



ST. CHRISTOPHER

CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 12, 2021

WEEKEND MASS

Sunday

8:00 am, 11:00 am,
5:30 pm

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9:00 am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday

3:00 pm - 4:00pm
or by appointment

ADORATION WITH CONFESSIONS

Third Thursday of
Every Month at
7:00 pm



LOCAL PARISHES WEEKDAY MASS

ST. MARY, ST. CLAIR

Mon., Tues., Wed, Fri., 9am
Thurs., - 6:30 pm

ST. STEPHEN, PORT HURON

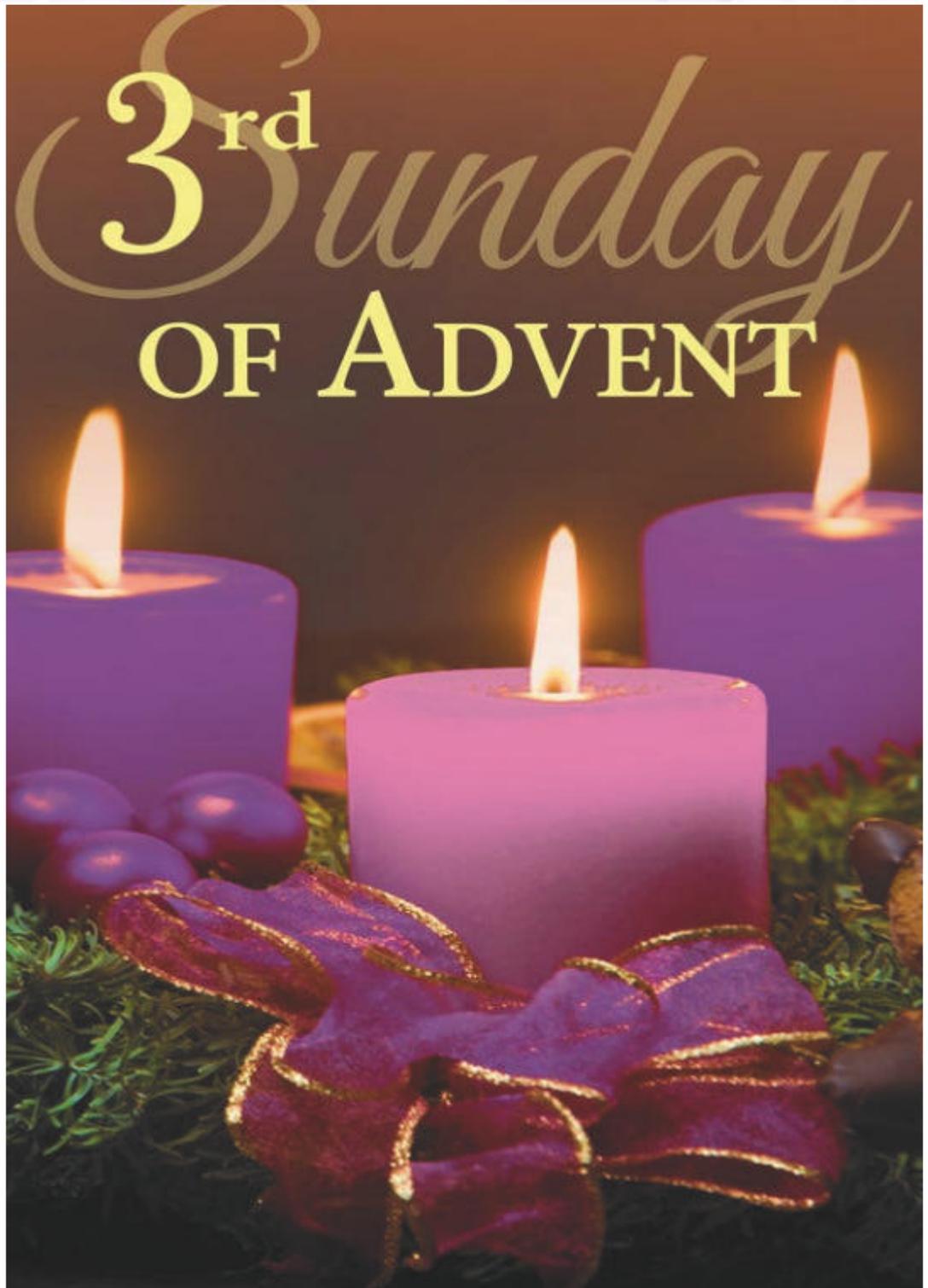
Tues., Wed., Fri., - 8:30am

ST. MARY, PORT HURON

Wed., Thur., Friday 8:15am
Tues., - 7pm

ST. EDWARD, LAKEPORT

Mon., Tues., Wed.,
& Fri., - 8am
Thur., - 7pm





***Pope Francis' Mission Statement:
To Become a Band of Joyful Missionary Disciples.
Archdiocese of Detroit's Mission Statement: To Unleash the Gospel.
Saint Christopher's Parish Mission Statement: Transform Lives in Jesus Christ Through the
Power and Freedom of the Gospel.
Parish Vision Statement: Foster a Personal Encounter with Jesus.***

Pastor's Ponderings. Greetings and the Father's Blessing be upon you, my dear spiritual children. Although we hear the call of repentance from Saint John the Baptist during every Advent Season, this season remains one of hope and anticipated joy because of Jesus Christ and the salvation that God our Heavenly Father offers everyone through His Son. With this weekend's optional liturgical color of rose for the Priest's vestment (called a chasuble), which you will see me wearing (thanks to the Knights of Columbus), we are reminded of that hope as we are halfway through Advent and closer to the Birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. This demarcation in the middle of the season is a well-needed reminder for us since, typically and unfortunately, this season usually brings a lot of unexpected and surprising anxiety, fear, depression and division as Satan and his minions do everything possible to squash the powerful hope of this Season of Advent and the superabundant joy of the one that immediately follows for which we greatly anticipate, the Season of Christmas.

Death and suicides, disease and illness, school shootings, family problems, family divisions, relationship stresses, arguing of all kinds and greater or more intense sin seem to occur early in the Advent Season taking us by surprise and derailing us from our all-important and all-satisfying personal relationship with God and our never-ending quest to obtain His Peace within us and remain in it. As for hope, it all but seems to almost disappear on us.

Our human capacity to feel or feelings are interesting because it seems like they are entirely insatiable. "Bad" feelings like depression, hurt, resentment and anger are like bottomless pits that, when we allow ourselves to feel too long, we never seem to rise from, but our situation only becomes worse. These "bad" feelings seem to want to hang around a long time while the good feelings – like hope, joy, contentment and peace – these seem to always be too short no matter how long we give ourselves over to them, and we never seem to be able to hold on to them.

We seem to forget so often that God's transformative power is in our lives and in our world right now. Jesus is coming! Many people are tempted to give up hope. But Christians cannot give up hope because we know and believe that God is preparing a wonderful thing for all creation. The message we carry today to people who feel overwhelmed by the present situation or circumstances they find themselves in is hope. We have no reason to despair since God is working on something for each one of us. God is Good all the time, and He only does good, never evil. The reason we hope is because Our Lord is coming with salvation.

Certain things in our world may tempt us to throw up our hands in frustration and resignation, but we Christians are called to bring the spark of hope to all. God has not abandoned you or me or any of us, and He never will. We are not a people who look to the past, but rather to the future coming of Jesus Christ Our Lord. A new hope is given to us every Advent – not about someone who came centuries ago – but about a God who in love is coming to be with us now in this time and in these crises of our days today. With such hope we can move out of our fear-induced paralysis and begin to address any crisis of our lives and time, and with God's help, resolve them all.

The secret to hope is the turning back to God with our lives entirely – repentance for the forgiveness of sins that will allow us to hear the same Gospel differently and renew our lives so we can have hope for the future. Every year in Advent, the Church proclaims the coming of Christ exhorting every Christian to purify their souls by new interior conversion, thus preparing the way of the Lord! Throughout each change in the liturgical season, we re-live the paschal mystery so that we become more like Christ each year for the sole purpose of living more peaceful and happy lives in the Holy Spirit (so that Jesus may satisfy our hearts, and fulfill our hopes and desires),

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

and finally be saved. For the good of our souls and for the preparing of the Lord to enter into our hearts, all sins should be confessed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and laid down once and for all at the foot of the cross so that their guilt may never arise in us again thereby becoming a weakness in our spiritual defenses against the devil who uses feelings of guilt to discourage confidence and faith in Jesus who is Lord of all.

Finally, on a related topic of repentance and hope, a close Priest-friend of mine sent me a link to a sermon from a Jewish Rabbi turned Christian Minister, Jonathan Cahn, who is known for opening the deeper mysteries of Old Testament Scriptures, particularly those Scriptures that have a prophetic meaning for our times today. Cahn's sermon can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDyDYqc35Xk> and, in the event you were wondering about more information about him or his work, a general website is www.hopeoftheworld.org.

Catechism of the Catholic Church Preface for this weekend's readings to ponder. "The People of the 'poor' – those who, humble and meek, rely solely on their God's mysterious plans, who await the justice, not of men but of the Messiah – are in the end the great achievement of the Holy Spirit's hidden mission during the time of the promises that prepare for Christ's coming. It is this quality of heart, purified and enlightened by the Spirit, which is expressed in the Psalms. In these poor, the Spirit is making ready 'a people prepared for the Lord'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 716*).

*Happy Gaudete (joy, rejoice & be glad) Sunday,
Fr. James*

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2021

- Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
- 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:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
- Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
- Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 12

- 8:00 am Mass
- 9:30 am Religious Education
- 9:30 am RCIA
- 11:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting
- 5:30 pm Mass

Monday, December 13

- 9:00 am Mass
- †Dr. Jennifer Pavlov Askew
by Mary Kruckenber

Tuesday, December 14

- 9:00 am No Mass
- Kaleb Edwards (birthday)
by Suzy & Chris DeVeny

Wednesday, December 15

- 10:30 am Small Church Community 3
- 6:30 pm Parent/Child 1st Reconciliation Mtg.
- 7:00 pm Small Church Community 4 & 10

Thursday, December 16

- 9:00 am Mass
- †Susan Dysinger
- 7:00 pm Adoration with Benediction & Confession

Friday, December 17

- 6:00 am That Man is You
- 9:00 am Mass
- †Mary O'Brien
by Rita White

Saturday, December 18

- 3:00 pm Confessions

Sunday, December 19

- 8:00 am Mass
- 9:30 am Religious Education
- 9:30 am RCIA
- 11:00 am Mass
- 11:00 am Children's Church/Babysitting
- 12:00 pm Choir/Cantor Practice
- 5:30 pm Mass

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

- Christmas Eve**
- Friday, December 24, 5:00 PM**
- Midnight Mass**
- Saturday, December 25, 12:00 AM**
- Christmas Day**
- Saturday, December 25, 11:00 AM**

“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”
 1 Timothy 4:12

The Music of Advent

Today (December 12) marks the third Sunday of Advent 2021 for all of us and it is a good time to pause and take stock of how we are doing as far as observing this important liturgical season. The Church teaches us that Advent is a time of preparation as we focus on not only the anniversary of our Savior’s birth but also on His second coming at the end of time. According to the Church it should be a time of quiet reflection and repentance but according to our society it should be a time of gift buying, parties, decorating, baking, and countless other activities. It can be so easy to lose ourselves in the busyness of this season because so many of those activities **are** good. It is a beautiful thing to share traditions with those we love such as baking cookies or decorating a Christmas tree but when the pace becomes too frantic, we may not be able to hear what God is calling us to. In our rush to Christmas Day, we miss the beauty of the Advent journey.

So, the question is how do we slow down and keep our focus on what is really important during Advent? The answer to that varies. Father James has said many times that God speaks to each of us in a personal way that we will understand whether it be through music, art, movies, memories, images, nature, or books. God longs for us to hear Him and since He created us as unique individuals, He communicates to each of us uniquely. For me, music has always been both a source of joy and of comfort and it is where I often hear God most clearly. So, it’s no surprise that I surround myself with all kinds of music during my day. I love Christmas music and there is certainly no shortage of Christmas music in our world but a few years ago I was challenged to create a playlist of songs that focus on Advent; songs that remind me to be still, to quiet my soul, and to reflect on how to prepare my mind and heart to best receive my Savior. I currently have 53 songs on my Advent playlist so there is no way I can share all of them! But they range from the traditional such as “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”, “We Three Kings” and “O, Come All Ye Faithful” to the more contemporary such as “Breath of Heaven” by Amy Grant or “Hope for Everyone” by Matt Maher.

Music is one of the best ways that I hear God speak but I realize that may not be *your* way. I encourage you to take some time to pray and to ask God to help you hear Him in the way that you best can understand. Ask Him to be with you through the rest of your Advent journey and to slow down and remember what this season truly is about. Christmas will be here soon enough with all it’s glory and promise fulfilled but until then reflect, repent, and lean into the gentleness of this holy Advent season.

I’d like to leave you with the lyrics to one of my current Advent favorites. It’s a more contemporary song that you may not be familiar with, but I hope that the message of it may touch some of you.

MAKE ROOM BY CASTING CROWNS

Family hiding from the storm found no place at the keeper's door
 It was for this a Child was born to save a world so cold and hollow

The sleeping town did not know that lying in a manger low
 A Savior King who had no home has come to heal our sorrows

Is there room in your heart?
 Is there room in your heart?
 Is there room in your heart
 For God to write His story?

Shepherds counting sheep at night do not fear the glory light
 You are precious in His sight; God has come to raise the lowly

Is there room in your heart?
 Is there room in your heart?
 Is there room in your heart

For God to write His story?
 You can come as you are, but it may set you apart
 When you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for His glory
 Make room in your heart, make room in your heart

Mother holds the Promise tight, every wrong will be made right
 The road is straight and the burden's light for in His hands, He holds tomorrow

Is there room in your heart?
 Is there room in your heart?
 Is there room in your heart
 For God to write His story?



My prayer is that we all make room
 in our hearts for God to write His story.
 Advent Blessings,
 Kristi Socha





Christmas Display in Marysville Park

Last spring, when our Youth Council planned our QUEST calendar for this current school year, the teens decided they wanted to create a lighted Christmas display for the Marysville Park. So that's just what we did!

includes our Sunday Mass times and a smaller yard sign with sparkle print that gives our Christmas Mass times.

In December, while QUEST was participating in the Marysville Christmas parade, we learned that our display in the



In October, the teens submitted and voted on a design for our display. This year's display was based on Lukas Edwards' hand-drawn design.

In November, our A-team (adult team for QUEST) led by Jerry and Erin Bockhausen gathered up materials and with the help of the QUEST teens, brought to life the two-dimensional drawing into a three-dimensional lighted display! The finished product includes various size Christmas trees, forest animals including wooden hand-made deer (thank you Linda Ziolkowski!), a St. Christopher sign that

park won the 2021 Christmas in the Park Council's Choice Award! Only four awards were presented by the Marysville Business Council and St. Christopher received one of them. We were very excited and honored to have this award presented to our teens at the end of the parade in the bandshell.

The award is on the QUEST bulletin board in the Social Hall if you'd like to see it. But it's not as impressive as the actual display itself. I suggest if you're looking for a nice, leisurely drive to see Christmas lights to take a turn around the Marysville Park. I think our teens did a fabulous job to create a display that is warm, creative and represents our parish well.



Joyfully in Christ,
Suzy DeVeny
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
1000michiganave@gmail.com

UPCOMING QUEST CALENDAR (Grades 9-12):

*QUEST LOCK-IN

Thursday Dec, 30 - Friday Dec 31, 6pm - 6am. Permission slip required if not yet turned in.

***March for Life** is Jan 20-22. Registration packets are DUE DECEMBER 12 to Suzy. Questions? Contact Suzy 810-364-4100 x204

Bible Study (ages 14-24)

*Our next **Youth/Young Adult Bible Study** session is Sunday, Dec 12@ 9:30-10:45am in the conference room of the Parish Offices – for ages 14-24. . We have new students join all the time. Remaining session is Dec 19.

Questions **contact Suzy**
1000michiganave@gmail.com

Confirmation Prep

*Confirmation Conversations will be January 2 with Suzy & January 4 with Kristi. Please call the office to verify your date and time.

***WE HAVE A DATE!** The new **Confirmation Prep group (current 8th graders)** will have their first session (for parents & teens) January 27, 2022 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Social Hall.



IN LOVING MEMORY

St. Christopher Catholic Church
"Memorial Fund" gratefully
acknowledges gifts in loving
memory of *Joyce Glombowski,
George, Maryellen, Matthew &
Kaila Agostino.*

With Heartfelt Sympathy

The members of
St. Christopher's
extend their prayers and
sympathy to the
family and friends of
Jason Gabriel

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT Child and Youth Protection



Protecting God's Children for Adults

St. Christopher's Social hall
Saturday, January 8, 2022
8:30 AM (light refreshments)
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM session

Attendance is required for anyone who may interact with minors, the elderly, or the handicapped. This free three-hour workshop is mandated through the Archdiocese of Detroit and is for persons 18 years of age and older. This workshop builds awareness and empowers attendees to intervene and prevent potentially harmful situations or behavior. Participants are taught to identify situations that could leave a child, the elderly or the handicapped vulnerable. All participants must register online at www.virtusonline.org. Be sure to select the Diocese of Detroit and the location that you will be attending: St. Christopher Parish (Marysville) Seating is limited so register now! **The session begins at 9:00 AM, no late arrivals will be admitted.**

*If you do not have online access, please
contact the Parish Office
at 810-364-4100*

ADVENT

Family Confessions

Friday, December 17, 6 - 7 PM
St. Mary's Catholic Community
1505 Ballentine
Port Huron

These confessions are intended
for Blue Water Vicariate North
Family of Parishes.

All four priests will be available.



FIRST RECONCILIATION

A meeting for parents and children
about First Reconciliation will be on
December 15, at 6:30 PM in the
Social Hall. Call the Parish office
for more information.



CHOIR PRACTICE

The Music Ministry would like
to remind Choir and Cantor
members about the
**upcoming rehearsal
December 19 at 12 noon.**

**WE ARE STILL LOOKING
FOR SINGERS FOR THE 5PM
MASS ON DECEMBER 24.**

All ages are welcome but we
would especially like students
grades 5 to 12 for this
mass. Let us know!
*Call the Parish Office if you'd
like more information.*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Frank Behn | Nancy Hubbard | Mike Murphy |
| Colleen Berry | James Jagger | Natalie Lech Parent |
| Mary Bixler | Linda King | Greg Porrett |
| Elizabeth Bolton | Sondra Kota | Chuck Roehl |
| Linda Bowman | Donna Landschoot | Dorothy Shafran |
| Marilyn Bromberger | Judy Landschoot | Michael Slowski |
| Christine Cairns | Alan Langolf | Heather Stadler |
| William Cairns | Barbara Letzgu | Michael J. Ward |
| Mary Deising | Edward Letzgu | Robert Wawrzyniak |
| Denise Gawronski | Kim McConnell Kalvert | Sara Wawrzyniak |
| Karen Goodmen | Mark Meier | Phillip Ziezulewicz |
| Sharon Goulet | Iris Miguel | |

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

MK1 EJ Anglebrandt, U.S.C.G.
Major Clayton Cruickshank, U.S.A.F.
Lt. Mark Cruickshank, U.S.A.F.
CPL Nicolas Deland, U.S. Marines
A1C Marshall Eckert, U.S.A.F.
SPC Jordan Garijo, U.S. Army
Pvt. Nathaniel Nelson
Hohf, MI N'tl Grd
Sgt Joe Kilbourne, U.S. Army
Cpl Michael Knowles, U.S. Army

Sgt Mario Nowicki, U.S. Army
PO2 David Patchel, U.S. Navy
Capt Chelsea Patino, U.S.A.F.
Capt Taque Patino, U.S.A.F.
CPT Lt Eric Reder, U.S. Army
C4 Jacob Redlawski, U.S.A.F.
LCpl John Russ, U.S. Marines
Sgt Curtis Senyk, U.S. Marines
CPL Randy Washburn,
U.S. Marines

WEEKEND LITURGY FOR DECEMBER 19, 2021

| DAY /TIME | SUNDAY 8:00 AM | SUNDAY 11:00 AM | SUNDAY 5:30 PM |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| MASS INTENTIONS | †Gerald & MaryLou Malinowski by the family †Darold Walker by the Severini family †Gerald Huber by the Sean & Kory Quain | Parishioners and Territorial Souls of St. Christopher's Parish | †Ila Seczawa by the family †Winnie Liester by the Severini family †Virginia Simmons |
| CELEBRANT | Rev. James F. Arwady | Rev. James F. Arwady | Rev. James F. Arwady |
| LECTOR | Joe Pavlov | Kim Kozlowski | Patricia Berry |
| MUSICIAN | Therese Oldani | Therese Oldani | Dean DeMartin |
| CANTORS | Mark Privette Cheryl O'Neill | Erin Bockhausen Evelyn Carl Judy Garijo | Greg Kobe Marianna Ranshaw Jeremy Ranshaw |
| HOSPITALITY MINISTERS | Dan & Luz O'Brien | Webb & Sue Coates | Bruce & Marianne Rinke |
| EMHC *MASS SACRISTAN | Tina Schwehofer John Szczygiel Rob Slis* | Fely Nurenberg Erin Bockhausen Cori Krohn* | Elizabeth Moore Debbie Gomola Mike King* |
| ALTAR SERVER | Charlie O'Brien Sophia Senyk Graysen Stadler | Konner Wattle Alex Harris Leah Ureel | Connor Tenyer |

PARISH SUPPORT

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Loose \$ 470.00
 Envelopes \$ 6,822.00
 Online \$ 225.00
Total Collection \$ 7,517.00
Weekly Budget \$ 7,795.00
 (amount needed to pay expenses)

Parishioner Summary

Registered Families.....705
 Envelopes Received.....121
 Contributing Families.....17%



2021 GOAL \$65,062

Total Pledges..\$59,550.00
Contributions Received
\$50,301.84

Families Supporting
CSA - 135

Please make checks payable to
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3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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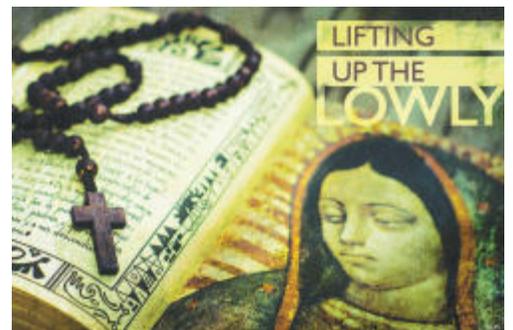
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Parish Member



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www.marysvillenko.org

BINGO AT "THE KNIGHT CLUB"
1195 Gratiot Blvd., Marysville, MI 48040
586-727-9300
BINGO EVERY SUNDAY 1:15 PM,
TUES 10:20 AM & WED 6:20 PM

Ed Quain
ASSOCIATE BROKER
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Bus: 810.364.8700
Parish Member



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