

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

## INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, December 19, 2021

- 9:00 am Jane R. Thole (d)  
11:00 am Peter Sabino  
7:00 pm For the Parishioners

MONDAY, December 20, 2021

- 8:30 am Lou Bedel (d)

TUESDAY, December 21, 2021

*St. Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church*

- 8:30 am Elizabeth Brewer (d)

WEDNESDAY, December 22, 2021

- 8:30 am Tina Klemann (d)

THURSDAY, December 23, 2021

*St. John of Kanty, Priest*

- 8:30 am Deceased Members of the Hahn Family (d)

3:00 pm–5:00 pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, December 24, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 3:00 p.m. The Vogeles Family

- 5:00 p.m. Barbara Prater (d)

Midnight Mass in memory and honor for whom the flowers were donated

SATURDAY, December 25, 2021

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9:00 am Miller and Comarata Families

- 11:00 am The Prost Family

SUNDAY, December 26, 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

- 9:00 am Pat Vettel (d)

- 11:00 am Herbert L. Bill Family

- 7:00 pm For the Parishioners

## SERVERS

December 25/26

No Servers Scheduled

## LECTORS

December 25/26

No Lectors Scheduled

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 25/26

To Be Determined

December 12, 2021

\$ 8,340.63

*Thank You for your Generosity!*

**Gift for the Baby Jesus:** St. Lawrence will once again be collecting new and used baby items through Jan. 10th. The items will be donated to Pregnancy Center West who will in turn help those in need of the baby items. **They are limiting the collection this year to diapers/pull ups, wipes, formula, onesies/sleepers, and blankets.** Thank you for helping God's precious ones!

**Thought for the Day:** 'I call those thoughts mean which, in spite of the vain efforts to prolong them, can only last for a short space of time; I call those despicable which extend not beyond this earth.'

*by St. Ignatius of Loyola*

### **Retreat to Complete 2021 & Open to 2022:**

facilitated by S. Donna Steffen, SC will be offered on Friday, December 31 from 9:30 AM – 12 PM at the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse. Together we will look over the graces of 2021, savor and pray them. We will look ahead to our direction and prayer as we begin the new year. The time will include guided reflection, prayer, journaling, sharing and ritual. Bring your journal! You must be fully vaccinated to attend. Masks must be worn at all times. FEE: \$25. For questions or registration please call the Spirituality Center at 513-347-5449.

**Cincy  
Tool Rental  
Propane Tanks Refilled  
3741 Warsaw Avenue  
513-921-7227**

**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



**Eucharistic Adoration:** Eucharistic Adoration will be on Thursdays from 3:00-5:00pm. During Eucharistic Adoration, I hear confessions from about 3:15pm-3:45pm. By the way, an excellent help in preparation for Christmas is to make a good confession and spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration.

**Beacons of Light:** The final version of the breakdown of parishes of families can be viewed on the Archdiocese website at [www.beaconsoflight.org](http://www.beaconsoflight.org).

**Installation of the church tile floor** will begin on Monday, January 3, 2022. It will take 4-5 weeks to complete the project. In order for the project to go as quickly and smoothly as possible, we will move weekend and daily Masses and confessions into the Parish Center beginning Monday, January 3. In case of a funeral, the funeral home will call St. Lawrence as usual. I will determine whether the funeral Mass will be held at St. Teresa or St. William. The funeral will be planned here at St. Lawrence and we will use our own St. Lawrence musicians, servers and bereavement.

Just to be clear, all Christmas Masses and all the Masses of the season through Epiphany (January 2) are in church. You can enjoy the Christmas decorations in church until January 3.

## **St. Lawrence in Loving Memory:**

Starting January 2022, a section of the back of the bulletin will be available to list a deceased loved one's name. The cost is \$55.00 per name and all names will remain in the bulletin for one year. This helps 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 the Parish Office, 3680 Warsaw Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45205.

Loved One's Name

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Your  
Name

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Billing Address

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Phone Number

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Email Address

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(Enclose check payable to Diocesan)

## **St. Lawrence Bulletin Advertisements:**

Jim Mazza represents the Diocesan (our Bulletin Publisher). He will be renewing present advertisements and seeking new ones. If interested, please call the parish office. Or you may contact Jim directly at 748-3007 or [jmazza@diocesan.com](mailto:jmazza@diocesan.com). We feel this is an excellent service and that the sponsors get good coverage with their ads. Thanks to you and Diocesan, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.



## *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 them 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 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 a 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.



### **“Behold, the virgin shall be with child”**

We believe in his Son Jesus Christ, born of the Holy Spirit from the Virgin Mary. Unbeliever, why do you become frightened at this nativity? Were he only a man who was born, do not believe it; but if it was God as man, he was born of her whom he chose, since he chose to be born....What else makes you wonder? Because a Mother gave birth to her creator, because a creature created her maker? So it was: the Exalted chose to be born humble that he might disclose majesty through this very humility. The Mother, virginity intact, was carrying the Son, and she herself, whom the marital embrace had not enfolded, marveled....But, unbeliever, listen to the prediction and understand the fulfillment David, as prophet says: *A man will call her Mother of Sion, and a man was made in her and the Most High, himself founded her* (Ps 87:5). The Most High who founded her, was made man in her, the same Most High, because he formed himself in her: he, in emerging from her womb, at the same time gave her a Son without taking away her virginity.

What is the grace of this Mother and Virgin? What is the grace of this woman, who, not knowing man, carries a Son? What is the grace? Listen to the Angel Gabriel greeting her: *Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you*. When the angel greeted this Virgin thus, then the Holy Spirit made her fruitful: this woman then conceived a man without a man, then was filled with grace, then received the Lord, so that he who made her was in her....

The Virgin Mother recognized whom she carried, she knew; let astonishment flee and faith enter. Behold, the one whom she carried is born. He does not yet speak, but awakens the whole world. Heaven cries out, radiant with the light of a new star; earth, distressed by Herod, cries out; Magi, warned, come; Jews, troubled, inquire; everyone asks where is he who is everything. The maker of the world is sought throughout the world.

*by St. Quodvultdeus of Carthage  
(his name means “what God wills”)*

## The Laurentian

Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. *Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you.* I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for his mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come.

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time.

*He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: Let him who glories glory in the Lord.*

*Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, I am the Truth, was born of a virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God.*

*Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.*

*Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.*

*Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: For truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory," but of God's glory: for justice has not preceded from us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore, he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord.*

For this reason, when our Lord was born of the virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.*

For how could there be peace on earth unless *Truth has arisen from the earth*, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And *he is our peace who made the two into one*: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.'

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: *He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head.* For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become son of God?

Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.

*by St. Augustine, bishop*

