



**Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022**

Wed. December 14th 11:30am St. John site
Thur. December 15th 7:00pm St. Columbkille site
Fri. December 16th 9:00am St. John site
With Adoration following mass until 10:30am
Sat. December 17th 4:00pm St. John site
Sun. December 18th 8:30am St Joseph site
Sun. December 18th 10:30am St. Columbkille site

Confessions for this Week

Wednesday: 11:00-11:25am St. John site
Thursday: After 7pm Mass St. Columbkille site
Saturday: 3:30pm (ask Fr. at door) St John site

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 12th

Zechariah 2: 14-17 Luke 1: 26-38

Tuesday, December 13th

Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13 Matthew 21: 28-32

Wednesday, December 14th

Isaiah 45: 6c-8, 18 Luke 7: 18-23

Thursday, December 15th

Isaiah 54: 1-10 Luke 7: 24-30

Friday, December 16th

Isaiah 56: 1-3, 6-8 John 5: 33-36

Saturday, December 17th

Genesis 49: 2, 8-10 Matthew 1: 1-17

Sunday, December 18th

Isaiah 7: 10-14 Romans 1: 1-7
Matthew 1: 18-24



We wish to express our deepest sympathies
and condolences to the family of Frank Lasceski
who passed away.

Let Us Give Thanks!

Weekend Collection – \$6004.00

Loose - \$375.00

Building Fund - \$50.00

650 Parish Families

(297 Family envelope holders)

141 Envelopes used

Donations:

In loving memories of my husband, William,
my grandson, Matthew and my brother, Ervin
by: Rose Labun

Mass Intentions for the Week of:

December 5 – December 11, 2022

Saturday St John site: + Jim & Bernice Weber

Sunday St Joseph site: Good Shepherd
Parishioners

Sunday St Columbkille site: + Michael Thomas
Sweeney

Mass Intentions for the Week of:

December 12 – December 18, 2022

Saturday St John site: Good Shepherd
Parishioners

Sunday St Joseph site: + Francis Keating

Sunday St Columbkille site: + Dorothy Heleski

In This Sunday's Readings

“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had
commanded him and took his wife into his home.” --

Matthew 1:24

It is hard to even imagine the emotions that Joseph
experienced. Mary was found to be pregnant, but he didn't
want her to be the subject of being talked about and
shamed. He thought he was doing the right thing, but then
an angel appeared to him. He must have been confused
and anxious among other emotions, yet he did what the
Lord commanded. He put his total trust in God. This can
very difficult to do. Pray for the courage and strength to do
as God tells you – even when your emotions might tell you
differently.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND

Help aging religious. Senior sisters, brothers, and
religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer,
service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or
no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have
enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's
Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish
medications, nursing care, and other necessities.

Please give generously.

Please remember your parish when planning your estate

Faith Formation

The Faith Formation education program of Good Shepherd Parish will not meet on December 14. Our next meeting will be December 21.

Ubly: 5:30-7pm (Dec. 21)
Sheridan Corners: 6-7:30pm (Dec. 21)

Youth Group

We will not be meeting again until January.

Youth group is for all 7-12th grades & there is no cost.

St. Columbkille Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating Monday, Dec. 19 at 6:30pm.
Please come and help if you're available

Knights of Columbus

Ubly/Sheridan Council #12850

Next Meeting: We will meet at 7:00pm at the Parish Center on Wednesday, December 14. We are always looking for New

Members – call Jeff Maurer @ 989-553-4224. Our food pantry is available for anyone in need, located in Ubly. This is completely confidential and anonymous –

Call Jerry @989-550-9664.

Jeff Maurer Grand Knight-Ubly/Sheridan Council-12850

HELP WANTED

Parish office help needed – part time.
Please contact the office if interested.

Good Shepherd Christian Mothers

We are holding our Christmas Party on December 13. The doors will open at 5:30pm at the Parish Center with dinner being served at 6:00pm.

Exchange Gift: \$10 (Optional)

Come enjoy the night with some

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT !!!



Giving Tree

Please take an envelope, place a monetary donation in the envelope and return it to the Sunday collection basket. The total money collected will be divided up into four and donated to the Homeless Coalition in Bad Axe & Sandusky, the Womens Shelter in Bad Axe and Eva's Place in Sandusky. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Choir Practice for Christmas Masses

St. Ignatius and St. Joseph will be holding choir practice on December 12th at 7pm for the Christmas masses. Practice will be held at St. Ignatius Church.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Counters:

December 12: Geraldine Peruski, Kay Peruski, Evelyn Peruski
December 19: Rose Maikrzek, Shirley Piontkowski, Mary Jane Zurek
December 27: Barb Roggenbuck, Jeanene Schmidt, Ann Ypma

4:00pm Saturday Mass December 17th St John site

Lector: Marlene Bukoski

EMHC: Judy Messing

Altar Server: Utah Gusa

Sacristan: Rose Maikrzek

Ushers: John Guigar, Dennis Smalley, Mike Briolat, Bob Brahmer

8:30am Sunday Mass December 18th St Joseph site

Lector: Suzanne Kroetsch

EMHC: Edie Izydorek

Greeter: Lisa Briolat

Ushers: Steve Briolat, Gordon Farrelly, Bill Izydorek

10:30am Sunday Mass December 18th St Columbkille site

Lector: Debbie Powell

EMHC: Marge Messing & Delaney Peruski

Altar Servers: Luke Roth, Brynneleigh Bambach

Greeters: Clare & Maria Roth

Gift Bearers: Trent & Morgan Sweeney

Ushers: Ronnie Irion, Aaron Bismack, Steve Peruski

BENEFIT FOR NATALIE

New Year's Eve Benefit for Natalie Morgan
(19 month old from Harbor Beach battling cancer)

Ubly Heights

6:00 pm to 12:30 am

Smorgasbord with the following:

Prime Rib \$28.50

Perch \$16.00

Both \$41

Please RSVP for a guaranteed dinner spot to Melinda at 989-550-3955 or Jodie at 989-553-0899.

Raffle items and dancing to ring in the New Year

Advent Season 2022 Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Mass

4pm - St. John Church, Ubly

6pm - St. Columbkille Church, Sheridan Corners

8pm – St Joseph Church, Argyle

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day Mass

8:30am – St Ignatius Church, Freiburg

Saturday, December 31st – New Years Eve Mass

Mary Mother of God

4pm – St. John Church, Ubly

Sunday, January 1st – New Years Day Mass –

Mary Mother of God

8:30am - St. Joseph

10:30am - St. Columbkille

Please remember your parish when planning your estate

Jesus Cries, “I Thirst!”

Will you quench His thirst for love?

- Fr. Nate's Update -

**Dear Saint-in-the-Making, Happy Advent!
“COME LORD JESUS!”**

<--Refreshments and fellowship at the rectory after our “Communal First Saturday”; join us next month!

Some Holy Humor: Over dinner in a nice restaurant, Pastor Bob was trying to convince a skeptical wealthy parishioner on the need to tithe income to the church and to charity — all to no avail. The pastor tried one

last time as they were paying the bill and leaving money on the table. “We give the waitress 15% out of gratitude for good service,” he said with a twinkle in his eye, “but we can’t give God 10% for our lives?”

Advent Homily Series: What is the Good News? Created, Captured, Rescued, Response

For Your Review and Prep for Next Homily in the Series:

Homily #2: Why is everything so messed up?

Created, Captured, Rescued, Response. These four words can help us to understand the Good News, and then, to share it, to evangelize, to help rescue souls.

Before we can share it, we have to truly understand WHAT the Good News is! And not just understand; we have to experience, in our personal lives, HOW the Good News is not just good, but EXTRAORDINARY and LIFE-CHANGING!

Someone asked me recently, what is my purpose on earth? Many of us memorized the Baltimore Catechism answer, “To know, love, and serve God in this life, and to be happy with Him forever in the next.” This is true, and the better we understand the Good News, the better we will be able to know, love, and serve God, and find fulfillment in life.

The Good News has been called The Greatest Story Ever Told. Did you know that this Greatest Story is also YOUR story, and MY story? It’s an ongoing story. Where you and I end up in the story remains to be seen. Our eternal destiny is at stake.

Last weekend I preached on **CREATED**. Let’s review it quickly, to prepare us for today’s topic. We start with the question, **Why is there something rather than nothing?** *Because God is love and God wants to share His life and love. So, God created the universe, and He created you as the pinnacle, the highpoint, of all creation, to share His life and love with you for all eternity.*

Everytime we experience the beauty and glory of nature, we’re experiencing the first part of our story, **CREATED**. That experience is God sharing His life and love with you.

Today we move on to the next part of our story, **CAPTURED**. Last time we prayed for the grace of wonder and awe at God’s Creation. Today, we pray for the grace of despair. *Dear God, please give us the grace of despair, of the good kind of despair, despair that we CANNOT save ourselves from sin, death, and the devil. Amen!*

Sometimes life is really, really hard. Ever had one of those moments, where you felt like you were living a nightmare? That is an experience of the second part of your story, your **CAPTURE**. The story of our capture is summed up in the question, **Why are things so incredibly messed up?** If God is all good, why is there so much evil in the world? It goes all the way back to the envy... of the devil. To understand how the Good News is so **Good**, we have to understand the bad



news, and **how the bad news is not just bad... but horrific**, worse than we can imagine.

A head of the Jesuit religious order made the news last year. He stated that the devil is a symbolic reality, not a personal reality. This caused a big stir, a big controversy, a big scandal. It's a scandal because it is false.

C.S. Lewis said the devil seeks to sell us the lie that he doesn't exist. Or, if we believe he exists, he'll try to sell us the lie that he's more powerful or less powerful than he actually is.

Here's the Gospel Truth about the devil, pun intended. Jesus calls him the Father of lies, and he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The enemy knows you, hates you, and wants to destroy you. God's plan for you is eternal life and union with God; the enemy's plan for you is eternal death and eternal separation from God, in a state that Jesus calls Gehenna, or hell.

But God is infinitely more powerful than the devil. Think of the difference between a human being and an ant. The human being can crush the ant with his little finger. The difference between God and the devil is infinitely bigger... than the difference between a human being and an ant.

I once saw a picture of Jesus armwrestling the devil, and I laughed [HA!], because this is just not reality. The devil has no chance IN HELL against Jesus. God has no...rivals.

How did sin and death enter the world? Scripture says, it was through the **envy of the devil** that death entered the world. This is part of the story of our capture. Who was the devil envious of? God? No, of you. The reason sin, death, and evil exist in the world is because the devil was envious of you, of human beings. The devil was envious of us because He learned that God would become one of us at the incarnation. And perhaps he was envious of Christ himself.

When God revealed the plan of the incarnation to the angels, Lucifer, the greatest angel, rebelled against God and became the devil. He was kicked out of heaven by St. Michael, along with a third of the other angels who also rebelled.

The enemy began his mission. Since he can't attack God directly, he attacks God's image, God's most beloved creatures, you and me. His goal is to enslave us in sin and fear.

To defend us from the enemy, God gives us angels, God lives within our hearts by Faith since our baptism, God gives us the weapons of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, all the powerful sacraments, and the three legged stool of scripture, tradition, and the teaching authority of the Church. He gives us the protection of Mother Mary, who has been given authority over the devil.

Also, in Scripture, God shows us the enemy's **PLAYBOOK**, to defend us. The devil's main strategy is to sell us the lie that God is NOT our good Father. **Let me say that again: his main strategy is to sell us the lie that God is NOT our good Father, but our Adversary.**

That's the lie he sold to Adam and Eve. He sells Adam and Eve this lie that God is not their good Father; that God lied to them about the fruit. It's the same lie, the same strategy he's used throughout all of history, and in our daily lives today. We can see this same pattern of temptation in our daily lives. Whenever we choose to sin, we are buying the lie that God is not our good Father, and that God is untrustworthy.

Besides our Blessed Mother, do you know anyone who never sinned, after being baptized, or who never died? Until Christ returns, or until the day He calls us home, we live under the kingdom of sin and death. Scripture calls sin and death "powers" because in a sense they have authority over us. We can't escape them by ourselves. We're helpless.

That's why we prayed for the grace of despair, despair that we CANNOT save ourselves from sin and death, that we are **CAPTURED**. This good despair... makes us realize we need a Savior. We need Jesus, and we need at the center... of our lives, as the Lord of our lives.

Because He saw that humanity was **CAPTURED**, God sent Jesus on a RESCUE mission, to rescue us from the enemy's kingdom and transfer us into HIS kingdom. He began that rescue mission by INVADING the enemy's kingdom at the incarnation, which we're going to celebrate soon at Christmas. And we'll learn what he did after that, in the next homily in the series, which is called, **RESCUED**.



Personal Testimony: Dawn Stewart

*"They defeated [the devil] by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony"
-Revelation 11:12*

My name is Dawn Stewart and I have been a member of Good Shepherd Parish for a little over a year. On January 15, 2021, I was told the news no one wants to hear "you have cancer." My story is not about cancer, it is one of spiritual growth, determination, and listening to God's voice. I was searching for something that would help me get through this difficult time in my life as I had a lot of anger toward God. What I did not know was what was about to happen would be a spiritual journey that would greatly change my life for the better.

On Facebook, I saw a post by Father Adam regarding a Charismatic Renewal Mass and Healing Service. I did not know what Charismatic Renewal was, but the Healing Service piqued my interest, so in February 2021 I attended my first Charismatic Mass. I had never met Father Adam before, but when he came up to my pew and asked me what my name was, I did not even get my last name out and he automatically knew who I was. He prayed with me. I felt like I was on fire. He told me that was the Holy Spirit and I felt better than I had since I was diagnosed with cancer. I was then invited to attend a prayer meeting and that event is when I knew Charismatic Renewal was what I was searching for.

I am a woman who always wants to do the right thing and likes to be in control of the decision I make, however, my situation was not in my hands, I needed to put it in the hands of God and follow his voice. After much inner debate with myself and many doctor appointments, I decided how I wanted to treat my cancer and it was not a traditional method. I would have to make some difficult decisions that summer. The medication I was given to prevent my cancer from coming back was making me sick to the point that I wasn't sleeping well, and it was hard to get up in the morning and go to church or work. I just wasn't feeling like myself and I began to wonder if the medication was worth it. I decided I need to talk to God about it during our chat. God says to me let me be your oncologist please trust me. After much discussion, I agreed to let him be my oncologist and quit taking the medication. I found a better solution: a supplement that seems effective and has no side effects. During this time as I was accepted to the Lay Ministry Program, and I attended the Life of the Spirit Seminar along with the laying on of hands was an emotional experience with many tears.

I was given a homework assignment for lay ministry to choose one gospel reading that demonstrates Jesus ministering to people that has impacted our own sense of Christian vocation, discipleship, and call to ministry. I chose Mark 5:24-34 the hemorrhaging woman story. I would soon learn how important that scripture would be to me as I heard it a few times during my recovery. The first time I heard it was at the Michigan Catholic Women's Conference in Lansing. It was quite an emotional day as I heard some things that moved me to tears. I had only told a few people about the scripture I chose. The second time I heard the scripture was during the Sunday gospel reading. I asked myself why I kept hearing the scripture I chose for my homework assignment. Third and last time I heard the scripture was at the Advent Mission here in this church on December 5, 2021. Father Nate invited Richard Lane, an African American Evangelist to come to speak at Good Shepherd Parish for a four-night mission. Richard read the scripture then went up to Father Nate, took the stole from around his neck and walked toward the altar and placed it around the Monstrance, and told each one of us to now be like the hemorrhaging women and touch Jesus and be healed. Also, during this time I felt like someone was laying their hands on my shoulder, however, there was no one around me to touch me

from behind. I was so ready to have my cancer healed (when I had my treatment done, I was told I might have come back if they didn't get all the cancer the first time and I wouldn't know if the treatment worked until the MRI right before Christmas.) I could not wait to go up there, but I did not want to be the first one, so I waited and watched people go up and touch Jesus. When I went up to be healed by Jesus, I was praying hard because I was so done with cancer and the waiting that [went] with it. I am not a patient person so six months of waiting was very hard and nerve-racking.

I left the church with a new sense and confidence about my cancer, unfortunately, that did not last long as early Saturday of that week I had my second stress-induced tachycardia episode in the same year, a rough week with family issues, work, and death of a cousin and someone I had gone to school with died of Covid. It deeply bothered me that two people close to my age (47 and 55) had died. I worried I would get Covid too and we did not know if my cancer was cured. While in the hospital I had a talk with God, He told me that I needed to trust Him and to quit believing the lies the devil was telling me. "Can you do that for me, Dawn?" I said "yes". I started to calm down with more heart medication as they could not immediately do anything as going home was the better option than staying in the hospital. Once I left the hospital, I felt a sense of relief and a deep sense that my cancer was gone, but I knew that I should not get my hopes up because if I was wrong, I was going to be once again devastated.

The day finally came for the MRI on December 22nd. I was nervous and pacing around the house. I hate having MRIs because I must be sedated. My friend, Cynthia, picked me up and we drove to Ascension Providence in Rochester Hills. After the test, when I heard, I would have to wait a week for my results because of the Christmas Holiday, I said no I am not waiting any longer as I have waited over six months and I am done waiting. I emailed my doctor's nurse on December 23rd and there was confusion about where I had my MRI. Within two hours of my first email to her, I had the results not knowing I was about to find out how great God is and how truly blessed beyond measure I was. I was cancer free. I was anxiety free as well and I had the best Christmas I could ever remember.

God and I had another talk as I realized things may have turned out very differently if I had not reached out to Father Nate and Father Adam, came to my first Charismatic Renewal Mass and Healing Service, went to Lansing for the Catholic Conference finally went to the Advent Mission and had many conversations with God, where I ask God for something I thought was a big ask.

If there is anyone who has cancer, I want you to know I am praying for you and for anyone who has lost loved ones to cancer. I am extremely grateful to God, Fathers Adam, and Nate and the Charismatic Renewal Healing Teams, and the prayer warrior e-mail team, who prayed for me through my whole cancer experience. The one thing I hope you take away today from my testimonial is that you can talk to God and ask him for big things because when you turn whatever it is over to God great things can happen. I continue to talk to God and ask sometimes I ask for big things. I also would like to ask for you to pray for me because the treatment is not considered successful until I have had four cancer clear results and I have only had two so far. The next MRI is in December, and I am hoping for favorable results. I would like to leave with you a scripture quote and a quote from Kirby Puckett in closing.

With God, All Things are Possible Matthew 19:26

Don't take anything for granted because tomorrow is not promised to any of us.

Thank you

December 11, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

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

Today many of us light a rose Advent candle as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice,” and today’s readings hint at the joy of Christ’s coming. Who among us can’t relate to the concrete examples from the prophet Isaiah that give us many reasons for hope and joy as we anticipate Christ’s birth. Those of us who have experienced fear or doubt find reassurance: “Be strong, fear not!” During the holidays when many will grieve those who have died this past year, we hear that “sorrow and mourning will flee.” In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist points us to the source of our joy in the person of Jesus Christ. As we continue to prepare for his coming, we can take comfort knowing that God is with us now and for eternity. As we hear in today’s Psalm, “The Lord God keeps faith forever.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I am not a patient person. Waiting in the slow grocery line raises my heart rate, and I have to use cruise control in 35 mph zones (it works!). Despite my impatience, I’ve grown to love planting a vegetable garden in the spring and never cease to be amazed at the rich harvest of tomatoes in July or August. As St. James reminds us, we can learn from the farmer who patiently waits for the rains. “You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” Whether we have patient personalities or not, we can rest assured that the Lord is with us for the long game. Just as the rains help our tomatoes to come in – a miracle that still surprises me each summer – our faithfulness, prayer and good works can nurture our hearts and our souls. They also remind us of the true joy of the season: Our Savior, Jesus Christ, has taken on our humanity for our salvation. “Lord, come and save us.”

ACTION Need something to brighten your living area during the deep of winter? You can find amaryllis “bulbs in a box” online. They bloom inside and can be moved outside when spring comes, serving as a visible reminder that patience pays off. This can also be a nice gift for a friend or perhaps an elderly relative who does not have access to a garden.



The November meeting of Council 12850 of the Ugly-Sheridan Knights of Columbus was called to order at 7:15 by the Grand Knight. When called to order the Grand Knight led the group in the Lord's Prayer and the pledge of allegiance. After the roll call the last months minutes were approved. The Treasures report was given and approved.

Bills were presented to the trustees. Motion made by Wayne Lang with support from Joe Radomski to turn bills over to be paid.

Old business was discussed.

In new business the council received a communication from the Diocese for Christmas donations for the seminarians. A motion made by Dave Keller with support by Tom Murray to donate \$250 for the cause passed.

The Grand Knight thanked all that helped with the meal served for the Faith Formation classes and their parents.

Beginning the first of the year Jerry Sweeney will purchase food for the pantry. Marvin Osentoski will assist Jerry with this program.

Greg Sweeney made a motion to pay for a \$200 add for the bulletin. Motion was supported by Dan Creguer. The motion passed.

The council received a thank you from the Cass City council for our donation to their food pantry.

Retreat to be held at the parish center 11-19-22

Tim Messing introduced himself as our new Insurance agent and reviewed K of C products with us.

The 4th degree will host a Turkey Bingo November 16th.

The District Deputy reported that the Diocese is still looking at programs in support of right to life.

Sweatshirts to be donated for the kids to Queen of Angels retreat center.

Membership update is at 33%.

Leonard Briolat was named as Knight of the Month.

Prayers for the good of the order. Greg and Deb Maurer, Carl and Barb Keller, Betty Tracy, Ed Sweeney, Gary Hurren, Pam Sweeney, Leon Lashinski, Melvin Leppek, Richard Bredow and the repose soul of Kay Sweeney.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Dec.

14th @ 7:00PM

Vivat Jesus – Jeff Maurer/Grand Knight