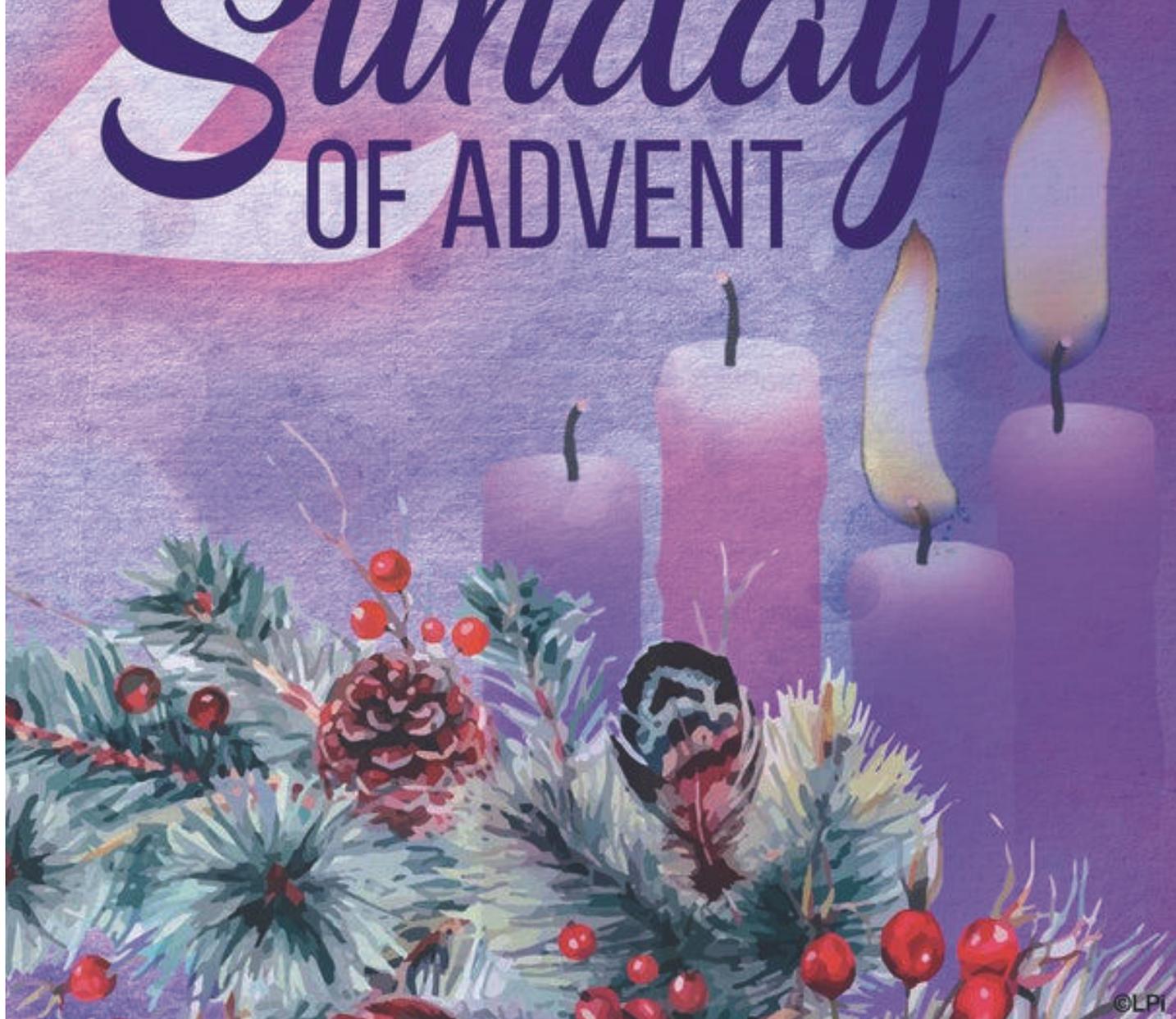


2nd

Sunday  
OF ADVENT



## MASS INTENTIONS

### 1st Saturday, Dec. 4 St. John Damascene

4 pm +Nancy Roberts  
People of the Parish

### Sunday, Dec. 5 Second Sunday of Advent

8 am +Douglas Croft by family  
+Fr. Anthony Iwuc by PRCUA friends  
Living & Dec'd Members of SJB Rosary Altar  
Society by Its Membership

10 am +Pearl Dube by family  
+Jim Cayley by family  
+Eleanor Sneller by family  
Dec'd Members of the Trovato Family by Deacon  
Regis, Ann & Annie Buckley

5 pm +Virginia Marchak by sister

### Monday, Dec. 6 St. Nicholas

8 am +for the Victims of the recent gun violence

6:30 pm +Mickey Holuta by family  
+Ted & Irene Pastuszka by Lucy Bott in  
thanksgiving for 29 years of Eucharistic Adoration

### Tuesday, Dec. 7 St. Ambrose, bishop

8 am Int. of Bernice Lund by a friend

4 pm +Fr. Francis Dietz

### Wed., Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the USA

8 am Living & Dec'd Faculty, Seminarians, Alumni & Patrons of the Pontifical North Amer. College

12 Noon +Loretta Kemp by Irene Pastuszka

6:30 pm Int of Ray Rodriguez (bday)

### Thurs., Dec. 9 St. Juan Diego

8 am for Migrants & Immigrants

### Friday, Dec. 10 Advent Weekday

8 am Int. Anne Marie Yehle (bday) by family  
+Barth Buccianelli by Lorraine Witkowski

### Saturday, Dec. 11 Pope St. Damasus I

4 pm +Ted Jaskot by Denise Holuta

### Sunday, Dec. 12 Third Sunday of Advent

8 am +People of the Parish

10 am +Stanley & Bernice Filipowski by family  
+Thaddeus Filipowski by family  
Spec. Int. Michael D. Wall by family  
Dec'd Members of the Smiatacz family by Deacon  
Regis & Ann Buckley  
+Joyce Babosh by St. Sebastian Choir

5 pm +Mary & Feliks Turek by sons  
+Lee Caldwell  
+Elaine Goebel by family

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**The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dec. 8th, is a holy day of obligation and our nation's patronal feast. Masses will be offered:**

**Tues. Dec. 7th at 4 pm**

**Wed. Dec. 8th at 8 am, 12 noon & 6:30 pm**



*"I am your merciful mother, the mother of all those who love me, those who cry to me, those who seek me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities, and misfortunes."* – The words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego

### Join us for Mass to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament on Thursday December 9th. Prayer of the rosary will begin at 5:15pm followed by chants and performances at 5:45pm and Holy Mass at 7:00pm. The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament is located at 9844 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, 48202.

Watch livestreamed through our AOD social media channels and at [aod.org/livemasses](http://aod.org/livemasses).

### Celebrate a traditional Posada at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery December 18th 2 to 4 p.m.

Join us as we journey with Mary and Joseph to find shelter to give birth to Jesus. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with your family and friends to celebrate our Savior's birth.

2:00 PM: Procession with Mary and Joseph

3:00 PM: Singing of the Posada

3:30 PM: Christmas Songs and Refreshments

\*\*A portion of the event will be held outdoors so please dress accordingly.

### The First St Maria Goretti Christmas Bake Sale December 11 & 12

Calling All bakers of the parish! We need your delicious specialties for the bake sale.

We will hold the Bake Sale in the church meeting room. The Bake Sale will be open from 3 pm -5:30 pm on Saturday December 11 and from 7:30 am-11:30 am & 4:30 pm - 6 pm on Sunday December 12.

Donations can be dropped off in the meeting room on Friday December 10 from 3 pm - 5 pm or Saturday December 11 after 2 pm.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE 2nd Sunday of Advent



St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. “You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him.” When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God’s gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God’s promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts’ doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God’s simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before. ©LPi

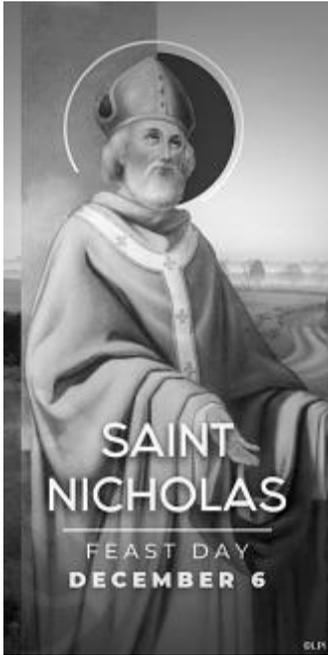
**Question:** With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it’s easy to stray.

**Answer:** Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord’s coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready. ©LPi

### CHRISTMAS GIVING TO THE PARISH

Just a reminder that the Archdiocese does not tax Christmas offerings made throughout the period from 2 weeks before and two weeks after the feast of Christmas.



**St. Nicholas of Bari** (March 15, 270 – Dec. 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.

His feast day is Dec 6th.  
©LPi

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### Attention Ushers

The December Ushers meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Gym. If at all possible, please attend. Than. Dave Griswack, cell #313 999-5144.



## A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME

*Deacon Regis*

!Time is moving quickly. It's the second week of Advent already. Are we preparing to receive Our Lord when He comes? I know I have some work to do!

As we said last week, Advent is a time of preparation. Preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas and preparing for His coming in Glory to judge the world at the end of time. Advent also reminds us to be ready for His coming every day because our world can end any day. We should pray every day that we will be ready when He comes to bring us home.

I'd like to share with you once again a family story that makes that very point. I was born in 1952 (that makes me older than dirt) and was Baptized by a young priest, Father Bender, fresh from his ordination. Our parish was his first assignment and, in fact, I was his first Baptism. He later went on to be a missionary in South America. We stayed in touch with him through the years until he passed away two years ago.

My family became very close with Father Bender. He came to our house for dinner occasionally and he loved to play cards with my mom and dad and with my grandma Katie. He particularly loved my grandma who lived with us. A brief word about my grandma: she was very devout, as were my parents. One prayer in particular she would pray every day: "Lord, preserve me from a sudden and unprovided for death." She wanted to be ready when the Lord came to take her home.

On the occasion of my first birthday, Father had an appointment to visit one of our neighbors two doors away. For whatever reason, they weren't home when he arrived, so he decided on the spur of the moment to stop in to our house to wish me a Happy Birthday and maybe have a piece of cake. My parents and grandma were happy that he stopped in. Father asked my grandma, who was in good health, if she would like to confess and receive communion. Of course, she was delighted.

That night, totally unexpectedly, my Grandma had a massive heart attack in her sleep and passed away. This story still sends chills up my spine. My Grandma's prayer was answered. When death knocked at her door, she was ready and went straight into the arms of Our savior and His Mother.

Saint Paul urges us to pray without ceasing and our prayers will be answered, just as my Grandma Katie's were. As we continue to observe Advent and prepare for Christmas, don't forget to be vigilant and be ready for Him when He comes. Recall the parable of the sheep and the goats and be mindful that we need to see Jesus in everyone we meet! God bless you all!

**God Is Good All the Time!**

**All the Time God Is Good!**

Don't forget, join us this Friday and every Friday at 3PM to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM. See the ad in our bulletin or on the parish website for details on how to join in. Hope to see you there!

## LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK



Sometimes, especially when life gets overwhelming and difficult, we can find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable. Wallowing in this uncomfortable darkness seems to be our norm and it's difficult to see a way out of, or through, this experience.

If we listen carefully enough, we will hear God's voice calling out deep within, beckoning us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Faith tells us that God has already begun the creation of a good work in us and is with us, bringing it to completion, until Christ Jesus comes again. It is this light of God's glory for which we are asked to pave the way and straighten the paths of our lives so that it can shine.

With all that life can ask of us and bring to us, it is our task to constantly discern what is of value. So that we do not get so weighed down by things that we no longer see, or feel, God's salvation. ©LPi

### Second Sunday of Advent

In today's Scripture readings, both the prophet Baruch and the evangelist St. Luke declare that every valley be filled, every mountain and hill leveled, and all paths made straight in the Lord.

St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, urges us, through the love of Jesus, to value only those things that truly matter *so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ*. These inspiring texts remind us that, through our Lord and Savior, we can find true fulfillment; reconciliation and healing can happen in the most trying circumstances; and all can find spiritual wholeness.

What a beautiful message for faith-filled stewards during this holy Advent season. As we again prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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**THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED AGAIN TO VISITORS DUE TO THE RISE IN COVID CASES. Please call or email for anything that you might need.**

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

### QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

**First Reading:** Baruch offers the captive Israelites in Babylon a vision of hope in which their broken relationship with God will be fully restored. What aspects of your relationship with God are in need of restoration?

**Second Reading:** Paul offers an opening prayer of joy for the believers in the city of Philippi. As the season of Advent continues, what brings joy to your life?

**Gospel:** With Luke placing the preaching and activities of John the Baptist in its historical and political context, he communicates the idea that God is acting in real, human history. What do you see as the power of this assertion? ©LPi

Please  
Pray  
for...



Norm Abramczyk  
Louise Ames  
Anna Axe  
Joyce Babosh  
Harry Bacalia  
Sue Bacalia  
Norma Bak  
Violet Barrette  
Bob Behmer  
Bob Bellottie  
Jim Bellottie  
Vincent Bellottie  
Judy Bennett  
Sharon Bieniek  
Cynthia Blaha  
Marilyn Block  
Evelyn Boettger  
Aaron Boyless  
Thomas J. Brennan, Jr.  
Ken Butler  
Joan Buzo  
Jacob Cassar

Michaeline Chwastek  
Richard Cline  
Zoe Cossin  
Betty Ann Crawford  
Sylvia Cyncewicz  
Tina Doney  
Jason Dull & Family  
Marsha Farmer  
Geraldine Filippi  
Cecil Fernandez  
Tina Fernandez  
Rosemary Fisher  
Lisa Foster  
Rose Fraley  
Duane Glossa  
Roseann Gomez  
Bob & Lori Gonzales  
Gary Graham Jr  
Abigail Graves  
Jennifer Hanna Green  
Charlotte Gutierrez  
Eileen Halpin  
Annie Hapunowicz  
Ronald Hetner  
Tina Hovis  
Sue Jagodka  
Joanne Kacher  
Norman Kaletto  
Brenda Kaletto  
Jeanine Kemp  
Fr. Terry Kerner

Phyllis Kinnell  
Evelyn Kisell  
Joan Klimchalk  
Chris Kovac  
John Kovac  
Jenene Kozinski  
George Kramar  
Patrica Lacopelli  
Jennifer Lasky & Family  
Joseph Lasky  
Henry Lemmens  
Guadalupe Madrigal  
Phyllis Mareck  
Donald Martin  
Erin Martin  
Patricia MCoy  
Larry & Carol McGrew  
Frank & Jane Mellnick  
Linda Molek  
Steven Monroe  
Pat Mozdzen  
Suzanne Nicholas  
Gigi Novak  
Daniel O'Connor  
Diane Owens  
John Palmer  
Mary Pellegrini  
Helen Petroski  
Jimmy Piche  
Kathleen Pietras  
Mary Pike

Jeff Pingilley  
Jess Pingilley  
Linda Pingilley  
Robert Pingilley  
Sam Pingilley  
Wayne Pingilley  
Carol Regnier  
Whitney Regnier  
Noemia Reid  
Linda Robb  
Richard Roberts  
Laura Salazar  
Fred Sanscrainte  
Matt Sanscrainte  
Joann Sanscrainte  
Dennis Scanland  
Darlene Shannon  
Phil Shannon  
Rose Shannon  
Jaxon Shubik  
Margaret Smith  
Jimmy Stecki  
Gerald Stevens  
Jim Tokarczyk  
Laurie Trupp  
Michael Wheelock  
Eileen Winnie  
The Wirick Family  
Frank Wojcik  
Stephen Zelle



### Air Force

Matthew Thornton, Nicole Thornton,  
Michelle Thornton, Brittany Mack,  
Tiffany Kay Smith (Ladd), husband, Don Smith

### Army

Josh Harpster, Zachary Robbins,  
Robert Truchan, Anthony Lemieux,  
Bryce Bieniek, Tony Pernicano, Jacob Grzebienik,  
Matthew Hapunowicz

### Marines

Joseph Krawzyk, 1st Lieutenant, Joseph McGinnis,  
Corporal, Andrew Clark, 1st Lieutenant,  
Cody S. Pratt, Luke Cohen, PFC 1st Class

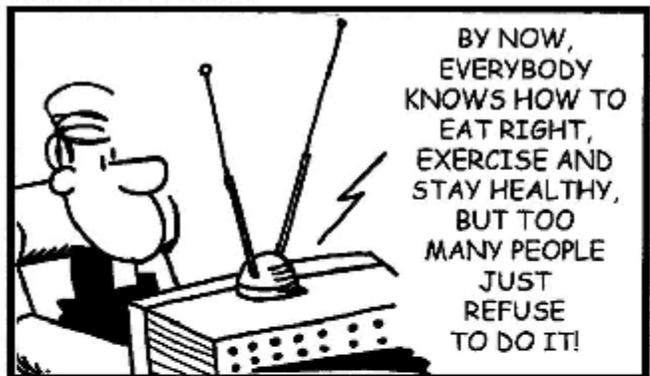
### Navy

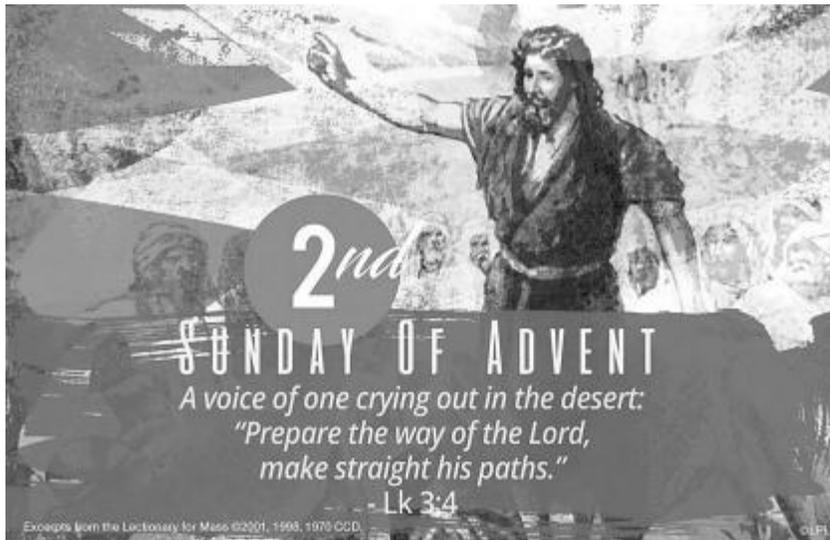
Ryan Detlor, Patrick Hanosh

### Army National Guard

Vincent Nowak, Michael Dunne

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT





**ForYourMarriage.org  
from USCCB**

1. As parents, you and your spouse are the first teachers of your children. Think back on the past week, what have you taught them about how to love God and others?
2. Fighting Fair Tip: Keep it current. One couple has the rule of thumb that any issue older than the milk in the refrigerator is no longer game. Recurring arguments usually mean that there's something behind the presenting problem that irks the other.
2. Do kids drain you of so much energy that you just want to stay home and veg out on a Saturday night? Consider sharing kids! Offer to take another couple's child(ren) one night to give them a break. Then trade the favor next week.
4. "Taking time to rest is not a waste of time." (Susan Vogt) Give yourself a break today or tomorrow – from kids, a chore, worries. It doesn't have to be long to refresh. Take your cue from God, our Creator, who rested on the seventh day.

Blessed Advent to you all!

Today we continue the "joyful expectation" of the birth of Christ in history, the present, and the future. Today we hear the words of John the Baptist calling people of his time to repentance. Now, this baptism that John was calling people to is not the same baptism that we Christians celebrate. However, John's baptism is at the root of our Christian baptism. John's baptism had its roots in the "oblation washing" of the Jewish people before undertaking anything of great importance.

Christian baptism is a sacrament to wash away original sin so as to enter sinless into the Christian community. It is the one sacrament that is celebrated by all Christians, even those Christians who are not in communion with Rome.

John enjoins us to "prepare the way of the Lord." His call is to be taken in the widest sense. This preparation is a personal preparation, and is also a communal preparation. We are called to make sure we are ready to meet the Lord, and this means that we need to make a difference in the world to make it better, to make it more peaceful, and to make it more just. We are called to protect each other's dignity and share of our abundance with others so that each may live a life that is centered on helping others.

Prepare the way!

**The Christian Service Commission has once again put up our Christmas Giving Tree** to help those in need in our community. Each ornament on the tree will be for a gift card for



either Target, Meijer or Walmart. Please take one (or more) ornaments from the tree and return the gift cards you purchase by December 12.

You have been most generous and loving in the past and we know that you will do what you can to help brighten the holidays of someone in need.

Thank you and we wish you a very Blessed Christmas,

Christian Service Commission



In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all

about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

**Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas with joy.**

St. Vincent de Paul



*Food Pantry*  
St. Maria Goretti Parish

Please drop off your donations on Mondays and Wednesdays between 12:00 and 2:00pm or call Matt at 313-595-1317

Here is the current list of needs for our pantry:

- Coffee
- Canned Pears
- Boil a Bag Rice
- Scalloped and Au Gratin Potatoes
- Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
- Mixed Vegetables
- Spinach

Here we are, all rushing around for the holidays. Please do not forget your neighbors in need. We are in need of help at the Pantry. We're looking for a couple of people for Mondays and 2 for Wednesdays. We just keep growing. If you are able to help, please call Matt at 313-595-1317 for details. Thank you and a Merry Christmas to all.

Please remember **December 11th** for our **Meijer in Allen Park Simply Give Program double donation day**. This is crucial to keeping our shelves full. Thank you so much for all you do. Monetary donations are always welcomed and needed as some of our neighbors are homeless. Thank you and God bless you and your families.

**SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM THROUGH MEIJER IN ALLEN PARK**

Once again it's time for our **Simply Give Program** at Meijer. Beginning NOW thru January 1 st ,you can go to the Meijer Store on the hill in Allen Park, pick up a **Simply Give** donation card



located at every other register and donate a minimum of \$10.00 which Meijer will MATCH. On December 11 th Meijer will DOUBLE your donation.

Please help us keep our shelves stocked and your neighbors fed throughout the year. We have seen quite an increase and surely could use your help.

This is the holiday season and we thank you for thinking of others in need.

— St. Maria Goretti's St. Vincent de Paul Pantry



ST. MARIA GORETTI LECTOR SCHEDULE				
	4:00pm	8:00am	10:00am	5:00pm
<b>Dec. 4/5</b>	Gretchen Searynck	Mary Ellen Sobczak	Richard Fron	M.J. Favot
<b>Dec. 7/8</b>	Marge Taylor		Richard Fron (*12 noon)	Betty Cayley (*6:30 pm)
<b>Dec. 11/12</b>	Chris Bergeron	Pat Wallace	Pat Woodby	Betty Cayley
<b>Dec. 18/19</b>	Marge Taylor	Tom Koselka	Kathy Munoz	Francis Tofil

**BULLETIN EDITOR**  
\*\* bulletin@smgoretti.com \*\*

**All submissions are due 10 days before publication date.**

The deadline for bulletin submissions is **2:00pm on Thursday, 10 days before the bulletin date.**

Exceptions occur when the bulletin is required to be sent early due to holidays.

*Please plan ahead as submissions received past the deadline will be published in the following week's bulletin.*

Submissions should be sent as a Word document (single spaced), PDF or photo format (JPEG, TIFF, GIF, PNG), attached to or in the body of an email

# give online

**Online giving** makes it easy to give! You never have to bring envelopes, cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan its budget.

There are no fees for on-line giving.

- ★ Visit the St. Maria Goretti website at [www.stmariagorettiparish.com](http://www.stmariagorettiparish.com)
- ★ Click on the Online Giving link on the left side of the home page.
- ★ Complete the registration form

Please feel free to call the Parish Office if you should have any questions or want to know more about Online Giving.

***Your donations are vital to the success of our Parish community.***

## DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

*with Deacon Regis*

*Join us on*

*Fridays at 3:00pm to pray the  
Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM.*

*To connect by computer use this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85478055945>*

*To connect by smart phone call  
1 (312) 626 6799*

## PARISH COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND GROUPS

### *Parish Council*

**Chairperson:** Richard Fron

**Co-Chairperson:** Chris Bergeron

**Secretary:** Thomas Koselka

**Members at Large:** Barbara Balnius    Mario Ferrante  
Pat Wallace            David Griswack    Valerie Koselka  
John O'Callaghan    Marge Taylor    Sandy VanAssche  
Linda Wielkopolan

**Worship Commission:** David Griswack

**Education/Formation Comm:** Marge Taylor

**Christian Svc. Commission:** Cathy Nagle

**Finance Council:** Dianna Dunne

**Ushers President:** Dave Griswack  
313.999.5144

## ST. MARIA GORETTI PARISH DIRECTORY

20710 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125

**WEBSITE:** [www.stmariagorettiparish.com](http://www.stmariagorettiparish.com)

### **FACEBOOK:**

[www.facebook.com/groups/st.mariagoretti48125](http://www.facebook.com/groups/st.mariagoretti48125)

**PARISH OFFICE** [parishoffice@smgoretti.com](mailto:parishoffice@smgoretti.com)  
Phone: 313.562.5356 Fax: 313.562.0058

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**SENIOR DEACON** Rev. Mr. Lawrence Girard

### **PARISH DEACON**

Rev. Mr. Regis Buckley [deacon@smgoretti.com](mailto:deacon@smgoretti.com)

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE** Jan Russell - DRE  
[DRE@smgoretti.com](mailto:DRE@smgoretti.com) or [FaithForm@smgoretti.com](mailto:FaithForm@smgoretti.com)  
313.563.0960

**DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC** [music@smgoretti.com](mailto:music@smgoretti.com)

**BULLETIN EDITOR** [bulletin@smgoretti.com](mailto:bulletin@smgoretti.com)

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY** EXT. 309  
Matt Kulczyk Direct Number: 313.563.3970

### **WEEKEND MASSES:**

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.

### **DAILY MASSES:**

Monday through Friday: 8 a.m.

Monday Evening: 6:30pm

First Friday: 8 a.m. & 12 Noon

First Saturday: 8 a.m.

**CONFESSIONS** Saturday: 3 - 3:30 p.m. or by request

**HOLIDAYS** TIMES TO BE DETERMINED

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** Each Monday,  
beginning at Noon, ending prior to 6:30pm Mass

**BAPTISMS** Contact Parish Office for arrangements.  
*Pre-Baptism Class required.*

**MARRIAGES** Please contact Parish Office at least six (6)  
months in advance.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

*Calls after hours should be limited to emergencies  
only.*

**Monday - Thursday:** 9 am - 4 pm

(The office is closed daily for lunch Noon - 1 pm)

**Friday:** CLOSED for the time being

If you need to contact the parish office,  
please call during regular business hours.  
You can also reach the parish office by email:  
[parishoffice@smgoretti.com](mailto:parishoffice@smgoretti.com)



**Sunday, Dec 05, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT In praise of community service** Consider him an early volunteer. John the Baptist preached and baptized through the countryside, preparing the community for the way, truth, and life about to open to them. He wasn't paid for these services, which is probably why his diet was locusts and honey, and his clothing coarse.

Today on International Volunteer Day, we give thanks for all who helped their neighbors with grocery runs and check-ins during the long season of sickness. We can continue this spirit of social engagement: giving blood, organizing group clean-ups, shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk. Volunteering builds empathy! TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6 (6). "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

**Monday, Dec 06, 2021 MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP The wonder of it all** Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas, but he evolved into a legendary figure so intertwined with Christmas, it's almost as if he were part of the Nativity story. The actual Nicholas lived 300 years after the birth of Jesus. Whether he secretly gave gifts to children or not, the spirit of his story is real. Centuries later as presents are wrapped in mystery and kept under the tree in anticipation, emotions of waiting for the Christ Child heighten as we ponder a miracle we can't fathom. Thank you, Saint Nicholas, for a tradition that helps incarnate our joy and wonder! TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). "We have seen incredible things today."

**Tuesday, Dec 07, 2021 MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Wage peace** Advent anticipates the Prince of Peace. But as we recall Pearl Harbor, Catholics also embrace a tradition that includes just war theory—sketched out by the likes of Saint Augustine, fleshed out by the likes of Saint Ambrose. King David "never waged war unless he was driven to it," Ambrose observed, illustrating that wars should be fought only as a last resort. Further, war should be waged selflessly—to help and protect others. War that "preserves one's country [or] defends the weak . . . is full of justice." Pray for those in the armed services who sacrifice and protect, and also pray for peace. TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). "Comfort, give comfort to my people."

**Wednesday, Dec 08, 2021 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.) A day of pure celebration** Today we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, the church's teaching that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. It is one of only two dogmas proclaimed infallibly by a pope. All of today's readings are related: They trace the tale back to the Fall, followed by a celebration of the "marvelous deeds" of God's salvation, culminating in the gospel Mother and thank God for her preservation from sin so that she might bring Christ into the world. TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). "... he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him."

**Thursday, Dec 09, 2021 MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN Be a witness to the miracle of God's love** We are told that Saint Juan Diego was undistinguished before he became the person to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Tepeyac, Mexico in 1531. Juan Diego had an opportunity to open himself to God's grace—Mary's appearance and miracle. He responded in faith by listening to the Virgin and persistently communicating her message, even though as an indigenous person, his word was at first discounted. His part in the miracle at Tepeyac has had enduring impact by opening other indigenous and mestizo Mexicans to the gospel message, and by opening church leaders—albeit slowly, in fits and starts—to the message indigenous peoples have for the wider church. Are you ready to receive God's grace, as did Juan Diego? TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

**Friday, Dec 10, 2021 MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO Jesus makes his presence known** Emmanuel, "God is with us," is our guiding truth. Christians find many ways to remind ourselves of God's Real Presence. Of course, the primary way is through the Eucharist. But shrines and relics are also a very Catholic way of pointing to the reality of Christ in our lives. Take for example the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, which resides in Loreto, Italy, a small town on the Adriatic coast. It is there that the original home of Mary is said to have been moved, either by angels or more probably by a wealthy Italian merchant, after the late 13th-century

siege of Jerusalem. At this shrine we can presumably touch the same stones that Jesus touched as a boy. What a remarkable reminder that the Word was made flesh and lived among us. Pray to Our Lady of Loreto for continued reminders of God's abiding presence. TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185/689B). "The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us!'"

**Saturday, Dec 11, 2021 MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE** **By the book** By the fourth century of the Christian era there were 20 or so gospels floating around the early church communities along with the familiar four. Dozens of epistles existed in addition to the 21 we now recognize. It was today's saint, Pope Damasus I (c. 305- 384), who presided over the Council of Rome in 382 that determined the canon, or official list, of the Bible. He also encouraged Saint Jerome to produce a translation of the existing Greek and Hebrew texts into Latin, the common language of the day. Inexpensive versions of the Catholic New American Bible Revised Edition make great Christmas gifts for friends and family looking to deepen their faith. TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time  
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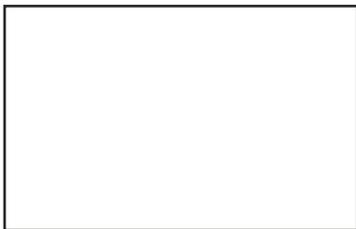
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