

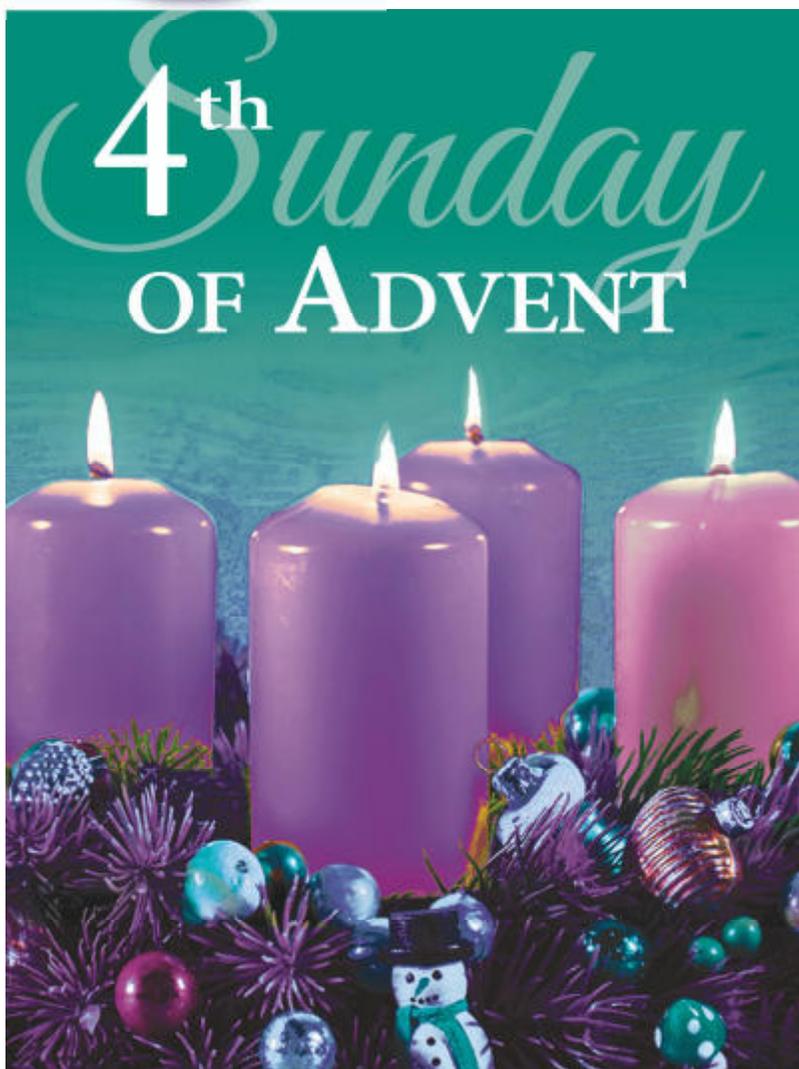
DECEMBER 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent



# St. John Vianney

Catholic Church



## MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a people called together by God and empowered by the Spirit to continue the mission of Jesus on earth. We are a community of faith, hope and love, who strengthen and encourage one another and share a common mission of building the Kingdom of God.*



## Vision Statement

*Committed to growing in faith together, guided by the Holy Spirit, we will be the hands of Jesus, continuing His work in our parish, community and the world.*

**6400 McCarty Road | Saginaw, MI 48603 | 989-790-5086**

### MASS SCHEDULE:

**Sat: 5:00 pm**

Private confessions 4:00 pm-4:30 pm

**Sun: 10:00 am**

**Wed: 12:00 pm**

### STAFF:

#### **Director of Parish Life**

*Sr. Janet Pewoski, CSJ*

#### **Sacramental Minister**

*Fr. Richard Jozwiak & Fr. Bert Gohm*

#### **Music/Choir Director**

*Roberta Conley*

#### **Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper**

*Michelle Gombar*

### CONNECT:

**Online:** [www.sjvsaginaw.org](http://www.sjvsaginaw.org)

**Facebook:** St John Vianney

**Email:** [stjvianney64@aol.com](mailto:stjvianney64@aol.com)

**Fax:** (989) 790-1681

**Rectory:** (989) 792-6582

## Sister's Corner

**4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent with Christmas at the end of this week!** Today, we light all four of the Advent Wreath candles. Four days later we will begin our celebrations with **Christmas Eve Masses at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m.** Remember that social distancing requires us to seat families three seats apart from one another, and we are asking folks to let us know which Mass they plan to attend. **Dec. 20 – Help decorate Church after Mass!**

**Did you sign up at Church or call in which Mass you plan to attend for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Please do so by Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>!** Call Michelle at 989-790-5086 or use the sign-up sheets at Church this weekend. Give your family name, number coming, which Mass and leave your phone number in case we need to call you.

**Private Confession is available Sat., Dec. 19 at 4 – 4:30 before Mass and after the 5 p.m. Mass until all are heard. Both priests will be available in the Gathering Area in Rooms 5 and 6 to provide for social distancing and privacy.**

**Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday, NO Mass at noon this week.**

**Dec 26<sup>th</sup> - Happy Birthday Michelle.**

**“From the royal house of David,”** describes the lineage of Jesus. The promise given to King David in today’s 2 Samuel text assured that his royal line would never fail. Israel’s king would call God “father” and be called God’s “son.” This promise originated the Jewish hope of a coming Messiah (Isaiah 9: 5-6; 11: 1-9). But when David’s royal line was broken following the Babylonian exile, this promise became problematic (see Psalm 89, used in today’s liturgy). Christians found its new and deeper fulfillment in Jesus. Many New Testament texts recall Jesus’ royal heritage as the “son of David” (Matthew 1:1; Acts 2; 25-36; Romans 1:3). But nowhere is the fulfillment of promise of the “sure love for David” (Isaiah 55:30 more strongly invoked than in Luke’s story of the annunciation, where the angel Gabriel’s words to the Messiah’s mother, Mary, are modeled on the promise given to David.

Our Blessed Mother was born of David’s line, the ancient and great king of Israel. God’s promise to David was fulfilled in the Virgin Mary. Mary responded to God’s call with faith, love, and bravery. The Virgin Mary is often depicted as being meek and mild. It takes great strength, however, to follow God. Mary selflessly and bravely looked to serve God and cooperate with his salvific plan for his people.” (2021 Sourcebook: For Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays, *The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy*. 2020, Archdiocese of Chicago Liturgy Training Publications, p. 26.)

**Prepare your Heart. Make room in the Inn of your Heart for Jesus.** We have five days left to be ready. As you pray, ask God to use this time to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness. Consider praying for some of these:

Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.

Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.

Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.

Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God’s presence, and enjoy it.

Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of a loving community.

Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.

Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.

Pray for freedom from all that burdens you – past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.

Pray for joy and a sense of humor.

Pray for an openness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance. (Crosswalk.com by Whitney Hople)

## Weekly Readings

### Old Testament:

#### **2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16**

Today’s passage refers to the “Ark of God” which was a wooden chest overlaid by gold, where the stone tablets of the 10 Commandments were kept. King David, rich and comfortable in his palace, felt the Ark deserved to be housed in similar splendor. God will tell David that a physical building is not as important as the “house” (that is, the dynasty) of David. Christians have seen this prophecy fulfilled in Christ, who was born of the House of David.

### New Testament:

#### **Romans 16: 25-27**

Our second Scripture reading is the conclusion of Paul’s long letter to the Romans. It is One sentence, and it is very much like a toast offered to God. In effect, Paul is saying that it all comes down to this: We should give thanks to God that salvation is available to all people through faith in Jesus Christ.

### Gospel:

#### **Luke 1: 26-38**

Luke narrative of the conception of Jesus is the same Gospel we heard on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It’s message to us on the Fourth Sunday of Advent emphasizes how close we are to Christmas. The last weeks of Advent cent on Jesus’ coming in the past as one of us. This last Sunday of Advent, we root ourselves even more deeply in history. The house and kingdom promised to David in today’s first reading will endure forever because the person of Jesus, conceived in the womb of Mary, is the Messiah.

## Faith Formation



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Children's Classes** should resume on site on January 5<sup>th</sup> if Saginaw Township and Saginaw Health Dept. permit. Otherwise, we will continue with "home study" and provide additional lessons. Sister Janet will send appropriate emails to families asap.

All **Adult Faith Formation** Programs have gone to virtual learning for the Monday 10 a.m. Scripture Study and the Wednesday 7 p.m. Genesis Method.

**Grief Recovery Groups** will be notified by either Russ Herlache or Sister Janet.

**Anyone needing Baptism, Marriage Prep, Annulments, or Interested in Becoming Catholic (RCIA)** should contact Sr. Janet at 989-790-5086 to learn what is required and make an appointment to discuss matters further. If you are planning a wedding, do not rent a hall until you know if the Church is available on your desired date.

## Stewardship Message

**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

## Readings

**Week of Dec 21 - Dec 26, 2020**

**Mon:** Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

**Tue:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/Lk 1:46-56

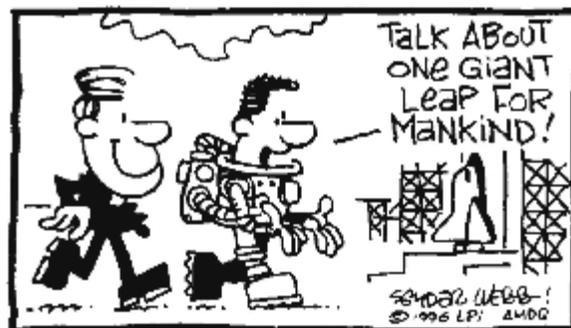
**Wed:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66

**Thur:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79

**Fri:** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25. *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/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/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

**Sat:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17/Mt 10:17-22

## On the Lighter Side



## Parish Information



Please call by Monday Dec 21 to let us know what Mass you want to attend.

We are also looking for Mass Ministers for the Christmas Masses.

### Holiday MASS SCHEDULE

**Dec 24**, Christmas Eve 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm  
**Dec 25**, Christmas Day 10:00 am  
**Dec 26**, The Holy Family 5:00 pm  
**Dec 27**, The Holy Family 10:00 am  
**Jan 1**, Mary Mother of God 10:00 am  
**Jan 2**, Epiphany of the Lord 5:00 pm  
**Jan 3**, Epiphany of the Lord 10:00 am

### CROP Walk 2020 update from Chickie, final total is \$13,451.50.

which is almost \$6300 more than our previous best year.

As I have read a number of articles about the long lines at food banks and about the struggles that many people are having this year due to the coronavirus, I am glad that we had such a great year of fundraising.

The Saginaw County CROP Walk raised \$23,700, so our money represents 57% of the total that was raised. (Nouvel High School raised \$2405, so between SJV and NCC, we were responsible for 2/3 of the total walk money.)

Thank you for your help and support for the CROP Walk. What a great way to do God's work!

A very large part of the \$6,300 increase is due to one of our walkers and Chickie received the following note of appreciation:

*I was really glad to be able to make a difference, although the real heroes are the people who made the donations.*

*I have a compromised immune system due to chemotherapy, and this has limited me from becoming active in volunteering since I retired last year. COVID just compounded the issue for me. The CropWalk was a perfect and safe way for me to help. I have a lot of people following me on a CaringBridge website, and I used that to solicit donations. My very generous friends did the rest, with donations coming from more than 40 people across 11 states. They were fabulous.*

*Hope you have a blessed day.*

Regards,

Marta



## Diocesan Information

### *Coping with Grief during the Holidays*

Surviving the holiday season is difficult for many of us, but for those living with the loss of a loved one, this time of year may be especially painful. Holidays are filled with nostalgia and traditions. We love to relive the memories of special moments in our lives. But, even the happiest of memories can be painful, not joyous, when we are grieving. We may need some extra help to survive this holiday season. Here are a few coping skills that may be helpful. These suggestions won't necessarily take the grief away, but they can help in managing the grief during this time of year.

**Do what feels right** - It's up to you to decide which activities, traditions or events you can handle. Don't feel obligated to participate in anything that doesn't feel doable. It's okay to say no.

**Plan ahead** - Sometimes the anticipation is worse than the actual holiday. Create some activities in the days approaching a holiday so that you have something to look forward to. New activities might be easier, but familiar traditions might be comforting as well. Do what feels best for you.

**Scale back** - You might opt for minimal decorations at home and take a break from baking, shopping, etc. You could limit gatherings with only your closest friends and family. Do whatever feels safe and comfortable to you.

**Surround yourself with supportive people** - Make sure you have a group of people you can stay connected with during the holiday season. Be honest about how you'd like to do things this year. If you want to talk about your loved one, do so and let others know it's okay if they do, too.

**Acknowledge those who have passed on** - Honor your loved one by lighting candles for them, talking about them, make a donation to a charity in their name, create a special card or write them a letter, display their picture or place an item of theirs among holiday decorations. Pray for your loved one.

**Listen to your body** - If you need to cry, then cry. If you need to sleep, then do so. If you need to talk to someone, seek out someone who will listen. If you need time alone, then take the time. It is important for the grieving process that you accept and honor your feelings, whatever they may be.

**Lean into your Faith** - Listen to Jesus' words, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted", Matthew 5:4. Seek comfort in prayers, scripture and lean into your faith community for their love and support.

#### Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows

Our mother of sorrows, with strength from above you stood by the cross, sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and with tender care you bore him in your arms, mourning and weeping, We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope, which trusted that God would do great things in you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his passion. Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love. Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen!

## Financial Stewardship Update

**Parish Support:**

December 5/6, 2020

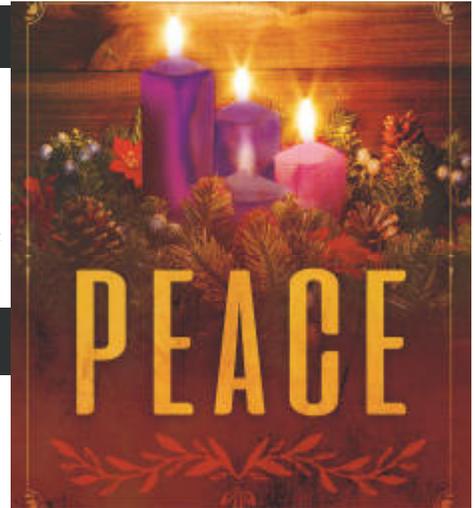
Collection..... \$ 7,579.00

ACH ..... \$ 641.00

Online ..... \$ 115.00



Online giving is different from ACH and is now available through the website [www.sjvsaginaw.org](http://www.sjvsaginaw.org).



## Gospel Reflection

**4th Sunday of Advent**

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.

## Music Ministry

*We await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

**“Jesus, Hope of the World”**

*Jesus, hope of the world,  
Jesus, light in our darkness,  
here we await you,  
O Master Divine.*

*Here we receive you in bread and in wine:  
Jesus, hope of the world.*



## Prayer Request

Requests call: Sue Rapin 799-7588

**Cancer:**

Daniel, Randy, Beryl, Robert, Yvonne, Alan, Terry, Marsha, Melissa, Theresa, Steve, Charlie, Janine, Annette, Nicole, Marta, Richard, David, Karen, Sr. Elaine, Gary, Tony, Sue, Omar, Linda, Kim, Danny, Manny, Brenda, Eileen, Tammy, Marlene, Dick, Bill, Gerry, Brian, Sherry, Erin, Toni, Jason, Dottie, Sharon, Jennifer, Dave, Jean, Pat, Cindy, Beth, Meredith, Donna, Dennis, Kent, Art, Ann, George, Joe, Bobbi, Mel, Gary, Ben, Vicky, Bob, Herrick, Lori, Judy, Evelyn, Jack, Angelica, Jerry, Diane, Connie, Don, Lowell, Lisa, Jim, Ted, Lucy

**Health:**

Mary Jane, Laura, Kevin, Kayla, Wally, Judy, John, Irene, Leo, Cathy, Helma, Jenny, Christine, Gloria, Marcella, Dorothy, Adam, Donna, Marilyn, Clara, Bonnie, Doris, Ronald, Richard, Karl, Marcile, Jacob, Jean, T, Melissa, Patty, Sue, Lucy, Larry, Maddison, Joanne, Grandma L, Leroy, Maryanne, Alec, Dennis, Carson, AJ, Vivian, Mitch, Ilene, Don, Ken, Helen, Chuck, Bennett, Mike, David, Carol, Marilyn, Cecilia, Wayne, Claudette, Brian, Dave, Andy, Paul, John, Tiffany, Kelly, Christen, Remi, Marty, Marsha

**Surgery/Help/Military:**

**S:** Debi, Joan, Sue, Mary, Clare, Christine, Connie, Lorraine, Melvin, Jayde, Jenny, Jenna, Mitch, Marilyn, Derek, Alison, Norm, Family of Wayne, Chad, Sara, Andrew  
**M:** Nicholas, Robert Zamora **Army** - Suzanne Nielsen, Chad Bailey **Navy** - Nathan LaClair, Paul Lewis, Josh Geese **Air Force** - Tom Czerwinski

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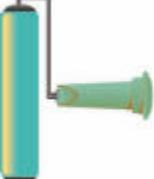
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