



First Sunday of Advent —December 3, 2017

SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



*“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.”*

If we are to appreciate the coming of Christmas, we must come to the realization that we need God. If we do not have this great need for God, then the coming of His Son at Christmas is no big deal. If, however, we can admit our fears and anxieties, we might begin to touch our neediness and hope that Jesus Christ will come again. The surest sign of believing that Jesus Christ will come again is staying busy with the responsibilities that He left us. Advent reminds us to stay focused. Jesus Christ came once and He will come again. May He find us prepared for His return.

### Why the Advent Wreath?

As soon as we finish off the last of the leftover turkey from Thanksgiving, we are surrounded by the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas: lighted homes and yards, Santa Claus at the mall, Christmas music on the radio, and the smell of Christmas baking for the beloved pastor (hint, hint). Everyone seems to be in the Christmas spirit except for the Catholic Church. You will find our churches to be rather austere until Christmas day. Why is that? Well, keep in mind that the Church loves Christmas; in fact, the Church celebrates three weeks of the Christmas season. To reap the many spiritual benefits of the Christmas season, the Church takes the time to prepare during the four weeks of the Advent season, including the ritual of the lighting of the candles of the Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath originated in Germany as a visual reminder of the coming of the Light of the world at Christmas . . . Jesus Christ. The Advent wreath is comprised of four candles: three purple (violet) and one pink (rose). The color purple is symbolic of penance, because Advent should be somewhat penitential in nature, akin to the season of Lent. In fact, the Christians of Eastern Europe abstain from all animal products during the season of Advent (meat, milk, cheese, butter, etc.) as a spiritual discipline to prepare for the joy of Christmas. Fasting and abstinence are not required by the Catholic Church during the season of Advent, unlike the season of Lent. But, the discipline of our bodies leads in turn to the spiritual discipline of our souls, resulting in a deep spiritual joy with the celebration of Christmas. The soul which is spiritually prepared for Christmas will share more profoundly in its blessings.

The pink candle of the Advent wreath announces the celebration of Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. It expresses a joyful note of hope. The pink candle is a sign of encouragement for those who are fasting and praying in anticipation of Christmas. Its bright color, amidst the somber and penitential purple candles, seems to shout to us, “Remain strong! Your spiritual efforts will soon be rewarded with the joy of Christmas.” Just like the pink color on the horizon announces the coming of the sun, so the pink Advent candle reminds us that the Son of God is coming soon at Christmas.

The Advent season reminds us that Jesus came once in history, in a humble manger at Bethlehem, and He will come again as Lord and Judge. As we light the Advent candles, we are reminded that we must keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts so that when Christ our light appears, we may be found worthy of eternal life in His Kingdom.

## MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

**Monday, December 4**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, December 5**

**7:30 AM SM —+Vincent Steier by Family**

**6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00 PM SE—+John Herold by Larry Grundhauser**

**Wednesday, December 6**

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

**7:00 PM SM— +Rose Frank by Cely & Robert Stagl**

**Thursday, December 7**

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

**Friday, December 8**

**7:30AM SM— Pro Populo**

**12PM-3PM SM— Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**5:00PM SE— +Laura Grundhauser by Duane & Bea Grundhauser**

**Saturday, December 9**

**8:30 AM SM—Michael P. Wall by Jesse & Marcia Wall**

**5:00 PM SM - Gregg Fitterer & Bonnie Jung by Richard Stagl**

**Sunday, December 10**

**8:30AM SE +Paul Schiwal by Marilyn Grafsgard**

**10:30AM SM-Pro Populo**

***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, Keith Herold, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Jackie Deplanche, Cely Stagl, 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, Bart Rohan, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** 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** +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,

**A Point to Ponder—** *A marriage may be made in heaven, but the maintenance is done on earth.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **SE Christian Mothers' Christmas Party** Dec. 8th following the 5pm Mass. There will be a short meeting with a lunch to follow. Group 1 is on for salads, group 2 will be on for desserts. There will also be a cookie exchange for anyone interested. Please bring 3 dozen cookies if you wish to participate.
- ◆ **SE church cleaning & crib setup** will be Tuesday December 12th after 7:00pm Mass. Everyone is welcome to help.
- ◆ **KC Council #9675** congratulates Dan Gardner Knight of the Month and Jon Wert family—Family of the Month.
- ◆ **Scheffield St. Pius Club Card Party** Dec. 10 at 2pm, meeting following.
- ◆ **Marriage Encounter Jan. 5-7** in Mandan register at [applications@ndwvme.org](mailto:applications@ndwvme.org)

### St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments December 9 & 10

MINISTRY	Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Diane Binstock	David Hernandez
Mass Servers	Leonard G./Mark S.	Mark F./Larry H.
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary F./Martina S.	Dianne B./Bonnie J.
Gifts	Connie Jalbert Family	John Ehlis Family
Rosary Leader	Kathy Gartner	Maureen Gardner
Greeters	Nicholas D./Eileen L.	Victor & Lynn Dvorak
Homebound Minister	Martina Stagl	Martina Stagl

### Collection Report St. Mary's Nov. 19 & 20; 25 & 26

Adult 11/19 & 20	11.25 & 26		Youth 11/19 & 20	11/25 & 26
\$ 766.00	\$1656.00	Envelopes	\$ 20.00	\$6.00
\$ 50.00	\$144.00	Loose Plate	\$	
\$ 836.00	\$1806.00	Total	\$	
\$ 5003.07	\$6809.00	Month	\$ 73.07	\$79.07
Thanksgiving		\$70.00		

### St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments December 10

Lector	Stetson
Mass Servers	Bailey
Eucharistic Ministers	Fran & Cindy
Gifts	Norbert & Arlene
Greeters	Michele & Curt
Ushers	Darrell & Dustin Kuhn

### Collection Report St. Elizabeth's November 19 & 26

Adult 11/19	11/26		Youth 11/19	11/26
\$ 275.00	\$425.00	Envelopes	\$ 2.00	\$38.07
\$ 13.00	\$60.00	Loose Plate	\$	
\$ 290.00	\$523.07	Total	\$	
\$ 1883.00	\$2406.87	Month	\$ 33.00	

## Death and Dying, A Christian Perspective

### *“What does the Church teach about the donation of one’s organs upon death?”*

At the funeral Mass of a young man who died in a tragic motorcycle accident, there was great sadness as the family and his parish family bid farewell to such a young life; he was only thirteen years old. Yet, in the darkness of grief, it was comforting to hear from the family that because their son wished to be an organ donor, many people had already received the gift of renewed health and the hope of a longer life just hours and days after his death. This free gift of one’s organs upon death is a morally sound act and can be meritorious, as long as certain principles are observed.

First, the dying process may never be hastened so as to meet the critical needs of those waiting for an organ transplant. Some believe it is an act of mercy to expedite the death of one who is certain to die, especially if their organs offer the hope of renewed life to others. Yet, assuming that there is little or no benefit to a dying person in prolonging their life, it remains a great benefit to them, and to everyone concerned, to treat them as persons until the end. Christian love demands that we allow our loved ones the beauty and dignity of the natural dying process.

Second, it is permissible to donate one’s entire body to medical research upon death, for such experiments can contribute to healing the sick and to the advancement of public health. While noble in these regards, such research must still be consistent with the Church’s moral teachings. It must be clearly stated in the proper release forms that one’s body is to not to be utilized in the advancement of certain illicit medical procedures, such as contraceptive techniques. In addition, the bodily integrity and dignity of the person must be respected in scientific research, including a proper Christian burial for the body, because the bodies of the dead are treated with respect, with faith and hope in the resurrection of the body.

Lastly, one may not place conditions upon the gift of one’s organs. In some regions of our world, organ donations are influenced by such factors as wealth, race, and the ethnicity of the individual awaiting an organ transplant. Such practices are not Christian, for they violate the demands of charity and mercy, which demand care and concern for the least among us, in this case those whose health needs are most dire.

When you renew your driver’s license or prepare your living will, consider being an organ donor. You may bring to others the gift of life and to yourself, the hope of eternal life in heaven. God rewards those who forget about themselves for the benefit of others.

## Welcome to Our Parish Council

The voting results of our parish council election were very close; each of the four men were within mere votes of one another. It shows that our parish respects them and their Christian values. The three new parish council members are: Lyle Kovar, Scott Schmidt, and Jon Wert. Blessings to you in your new ministry and may God use you as instruments to provide for the spiritual and temporal well-being of our parish. Blessings as well to Vivian Hernandez, Don Urlacher, and Rhonda Fitterer, whose terms are up as parish council members. Thank you for your years of service as parish council members; may God reward you.

**Come One Come All!**—Please join us this *Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>*, for the annual church dinner of Saint Elizabeth’s Parish of Lefor. The day begins with a Memorial Mass at 10:30 at Saint Elizabeth’s Church, followed by a great meal of pork sausage patties, farmer hats, and scrambled eggs at the KC Hall. The day also includes BINGO, a live auction, and a light lunch in the afternoon. Come have a great time and if you are good at math, help Fr. Gary add up how much he makes in BINGO winnings that day. We will see you in Lefor!

## Thank You for this Spiritual Gift

We thank the children of +John & +Pauline Herold for the beautiful gift of the Book of the Gospels cover for the Church of Saint Elizabeth. As we use it within the Holy Mass, we will always be mindful of their love for the Holy Mass and for God’s Holy Word, which they lived daily in their lives on earth.

## On the Lighter Side

Billy: There’s really no devil.

Johnny: I know what you mean. Just like Santa Claus---its really your dad.