

St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

December 13, 2020

www.stwilliam.com



To say that this year has caused an unusual amount of stress, probably borders on gross understatement. And now as we approach the holidays, I'm guessing that those stress levels can even increase. Still, whatever pressures you might find yourself under, don't let such things distract you from what's really important during this Advent season: getting ready to welcome the King, and doing HIS work as we await his return, whenever that might be.

I suspect that whenever we find ourselves frustrated (and subsequently, angry) it's because we have lost sight of ourselves as doing the Lord's work, of being His agents. But if we keep focused on doing the Lord's work, we can actually afford to let the frustration go, because (here's the beauty part) *God is going to get his work done*—but only when He is ready, not necessarily according to our timeline or with our visible successes. (I've heard it said, and it's true: "God doesn't need our successes; but He does ask for our surrender.") All we have to do is go along for the ride, doing only what He asks of us and no more. If you run ahead of the Lord, you're on your own, and you will probably get good and frustrated—and probably angry, too!

In short, we must see ourselves as only doing what the Lord wants, truly being his servants. We are *disciples*, and every detail of our lives must be colored by that central truth.

If that proper self-image has gotten blurry for you, take the steps necessary to get yourself back into focus (in addition to repentance for any sinful patterns in our lives). There are **four main areas of focus** for discipleship, proper responses to God for his gifts: **Prayer, Family, Finance, and Service**. (If you need a quick refresher, check out the "one-

hour challenge" that's always printed in our bulletin. Keep in mind though, that the "one hour" isn't the goal; it's just a place to begin. And by the way, if you don't really take the third one seriously, chances are—at least according to a book I've recently read—you probably aren't succeeding in the other ones, either.)

And if you are still finding yourself somewhat frazzled, try fine-tuning your focus by reminding yourself *frequently* during the day (use POST-IT

(Continued on page 3)



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCC

©LPA

Parish Mission: *"To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can't help but proclaim it!"*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm, .
Sunday *10:00 am (*also Live-streamed)
and Sunday 12:30 pm
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call Deacon Bob Dreyer at 624-1421, ext. 345. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

RECTORY

Email: Rectory1@stwilliam.com
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

Pastor	Rev. Michael G. Savickas	Ext. 346
Deacons	Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer Rev. Mr. John Liddle	Ext. 345
Baptisms	Dcn. Bob Dreyer	Ext. 345
Business Office		Ext. 341
Business Manager	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
Christian Service:	Mrs. Karen Sommers 248-624-8870	Ext. 344
Maintenance: Supervisor	(248) 669-5522 Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

Office of Faith Formation		(248) 624-1371
Dir. of Rel. Ed.	Dcn. Michael McCrandall	Ext. 307
Dir. Of Initiation	Mrs. Nancy Thomas	Ext. 306
Youth Ministry	Mrs. Karen Trojniak	Ext. 308
Music Ministry Dir.	Mr. Bill Richart	Ext. 310
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
School Office		(248) 669-4440
Principal	Mrs. Betsy Gabrish	Ext. 303
Secretary		Ext. 302
CYO Sports		
Athletic Director		ad@saintwilliam.net

Since Sunday Masses have been reduced to the public, contributions have greatly declined.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to Faithdirect.net, or follow the link from our website, www.stwilliam.com.



Offertory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of Oct., 2020	*\$271,824	\$333,332	(\$61,508)

*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

(Continued from page 1)

notes?) that *God is with you*, and that you are only doing *His* work. Then, take time to be nice to someone else. Or try singing. Or maybe you need to take a few minutes to *rest*. Balance! Do *His* will.

Whatever you do, **ONLY** do what the **Lord** asks you to do—not what you are being pressured to do by others, or even by yourself! If you still are actually planning on shopping at a brick-and-mortar store, whether a grocery store, the mall, or a big retailer, make sure you pray on the way—you are the Lord's messenger in the midst of parking-lot mayhem or when encountering harried salespeople or frazzled impatient shoppers.

I guess what I'm really inviting you to do is keep focused on our mission! We're all about bringing others to Christ.

This is true not only in the public square, but equally applies to the church environs as many of us gather to worship for the Holy Days and for the following weekends. For Christmas, especially, we need to be sensitive to those people who may show up for Mass but are not regular parishioners. This is one of the main reasons we are trying to arrange for reserved seating: so that we can seat people as efficiently as possible *in order to leave some room to accommodate "visitors"!* We're all about "radical hospitality". So please be more than understanding if we run out of room at a particular Mass. (We're already at projected capacity for the 4 PM Christmas Eve Mass.) It may be an inconvenience or even a real sacrifice to change your plans and attend a different liturgy than the one you prefer—or to come to the weekend Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family instead of Christmas—but it just might further our mission!

If we want to attract new disciples for the Lord, we have to make those visitors, *including those Catholics who only come twice a year*, feel like we're really glad to see them! (Whoa. Maybe even *especially* those Catholics!) Smile a lot when you are in church, and if you tried to reserve some seats and we contact you to tell you that all the reserved seats are taken, just smile, thank God anyway, and say a prayer for a visitor for whom we made room. Maybe your sacrifice will be just the thing that opens a path back for a lost brother or sister.

In Jesus,
Fr. Michael

Important Mass Information

Christmas Mass Reservations

Due to COVID restrictions we are taking reservations to assure there will be a place for you at Mass this Christmas.

To alleviate crowding the Archdiocese of Detroit recommends that parishioners **participate at Mass only once** during the four days, Dec. 24th thru the 27th. Note that our 4 PM and 10 AM Masses will be available as a livestream (Go to www.stwilliam.com.)

Masses approaching capacity will have assigned seating.

Face Masks and Social Distancing required.

Must RSVP by Monday evening, Dec. 14th.

Make reservations from our website,
www.StWilliam.com .

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Thursday Dec. 24th
4:00 pm, 6:30 pm

Christmas Day, Friday Dec. 25th
Midnight Mass, 12:00 am
10:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 26th, 4:30 pm
Sunday, Dec. 27th, 10:00 am
(No 12:30 pm Mass)

Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's)

Thursday, Dec. 31st, 4:30 pm
Friday, Jan. 1st, 10:00 am

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, Jan. 2nd, 4:30 pm
Sunday, Jan. 3rd, 10:00 am
(No 12:30 pm Mass)



If you have not dropped off your gifts for our Giving Tree Program, please do so ASAP. We want to make sure these items are delivered to the recipient on time. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Sommers at 248-624-8870 or ksommers@stwilliam.com. We are blessed to have very kind and generous parishioners! Thank you!

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Third Sunday of Advent

Today's gospel reports "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don't start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

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CONGRATULATIONS

St. William Ushers Club Raffle

YEARLY GRAND PRIZE!

First Place: \$1,000

Tiffany Kollar

Ticket # 1415 sold by Ron Kollar

Second Place: \$350

Joan Dolder

Ticket # 1151 sold by Bob Dolder

Third Place \$200

Stephanie Miller

Ticket # 1123 sold by Bob Dolde



Right to Life — Lifespan

The First Days of Life

At this Christmas season, we celebrate the BIRTH of the Christ Child. Rarely do we give much thought to when that precious Life began. Months earlier, the Mother of the Savior said "yes" when asked by the Lord to be the mother of his Son. Celebrate the birth, celebrate the season, but remember we all came into being because a mother said "yes".

Dads' Club Christmas Tree Sale

Dads' Club received news late in the season that their Christmas tree supplier went out of business too late in the year to find a replacement. Unfortunately no Christmas tree sale this year, but they will be back in 2021!



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Third Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

USCCB *Word of Life*

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

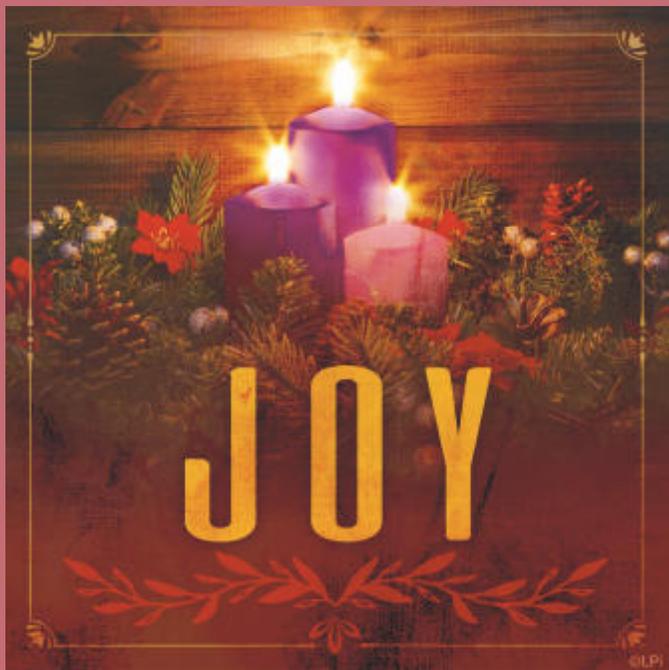
Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, ©LPi



Live the Liturgy

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.



Festival of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7 P.M.

St. Fabian Church

12 Mile, Farmington Hills

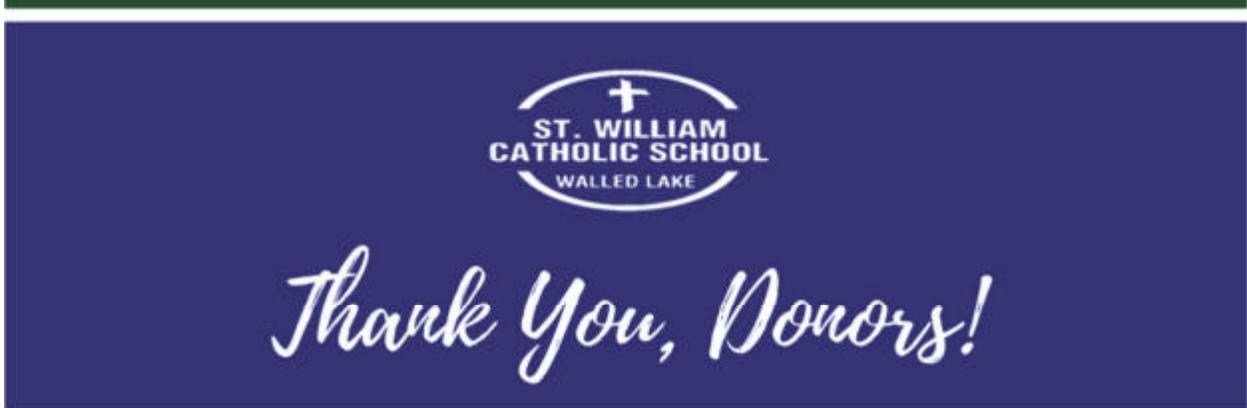
The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer

The Carols will be led by the Parish Choir and Cantors with our St. Fabian family of musicians. Music selections will include well known carols and choral music to help all of us remember why Christmas has the name "Christ" as its root. The program will last about an hour. You are welcome to bring family and friends to enjoy the devotion!



OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”



2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The St. William Administrative Oversight Board **wishes all of our St. William community a blessed and safe holiday season!** It was absolute grit and perseverance (and enormous efforts by school and maintenance staff!) but we made it this far with in-person instruction with only one interruption. Teaching and keeping our students safe is our #1 priority.

This year we have a school theme which sets the tone for our school community “Trust in Him” “Walk with Him”. We believe that St. Paul’s words to the Philippians are still words to hold in our heart with great faith. **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philip-pians 4:13**

THANK YOU to all of our generous donors! This 2019-2020 Annual Report gratefully recognizes donors to the Annual Fund and school during our fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. We could not do this important work without the charitable gifts from faithful supporters like you!

https://stwilliamschool.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/annual-report-2020_final2.pdf

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Mass Intentions:

Tuesday, Dec. 15

8:00 am

Tina Minas (SI) family

Wednesday, Dec. 16

8:00 am

James Babel (D) St. William Parish; **James J. Fitzpatrick (SI, B. Day)** John; **Diane Cartter (SI, B. Day)** family

Thursday, Dec. 17

8:00 am

Robert Shindorf (D) John Fitzpatrick

Saturday, Dec. 19

4:30 pm

Dave Kozora (D) wife; **Thomas Sitko (S)** family; **Cas & Dorothy Kowalczyk (D)** Norine; **Edwin Minas (SI)** family; **Jerome, Elizabeth & Sheila Lewis (D)** D'Silva family

Sunday, Dec. 20

10:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

12:30 pm

Marie Hibbeln (D) Ray; **Sharon Hern (D)** Dolder family; **Clara Boscaglia (D)** Capicchioni family; **Mary Lukasik (D)** by family, **Lee Elwart (D)** By family

Readings for the week

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Next 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

Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

All-powerful and ever-lasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
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| ♦ Jack Moores | ♦ Maple Manor |
| ♦ Joe Schuld | ♦ Novi Lakes |
| ♦ Julie Toddy | ♦ Serenity |
| ♦ Marty Lada | ♦ Sunrise Senior Ctr. |
| ♦ Mary Beth Walsh | ♦ Waltonwood |
| ♦ Pam Flanigan | |



Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them—Rev. 14:13

Joseph Pfister
Rob Swiatek

Intercessory Prayers

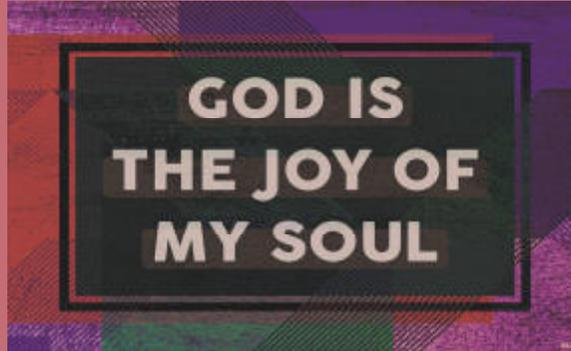
Intercessory prayer boxes have been placed in the tower entrances. Our Intercessory Prayer Teams will lift your intentions up in prayer for two weeks. You may also email your prayer requests by clicking the link on our website, www.stwilliam.com. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

Gospel Meditation

3rd Sunday of Advent

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not



something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences

of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

©LPi

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question: Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

Answer: The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the "Precepts" of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the *Code of Canon Law*. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 2042):

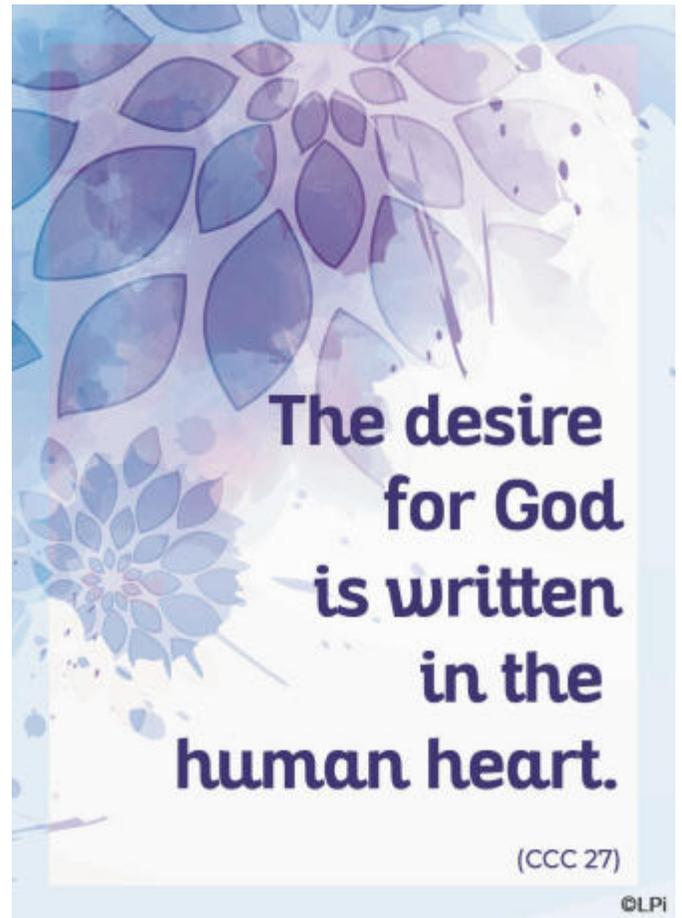
The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary,

and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (*Dies Domini*, no. 7).

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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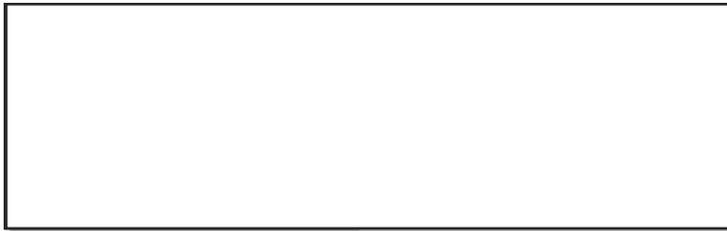
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