

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2022

## INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

**SUNDAY, December 18, 2022**

- 9:00 am** Barb Prater (d)  
**11:00 am** Elizabeth Miller (d)  
**7:00 pm** For the Parishioners

**MONDAY, December 19, 2022**

- 8:30 am** Bob Kessling (d)

**TUESDAY, December 20, 2022**

- 8:30 am** Mary E. Cooper (d)

**WEDNESDAY, December 21, 2022**

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

- 8:30 am** Amanda Wadlinger (d)

**THURSDAY, December 22, 2022**

- 8:30 am** Tina Klemann (d)

**3:00 pm-5:00 pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**FRIDAY, December 23, 2022**

*St. John of Kanty, Priest*

- 8:30 am** Lisa Limerick (d)

**SATURDAY, December 24, 2022**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 8:30 am** Deceased of the Hahn Family

- 3:00 pm** Jack & Helen Voegel

- 5:00 pm** Comarata/Miller Families

**Midnight** In memory/honor for whom the flowers were donated.

(Carols begin at 11:30 pm)

**SUNDAY, December 25, 2022**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 9:00 am** The Prost Family

- 11:00 am** Barb Prater

## SERVERS

**December 24/25**

To Be Determined

## LECTORS

**December 24/25**

To Be Determined

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**December 24/25**

To Be Determined

December 11, 2022

\$16,681.00

*Thank You for your Generosity!*

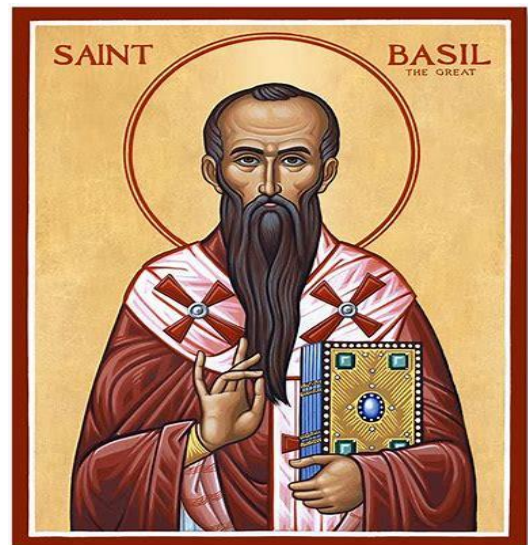
*Vocation View:* Your life should testify to the truth; that Christ is King.

*Thought for the Day:* A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

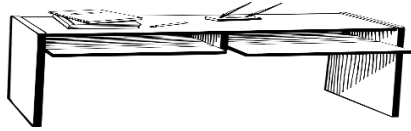
*By St. Basil the Great*

**Max Hofmeyer Plumbing**  
Kitchen & Bath Remodeling  
Plumbing Repairs  
4279 Delhi Road  
513-921-1133

**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



## Fr. Watkins' Desk

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

### **Christmas Mass Schedule:**

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24  
3:00 pm and 5:00 pm  
Midnight Mass (Carols begin at 11:30 pm)  
Christmas morning – Sunday, December 25  
9:00 am and 11:00 am

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

#### Church Bulletin Advertising

Lisa Massa, representing our Bulletin Publisher, Diocesan, is currently seeking new advertisements. Support our parish while you promote your business in print and digitally through social media. If interested, please contact Lisa directly or call the parish office. Only a third down payment is required to reserve an ad.

#### Contact

**Lisa Massa**

[lmassa@diocesan.com](mailto:lmassa@diocesan.com)

513-378-9013



# DIOCESAN

Catholic Life Every Day

Thanks to you and Diocesan, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish!

On rising make the sign of the cross, and then say: My God, I adore Thee and love Thee with all my heart.

I thank Thee for all Thy benefits, and especially for having preserved me this night.

I offer Thee whatever I may do or suffer this day, in union with the actions and sufferings of Jesus and of Mary, with the intention of gaining all the indulgences I can gain.

I resolve to avoid all sin this day, and especially such a one (*it is good to make a resolution, particularly about the fault into which we fall the oftenest*); and I beg of Thee to give me perseverance for the love of Jesus Christ.

I resolve to conform myself to Thy holy will, and particularly in those things that are contrary to my inclination, saying always: Lord, Thy will be done.

My Jesus! Keep Thy hand over me this day. Most Holy Mary! Take me beneath thy mantle. And do Thou, Eternal Father, help me, for the love of Jesus and Mary! O my angel guardian and my patron saints, assist me. An *Our Father* and a *Hail Mary* and the *Creed*, with three *Hail Marys* in honor of the purity of Mary.

By St. Alphonsus De Liguori



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2022

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

### *The Candy Cane*

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 in tact, 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 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.



## The Laurentian

God is man's glory. Man is the vessel which receives God's action and all his wisdom and power.

Just as a doctor is judged in his care for the sick, so God is revealed in his conduct with men. That is Paul's reason for saying: *God has made the whole world prisoner of unbelief that he may have mercy on all.* He was speaking of man, who was disobedient to God, and cast off from immortality, and then found mercy, receiving through the Son of God the adoption he brings.

If man, without being puffed up or boastful, has a right belief regarding created things and their divine Creator, who, having given them being, holds them all in his power, and if man perseveres in God's love, and in obedience and gratitude to him, he will receive greater glory from him. It will be a glory which will grow ever brighter until he takes on the likeness of the one who died for him.

He it was who took on the likeness of sinful flesh, to condemn sin and rid the flesh of sin, as now condemned. He wanted to invite man to take on his likeness, appointing man an imitator of God, establishing man in a way of life in obedience to the Father that would lead to the vision of God, and endowing man with power to receive the Father. He is the Word of God who dwelt with man and became the Son of Man to open the way for man to receive God, for God to dwell with man, according to the will of the Father.

For this reason *the Lord himself gave as the sign of our salvation, the one who was born of the Virgin, Emmanuel.* It was *the Lord himself who saved them,* for of themselves they had no power to be saved. For this reason Paul speaks of the weakness of man, and says: *I know that no good dwells in my flesh.* He means that the blessing of our salvation comes not from us but from God.

Again, he says: *I am a wretched man; who will free me from this body doomed to die?* Then he speaks of a liberator, thanks to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah says the same: *Hands that are feeble, grow strong! Knees that are weak, take courage! Hearts that are faint, grow strong! Fear not – see, our God is judgment and he will repay. He himself will come and save us.* He means that we could not be saved of ourselves but only with God's help.

*From a treatise Against Heresies by St. Irenaeus, bishop*

