

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2017

LIVING GOD'S WORD

It may be that our fear is that all of those creaks and clatters and clicks are the sounds of our lives being rearranged for us without our having any say in the rearranging. Who knows if we'll be able to live with ourselves when the new light dawns? Nevertheless, in the dark of our lives our God comes and does the rearranging our God does.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 4, 2017

Monday, December 4, St. John Damascene
8:15AM Tootie Gardiner by Rose Mary Callahan
Tuesday, December 5
8:15AM NO MASS-Reconciliation for SMS Students
Wednesday, December 6, St. Nicholas
10:30AM Special Intention
Thursday, December 7, St. Ambrose
6PM Roberta Jany by Friends
Friday, December 8, Immaculate Conception
8:15AM Brian Petrowske by Roger & Ruth
Saturday, December 9, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
5PM Kenny & Ella Mae Kirk by Dorothy Korando
Sunday, December 10
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 3 THRU DEC. 10

Sunday	9AM Mass First Reconciliation after Mass PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:15AM PSR Confession after First Reconciliation
Monday	8:15AM Mass 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon Turkey Vegetable Pot Pie / Fried Chicken 6PM PTO Meeting
Tuesday	8:15AM NO MASS-SMS Student Reconciliation Service Noon-3PM West Vicariate Meeting at Sacred Heart, DuQuoin
Wednesday	10:30AM Mass at Three Springs 7PM Advent Penance Service at St. Boniface, Evansville
Thursday	6PM Vigil Mass - Immaculate Conception (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)
Friday	8:15AM Mass - Immaculate Conception Grade 5 & 6 Liturgy (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) 2:50PM Dismissal - NO BUS
Saturday	10AM Deacon Formation Informational Meeting at Pastoral Center, Belleville 5PM Mass Fr. David (Food for the Poor)
Sunday	9AM Mass Fr. David (Food for the Poor) PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:15AM 2PM Advent Penance Service at the Motherhouse, Ruma

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: The dark does crazy things to our imaginations and makes us act and think like kids. It has a way of flaunting itself with fearsome noises and sowing mysterious unknowns. And when not only our bodies but also our very lives find themselves in the dark, when we don't know how best to deal with disciplining our children, or where to direct the rest of our lives, or how to manage a relationship, well, such darkness can seem unbearable. Then the dark is too much with us. We're never quite sure what mysterious unknowns our God might raise up out of the dark. That may also be why each of us in our own crazy way tries to befriend the dark's noises. One way or another we find a way to live with the darkness, for who knows what our God, the divine potter of the reading from Isaiah, may yet do with the damp clay of our lives?

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Dec. 9 & 10: 5PM, Claire Deterding, Nate Maes; 9AM, David Grau, Gene Bicket, Gage Hopkins

TITHE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26, 2017

Mary Help of Christians: \$22,892.00
\$724.00 Improvement Fund; \$165.00 Christmas; \$100.00
Needy; \$45.00 Cemetery; \$3.00 Child Env.; \$38.00 Votives
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,954.03
Fiscal Year Week: 22
YTD Actual Giving: \$152,988.50
YTD Budget Need: \$154,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$1,011.50)
YTD Weekly: (\$45.98)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Just like Mary, each of us is chosen in Christ, is adopted as daughter or son for a life filled with grace. Let us strive to be sinless in the works we do.

REV. DAVID L. DELICH will be here on Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10. He will speak about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Help care for elders. "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to the December 9 & 10 Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

DON'T FORGET to turn in your \$5 renewal for your crocheted angel that will decorate the trees in the back of church this Christmas season. If you need a new angel, the cost is \$10. You may pay Donna Ritter or drop your envelope containing the money, name of person to be remembered, and your name in the collection. All monies collected are generously donated to St. Mary's Church.

11th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION will be held at St. Boniface, Evansville, on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 11AM-2PM. They will host a Chicken & Dumpling Dinner, Country Store, Crafters, and Vendors. They will also have a Raffle.

STANDING WATCH: We are challenged not to slide easily into this new liturgical year. We must be on guard. We must be ready to act in the ways St. Matthew laid out last Sunday. Simply stated, Christ the King says heaven-worthy acts are works of mercy which offer needed guidance for weekly behavior. What work of mercy needs doing? What will I do this week to work on it? How can I engage others to help? **Corporal Works of Mercy:** Feed the Hungry*Give Drink to the Thirsty*Shelter the Homeless*Clothe the Naked*Visit the Sick*Visit the Prisoners*Bury the Dead*Give Alms to the Poor*Care of Our Common Home***Spiritual Works of Mercy:** Counsel the Doubtful*Instruct the Ignorant*Admonish the Sinner*Comfort the Sorrowful*Forgive Injuries*Bear Wrongs Patiently*Pray for the Living & Dead*

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: _____