

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 9, 2018



SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

103 Savanna Road • Hanover IL 61041

The mission of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church is to provide a place of Catholic worship, sacraments, spiritual guidance, education, love and support of all ages throughout our parish and community.

Parish Mission Statement

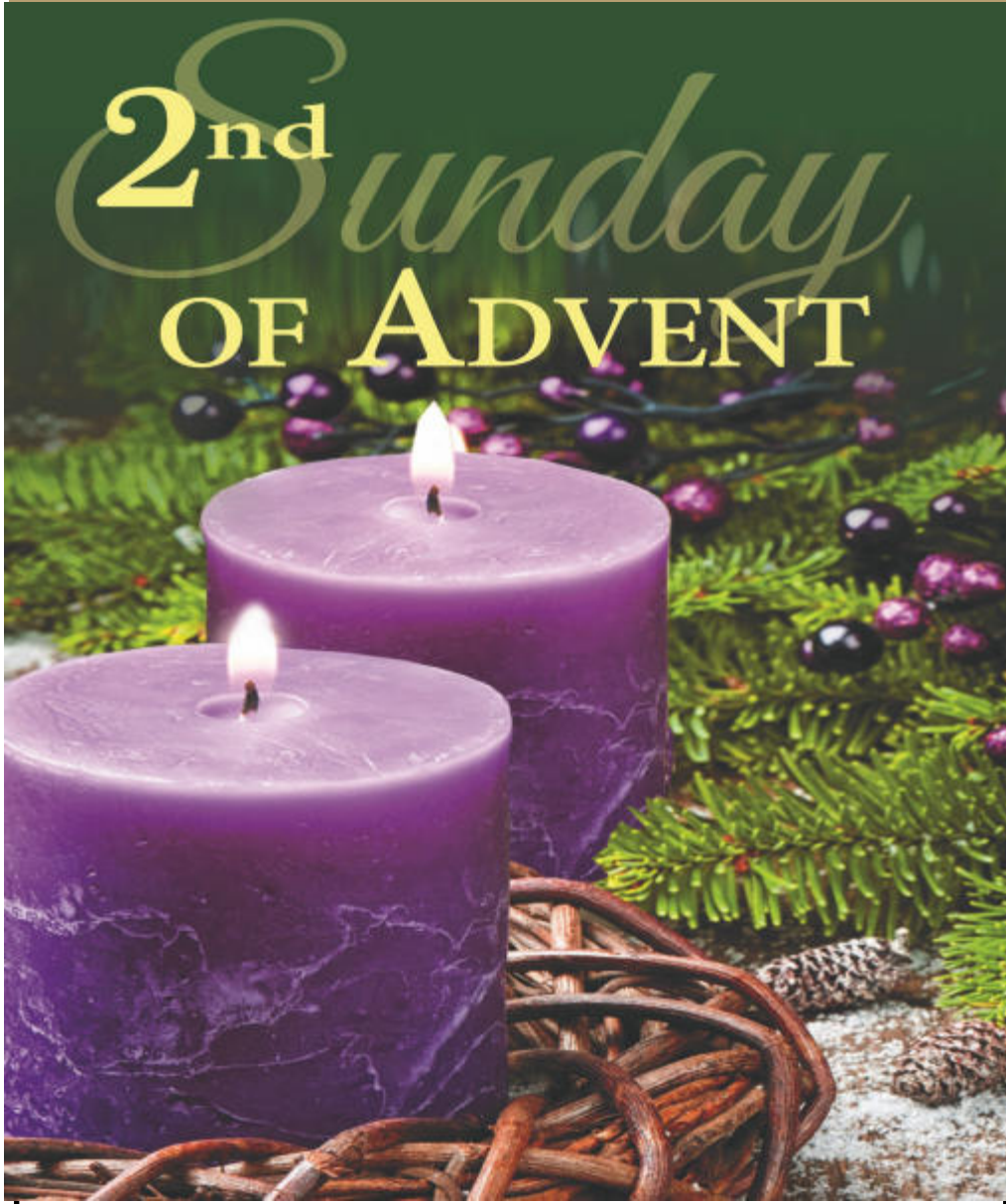
GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 9, 2018 2nd Sunday of Advent

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of..." Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today!

This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight and ? made smooth." Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 8

4:00 pm (SJ) † Gary Mullane

By Bob & Karen Harkness

6:00 pm (SM) * For the People of SM & SJ

Sunday, December 9

8:30 am (SM) † John Walsh

By Doris Trader, Steve & Wendy Meyer

10:15 am (SJ) *† Dan & Pat Cottral

By Joan Johnson Family

Monday, December 10 - No Mass

Tuesday, December 11

5:00 pm (SJ)*† Bud Bonar

By Elouise Bonar

Wednesday, December 12

8:30 am (SM)*† Ken Berlage

By Family

Thursday, December 13

8:30 am (SJ) *† Lois & Pat Farrell

By Thomas Johnson

Friday, December 14

8:30 am (SM)*† Marlene Chunes

By Tony Chunes

Saturday, December 15

4:00 pm (SJ)*For the People of SJ & SM

6:00 pm (SM) *† Dan Schamper

By Pat Brown

Sunday, December 16

8:30 am (SM) *† John Walsh

By Doris Trader, Steve & Wendy Meyer

10:15 am (SJ) † Theriza & Harry Peschang

By Joan Johnson Family

*Pastor scheduled to celebrate



Respect Life Corner

Word Of Life

For parents placing their children for adoption: May they encounter the Father's love through our words and actions; We pray to the Lord.



St. Anne Society

St. Anne Society meets monthly in Hanover at St. John's church hall.

Knights of Columbus

Fr. Ron Conro Knights of Columbus meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the church hall at The Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth with a light meal at 6:30PM.



Dear Friends in Christ,

"John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3).

The Gospel for the second Sunday of Advent introduces the great prophet John the Baptist for our Advent consideration. He proclaimed that the Messiah would be coming and people needed to thoroughly repent of and turn away from their sins (and show that by accepting a baptism of repentance) in order to be forgiven for them, so as to be ready to welcome the Messiah and be accepted by him. Similarly in Advent we prepare to celebrate the past coming of the Messiah, and we prepare for his future coming at the end of time and at the end of our life. One critical part of doing that is precisely what John the Baptist called for: repentance, conversion (turning away from sin and toward God), and the joyful receipt of forgiveness and God's blessings. May God give us the grace to desire to examine our hearts and our lives so that we can become better followers of Jesus Christ, and to turn away from all sin, mortal and venial. May we grow in the knowledge and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and share those with others. May we be instruments of God's reconciliation and peace, this Advent and forever.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is essential for all Catholics to grow in holiness. Like prayer, faithful participation at Mass, regular reception of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion in a state of grace, and regular reading of the Bible (especially the Gospels), regular reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (more commonly known as confession of sins to a priest) helps us to turn away from whatever is unholy and untrue in our life, and to be more open to God's presence, life, and grace, which we need if we are to fulfill our purpose in life to know, love, and serve God in this world and be happy with God in the next.

If aware of any mortal sins, a Catholic is not to receive our Lord in Holy Communion until receiving forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and is required to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to receive that forgiveness of sins within a year's time of the earliest of their mortal sins that have yet to be forgiven. (So, as a good practice, a Catholic should go to confession at least once a year, but twice, especially once in Advent and once again in Lent, better prepares us to celebrate Christmas and Easter.) A mortal sin is a sin involving a serious matter, committed with full knowledge of its being a sin, and with full consent of the will. Whether or not one has any mortal sins on his or her soul, he or she receives grace in making use of this sacrament. God wants to forgive all our sins, but too often we do not want to admit that we have sinned or try to stop committing sins. This is all the more reason why we should get ourselves to make a good confession and receive God's forgiveness and grace.

This Wednesday, December 12th, at 7:00 P.M., we will have a special Advent presentation at St. John's in Hanover, which will be repeated on Friday, December 14th at 7:00 P.M. at St. Mary's in Elizabeth. This will be a video presentation around an hour long, with a short discussion afterwards.

Sunday, December 16th, at 2:30 P.M., we will have a communal penance service at St. Mary's in Elizabeth. After a short prayer service, three priests will be available to hear individual confessions. The following Sunday, December 23rd, also at 2:30 P.M., we will have a similar service at St. John's in Hanover.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Fr. Dennis

Stewardship Report December 2, 2018

Envelopes	1000.00
Offertory	46.00
Votive lights	22.30
Galena Ctry Fair	40.00
Donation	150.00



Parish and Community News

Be sure to read Father's message in the bulletin. There is so much good information in it. He keeps us up to date on holy days in the future and now that the Christmas season is close there are always extra programs going on.



John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Liturgical Roles

Dec 15, 2018

**Lector.....B.Tonne
EM..P.Tonne, J. Kmiec
Sacristan.....Maria**

Dec 16, 2018

**Lector.....J. Kuzniar
EM.....Lorraine,
Mike & Laura
Sacristan.....Pauline
Altar Server.....Cora**

Readings for the Week December 9, 2018

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Parish Office

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Parish Staff

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Deacon Dave Wilbricht (retired)
815-591-3329
Secretary/Bookkeeper
Karen Harkness...815-291-4189
CRE Coordinator: Laura Kuzniar
815-858-5217

Mass Schedule*

Weekday

Monday: No Mass
Tuesday: 5:00pm (SJ)
Wednesday: 8:30am (SM)
Thursday: 8:30am (SJ)
Friday: 8:30am (SM)

Weekend:

Saturday: 4:00pm (SJ) 6:00pm (SM)
Sunday: 8:30am (SM) 10:15am (SJ)

First Thursday: 8:30AM-Mass, Holy Hour and Healing Service (SJ)

First Friday: 8:30AM-Mass, Holy Hour & Healing Service (SM)

* Subject to change due to holy days

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 9:00-10 am (SM), 3:15-3:45pm (SJ) or by appointment. Contact St. Mary's office for an appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage

Engaged couples must call Fr. Morrissy to begin their preparation at least six months before their wedding date.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call Fr. Morrissy to begin preparation.

Sick or Hospitalized

Please notify Fr. Morrissy of family members who are ill or in the hospital.

Pregnant?

There are alternatives to abortion!
If pregnant and in need of assistance, call 1-800-848-love. For local assistance, call the Freeport Pregnancy Center at 815-232-5433.

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