

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE
Sun. Dec. 3, 2:30pm St. John

Winter Break for 5pm Sunday Mass in Ubly

This Mass will be discontinued December 2023 through April 2024, and resume in May 2024.

Mass Readings for the Week

Nov 27 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Dn 1: 1-6. 8-20/ Dn 3: 52. 53. 54. 55. 56/ Lk 21: 1-4

Nov 28 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Dn 2: 31-45/ Dn 3: 57. 58. 59. 60. 61/ Lk 21: 5-11

Nov 29 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Dn 5: 1-6. 13-14. 16-17. 23-28/ Dn 3: 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67/ Lk 21: 12-19

Nov 30 Thu: Andrew, ap F

Rom 10: 9-18/ Ps 19: 8. 9. 10. 11/ Mt 4: 18-22

Dec 1 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Dn 7: 2-14/ Dn 3: 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81/ Lk 21: 29-33

Dec 2 Sat: Dedication of Springfield in Illinois Cathedral (2009) F

Dedication: Common of Dedication of a Church

Weekday: Dn 7: 15-27/ Dn 3: 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87/ Lk 21: 34-36

Dec 3 SUN: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 63: 16b-17. 19b; 64: 2-7/ Ps 80: 2-3. 15-16. 18-19 (4)/ 1 Cor 1: 3-9/ Mk 13: 33-37

In This Sunday's Readings

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

It is easy, especially when our lives are going smoothly, to take things for granted. We are comfortable and we can often "put off" doing things. We may think that we "will get to that later," no matter if it is sharing our gifts with others or preparing our mind and spirit for the end of our earthly days. Listen to God and try to hear how He is calling you to help build His kingdom on earth – today.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Let Us Give Thanks!

Total Weekend Sacrificial Giving –\$3484.00

Includes Loose of \$409.00

650 Parish Families – Envelopes Used 108

Thank You for your generosity to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development- \$1,358.00

Mass Intentions for December 2 & 3, 2023

Saturday, St. John: +Lillian Kubacki

Sunday, St. Joseph: +Frank Lasceski

Sunday, St. Columbkille: +Michael Thomas Sweeney

Mass Intentions for December 9 & 10, 2023

Saturday, St. John: + Douglas Grekowicz

Sunday, St. Joseph: Good Shepherd Parishioners

Sunday, St. Columbkille: Natalie Morgan

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Counters of Financial Offerings:

December 4: Luci Kubacki, Charlotte Baker, Barb Roggenbuck

December 11: Carol Beaudin, Kathy Beaver, Ann Ypma

December 18: Diana Briolat, Marge Briolat, Rose Maikrzek

9:00 am Friday, December 8th- St John- Holy Day of

Obligation

Lector: Carol Beaudin

EMHC: Cathy Stacer

Altar Server: Corey Kubacki

Sacristan: Rose Maikrek

7:00pm Friday, December 8th- St Columbkille- Holy Day of

Obligation

Lector: Sarah Romzek

EMHC: Jerry & Valerie Fischer, Jeremy Roth, Karen Pichla, Volunteer

Altar Server: Broden Peruski, Laura Romzek

Greeters: Kempisty Family

Gift Bearers: Fischer family

4:00pm Saturday, December 9th- St John

Lector: Jeanne Gusa

EMHC: Dave Eilers

Altar Server: Paloma Fabian

Sacristan: Luci Kubacki

Ushers: Virgil Briolat, Jim Osentoski, Richard Trepkowski

8:30am Sunday, December 10th St Joseph

Lector: Paul Deo

EMHC: Lori Uhl

Altar Server: Shirley Catalano

Greeter: Bruce Uhl

Sacristan: Bruce & Lori

Ushers: Bruce Uhl, Kevin Hessling

10:30am Sunday, December 10th - St Columbkille

Lector: Beth VanErp

EMHC: Jeremy Roth, Joe Flannery, Beth & Joseph VanErp, Michelle Banky

Altar Servers: Sadie Fischer, Trent Sweeney

Greeters: Sarah & Laura Romzek

Gift Bearers: Bismack Family

Ushers: Ben Kubacki, Rob Kubacki, Jack Kubacki

Donations

In memory of Marion Rutkowski by Darlene Rutkowski

In memory of Carol Lemke by Darlene Rutkowski

May God grant them resurrection to eternal life.

Faith Formation for All Ages

The Faith Formation program of Good Shepherd Parish:

St. John Ubyly: Wednesdays 3:15-5pm

Sheridan Corners: Wednesdays 6-7:30pm

Youth Group Sundays 5-8pm

Family Nights- December 6th and January 3rd dinner at

5:30pm. Program begins at 6.

Next Youth Mass: Christmas Eve Mass at St. Columbkille- 6pm

Adult Bible Study- contact Valerie Fischer 989-553-3088

Looking for Help

We are looking for someone who is interested in cleaning the Parish Center. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the Parish Office at 989-658-8824

Good Shepherd Christian Mothers & Women

We will be having our Christmas Party and Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 starting at 5:30 at the Parish Center.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. We will have a catered meal. The cost is \$6.00 each to be paid at the door. (RSVP required please)

Optional \$10.00 Gift Exchange for those who wish to participate.

Please RSVP by Dec 3 by calling Cathy Stacer at 989-551-3877 or Diane Smalley 989-551-1727

Huron County Right to Life

The Huron County Right to Life is sponsoring a pro-life t-shirt design contest for teens. The winning designer will receive \$200 cash. The winning entry will be given out to all attendees of the 2024 Pro-life Teen Rally in March. Entry deadline is January 5, 2024. Please submit your pro-life t-shirt design with slogan to HURONRTL@gmail.com.

Giving Tree

The giving tree starts this week and will run the four weeks of advent. Please take an envelope, place a monetary donation in the envelope and return it to the Sunday collection basket. We look forward to helping local agencies with your support.

Knights of Columbus

Ubyly/Sheridan Council #12850

All meetings are at 7:00pm at the Parish Center on the Second Wednesday of the month. We are always looking for New Members – call Jeff Maurer @989-553-4224. Our **food pantry** is available for anyone in need, located in Ubyly. This is confidential and anonymous – Call Jerry @989-550-9664. Jeff Maurer - Grand Knight - Ubyly/Sheridan Council #12850

TVO Breakfast With Santa

December 3rd from 8am-noon at the TVO Hall Ubyly. The cost is adults \$10, Children ages 11-12 \$5, ages 10 and under free. Take outs available- call Steve 989 315-1226. Every child receives a gift from Santa

Adult Christmas Choir Practice

Anyone interested in singing in the Adult Choir for Christmas Mass at 4pm St. John service please contact Carmen Messing at 989 551-2167 or the parish office by December 13th.

Christ's Mission Appeal

We would like to thank everyone that has already made their pledge to CMA. We are on our way to meeting our goal but need support from our entire parish family!!

If you are in need of a donation envelope, we have some at the Parish office. Please remember - checks should be made payable to the Diocese of Saginaw, not our parish. You can also give online or learn about different ways to give on the Diocese website at www.saginaw.org.

Our parish assessment for this year is:

\$60,171.45

Please be a little more generous this year than last. We met our target last year, and we can meet it this year if we are all a little more generous than last year.

Christmas Choir "The First Noel"

Good Shepherd Parish and Deckerville Area Community Choir invite you to "The First Noel" Christmas choir concert, celebrating the birthday of the King! (This is the same concert they're giving at Deckerville MacGregor church) This free concert will be Friday, December 15th, 2023, 6:30pm, at St. John Church (Good Shepherd Parish) in Ubyly. Everyone is invited!



After Mass at Meadow Lane, residents, including some parishioners, opened Thanksgiving cards from our Youth Group [part of our parish's mission to "rescue" others, from possible loneliness, etc.]; Guess what special family came to the Bad Axe Christmas Parade?

Dear Saint-in-the-Making, Blessed Advent 2023!

Little Joe said to his friend, little Sue, "Sue, do you want to try to become a saint?"

Sue said, "No, not me, I could never become a saint!"

Joe replied, "Well, do you want to go to heaven?"

Sue said, "Yes!" Joe said, "Well, you can't go to heaven unless you're a saint!"

Sue replied, "Oh! Then yes I want to try to become a saint. But it seems so hard, it seems impossible."

Joe said, "With God all things are possible! I learned that to become a saint, the most important thing is to WANT it, because God WANTS it, I learned that if we try our best to become a saint, God will do the rest."

Sue said, "Ok, I WANT to become a saint! Now what?"

Joe said, "I just heard in church that sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, so we have to be sheep, not goats! The sheep are people who spent their lives serving others. I learned that whenever they served another person, they were serving Jesus in disguise!"

Sue said, "Wow! What else do we have to do to become saints?"

Joe said, "Love God with all our strength!"

Sue replied, "So basically, to become saints, we have to WANT it, and love and serve our neighbor, and love God with all our strength. Let's go find Jesus in disguise! But first, let's get a snack, OK?"

Joe: "OK!"

[Fictional story by Yours Truly]

"Canonized Saints" are on the official list (canon) of saints, examples of holiness for all time. It's the Church's Hall of Fame. For someone to become a canonized saint, the church does an investigation into the person's life to see if they lived a life worthy to imitate.

They don't have to live an extraordinary life; most of canonized (and non-canonized) saints in heaven lived ordinary lives of extraordinary love for God and neighbor.

Also, there must be at least two scientifically verified miracles after they die, that happened after people asked that person to intercede, i.e. pray to God, for a miracle. After the first miracle, they're proclaimed "Blessed", and after the second, they're proclaimed "Saint."

Congrats to Ugly Bearcats and to Coach Sweeney who won vs. Ottawa Lake at Ford Field this past Saturday! I am proud of their dedication and sacrifice. May this victory remind them, and us, of the ultimate victory over our TRUE enemies, Sin, Death, and Satan, won by Jesus our Victorious King!

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Patron and Companion for Youth & Young Adults

Pier Giorgio was born in Italy in 1901. He was a man of the outdoors. As a young adult, he loved to ski and climb mountains. He wanted to climb to the heights of mountains, and to the heights of heaven. Climbing mountains inspired Him to climb to heaven!

He often led friends on hikes up steep cliffs and snowy slopes. Sometimes, if he saw someone falling behind and out of shape, he would pretend his foot hurt and say he needed to stop and take a break, so that the person wouldn't be embarrassed that they were falling behind.

Along the way, he'd lead them in praying the rosary. Once, he gathered friends to go on a hike. He didn't tell them that he'd pre-arranged for a priest to set up for Mass during their hike. They began their hike and later, there was the priest, ready for Mass! Or sometimes, on the way back from a hike, he'd invite his friends to go into the adoration chapel with Him to visit Jesus in the Eucharist.

He spread the joy of Christ a practical joker. He had a holy sense of humor, and laughed a lot, aware of Christ's love.

Pier Giorgio had a passion for justice and for the poor. He gave extra money to the poor. Even his bus fare he gave,

choosing instead to run home! One of the last things he wrote before he died was an instruction to deliver some medicines he'd bought to some poor people.

He loved Jesus in the Eucharist so much that he went to Mass every day, and went to Adoration often. He died age 24 after contracting Polio from one of the poor he helped. A short but glorious life for all to imitate! For one of your Advent practices, inspired by Blessed Pier Giorgio, add a daily Mass before Christmas...

From his speech, "To the Members of "Catholic Youth" of Pollone, Poland, 1923:

"I urge you with all the strength of my soul to approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible. Feed on this Bread of the Angels from which you will draw the strength to fight inner struggles, the struggles against passions and against all adversities, because Jesus Christ has promised to those who feed themselves with the most Holy Eucharist, eternal life and the necessary graces to obtain it. And when you become totally consumed by this Eucharistic Fire, then you will be able to thank with greater awareness the Lord God who has called you to be part of his flock and you will enjoy that peace which those who are happy according to the world have never tasted. Because true happiness, young people, does not consist in the pleasures of the world and in earthly things, but in peace of conscience which we can have only if we are pure in heart and in mind."

To Jesus through Mary,
Love, Fr. Nate

“We’re very thankful to be part of the safety net in our community,” Samantha says, highlighting the ripple effect that Hidden Harvest is able to provide by giving this food to partnering agencies. Being able to provide physical sustenance opens the door to promoting self-sufficiency, independence, better mental health, and overall stability to individuals and families.



The Koncavich Memorial Grant, through which Hidden Harvest received funding to support their mission of providing food to those in need, was created as the legacy of three sisters: Stella Koncavich, Helen Crevia, and Mary Koncavich. These sisters’ goal was to support ministries in the Diocese of Saginaw committed to serving the most needy and vulnerable.

The Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan houses numerous funds alongside the Koncavich Memorial Grant that help to support the poor and needy across the region, as well as agencies and organizations centered on providing support and basic needs assistance to neighbors in crisis. However, these endowments can take many shapes and forms.

For example, the Catholic Community of St. Hubert Endowment Fund was created specifically as a means of funding the Wyllo Rogowski Memorial Shared Blessings Food Pantry at St. Hubert’s parish in Bad Axe, Michigan. Since the initial fund of \$12,000 was created in 2015, this balance has more than doubled in the last eight years, and continuously supports the Shared Blessings Food Pantry by creating a consistent source of food and supplies to individuals in need throughout Huron County.

Creating an endowment through the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan helps to form a legacy of generosity and selfless giving. The need for resources, services, and support throughout Mid-Michigan is ever-growing, and endowments help to provide consistent funding to ensure that this community is able to receive the funds it needs to serve the most vulnerable and in need. **To learn more about endowment opportunities and how you can empower others to engage in the joy of giving, contact Executive Director, Kristin Smith, at 989.303.9200 or via email at kristin.smith@ccfmm.org.**

Written by Elizabeth Kennedy



Catholic COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

What’s Next?

2024/2025 Scholarship Application Window

October 2, 2023 - January 5, 2024

2024/2025 Catholic School Scholarship Application Window

November 6, 2023 - January 5, 2024

Grant Funds Help put Good Food to Good Use

Grant funding through the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan's Koncavich Memorial Grant helps Hidden Harvest to distribute 2.5 million pounds of food to neighbors in need throughout the region.

Hidden Harvest is a community agency that has been responsible for collecting and distributing over 50 million pounds of healthy and nutritious food to agencies, organizations, and individuals in need for over two decades. Samantha McKenzie, President and CEO of Hidden Harvest, describes this mission as, "serving our neighbors in need by putting good food to good use that would otherwise be wasted."

This mission is fairly simple: Hidden Harvest rescues food from grocery stores, bakeries, and other donors throughout the region that, while still usable, is no longer sellable. Rather than letting this food go to waste while rates of food insecurity and scarcity increase, Hidden Harvest delivers this food to individuals in need throughout the region.

Hidden Harvest has been funded by the Catholic Community Foundation for several years, and Samantha states that this stable support has been critical to ensuring food is put to use where it's most needed. "It's wonderful to have those dollars available to keep our trucks moving across the region."



"Hidden Harvest is based on the premise that we're supposed to take care of our neighbors...we're making sure the gleanings of our community are used to serve the poor.

*Samantha McKenzie
President & CEO*

While headquartered in Saginaw, MI, Hidden Harvest provides food donations to 195 non-profits in 13 different counties throughout the region, including pantries, food banks, shelters, and human service agencies. "We don't charge anything for the services we provide," says Samantha. However, collecting and distributing 2.5 million pounds of food every year across over a dozen counties involves many hours of processing donations, allocating bulk donations to smaller, more usable portions, and driving donations to partner organizations. Grant funding from the Catholic Community Foundation helps to support these services and ensure that individuals in need are able to access food and produce despite any financial barriers.

According to Samantha, the need for food assistance in the Great Lakes Bay Region is great, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rising costs of groceries, lessened or eliminated government assistance, and high medical bills have all contributed to a 2-3 times higher number of individuals facing food insecurity.



Hallow

FIND PEACE IN GOD THIS ADVENT

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FR. JOSH JOHNSON AUTHOR & PODCAST HOST

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