

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:00 am Lisa Limerick (d)
11:00 am Richard Prost (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

- 8:30 am Dorothy Myers (d)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018

- 8:30 am Susan Hinds (d)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

- 8:30 am Bill Ginley, Jr (d)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2018

- 8:30 am Rose Dugan (d)

3pm-5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018

- 8:30 am Jim Grandstaff (d)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2018

- 8:30 am Staud Family (L)
4:30 pm Don Westendorf (d)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:00 am Helen and Jack Vogeles (d)
11:00 am Tau Nguyen (d)
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

St. Lawrence is thinking of you!

BAYLEY PLACE: Anne Morman

WELLINGTON: Margie Frommeyer

Kraft

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SERVERS

December 22/23

- 4:30 pm Sarah Haverbusch
Joseph Haverbusch
9:00 am TBD
11:00 am Emma Lageman
7:00 pm Eden Caine

LECTORS

December 22/23

- 4:30 pm Kathy Beekley
9:00 am Jerry Gonnella
11:00 am Gerry Geisel
7:00 pm Sue Aufermann

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 22/23

- 4:30 pm TBD, TBD
9:00 am Mary Ann Bedel, John Remke
Stacey Remke, Matt Schneider
11:00 am Holly Beischel, Nick Lageman
Phuong Phan, Rose Weinheimer
7:00 pm Drake Hicks, Matt Thompson
TBD, TBD

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

OFFERING

DECEMBER 9, 2018 \$9,508.80
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION \$4,856.00
RETIREMENT FOR RELIGIOUS \$1,940.00

Thank You for your Generosity!

Vocation View: "What ought we do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3:10-18)

Thought for the Day: "It is by the path of love, which is charity that God draws near to man and man to God. But where charity is not found, God cannot dwell. If, then, we possess charity, we possess God, for "God is Charity."

—St. Albert the Great

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.

The Laurentian

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 16: Savanna Taylor, Randy Velasquez, Jacob Watkins

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18: Jacob White, Desiree Wilson, Arianna Amison

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23: Lawrence Brown, Jeffrey Calles Angel, Huyden Dao

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25: Steven Dattilo, Doninique Dunn, Empress Hampton

Gift for the Baby Jesus: St. Lawrence will once again be collecting new and used baby items through January 13th. These items will assist those in need of baby items and they are donated to Pregnancy Center West. They appreciate baby formula and food, diapers for all sizes, as well as gently used baby clothing, car seats, etc. Please place donations in the manger in church near the crib. Thank you for helping God's precious ones!



Additional Bell Ringing during Eucharistic Prayer: Beginning in Advent, the servers will ring the bells at the Epiclesis. The Epiclesis is the invocation of the Holy Spirit over the gifts of bread and wine before the consecration. This happens, when Father extends his hands over the gifts. Having the bells ring at this time calls our attention to this moment and prepares us for the great miracle soon to take place before our eyes.

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

Christmas Masses: Please be sure to see the Christmas and New Year's Mass schedule on the enclosed insert in the Laurentian!

Tithe.ly Online Giving! St. Lawrence uses Tithe.ly for online giving! Give fast and easily through your mobile device (Android and Apple), with a credit card, bank account, or Apple Pay. Download the app and support our parish!



TITHE.LY

The Candy Cane

The development of the candy cane took a few hundred years. Before the invention of the modern pacifier, parents used to give their babies unflavored white sugar sticks to suck on. During the 1670's, a German choirmaster had the sugar sticks bent into a shepherd's staff and passed out to children attending the Christmas services. This holiday custom spread throughout Europe and fancy canes, decorated with roses, were used as Christmas decorations in many homes. About 1900, the white candy cane received the traditional red stripes and peppermint flavoring. At the same time, the legend of the candy cane came into being. According to this legend, a candy maker in Indiana designed the candy cane to tell the true story of Christmas- a story about a virgin giving birth to a Shepherd who would give up His life for His sheep.

Legend of the candy cane as told by the Indiana candy maker:

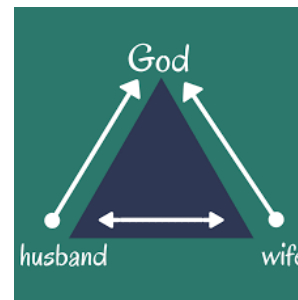
It had to be special to be a gift for the King of Kings, thought the humble candy maker from Indiana. Not just any piece of candy would do. It had to be hard candy because the church is built on a solid rock and God's promises are a firm foundation. It would be formed in the shape of the Good Shepherd's staff- a "J" that would also stand for the precious name of Jesus. But it had to say more. White stripes would symbolize the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Christ. Three small red stripes would represent the scourging Jesus suffered on His way to the crucifixion. One large red stripe would be a reminder of the blood Jesus shed as payment for our sins. It would be a gift of love that would tell His story- the greatest story ever told.



World Day of Peace: Start your New Year off with the observance of the World Day of Peace on the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God- Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at an 11:00am Mass. This will take place at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, corner of 8th and Plum Street, Cincinnati. The Holy Father designates each New Year's Day as a special opportunity for the universal Church to pray for a year of greater peace, respect for life and social justice. Join us as we pray for nonviolence and healing in our communities, nation and world. A reception with light refreshments will follow after Mass. For more information, contact the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Social Action at (513) 421-3131, ext. 2660.



Struggling Marriages: The Retrouvaille Program helps couples restore and rebuild a loving relationship. It is for couples with marriages that are struggling, not communicating well, and those who are considering marriage separation and divorce. The Retrouvaille of Cincinnati/Tri- State 2019 Weekends are: January 11-13, March 29-31 and September 6-8. For more information, contact: 1-513-456-5413 or HelpOurMarriage.com.



The Laurentian

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.

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 readings, 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 and 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

(cont’d from previous column)

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.

The Advent wreath should be placed in a prominent place in the 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 before the main meal of the day, with each new candle being lit 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.

