this Advent.

LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY OUTING: On Saturday, Jan. 5, we are going to Ste. Genevieve for 5PM Mass. Their church is just beautiful! After Mass, we will go to Audubon's Grill & Bar (formerly the Hotel Restaurant) for dinner. Reservations are necessary, so please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by Sunday, Dec. 30. Several people are willing to drive, so don't let lack of transportation be a hindrance to attending. We will leave the K of C parking lot by 4PM. Please contact Donna Ritter (826-3706) if you have any questions.

GALA AUCTION TICKETS are available. Contact Ron Korando (618-615-2509) to reserve your seat. Donation slips for the Auction need to be returned by Friday, Feb. 1, so put on your thinking cap to dream up some fun and exciting items for the Auction which is Saturday, March 2. You won't want to miss it. Save the date!

BE A PART OF ROSARY FOR LIFE: At 10AM on Saturday, Jan. 12, the rosary will be prayed at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Perryville, on the new rosary walk (if weather permits). In case of inclement weather, the rosary will be recited in the Shrine Church. Following the rosary, two speakers will talk about the preservation of life. A banner, which will be carried by a local group in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. will be available for participants to sign. Any questions? Call 1-800-264-6279 and ask for Frank.

PLANNING A WEDDING within the next 6 months? St. Francis Xavier Parish, Carbondale, is hosting a Pre Cana Day on Saturday, Jan. 19. For registration information, contact Bill Harper (618-457-4556).

TEC WEEKEND: Calling all high school juniors and seniors. On Saturday, Jan. 19, through Monday, Jan. 21, Althoff High School, Belleville, will host a TEC weekend. On Saturday, Feb. 16, through Monday, Feb. 18, a TEC weekend will be hosted by Sacred Heart School, Du Quoin. To learn more or apply visit bellevilletec.org.

GIFTS FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: The 12 Days of Christmas, celebrated in the Western Church, are the days beginning with Christmas Day and ending on the Feast of the Epiphany. In some countries, these are days on which gifts are given to family and friends. For some, the celebration of the days following Christmas might seem strange, but let us refocus our thoughts and actions for The Twelve Days of Christmas 2018-2019. How? The Church has provided us with a teaching regarding practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy-*Feeding the Hungry, Sheltering the Homeless, Clothing the Naked, Visiting the Sick and Imprisoned, and Burying the Dead*. This Christmas, why not have a discussion over Christmas dinner or dinner during one of the 12 days following Christmas, about gifting others with a corporal work of mercy. You never know, you might discover creative ways of re-gifting some of the "I don't know what to do with" gifts! Mercy has no appointed season, so it can be practiced all year. Happy 12 Days of Christmas to all!

GOD CAME IN HUMAN FLESH: Mass today tells the story: no one is too small, too insignificant to bear the presence of God. The pre-born John (the one to be the Baptist) acts first in the story of visitation by jumping for joy in the womb. At what? The assurance that God comes and will be God-with-us. How will I let God come to me today? At what can I jump for joy? How will I enjoy the freedom of God's good grace by doing a mercy work?