

**DECEMBER
2020**

NEWS FROM AROUND
THE MONROE VICARIATE

MONROE
Vicariate



VICAR

FR. MICHAEL A. WORONIEWICZ
PASTOR, DIVINE GRACE
CARLETON/MAYBEE

www.monroevicariate.com

ADVENT: Joyful Anticipation, Watching, and Waiting



With the First Sunday of Advent, we have begun a new Liturgical Year of 2021. Happy New Year!

First, Advent is a season of joyful anticipation. It is not Lent, and it is not a mini-Lent before Christmas. For the first three Sundays and their corresponding weekdays, the Scripture readings and Mass orations speak about readiness to meet Christ at the Second Coming. After December 17, the reading and prayers focus more on preparing for Christmas. At my parish of Divine Grace, we use a different liturgical color, a blue-violet for Advent that is distinct from the red-purple of Lent. The blue-violet colors such as Sarum blue or indigo were used in some places centuries ago for Advent, symbolic of the night sky before the dawn.

When one has not seen a friend or relative for a long time, and a date is set for an upcoming visit, one gets more and more excited as the meeting time grows closer. The Church gives us the season of Advent to anticipate meeting Christ in this same way.

Second, Advent is about watching. It is not watching in the sense that one watches a good movie or a game for entertainment or to see what the outcome may be. Rather, it is active watching that includes performing deeds of charity that help to make the world a better place. It means being alert to discover Christ wherever he may be found.

Finally, Advent is about waiting. Have you noticed that people nowadays are unable to wait for anything? When the computer fails to load the webpage fast enough, we're ready to throw it out the window. Sometimes we treat other people the same way—the waitstaff at a restaurant or the people behind the store counter. I have observed many a customer say rude and unkind things because their order wasn't right or it didn't appear fast enough! Sometimes we treat God in the same way—"Lord, give me patience, and I want it now!" goes the old joke. Remember, it took centuries for the promised Messiah to come in the person of Jesus Christ, and only when things were ready in God's sight. We forget that God is in control and that

things must happen in God's time. And if God doesn't deliver quickly enough, don't we sometimes pout and give God the silent treatment?

"I wish you an Advent of joyful anticipation, productive watching, and fulfilled waiting! Happy Advent!"

– Fr. Mike

A German pastor by the name of Dietrich Bonhoeffer was arrested, imprisoned, and eventually executed by the Nazi regime for opposing Adolph Hitler. In a letter to a loved one, he stated, "Life in a prison cell reminds me of a great deal of Advent. One waits and hopes and putters around. But in the end, what we do is of little consequence. The door is shut and can only be opened from the outside." Sometimes, only God can set us free, and we must wait.



PHOTO OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND ALTAR AREA AT DIVINE GRACE PARISH, ST. PATRICK CHURCH IN CARLETON

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2021 ISSUE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
Please email information to: [Crysti Esper at communications@monroevicariate.com](mailto:Crysti.Esper@monroevicariate.com). Thank you!





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A LETTER FROM HEARTBEAT OF MONROE



Dear Friends of Heartbeat

In 2019, Heartbeat had over 1,984 client visits. We gave out 34,217 diapers, 1200 cans of formula and 300,980 baby items. Since the governor's shutdown orders of March 24, 2020, Heartbeat has remained open for our clients. We have been able to do so because we are an exempt organization that “provides food...and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.”



However, we have had the usual expenses of rent, salaries (we have two, part-time staff members) and utilities. We have had to cancel our annual-banquet, our baby-bottle drives at area churches, and our Sweet Things Happen event. Needless to say, we have had to “cinch our belts,” but we are still here for our clients.

Heartbeat is blessed to be a blessing and you made it possible by your support of this center. I understand that these are very tough times for all of us. If you are able to give to Heartbeat, we thank you. If you are unable to give at this time, we understand and we would ask you to pray for Heartbeat and its ministry to those who are poor and living on the edge.

His for life,
Margaret Horvath, *Executive Director*

**You can contact Heartbeat of Monroe at
123 W. First St., Monroe, MI 48161
734-243-6550**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- ✓ Mass Times at all parishes
- ✓ Priests & Deacons contact information
- ✓ Directions to our Churches
- ✓ Catholic Schools Information

www.monroevicariate.com

Peace & Justice

Disability Etiquette: People with Low Vision

People who have low vision need to have specific accommodations for both their personal comfort and their safety.

- Written material in large print
(14 point font or larger is easiest to read)
- Clear font with appropriate spacing
(Sans Serif is easiest to read)
- Avoid using all uppercase letters because the use of all uppercase letters makes it difficult for people with low vision to be able to distinguish the end of a sentence
- Labels and signs should be clearly lettered in contrasting colors
(white letters on a black background are the easiest to read)

- Good lighting is important, but the lighting should not be too bright since shiny paper or walls can produce a glare that disturbs people's eyes
- Keep walkways clear of obstructions
- When people with low vision attend Mass, please inform them about any physical changes, such as rearranged furniture, equipment, or other items

If your parish provides resources and / or accommodations for people with disabilities, please contact Valerie Tyldesley, valerietyldesley@gmail.com, so the information can be published in the Monroe Vicariate Bulletin.

Around Our Monroe Vicariate Schools

Heavenly Father, we ask that you protect all students and teachers who are returning to school, in person or online, and give parents and guardians peace about their child's education and their well-being. Bless the body, mind, and soul of every students, teacher, and faculty member. May they celebrate your glory and use their education to build your kingdom of peace.

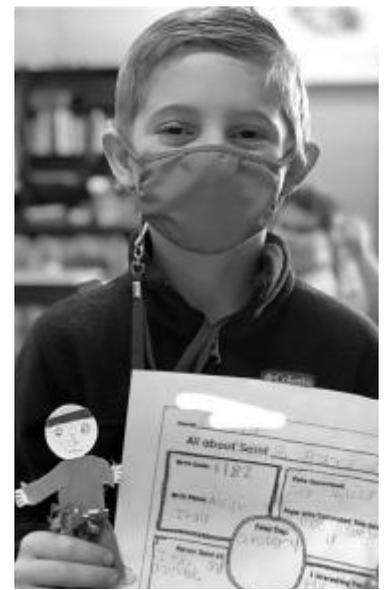
In Jesus Christ's name.
AMEN



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PREPARING FOR THE LIVE NATIVITY AT ST. PATRICK SCHOOL, CARLETON



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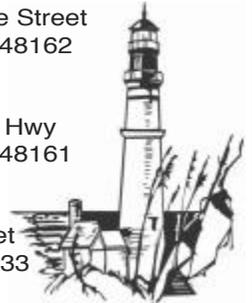
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