December 20, 2020

St. Ronald Church

4th Sunday of Advent

It is the Mission of St. Ronald Catholic Church to provide a place of comfort and peace to all who seek worship, friendship, Christian knowledge, spiritual guidance, and service to the Community of the Lord.

17701 Fifteen Mile Road, Clinton Twp, MI 48035 (586)792-1190 Fax (586)792-0765 www.stronald.com

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

In Blaise Pascal's work, Pensees, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come. ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp? ©LPi

Thank you to the St. Ronald Men's Club for setting up the Christmas Manger!

Seventeen guys showed up to help build the manger; it took an hour to complete.

A few days later, seven guys set up the Family, Shepherd, Angel, Magi, and animals. That took another hour.

It all looks great! Thanks guys!

Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the Church and Gathering Area for Christmas beginning on Tuesday, December 22nd after the 9am Mass.

All are invited to come help make the workload lighter for everyone.

Join us for an hour or two or what ever you can give as we prepare for our Lord's arrival.

Please wear masks and respect social distancing. Thank you!

RECOGNIZING GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?' I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us. *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

St. Ronald Parish

Fr. William J. Herman, Pastor
(586) 792-1190 Rel Ed (586) 792-1276

Parish Office Hours
Monday through Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm
Friday 9:30am - 12 noon

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2020

This year, St. Ronald's target amount is $45,376. It is a 15% decrease from last year. All parishes will see this 15% decrease due to the pandemic.

There are ways to contribute to the CSA that's easier than ever before. You may call in your donation at (888)331-8695 or (313)237-5768 or you can give online at www.givecsa.org. According to the Archdiocese of Detroit, both procedures are quick and simple. However, you can always call the Parish Office if you have questions or wish to have us walk you through the process. Please note that we must meet our target goal of $45,376. If we don't get to it through donations, it will be paid through our parish's funds so it's important that we all participate in this collection! We ask that you prayerfully consider donating to this collection!

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY COLLECTION

A reminder that our Christmas collection is not taxed by the Archdiocese of Detroit as are the other collections throughout the year.
100% of your Christmas donations remains right here at St. Ronald's. Please take this into consideration if you are able to give this year.
Donations for the Christmas collection may be given to the parish from Dec 12th through Dec 30th.

St. Ronald Catholic Church
17701 Fifteen Mile Road
Clinton Township, MI 48035

Dear Parishioner of St. Ronald,

As we celebrate the Christmas Season, our thoughts turn to all of you, those we have seen through the pandemic and those we have not seen. Considering the severity of the illness, we can certainly understand why we have not seen some of you and the necessity of your staying as safe as you can at this time. No one of us has ever experienced such a time before. We do miss you and look forward to worshipping together again.

There has been much discussion in the diocese concerning Mass times for Christmas and New Year's and how attendance would be handled. We have decided to have Masses for Christmas on December 24th at 4:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. and on December 25th at 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. For New Year's Day, Masses will be on December 31st at 4:00 P.M. and on January 1st. at 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. As for attendance, we suggest you come early. When the church reaches our allowed attendance, we will have to close the doors. The only doors that will be opened are the doors facing the parking lot. That will allow us to count the number of entrants. Without publishing our schedule in the vicariate paper, I thought it would give our faithful members preference. We hope to see many but, at the same time, I have to remind you that all are exempt from attending Mass under penalty of sin, until Ash Wednesday.

While writing, I would also like to inform you of our parish finances during these trying times. Our thank you to all who have continued to support the parish with your donations. You are greatly appreciated. Just as your house expenses have continued, so have the expenses for maintaining our parish. The usual Sunday collection average around $7,000. Since April, they are closer to $4,000. Not having an organist helped make up the difference. Once again we are blessed with having an organist and so our expenses will continue. Your support is greatly appreciated. When all this began, you will recall, the diocese asked if we needed to borrow money that would have to be paid back. I informed them of your generosity and assured them of your support. Once again the proof is in the pudding.

Let us also take a look at the CSA. Our goal is $45,000 and if we do not make it, we must pay from our savings. To date we have made 73.06% of our goal. Before we make comparisons with other parishes, let us see how all respond to this information. Thank you to all who have remembered to contribute. Thank you to all who will do so.

Our sincere prayer is that you and yours experience a most blessed Christmas filled with the peace and joy of the coming of our Redeemer Christ the King! May you have a New Year of peace and health and many blessings. We look forward to the day we can all celebrate together again. We will save your place.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. William J. Herman

Join us for Christmas Mass!

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24th, 4pm and 9pm
Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th, 8:30am and 11am

Religious Formation News

Kimberly Jacob:
Parish Catechetical Leader & Youth Minister

*We will be collecting news toys, new or gently used outdoor clothing items at all Masses this weekend. Look for the big box in the gathering area. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Middle School Family Formation:
Our next session will be on Friday, January 8th, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Religious Formation:
Do not forget to send me your family's prayer table/area, so that we can post on our Facebook page. We only have a few submissions, but the ones that we received are awesome. Obviously, all families are invited to do this!
Classes for 1st-6th graders resume on Tuesday, January 12th, 2021.

Youth Ministry:
We will be having a Martin Luther King, Jr. service project here at St. Ronald in conjunction with St. Malachy and St. Thecla. All youth in grades 7th-12th are invited to help make fleece blankets on Saturday, January 16th at 1:30pm. We will conclude our afternoon with 4:00 Mass.
** Do not forget that our youth are selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets for $5.00 each; they make great Christmas presents!

Quote of the Week: "The eyes are the lamp of the body. If your eyes are sound, your whole body will be filled with light." ~ Mt 6:22

If you should have comments, questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail kjacob.stronald@gmail.com or call 792-1276, ext. 226.

The youth of the parish are selling

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS magnets

$5.00/each - Proceeds benefit the youth of the parish.

Stop at the Parish Office to purchase your magnets.

COAT AND TOY DRIVE

Our Youth Ministry will be collecting new toys and new and gently used winter items for the needy!

All are invited to bring donations of new toys and new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens to the parish for our Coat and Toy Drive the weekend of December 19th and 20th.

LITURGICAL ROLES

December 26/27	4:00 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Sacristan	Mike St. Onge	Geri Blaszczak	Mary Lutz
Ushers	Phillip Vallelunga Norm Dodt Frank Giglio	Darryl Debski Joe Konopka Dave Anderer	Michelle Toerper Jen Chrzan Anthony Krajewski
Lector	Chris St. Onge	Chris Dalida	Joe Kosmala

Pray for our Sick

Barrington Boys
Barb Bell
Michael Bolter
James Cichocki
William Cichocki
Rosemary Crane
Jazelle Culavita
Fran Davis
Anna DelVillano
Tom DeJonckheere
Carol Goyette
Dawn Graham
Infant William
Richard Kowalewski
Paul Kushner
Anne Lanivich
Jacob Michael
Rance Russo
Jerry Schmidt
Mary Spear

Pray for our Troops

Keep our troops and their families in your prayers. Also, remember all those who fought and lost their lives for our freedom.

Senior Airman Chayse Anderer
Sgt. Veronica Camacho
Dominic DeYonker
Sgt. Nicholas Finn
Pfc. David Flachsmann Jr.
Sgt. Michael Fournier
Spc. Robert Fournier
LCpl Edward Gnytkiewicz
Sr/A Travis Grass
Cpt. Noelle Kerr
Sgt Bradley Klutz
A1C Casey Harper Klutz
Paul Koss
Sgt. Justin Lienemann
LCP Nicholas Lienemann
LT. Jessie Maron-Gorman
Joshua McBarnes
Sgt. Sean McDowell
Pfc. Amber Mueller
Sgt. Jacob O'Dowd
George Revenaugh
LCpl Ryan Ritthaler
1T2 Andrew Severini
LTC. Allison Stewart
LCP Joseph M. Zelek

Scripture of the Week

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/ Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/ Lk 1:67-79
Friday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/ Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 19, 4pm
+Robert Tedesco requested by Family and Friends
Sunday, December 20, 8:30am
For Parishioners and Guests of St. Ronald Church
Sunday, December 20, 11am
For Joanne and Ronald Cook on his Birthday
requested by Cook Family
For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
requested by Fr. Herman
Monday, December 21 - No Mass
Tuesday, December 22, 9am Mass
+Bill Haas requested by Theresa Haas
Wednesday, December 23, 9am Mass
For Parishioners and Guests of St. Ronald Church
Thursday, December 24, 4pm Mass - Christmas Eve
+Gloria and Arthur Piatt or Pratt requested by Kerr Family
+Anna and Gustave Kerezsi requested by Kerr Family
For Dawn Graham requested by DeJonckheere Family
Thursday, December 24, 9pm Mass - Christmas Eve
+Bill Haas requested by Theresa Haas
For President and Mrs. Trump and Family
requested by Charlene Cook
For the Families of Raymond and Richard Cook
requested by Charlene Cook
Friday, December 25, 8:30am Mass - Nativity of the Lord
+Agnes Thompson requested by Cathy and Mike Grix
+Virginia and Lloyd Kliest requested by Russel LaRocca
For James, Paul, Baby Henry, Virginia, Cindy, and
Souls in Purgatory requested by Cindy
Friday, December 25, 11am Mass - Nativity of the Lord
+JoAnn Patamia requested by Consalvo Family
+Lionel Barger, Sr. requested by Arlette Barger
+Philomena McLean requested by Mary Steinhilper
Saturday, December 26, 4pm Mass - Holy Family
For Parishioners and Guests of St. Ronald Church
Sunday, December 27, 8:30am Mass - Holy Family
+Cheryll and Charles Greene requested by Family
Sunday, December 27, 11am Mass - Holy Family
+Elizabeth Guarnieri requested by Kathy Whitworth

Masses of the Week

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday: Mass of the Day
Wednesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Thursday: Christmas Eve
Friday: The Nativity of the Lord
Saturday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Next Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Josep

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