

# Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

## MASSES OF THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015

- 9:00 am Rosary Altar Society  
11:00 am Dorothy Desmond (d)  
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015

Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

- 8:30 am Arthur Duffy (d)  
3:00 pm Lucille & John Watkins (d)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- 8:30 am Fr. Erwin Bertke (d)  
11:00 am Michael Blessinger (d)  
7:00 pm For the Holy Souls in Purgatory

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015

- 8:30 am Jacob Wittich (d)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015

- 8:30 am Barbara Legschmid (d)  
3pm-5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015

- 8:30 am Steve Iles (d)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (USA)

- 8:30 am Irma Hornback (d)  
3pm-4pm CONFESSIONS  
4:30 pm Jack Vogele (d)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

- 9:00 am Barb Legschmid (d)  
11:00 am Charlie Shappelle (d)  
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

St. Lawrence is Thinking of You

**BAYLEY PLACE:** Rita Brinker

**WESTERN HILLS RETIREMENT VILLAGE:**

Donald Jostworth, Mildred Weber

**WEST PARK:** Ernestine Huber

PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND  
SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

DICK SCOTT PLUMBING, INC.  
Repair – Remodeling – New Work  
921-2254

**PLEASE NOTIFY US AT THE RECTORY** when a family member is hospitalized or homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion and/or the Sacrament of Penance.

## SERVERS

### December 12/13

- 4:30 pm C Sunderman  
9:00 am B Kessling  
11:00 am E Lageman, I Blake  
7:00 pm B Young, Jr.

## LECTORS

### December 12/13

- 4:30 pm Sr. Helen Julia  
9:00 am L Kessling  
11:00 am E Prater  
7:00 pm C Boyles

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### December 12/13

- 4:30 pm J Brehm, B Hornback,  
N Hornback, M Rogers  
9:00 am M Ann Bedel, J Brannon,  
C Schneider, M Schneider  
11:00 am H Beischel, J Hay,  
N Lageman, M Wagner  
7:00 pm S Hoffman, M Thompson

Please be sure to stop in the sacristy before  
Mass to let Father know you are present.

## OFFERING

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

\$9,370.97

*Thank You for your Generosity!*

**Vocation View:** Be on the watch! Allow God to lead you in the ways of truth and justice. God is calling you to serve. (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

**Thought for the Day:** If we obtained the grace of God, none shall prevail against us, but we shall be stronger than all who oppose us.

St. John Chrysostom



**Rest In Peace:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alex Durbin who died recently.

# Bingo

**Sunday workers: please report at 11:30am**

**Tuesday workers: please report at 5:30pm**

Parents of the students listed below are asked to work the following Bingo:

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6:** J Mendez-Vasquez, Z McAfee, M Lail

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8:** A Hicks, T Gibson, S Endress

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13:** K Eichhorn, A DeLeon-Reynoso, M Corbett

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15:** E K Coleman, K Bamaca-Aguilar, K Watkins

**Religious Retirement Fund** helps senior religious. As expenses continue to increase and economic difficulties tighten our income, we appreciate more and more the help of the Retirement Fund. Your tax-deductible donation to the Retirement Fund for religious supports the day-to-day care of thousands of elder sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Please share in the care and give generously to next week's Retirement Fund collection. There is a special envelope in your packet of envelopes.

**2016 is just around the corner!** Schedule time NOW for your relationship! Take your good marriage and make it GREAT with a Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Marriage Encounter weekends in this area for 2016 are February 5-7 at the Holiday Inn, 4501 Eastgate Blvd. in Eastgate and March 11-13 at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, 5488 Moeller Ave., Norwood, Ohio. Weekends fill up quickly, so a prompt response is encouraged. For more details or to make reservations call Dave & Jan Stockelman at 251-1940 or 1-800-547-1251 Code 00 or on the web at [www.esharing.org](http://www.esharing.org).

**Cincinnati Catholic Singles Club** invites all single Catholic men and women to their Christmas dinner party on Sunday, December 13, 2015, 5:30pm at Joe's Watermill Restaurant, 5753 Harrison Avenue on the westside. For more information call Larry at 520-1323.

## from the *Pastors Desk*

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:**

Tuesday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It **IS** a **Holyday of Obligation** and is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States. The obligation may be fulfilled by participating in Mass on Monday at 3:00pm or Tuesday at 8:30am, 11:00am or 7:00pm.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** An excellent way to prepare for Christmas is to make a good confession and spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration. Eucharistic Adoration is on Thursdays, from 3pm-5pm. During Eucharistic Adoration, I hear confessions from about 3:15pm-3:45pm.

**2016 Calendars** are in the back of church this weekend. Thank you to the St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus whose generous donation made it possible for us to have the calendars again this year. Thank you, St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus.

**Christmas Masses:** Please make sure you see the Christmas and New Year's Mass schedule on the enclosed insert in the Laurentian.

## Holiday Food Baskets



**Sister Helen Julia's** Christmas holiday collection of food and monetary donations for families in need is underway. I know that our St. Lawrence parishioners and friends will be generous so that Sister will be able to assist all those families who are in need. She has already helped 53 families at Thanksgiving. This collection will continue through December. Sister's Ministry envelopes are in the back of church and the food barrels are at the break (next to the pillars) for your food donations. Thank you for helping Sister help the needy. And thanks to Sister Helen Julia.

*Elder High School's* Panther for a Day: during a shadow visit, a student is able to ask questions of our students and teachers, to sample the ambiance of the school, and to determine if Elder is a place where he will personally be comfortable. The program is available Monday-Friday until December 18th. Visit [www.elderhs.org/ShadowProgram](http://www.elderhs.org/ShadowProgram) to learn more! For more information contact Maura Gettler, at 921-3427.

*The Athletic Association* is currently accepting nominations. The positions up for election this year are two (2) Board Directors and Treasurer. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone please contact Chris Caine at 276-6681, Mike Pitman at 581-6538 or Cathy Lageman at 702-0898. The A.A. is also holding a special election and is currently accepting nominations for the position of President.

ALSO, A GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH is needed. We are looking for coaches for the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team. The regular season runs 1/23/16 through 3/13/16. If you're interested please contact Traci Stacy at 378-3892. You must complete, if you've not already done so, the VIRTUS training through the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Please consider taking this job because these girls are looking forward to playing and would appreciate you more than you know.

### *The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath*

During the time of Advent, many people have an Advent wreath in their homes. While these decorations are certainly festive and add to the holiday spirit, there is also much symbolism in the wreath that people may not recognize.

First, the wreath is always in the form of a circle. Since a circle has no beginning and no end, it is a symbol of God, who is eternal and without beginning or end.

The Advent wreath is always made from evergreens. These branches, as the name indicates, are "ever green" – ever alive. They are symbolic of Christ, who died, but who is alive, never to die again. The evergreen branches also symbolize our soul's immortality. Christ came into the world to give us never-ending life. Entwined around the circle of evergreens are red berries. They look like large red drops of blood, and symbolize the bloodshed by Christ for mankind. They remind us that Christ came into this world to die for us and redeem us. It is through the shedding of His blood that we have eternal life.

(cont'd from previous column)

The wreath has four candles, three violet ones and one rose colored candle. These symbolize the four weeks of the Advent season, our time of preparation for Christmas. Each day, the Liturgy tells us of the Hebrew expectation of the Messiah in the Old Testament reading, and the Gospels begin to introduce us to the characters of the Christmas story. At the beginning of Advent a single candle is lit, but each week another candle is lit. As the light from the wreath increases each week as more candles are lit, the wreath reminds us that the birth of the Light of the World is coming closer. So may our souls grow brighter in their love for, and anticipation of, the Christ Child as this season of grace continues.

The color of the four candles also has significance. The violet candles have a penitential appearance, much as we find violet in the church during the penitential season of Lent. The violet is to remind us that Advent is a season of preparation in which we should be spiritually preparing our souls to receive Christ on Christmas. The single rose-colored candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, which is called "Gaudete" Sunday. "Gaudete" is the Latin word for "rejoice" and symbolizes an element of rejoicing in the midst of our penitential preparation, for the joy of Christmas is almost here. Mixing violet with white makes the rose color. It is almost as if the joy we celebrate at Christmas (symbolized by bright white) cannot contain itself during this penitential season (violet) and burst forth a bit into the Advent season. On Christmas, the four candles are replaced with a white one – our time of preparation is over and we enter a time of great joy.

The Advent wreath should be placed in a prominent place in our church. Many families have a smaller Advent wreath in their homes. This both reminds families of the wreath in their church and serves as a reminder of their link to the parish church. The candles are lit the main meal of the day, with the new candle lit preferably at the main meal on Sunday, the first day of the week. Joining around the table for a meal should remind the family of the table of the Lord around which they gather each week to celebrate the Eucharistic – the meal of the Lord that nourishes our soul.

So, the next time you see or display an Advent wreath, don't just think of it as a nice decoration. Remember all the symbolism it has for us as it reminds us of the need for spiritual preparation to fully share in the great joy of the birth of Christ, the Son of God who gave His life for us so that we might have eternal life.

## The Laurentian

**"In Loving Memory"** In January, 2016, a section on the **back of the bulletin** will be available to list a deceased love one's name. The cost is \$52.00 per name and the name will remain on the bulletin for one year. This will defray the cost of printing our bulletin for the entire year. If interested, please clip and fill out the slip below and put it in the collection basket or mail to: St. Lawrence Church, 3680 Warsaw Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45205.

**(Diocesan Publications will bill you.)**

Loved One's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**

**Elder High School:** Friends of Elder Travel will be sponsoring a California Rail Tour with Elder Principal Tom Otten and his wife Bonnie from July 30-August 6, 2016. Enjoy four scenic train rides plus Yosemite, San Francisco, Napa Valley, Monterey Bay and more! To reserve your seat call Norb Guetle '59 at 451-1227. The reservation deadline is December 11, 2015.

**Archdiocese of Cincinnati:** The Tribunal Office (Church court) of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is seeking an Administrative Assistant for the equivalent of two days a week. Primary responsibilities are transcribing of dictation and interviews. For this canonical office, the person must be a practicing Roman Catholic. The candidate needs good word processing skills, a high school diploma and two years of business training. Personal maturity and the ability to maintain confidentiality are essential. The 14 hours could be adjusted over more than two days to accommodate care of young children, elderly parents or other needs. Please send letter resume and Application for Employment at [www.catholiccincinnati.org/hr/applicationforemployment](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/hr/applicationforemployment) to: The Department of Human Resources, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 or apply by email to [humanresources@catholiccincinnati.org](mailto:humanresources@catholiccincinnati.org). Deadline for interested applicants is December 7, 2015

**Seton High School Christmas Concerts:** The Freshman Concert will be on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 7:00pm. Listen to the sounds of the newest members of our performance series as the Freshman Chorus and Beginning Band present their first high school concert. You'll be amazed by their holiday spirit!

Also, join us for some familiar holiday tunes as we celebrate this wonderful season, featuring the Seton-Elder Band, Choruses and Ensembles on Saturday, December 12 at 7:00pm and Sunday, December 13 at 3:00pm. This concert is sure to put you in the spirit!

**Sunset Players** presents "Dorothy meets Alice". Bring the kids to the annual holiday show where a young man puts off a book report until the last minute, then suddenly finds himself in a strange place somewhere between Oz and Wonderland with two of literature's famous young ladies and their friends. These performances take place on Friday, December 11 at 7:00pm and Saturday and Sunday December 12 and 13 matinees are at 2:00pm at the Arts Center at Dunham. Reserve seats by calling 588-4988.

**St. William Church** This year the St. William Bid and Buy Booth received a framed listing of soldiers who graduated from St. William School, who we believe to be from WWII. There are 754 names and we would like to find the families and their survivors. Please help us locate these men. For more information contact Sandy Dean at the St. William Parish Center at 921-0247. She has added the names of these students who were in WWII to their webpage. The address is [www.saintwilliam.com](http://www.saintwilliam.com) and is listed under Vets Honor Roll. Please view this list and help us find the families of these vets.

**Advent Series at St. William:** Please join us for a way to make your Advent and Christmas more meaningful! Come and hear Fr. Timothy Schehr speak on the Infancy Narratives from the Gospel of Matthew and Luke. The series will take place at St. William (in the church) on two consecutive Thursdays: December 10 and 17 at 7:00pm. Bring your own Bible. There is no cost and all are welcome. Fr. Schehr is a retired professor of biblical studies at the Athenaeum of Ohio and holds advanced degrees from the Pontifical Biblical Institute and Hebrew Union College.