



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Dec. 20, 2020

Wed.	Dec. 23 rd	11:30am	St. John
Thurs.	Dec. 24 th	4:00pm	St. John
Thurs.	Dec. 24 th	6:00pm	St. Columbkille
Thurs.	Dec. 24 th	8:00pm	St. Joseph
Fri.	Dec. 25 th	9:30am	St. Ignatius
Fri.	Dec. 25 th	10:30am	St. Columbkille
Sat.	Dec. 26 th	4:00pm	St. John
Sun.	Dec. 27 th	8:30am	St. Joseph
Sun.	Dec. 27 th	10:30am	St. Columbkille

Readings for the Week

Monday, Dec 21st

Songs 2:8-14 Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday, Dec. 22nd

1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Luke 1:57-66

Thursday, Dec. 24th

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Luke 1:67-79

Friday, Dec. 25th

Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18

Saturday, Dec. 26th

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Matthew 10:17-22

Sunday, Dec. 27th

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:22-40



We wish to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of Catherine Melnik-Heck, Robert Sutton & John Cieslinski who passed away.

Let Us Give Thanks!

Weekend Collection - \$5090.00

Loose - \$151.00

Building Fund - \$310.00

Flower Donation - \$1272.00

650 Parish Families

(298 Family envelope holders)

95 Envelopes used

Mass Intentions for Weekend of Dec. 19 & 20

Saturday St. John: + Rodney Tschirhart

Sunday St. Joseph: Good Shepherd Parishioners

Sunday St. Columbkille: + John Brindisi

Donations:

In loving memory of Elmer Osentoski by Helen Osentoski

In this Sunday's Reading

"Hail, favored one. The Lord is with you!" Luke 1:28

Mary's is an ideal example of one who lived her life in gratitude and joy. Even in the most unsure and difficult times, Mary lived in obedience and trust of God's plan for her life. Mary had no idea what her life would be after the angel appeared to her, but she had faith in what God had in store for her. Ask Mary to help you to believe in God's plan for you and have gratitude for the gifts He has given to you.

Religious Education/Faith Formation

Please pray for all who come together for our programs. Tuesday & Wednesday program includes: Kindergarten through 6th grade. Classed will begin again starting in the New Year 2021.

Youth Group

Youth Group will be meeting Dec. 22, 2020 at 2:00pm to Christmas Caroling at Meadow Lanes. We will be outside dress appropriately. We will be returning to the Parish Center to wrap books. Please bring a mask. Youth group is for all 7th thru 12th graders. All are welcome and there is no charge.

Please remember your parish when planning your estate

Christian Initiation

Christian Initiation RCIA Meetings will be held on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 6:30 pm at the St. Columbkille Church in the gathering room.

If you have any questions, please call Dana Irion 989-553-0585 or Fr. Nate at 989-658-8145.

Christ's Mission Appeal 2020

Our Parish is conducting the annual Christ's Mission Appeal. Our goal for this year is \$56,548 as of this week our Parish has pledged \$33,858. Please be generous to the Christ's Mission Appeal by sharing your gifts and blessings. Your contribution to Christ's Mission Appeal is a way of serving our brothers & sisters throughout the diocese and continuing the saving work begun by Jesus.

We are looking to borrow or buy a two stage snow blower for St. Columbkille church. If anyone knows someone that would have one please give Jerry a call @ 989-550-9664.

Holiday Parish Office Hours

The office will be closed on December 24th, 25th, 31st and Jan 1st. Please plan accordingly. Thank you in advance for your patience.



Merry Christmas to all
From The Parish Staff

May God grant you the gift of peace and love as you celebrate Jesus' birth. We would like to thank everyone who helps throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS SCHEDULE:

Counters:

Dec. 22: Barb Roggenbuck, Del Czewski, Ann Ypma

Dec. 29: Jeanene Schmidt, Carol Beaudin, Kathy Beaver

Monday Jan 4: Shirley Piontkowski, Jeanene Schmidt, Judy Messing

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Schedule

4:00pm Thursday Mass Dec. 24th St John

Lector: Jerry Sorenson

EMHC: Jerry Sorenson

Ushers: Bob Brahmer, John Guigar, Rich Trepkowski

6:00pm Friday Mass Dec. 24th St. Columbkille

Lector: Kathy Cregeur

EMHC: Val Fischer

Ushers: Dan Cregeur, Ron Kubacki

8:00pm Sunday Mass Dec. 24th St Joseph

Lector: Denise Kubacki

EMHC: Chuck Izydorek

Ushers: Gordon Farrelly, Kevin Hessling

9:30am Friday Mass Dec. 25th St Ignatius

Lector: Justin Faber

EMHC: Rick Vogel

Ushers: Volunteers

10:30am Friday Mass Dec. 25th St. Columbkille

Lector: Debbie Powell

EMCH: Jerry Sweeney

Ushers: Volunteer

4:00pm Saturday Dec. 26th St. John

Lector: Alger Lemke

EMHC: Alger Lemke

Ushers: Curly Messing, Glen Peruski, Whitey Pawlosky

8:30pm Sunday Mass Dec. 27th St. Joseph

Lector: Suzanne Kroetsch

EMHC: Edie Izydorek

Ushers: Steve Briolat, Bill Izydorek

10:30am Sunday Mass Dec. 27th St Columbkille

Lector: Amy Sweeney

EMHC: Dana Irion

Ushers: Ronnie Irion, Todd Gingrich

Please remember your parish when planning your estate



Jesus Thirsts for Your Love!

Will you quench His thirst?

Fr. Nate's Update

(Please welcome our newest parish family member, Adalee Maurer daughter of Adam and Tiffany Maurer, and say a prayer for her and her parents and godparents, that they would be shining examples of love for Jesus! Below: Thank you to our Sandusky Knights of Columbus for evangelizing by posting this Keep Christmas in Christmas sign at our St. Joseph Church)

Dear Reader, fellow **Saint-in-the-Making**, Happy 4th Sunday of Advent, AND SOON... MERRY CHRISTMAS!



First, some humor: Children's Versions of Christmas Carols:

"On the first day of Christmas, my tulip gave to me ... Ten lawyers leaving, Six geezers lying ... And a cartridge in a pantry!"

"...sleep in heavenly peas!"

"Olive the other reindeer..."

"While shepherds washed their socks by night..."

"Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel!"

"Oh, bring us some friggin' pudding..."

AND FINALLY... "We wish you a very crisp mess" and a happy new year!

Advent's Not Over! Remember A.D.V.E.N.T. Acronym: A.sk Christ into your heart daily, D.o the Works of Mercy, V.alue your family, E.xamine your conscience, N.otice God's beauty, T.hank God for His gifts!

Gratitude for New Chapel in St John rectory in former parish office room (before parish center was built). Candlesticks, tabernacle, and crucifix were all unused parish property, newly refurbished to be beautiful for our Beautiful Savior. I'm grateful to staff and volunteers for their generous help with this project! It will help me and future priests to grow in intimacy with Christ. This chapel will help me to answer Christ's request of me to pray a daily Holy Hour in His "Real Presence" in the Blessed Sacrament, on behalf of all my parishioners and the entire world, especially those in most need of God's mercy.



Christmas Book Gift “I Heard God Laugh”: This new Matthew Kelly book is, in my opinion, one of his most important and practically helpful books. I just finished it and I'm excited that we will be giving it out at Christmas Masses (leaving extra copies in churches for pickup). Matthew gives us a very powerful, life-changing way to deepen our intimacy with God through a simple “prayer process.” Please read it and evangelize by taking an extra copy to give to someone else!

I’m Proud of our Youth: If you’re aware of their accomplishments and hard work, I’d bet you’re proud of them too. Thanks to invites from parishioners, I’ve had the joy of watching some of them compete. Here are local youth that deserve our congratulations: First Team Offense, Football: Nolan VanErp; First Team Defense, Football: Carson Heleski and Kyle Sweeney; First Team Volleyball: Lindsey Guza; Erica Klee, Abigail Guza, Emily Greyerbiehl, Aran Harris, Alexiss Guigar, and siblings Utah, Josie, and Maze Gusa made it to XC State Finals, where Maze got 3rd in Division 4. Many of these runners are in our youth group. Josie Gusa was named one of VG’s Grocery Players of the Month for her performance in volleyball and XC. God bless them for their hard work and Christ-like perseverance!

Christmas Mass Survey Results: we did a survey at St. Columbkille to see people's plans for attending a Christmas Mass (not to register people). I was most concerned about reaching capacity at our St. Columbkille 6pm Christmas EVE Mass, because we do not have the setup for an overflow area with livestream (as we will for the 4pm St. John and the 8pm St. Joseph). The survey showed that more people (parishioners who attend weekly) plan to attend the Christmas DAY Mass than the EVE Mass at St. Columbkille (which is more likely to have visitors who do not attend weekly). This is good news!

Livestream TV Christmas Mass WNEM TV-5: Our diocese will livestream their 9am Christmas DAY Mass on WNEM TV-5. Some of those unable to attend Mass in-person are those who are at risk and/or concerned for their health for any reason, and others because there is not enough space to accommodate all while following distancing guidelines.

Prayer Requests: You may submit prayer requests to the Good Shepherd Prayer Warriors by emailing Fr. Nate at nateharburg@gmail.com, or by leaving a message on rectory voicemail 658-8145. Or, you can speak directly to a Prayer Warrior willing to pray with you on the phone, and/or forward your prayer request to the group: call Christian at (612) 419-6792 or Margy at (989) 245-9751

SOON... MERRY CHRISTMAS: I’ll be celebrating our Dear Savior’s Birth with my parents in Ypsi; most of my siblings we will celebrate with on Zoom. Fr. Adam Maher (bringing all of his Holy Spirit Anointing and Enthusiasm) will sub for Masses the weekend after Christmas. Have a blessed and safe Christmas with your loved ones, whether in-person or on Zoom!

PRAY WITH ME...

**(Pope's DECEMBER Intention):* We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer (Lord, hear our prayer!)

**(Fr. Michael Gaitley's daily consecration prayer from 33 Days to Morning Glory):* Mary, I want to be a saint. I know that you also want me to be a saint and that it's your God-given mission to form me into one. So, Mary, at this moment... [I freely give you] my full permission to do your work in me, with your Spouse, the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God loves you, I love you, I pray for you, please pray for me! -Fr. Nate Harburg

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 | Rom 16:25-27 | Lk 1:26-38

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

During Advent, we await the One who is perfect grace, light, and joy. The Christ Child's arrival during a time when darkness has been increasing each day, and our anticipation of that arrival, emphasize his salvific role. For if even the smallest light is a glimmer of hope in the night, how much more is Christ's perfect and all-consuming light a life-saving flare in the darkness of sin and death. As we hear the angel Gabriel say of Christ, in his visitation to Mary: "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High ... and of his kingdom there will be no end." Emmanuel, God with us, is the reason for our hope, and the reason for our joy.

GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I don't know about you, but despite my best intentions, I have been known to get a little swallowed up in the commercialism of Christmas. But this last week of Advent feels like a chance to reorder my mind and heart. One way to do this is by focusing on the "O Antiphons," prayed during the Church's evening prayer from December 17-23. Each antiphon begins with the word "O," and is followed by a title for the Messiah, found in Scripture, and a petition for him to come and save his people. Although this may sound overly complicated, you most likely know of these without realizing it: they have been transposed into the verses of the hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. Today's first reading speaks of David, who thought he could build a place for God to dwell, but he can't. Instead, for us, whom God created and fashioned in his own image, God created a dwelling for his Son, so that he might enter into our human history as one of us; and in doing so, dwell among us and within us forever. Come, Lord Jesus.

INVITE When lighting the final candle on your Advent wreath, invite your family to help you make the prayer interactive. Focus on the lesser-known verses of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, such as the one below - it is an ancient prayer still very relevant today.

O King of the Nations

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
And be for us our King of Peace.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*



Coping with Grief during the Holidays

Surviving the holiday season is difficult for many of us, but for those living with the loss of a loved one, this time of year may be especially painful. Holidays are filled with nostalgia and traditions. We love to relive the memories of special moments in our lives. But, even the happiest of memories can be painful, not joyous, when we are grieving. We may need some extra help to survive this holiday season. Here are a few coping skills that may be helpful. These suggestions won't necessarily take the grief away, but they can help in managing the grief during this time of year.

Do what feels right - It's up to you to decide which activities, traditions or events you can handle. Don't feel obligated to participate in anything that doesn't feel doable. It's okay to say no.

Plan ahead - Sometimes the anticipation is worse than the actual holiday. Create some activities in the days approaching a holiday so that you have something to look forward to. New activities might be easier, but familiar traditions might be comforting as well. Do what feels best for you.

Scale back - You might opt for minimal decorations at home and take a break from baking, shopping, etc. You could limit gatherings with only your closest friends and family. Do whatever feels safe and comfortable to you.

Surround yourself with supportive people - Make sure you have a group of people you can stay connected with during the holiday season. Be honest about how you'd like to do things this year. If you want to talk about your loved one, do so and let others know it's okay if they do, too.

Acknowledge those who have passed on - Honor your loved one by lighting candles for them, talking about them, make a donation to a charity in their name, create a special card or write them a letter, display their picture or place an item of theirs among holiday decorations. Pray for your loved one.

Listen to your body - If you need to cry, then cry. If you need to sleep, then do so. If you need to talk to someone, seek out someone who will listen. If you need time alone, then take the time. It is important for the grieving process that you accept and honor your feelings, whatever they may be.

Lean into your Faith - Listen to Jesus' words, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted", Matthew 5:4. Seek comfort in prayers, scripture and lean into your faith community for their love and support.

Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows

Our mother of sorrows, with strength from above you stood by the cross, sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and with tender care you bore him in your arms, mourning and weeping, We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope, which trusted that God would do great things in you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his passion. Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love.

Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs.

Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen!

For more information on resources, coping skills and support;

Contact your Parish Office

Visit www.saginaw.org/grief-ministry

Diocese of Saginaw Respect Life Office at 989-797-6652

"Love does not end"

1 Corinthians 13:8

Good Shepherd Christmas Flower Donations

In memory of James, Joseph, Ann, and William Ternes, Galen Baker by Charlotte Baker
In memory of John Beaudin, Madelyn Schrader, Bernice & Jim Weber, Stanley & Gladys Briolat, Margaret Miller, Mary Jane Sweeney, Rosie Abraham and Mary Anna Longuski by Carol Beaudin

In memory of Russell & Doris Bowers, by Todd & Janice Bowers

In memory of Elmer & Bea Brahmer, Roy & Dorothy Geyer by Robert & Judy Brahmer

In memory of Stanley & Gladys Briolat, Charles Francis Briolat, Jim & Bernice Weber, Luke Snyder and John Beaudin by Charles Briolat

In memory of Stanley & Gladys Briolat, John Beaudin, Jim & Bernice Weber, Roman Briolat families, Luke Snyder and Peter Ulfing families, by Sue Briolat

Harold Conley

In loving Marvin & Mary Anna Longuski and deceased member of Czewski & Schefka families, by Jim & Delphine Czewski

In loving memory of Leonard & Angeline Deachin, by Karen Deachin

Paul & Sherry Essenmacher

In memory of Paul & Dorothy Fischer, Frank & Mary Navock, by Jerry & Valerie Fischer

Ralph & Eleanor Fligger

In loving memory of Leo & Rita Walsh, Gary Franzel, Christopher Franzel, Glen & Emma Franzel, Wayne, Frances Arnold Lapeer, by Chuck & Sharon Franzel

In memory of Jerome Franzel, by Eleanor Franzel

In memory of Tom Lautner, by Duane & Judy Freel

Todd & Pamela Gingrich

In memory of Walter Glaza, Joe & Clara Szymanski, John & Gert Glaza, Art & Sue Grifka, and Ray & Fran Szymanski, by Delores Glaza

Vernon & Dianne Glaza

In memory of Bertha Grifka, by Kevin & Shelly Grifka

In memory of Edmund & Jeanette Guza by Paul Guza

Kevin & Louise Hessling

Loreane Holz

Chuck & Joann Izydorek

In memory of Francis and Edward Kanaby, by Marilyn Kanaby

In memory of Joe Kroetsch by Suzanne Kroetsch

In memory of Dorothy Hund, Donald Hund, John & Lorraine Hund by Dan & Denise Kubacki

In memory of Joseph Pichla, Joan Pichla, Dennis Hagen, Nick & Agnes Heleski, by Ronald & Doreen Lackowski

In memory of Virginia Lubeski, Regina Prill, Alex Prill, Emma Lubeski, and John Lubeski, by Harvey Lubeski

In memory of Carolyn Mandrich, by Lewis Mandrich

In memory of Haven Maurer, by Caroline Maurer family

In loving memory of our son, Jason, by Clem & Cindy Maurer

Good Shepherd Christmas Flower Donations

Jason & Carol McCarty

In memory of James McEachin by Delphine McEachin

In memory of Joseph & Stella Gucwa, William & Violet McNish, and all deceased members of St. Columbkille Church, by William & Barbara McNish

In memory of William & Doris Langenburg, by Kent & Betty Miller

In memory of Chris Ogryski, by Jill Ogryski

In memory of Clayton & Joann Parrish, Stanley & Bertha Osentoski, Elmer Osentoski, Ervin & Joann Briolat, Peter & Olive Champagne, by Helen Osentoski

In loving memory of our son, Kevin, and brother, Ken Osentoaki, by Jim & Rita Osentoski

In memory of Tracey Lynn Rich, by Fred & Alice Pallas

In memory of Tony, Ruth, Larry Olshove and Joe, Blanche, Joe, Peg Pawlosky, by Jerome & Bev Pawlosky

In memory of John "Jack" Peruski, Nick & Agnes Heleski, John & Delphine Peruski, and Jeni Kedding, by Evelyn Peruski

In memory of John & Delphine Peruski, Sylvester & Isabel Wodwaska, Jeffrey Fess, Austin Lochrie, by Glen & Geraldine Peruski

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Healy and Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Smith, David Healy, by Kay Peruski

In memory of Randy Peruski, Eugene & Geraldine Briolat, Marsall & Rose Briolat, Jack & Jeanette Peruski, Frank & Marie Peruski, Dennis Peruski, Scott Peruski, by Richard & Chris Peruski

In memory of Henry & Loraine Austin, Ron Austin, Elizabeth Grace Phillips, Mary Austin, by William & Jean Phillips

In memory of Joseph Pichla, Dennise Hagen, Nick & Agnes Heleski, by Beatrice Pichla

In memory of Joseph Pichla Sr, Clarence Kubacki and Dennis Hagen, by Ken & Karen Pichla

In memory of Glenn Roggenbuck, by Barbara Roggenbuck

In memory of the Sitnicki family and Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Vavro, by Pete & Linda Sitnicki

In memory of Arlene Smigielski and Mark Smigielski, by John Smigielski

In memory loving of Frank & Lillian Peplinski and Idge Smith, Lawrence & Yvonne Smith, Mark Smith, by Pat Smith

Gerald & Terry Sorenson

In memory of Barb, Joanne and Glenda, by Dennis & Rita Sweeney

In memory of Joe Sweeney, Gary Bismack, Mary Sweeney, by Gary & Pam Sweeney

In memory of James B. & Virginia Sweeney, and Barb Sweeney, by Gerald Sweeney

In memory of Janet Sweeney, by Terry & Colleen Sweeney

In memory of Thomas Timlin, by Doris Timlin

In memory of Eileen Trepkoski, by Joe Trepkoski

In memory of Clayton & Joann Parish, Walter & Mildred Uhl, by Bruce & Lori Uhl

In memory of Richard Ypma, Mildred & Melvin Bukoski, John & Loretta Ypma, by Ann Ypma