



Third Sunday of Advent —December 17, 2017

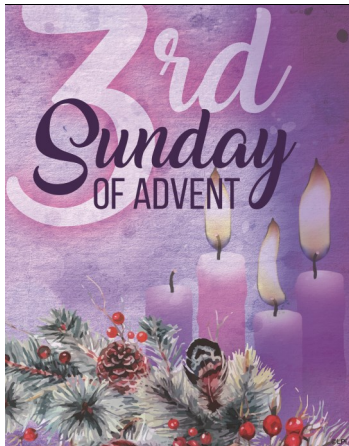
SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



“I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in God is the joy of my soul.”

On this Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, we have reason to rejoice . . . because Father Gary looks fabulous in his pink chasuble. Well, more importantly, the Church rejoices as the joyous celebration of Christmas draws near. Jesus Christ is the reason for our spirit of joy. With His birth as man, He made it clear that God is with us in all things: supporting us, loving us, and watching over us. Even in the midst of pain, suffering, and death, God is always present in our lives. But, at times, we have to ask, “Am I present to Him?” Advent is the season to spend more time in prayer and to ask the Lord to change us into His divine image. Hopefully, on December 26th, we will be more like Jesus and imitators of His joy.

Come Receive the Gift of Mercy

A reminder that this **Sunday, December 17th**, we will have our Advent Penance Service from **3:00 pm to 4:00 pm** at Saint Mary's Church. There will be two confessors that day: Fr. Stephan Folorunso from Saint Vincent's of Mott and myself. Next **Tuesday, December 19th**, I will also be offering the Sacrament of Penance before and after the Tuesday evening Mass at Saint Elizabeth's. Know that these are some of the last opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas, so please take advantage of them. You have prepared your homes for Christmas, how about your soul? Christ wants to bring you the fullness of His joy at Christmas; a soul in the state of grace is the best way to welcome Him.

Coming Together Sunday

At Saint Mary's, know that the second Sunday of the month after the 10:30 a.m. Mass will be the new time and date for our *Coming Together Sunday*. It's a time to slow down for a bit, enjoy some good baked goods, and catch up with your fellow parishioners on what's happening in our lives. As the Scriptures remind us, “It is good when brothers come together.” We will see you in January and know that you are always welcome to bring some extra baked goodies to send home with the pastor. He's not fussy, as long as they have the four basic food groups: sugar, lard, cream, and butter.

A Christmas Gift to our Youth

On Saturday December 16 our youth, grades k-6, went to the movie theater in Mott to see *The Star*, which relates the timeless and moving story of the birth of Jesus Christ. On December 26th, following the morning Mass, we will be taking our youth, grades 7-12, to the Sky Zone trampoline pavilion in Bismarck. A reminder to parents that for the latter youth event, we need you to complete the waiver form online; we cannot do it for you. We also need to know if your son or daughter wants to take part in this event so we can plan accordingly for buses from the school. Please call Anne Wolf soon so that we can get back to the school and reserve the buses we need. Thank you for all who attended the Turkey BINGO of last November. The funds raised that night helped make these youth events possible. Thank you for your support of our youth, the future of the Church. Oh, and know that I will place my Sky Zone Dodgeball Champion trophy in the back of the church, so that you can get a look at it. The high school guys think one of them will win it. Aren't they so innocent and naïve?

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, December 18

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 AM SM +Adam Krebs & Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs

6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE—+Caroline Pechtl by Ed Pechtl

Wednesday, December 20

2:00PM- +Derek Longfeather by Father Gary Benz

7:00 PM SM– Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

7:00 PM SM– Mason Urlacher by Dan & Betty Frank

Thursday, December 21

7:30AM SM– +Peter & +Mary Ficek by Jan & Joel Ficek

Friday, December 22

7:30AM SM– Children of Emily Madler by Emily Madler

12PM-3PM SM– Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, December 23

8:30 AM SM-+Laura Grundhauser by Anton, Em & Art Krebs

5:00 PM SM -Herberholz Families by Harvey & Vickie Herberholz

Sunday, December 24

8:30AM SE +Joseph Miller by Loretta Miller

10:30AM SM-Pro Populo

December 24—Christmas Eve

4:00 SM—Pro Populo

Midnight Mass SE—+Debbie Miller by SE Christian Mother

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Harvey Herberholz, Patty Frank, Andy Prokop, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Jeff Hewson, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Shari Obritsch, Charlotte Krebs, Eugenia Stagl, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents: Ken Stagl, Archie Jalbert, Benny Benz, Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Mike Urlacher, Leona Gordon, Ardelle Kovar, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnella Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schroeder

Our Deceased Loved Ones + Keith Herold +Carla Rohan+Alvin Rotering +Jeanne Kovar +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher +Paul Schiwal, + LeRoy Jacobs +Victor Roller +John Herold, + Viola Martin + Viola Neprash +Maggie Schoch, +Rose Lefor, + Mary Ficek + June Stockert +Adeline Bogner +Vern Honeymann, +Kasper Heidt, +Caroline Pechtl, +Jacob Frank,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ **SE December 17** Coffee and Rolls after 8:30AM Mass

◆ **SM KC #9675 Meeting** December 18 at 7PM

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments December 23 & 24

MINISTRY	Saturday 5PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Connie J.	Kris Ehlis
Mass Servers	Jim K./Braden R.	Katie S./Molly W.
Eucharistic Ministers	Bonnie J./Richard W.	David H./Vivian H.
Gifts	Molly R.	Kent & Angie M.
Rosary Leader	Martina S.	Susan S.
Greeters	Kathy & Leonard G.	Jake W.
Homebound Minister	Toni J.	Toni J.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments December 24 & 25

MINISTRY	Sunday 4PM	Monday 10:30AM
Lector	Dan G.	Kris Ehlis
Mass Servers	Zzack J./Zach M/	Katie S./Molly W.
Eucharistic Ministers	Toni J./Martina S.	David H./Vivian H.
Gifts	Braden R.	Gregg & Melanie F.
Rosary Leader	Maureen Gardner	Mary Fitterer
Greeters	Kathy & Leonard G.	Jake W.
Homebound Minister	Toni J.	Toni J.

Collection Report St. Mary's December 9 & 10

Adult	Youth	
\$ 4780.00	Envelopes	\$ 35.00
\$ 120.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 4935.00	Total	\$
\$ 6120.00/ \$941.00	Month/Religious Retirement	\$ 64.83

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments December 24 & 25

Lector	Fran
Mass Servers	Nathan
Eucharistic Ministers	Arlene & Trish
Gifts	Mary & Stockton
Greeters	Michele & Curt
Ushers	Darrell & Dustin Kuhn

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's December 10

Adult	Youth	
\$ 90.00	Envelopes	\$ 7.00
\$ 42.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 139.00	Total	\$
\$ 1309.00	Month	\$ 31.00
\$ 195.00	Religious Retirement	

Death and Dying, A Christian Perspective

“What is a fitting memorial for a deceased family or friend?”

From scholarship funds to cemetery monuments, from endowments to memorial statues, there are many ways to keep the memory of a departed loved one alive in the hearts and minds of people for years to come. Though the above memorials are fitting tributes, there is yet another which surpasses all others . . . the Christian tradition of *suffrages* for the dead.

A suffrage is a vote, a request to God, that some good act of ours have its merit (i.e. its benefit) bestowed upon another. A suffrage is a good deed, cast like a ballot, in favor of someone. In the Christian understanding, all the faithful are members of one body, which is the Church. As in a living body one member may be assisted by another, so is the case in the body of the Church. Such assistance is called *suffrage* and it highlights the belief in the Communion of Saints. The members of the Church help one another by praying for one another, as well as by performing good deeds, and asking God to give the benefit of these good deeds to another.

The prayers and suffrages of the living, offered for the poor souls, are a great benefit to these souls. This we know from the infallible teaching of the Church and also from Sacred Scripture, “It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins” (II Maccabees 12:46). Suffrages offered by the living on behalf of the poor souls are powerful deeds of love, for they help the poor souls pay off their temporal debt (i.e. time) in purgatory. Suffrages also confer a benefit upon those who perform them, because God is pleased with those who willingly make sacrifices for the spiritual benefit of others.

There are many forms of suffrage, from indulgenced prayers (reading the Bible for one half hour, praying the Rosary in a church or chapel, etc.), to fasting, to offering alms (money or gifts to the poor), yet having a Holy Mass offered for the Poor Souls is the most important form of suffrage. In the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we are asking Jesus Christ to apply the divine merit of His Sacrifice on Mount Calvary to the salvation of our departed loved one. The many graces of the Holy Mass, the most powerful prayer of the Church, purify the souls from sin and draw them ever closer to the glory of heaven, to which they are called.

As you plan a fitting memorial for your departed loved ones, consider the offering of suffrages, namely the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Other memorials are worthy tributes to the deceased, but they do not offer the depth of the spiritual blessings of the Holy Mass. Memorials of earth keep the faithful departed alive in the minds of men, but the offering of the Holy Mass keeps our loved ones present before the mind of God, pleading for His mercy on their behalf.



At this season of giving and sharing, The New England Open Door Food Pantry heartily thanks everyone for supporting us throughout the year with your gifts of money and products. It was greatly appreciated . We wish everyone a great holiday season!

The Open Door Food Pantry

On the Lighter Side

Little Billy was writing a Christmas letter to Jesus, a spiritual exercise in his CCD class, and he started out, “Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy this year.” “No”, he thought, “That’s not true”, so he tore up the letter and started again. “Dear Jesus, I have been a good boy this past year.” No, that was not true either, so he tore up the letter and became quite despondent. But, then he had an idea. When his CCD teacher had her back turned, he took the statue of Mary out of the Nativity scene, stuffed it in his backpack, and took it home. At home, he sat down again to write his letter, “Dear Jesus, I have your Mother and you will not see her again unless I get a bike for Christmas.”

A Point to Ponder

How candid we are in professing other people’s sins.