

~December 19, 2021~

4th

Sunday
OF ADVENT

St. Remy
Catholic Church



SCHEDULES, EVENTS & DAILY READINGS

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 18-26

- 18 Sat:** 5:00 p.m. Robert & Florence Schwartz
- 19 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Melvin, Kathleen, & Steve Heuing
9:00 a.m. John & Barb Monnier
11:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
- 20 Mon:** 8:15 a.m. Dotti Monnier
- 21 Tues:** 8:15 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the
Floyd & Frieda Monnin Family
9:00 a.m. Confession (Father Fox—until 9:15 a.m.)
7:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox—until 8:00 p.m.)
- 22 Wed:** 5:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox—until 6:10 p.m.)
6:15 p.m. Robert, Delores, & Jerry Peltier
7:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox—until 8:00 p.m.)
- 23 Thurs:** 8:15 a.m. For Vocations
3:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox—until 4:00 p.m.)
3:10 p.m. No Children's Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox—until 8:20 p.m.)
- 24 Fri:** 8:15 a.m. Urban & Elfrieda Borchers
- 25 Sat:** 12:00 a.m. **Midnight Mass**—Harold Simon
7:30 a.m. **Christmas Day**—Living & Deceased
Members of the Dapore & Bensman Fam.
9:00 a.m. Joan Elsas
11:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
- 26 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
9:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Monnin
10:30 a.m. Confession (Father Fox—until 10:45 a.m.)
11:00 a.m. Tom & Corrine Francis Family

MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

SERVERS

- 12:00 a.m. TBD
7:30 a.m. Sheldon Pohlman & Jordan Meyer
9:00 a.m. TBD
11:00 a.m. Michael & Simon Voisard

LECTORS

- 12:00 a.m. Ken York
7:30 a.m. Kathy Pinchot
9:00 a.m. Don Borchers
11:00 a.m. Angie Heaton

DISTRIBUTORS

- 12:00 a.m. Bart Doseck
7:30 a.m. Tracy Schulze
9:00 a.m. Jana Francis
11:00 a.m. Heather Borchers

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 12:00 a.m./
5:00 p.m. John Grogean, Don Cordonnier, Doug Francis,
Jeff Monnin
7:30 a.m. Roger Meyer, Phil Stickel, Max Bohman, Jake Borchers
9:00 a.m. Joe Timmerman, Craig Borchers, Mark Hoying,
Mark Harris
11:00 a.m. Eric Voisard, Rodney Counts, Mike Stueve, Ken Elsas

COLLECTION COUNTERS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is held every Thursday, beginning at the conclusion of the 8:15 a.m. Mass, and ending with Benediction at 8:30 p.m.

WEEKLY RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

- Tuesday: 9:00—9:15 a.m., 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 5:00—6:10 p.m., 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Thursday: 3:00—4:00 p.m., 7:00—8:20 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30—10:45 a.m.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

- Knights of Columbus—3rd Monday of the month (December 20) at 8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- Children's Adoration—will resume on January 6.
- Pastoral Advisory Council—4th Tuesday of every other month (January 25) at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society—2nd Wednesday of the month (January 12) at 7:00 p.m. at the Russia Library.
- Catholic War Veterans—3rd Wednesday of the month (January 19) at 8:00 p.m. at the CWV Hall.
- Patriotic Rosary—will be prayed every Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., as well as on the 1st Friday of the month (January 7) following the 7:00 a.m. Mass.
- Blessing for Expectant Mothers—will take place in church following the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

SERVERS

- 5:00 p.m. NO SATURDAY NIGHT MASS
7:30 a.m. Xavier & Samuel Phlipot
9:00 a.m. Will Borchers, Ben & Nathan York
Elijah Cordonnier, Zeb & Eli Borchers
11:00 a.m. Keagan Baldrige & Levi Delaet

LECTORS

- 5:00 p.m. NO SATURDAY NIGHT MASS
7:30 a.m. Vern Siefing
9:00 a.m. Pam DeLoye
11:00 a.m. Henry Cordonnier

DISTRIBUTORS

- 5:00 p.m. NO SATURDAY NIGHT MASS
7:30 a.m. Dick Goubeaux
9:00 a.m. Tim York
11:00 a.m. Deacon Meyer

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Josh Pleiman, Scott & Rachel Phlipot

WHAT DOES FATHER FOX SAY?

How you can participate in the world-wide synod in 2022. Inserted into this bulletin is a flyer explaining the details, including upcoming events to which you are invited. Pope Francis wants as many of the baptized as possible—of all ages—to participate in archdiocese-wide meetings taking place in January and February, 2022, to discuss how we can collectively better advance the message of salvation. To learn more and to sign up, please visit www.catholicaoc.org/synod.

Resolution of the Geoff Drew case. This is a grim matter, but it is essential to be transparent. As you may recall, Father Geoff Drew was arrested several years ago on charges of abusing a boy aged 10 at the time of the crime – something that happened before he entered the seminary. This came to light, however, after reports of interactions with teenage boys that weren't criminal, but which were, for lack of a better way to put it, weird. Namely, unwanted hugs, shoulder massages, pats on the leg, and inappropriate comments about appearance.

These latter concerns had been shared with Bishop Joseph Binzer, but he failed to share this information with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, and likewise, did not share it with the personnel board that makes recommendations for priestly assignments. Bishop Binzer did, however, share the reports with law enforcement at the time, who found no crime had been committed by Father Drew. Bishop Binzer was removed from leading the priest personnel board. In any case, Father Drew was removed from his parish assignment and placed on administrative leave, pending investigation and resolution of both the problematic behaviors, and then, the criminal accusation from years before.

On Thursday, December 2, Father Drew pled guilty to nine counts of rape. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, with credit given for time already served. I knew Geoff Drew; our time overlapped in the seminary. I never saw anything problematic. People ask my reaction to these events. I think my disgust and anger are the same as yours.

Naturally, people wonder what this says about the seminary. All I can say is that we all had to answer a LOT of very personal questions, and we all took hours of psychological exams. But if someone is prepared to lie, I don't know how you overcome that.

Now that the criminal trial has ended and Drew's guilt is established, Archbishop Schnurr will pursue, with the Vatican, Drew's permanent removal from the priestly state.

Don't hesitate to speak up. This is a good time to say: if anyone, including a priest or anyone in the seminary, or a lay employee or volunteer, behaves in any improper manner, or worse, commits any kind of abuse or crime, please do NOT hesitate to report it! You can report such things directly to law enforcement, and if you want my help, don't hesitate to contact me.

Early Mass on Christmas. As you may have noticed, I always arrange for another priest to take the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day. The reason is as follows. First, the Advent and Christmas seasons are always taxing, and even more so when Christmas falls close to the weekend. Second, it's not easy to turn around from Midnight Mass (i.e., falling asleep around 3 a.m.) to getting up for 7:30 a.m. Mass. Third, I can get sick, and the odds of finding help at the last minute are nil. It's one thing to cancel Sunday Masses, but imagine if I had to cancel all Christmas Masses. Having a visiting priest is a kind of insurance: if I were to get sick, there would still be ONE Mass available.

Time away after Christmas. I will be away from the parish from the afternoon of Sunday, December 26, until the afternoon of Wednesday, December 28, returning for confessions and Mass that evening.

Do you have a question you'd like answered in this column? Let me know! My phone and email are below. I won't use your name in my column.

—Father Fox
 StRemyPastor@gmail.com
 (937)526-3437

LIVE YOUR FAITH



The family receiving the **TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE** this Sunday is Matt and Melanie Gibson. The family receiving it the week of December 26 is Joe and Katie Sapp. Please pick up the chalice from the table inside the rectory door after Mass on Sunday, and return it to the same place the following Friday.

GRIEFSHARE IS A WEEKLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP that will be meeting every Tuesday from January 4-March 29 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Precious Blood church basement in Chickasaw. These sessions provide a place where you can find help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. All necessary materials are being donated by Hogenkamp Funeral Home. To register or acquire more information, contact Herb Wilker at hiwilker@mercy.com or (419)953-5398.



IF YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN OUR GIVING TREE MINISTRY, please return your gift before 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 19. All items for the homeless shelter, Shelby County Right to Life, and Rustic Hope do not need to be wrapped and should also be turned in by December 19. Thank you so much for your generous support! If you have any questions, contact Janice Tebbe at janice.tebbe@yahoo.com.

“RETROUVAILLE” IS A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGES. This program helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track and give you the opportunity to rediscover each other, empowering you to examine your lives together in a new and positive way. Instead of “calling it quits,” why not make a simple phone call to find out more about the program the weekend of January 7 & 8? Call (513)486-6222 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com for more information.



In your charity, please pray for eternal peace and rest for St. Remy parishioner **TOM LUTHMAN**, who died recently. May he rest in peace.

Mass Schedule for Christmas and December 31-January 1

Please note adjustments that Father Fox has made since he shared Mass times for Christmas and January 1 in his column on page 2 of the December 5 bulletin. All Masses for Christmas will be as usual: 12:00 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. (There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 25.) A candlelight Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, as well as at 9:00 a.m. on January 1. The 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, January 1 will be a vigil Mass for the Epiphany.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

This Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday:	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	Late Advent Weekday
Tuesday:	Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45	St. Peter Canisius
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56	Late Advent Weekday
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	St. John of Kanty
Friday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79	Late Advent Weekday
Saturday:	Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18	The Nativity of the Lord
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Please note that the parish office will be closed from Friday, December 24 through Monday, January 3.



Save the date for our annual Valentine's Dinner!



It will be held on
Saturday, January 8 at St. Remy Hall.
A talk titled “Top 10 Ways to a Better Marriage”
will be presented by Alex Wallace,
a counselor with Ruah Woods.
Ticket information is coming next week!

NOTES OF THANKS

The Barb and Augie Cordonnier Family would sincerely like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during Barb's final weeks of life. Trusting in God's plan has been reinforced for all of us. Special thanks to Father Fox for the beautiful Mass, Carla Meyer for the wonderful music, and the boys basketball team for serving the Mass. Thanks to Bonnie Paulus, Linda Guillozet, and the wonderful people who helped with the luncheon, and family and friends who brought food and participated in the service. The donations for Masses, Hospice, and the Russia Fire Department are all greatly appreciated. God bless!

Thanks to all of you who donated food for the poor and needy during our Thanksgiving Day Mass. This food was given to several families in our area, as well as to the soup kitchens in Sidney and Piqua. All were very appreciative of your generosity in sharing what you have with those who need it the most.

LIVE YOUR FAITH

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



This week's featured sponsor is **BORCHERS FAMILY FLOOR CENTER**. Located on St. Rt. 66 in Fort Loramie, the store offers a vast array of flooring products, including hardwood, luxury vinyl plank, carpet, and custom decorative rugs. A quick stop at their store will also provide you with plenty of options for tiles for backsplashes and custom showers, as well as cabinetry and countertops. Call the Borchers at (937)295-3233 to set up an appointment so you can see all they have to offer!

We extend a sincere thank you to all of the businesses that advertise on the back cover of our bulletin. Their sponsorship covers the church's entire expenses in printing the bulletins each week. Please call on these businesses when you are looking for products and services.



THE NEXT BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS will be held on Saturday, January 15 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph Village Centre (formerly called the Gathering Place). The next opportunity to take the class will be in April. Parents are required to attend a class before the Baptism of their child. Call Steven and Regina Schulze at 638-3642 to register or for more information.

Please remember to pray for the people listed in the St. Remy Prayer Intentions Book located in the back of church.

From the Deacon's Desk

The following article was written by Deacon Mike Meyer.



"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb" (Lk 1:41). Christmas is less than a week away, and the anticipation is building. Hopefully this fourth Sunday of Advent finds us filled with the Spirit of Christmas, a spirit of joy and peace that comes from our faith in Jesus Christ. It is in His presence that our hearts leap for joy, a joy that brings meaning to all the wonderful traditions and festivities associated with Christmas.

There is a temptation to let all the details and tasks required in decorating, gift-giving, and getting ready for family parties to bog us down and steal our joy because we have so much to do. These activities can become a complete distraction from the true meaning of Christmas. We can even become grumpy like the Grinch, or have a "Bah, humbug" attitude like Ebenezer Scrooge.

During this final week of Advent, let us wake up each morning opening our hearts to Jesus and surrendering all the tasks that lie before us to God. Let's include Jesus in the preparations. All of our activities will then have the potential to be joyful and life-giving, bringing us closer to the manger, so that Christmas Day will find us "leaping for joy" as we focus on the Christ child being alive and born in our hearts anew, nurturing within us a deeper and more zealous faith than ever before.

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 "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"  
 ~The Grinch

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."  
 ~Ebenezer Scrooge

# RUSSIA COMMUNITY NEWS



**TO ALL IN THE RUSSIA AREA:** Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering service to neighbors in need. Our members all unite in a single focus—that the blessings we have been given are to be shared with those in need. Over the past years, many of our local parishioners have shared their time, money, and other personal resources in supporting St. Remy Parish and St. Vincent de Paul sponsored activities. I am asking that you consider yet another form of giving: that of giving your time to brighten another's day or help those in need. Our local conference is formulating a ministry to achieve this goal. Would you have time to visit an elderly person who is lonely or send a birthday or get well card? Would you be happy to pick up groceries or run an errand for someone who can't drive? Could you spare some time to read to someone, play a game of cards, or simply stop by and check in on somebody? Some of these acts of charity are already taking place, unknown to us. Our goal is to build on current efforts being undertaken by reaching out to those whose needs are not currently being met. St. Remy's conference is looking for a core of 4-5 men and women who would like to help us get this ministry off the ground. It can involve as little or as much time as you like. Once we have ascertained interest, we will meet to get your input and provide additional direction to develop this ministry. Would you consider helping us by giving your time and resources to others? If so, please contact me at (937)658-4254 by January 15. Thanks for your consideration.

~Tom Doseck, President  
 St. Remy Chapter of St. Vincent de Paul

# CCD & YOUTH MINISTRY



## Soldiers of Christ

All junior high boys are encouraged to participate in the next Soldiers of Christ event on Monday, December 20 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at school.

**Please note that there will be no religion classes on December 22 and 29 due to the Christmas break.**



## Don't miss the High School Christmas Party!

All high school students are invited to join us for dinner and games on Monday, December 27 from 6:00-8:30 at St. Remy Hall. Dinner will be included! Don't forget to wear your Christmas sweater!

## National March for Life



Shelby County Right to Life is sending 2 buses to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January. The buses will leave Sidney on Thursday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. and return on Saturday, January 22 around 5:00 a.m. The cost is \$85 per seat. Registration forms, payment information, and basic itinerary are available at [www.shelbycountyrto.org](http://www.shelbycountyrto.org); you may also email Anne Schmiesing at [director@shelbycountyrto.org](mailto:director@shelbycountyrto.org). Payment by check is preferred, and checks will be held until after the event, in case refunds are needed.

All passengers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult or a chaperoned group. We are looking for adults to fulfill the role of chaperone for students from our parish who may wish to go. If you are interested in this role, please contact Mark Travis at (419)953-0614.



## You Night

Junior high students will get together for You Night on Wednesday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. at school.



Instagram

## Attention All Parents and Students:

*Be sure to stay up-to-date on everything that is happening with St. Remy Youth Group by following our instagram at [stremyyg](https://www.instagram.com/stremyyg).*

# Life Information For Everyone

## Appropriating the Christmas Appropriators

The following article, written by Rev. Jerry J. Pokorsky, was found at [www.catholicthing.org](http://www.catholicthing.org).



The “woke” culture is, of course, the very latest thing these days—until the next self-proclaimed enlightenment comes along. You claim victim status, share your grievances with semi-serious drama, and scold opponents. Practicing Christians have become a ridiculed—even despised—minority in this country. It is more dangerous to your reputation and career to bring a Bible to work than dirty books. The less we talk about Jesus and Christmas—excuse me, “Winter Holiday”—the safer we are in an atheist culture. “Cultural appropriation” is just one of the grave injustices recently discovered by the “woke” culture. It is—according to authoritative sources—the inappropriate adoption of elements of a minority culture by members of a dominant culture. Most of mainstream culture has already taken Christ out of Christmas. But you might argue that, by “cultural appropriation,” it continues to make money off of Him, while abusing the rights of Christians. So we have winter holiday trees, festive lights, wreaths, holiday spending—without Jesus. How dare you!

I have no problem with atheists making an honest buck off Christmas. But when an atheistic culture cashes in on Jesus while impugning [attacking as false or questionable] His followers as intolerant and hateful, it’s time to rise up and, well, claim victim status. How have they offended us? Let me count the ways:

They have appropriated [taken without permission or consent, especially by public authority] the **Christmas tree**. But the Christmas tree is a symbol of Jesus. In winter, what is evergreen becomes a sign of everlasting life, and it reminds Christians of the “tree of life,” an image of Christ on the Cross.

They have appropriated **wreaths**. Wreaths adorn our shopping centers and businesses. But the circular shape—without beginning or end—represents God, and the evergreens represent eternal life.

They have appropriated **holly**. But the holly tree is another Christian symbol. The sharp leaves symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Jesus, while the berries represent drops of His blood.

They have appropriated seasonal **lights and candles**, but the festive glowing lights symbolize Jesus, the source of all light, the Light of the World.

The **star** atop the tree represents the star that led the Wise Men to Jesus. It directs us to follow the light of the Savior, just as the Wise Men found Him by following the star.

The **poinsettia** thrives during winter and symbolizes everlasting life. The shape resembles a star, the red flowers remind us of the blood that Jesus shed for us, and the white flowers symbolize His purity.

**Christmas bells** symbolize the hymn of the angels in Heaven, announcing the birth of Jesus and praising God: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of goodwill.”

**Candy canes** remind us of the staff carried by the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus—and that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gently leads us to safety and peace.

**Santa Claus** brings gifts to children on Christmas. St. Nicholas forms the basis of his image.

Christmas is the season of giving—and consumer spending. The Wise Men offered Him gifts. But the greatest gift of all came from our Heavenly Father: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” On Christmas Day, we remember that the Savior is the true gift of Christmas. They can’t even escape Jesus when they reduce Christmas to a “winter holiday.” “Holiday” is a conflation of two words: “holy day.” If they are serious about excluding Christianity, let’s insist they get rid of all Christian symbolism in our public spaces and workplaces. No public displays of Christmas trees, wreaths, candy canes, festive lights, and Santa Claus. No Christmas music, ever. Not even “Santa Baby” or “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus!”

We can change this country into a workers’ paradise without public expressions of generosity or joy or any public sign of Christmas. Demand honesty! Let’s make our cities and workplaces look as lifeless and sterile as the concrete buildings of the Soviet Union. Our feast day, our choice! In the meantime, during Advent, Christians may continue to prepare for our Savior’s birthday with a good Confession and light penitential practices: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

Amidst a harsh, barren, intolerant, and ugly culture, let’s adorn the sanctuaries of our churches and homes with the symbols of Christmas: twinkling lights, evergreens, candy canes, and gifts—the reminders of Jesus and the sweetness of the Gospels. On Christmas Day, let’s gather around the decorated Christmas tree and the Nativity Scene and sing hymns of peace and joy: *O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. At need, even throw in the Elvis Christmas album for good measure.

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