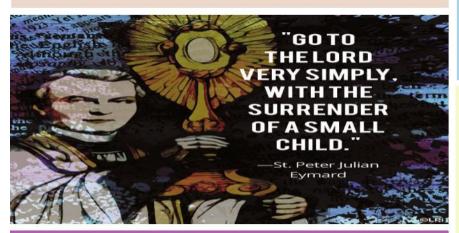


The Catholic Community of Sts. James, Cornelius & Cyprian

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 P.M.	Juliette DeFord
Sunday, Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	For People of the Parish Vocations
Monday, Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	
Tuesday, Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>	12:10 P.M.	Ruth Fecke
Wed, Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>	12:10 P.M.	For People of the Parish
Thursday, Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	
Friday, Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 A.M.	Tom Glynn
Saturday, Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 P.M.	Howard Emey
Sunday, Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	For People of the Parish David, Joseph, & Joanna Raciborski

\*\*Please note that Father still does Mass intentions in a private Mass when no public Mass is held.



Blessed Sacrament of Adoration Tuesdays at 7:00pm, Dec. 15th. Father will be hearing Confessions during Adoration. There will be no communal penance this year.

### Helping the Homeless Distinction Award!

Please support Family Farm & Home- a generous business in our community! The folks at the local store in Mason recently donated 5 very large bags of brand name warm wool socks for both men and women. They asked us at Sts. James, Cornelius & Cyprian to find a way to get them to the most needy. A few phone calls took us to the Cardboard Prophets. This local organization makes sure that the most vulnerable in the Lansing area community get some of their basic needs met. Due to covid restrictions their usual distribution is being handled differently for December, but they normally take trailer loads of food, clothing and other goods to Reuter Park on the third Sunday afternoon of the month to distribute. The representative we gave the socks to said that the socks are like a gift of gold to those who need them right now- and they will get them to those in need immediately. Please look up the Cardboard Prophets on Facebook to see the many activities and events they sponsor. Thank you, Family Farm and Home and those in volved with the Cardboard Prophets ministry!

## VIEW LIVE MASS HERE:

## WWW.SAINTSJCC.ORG

Want to attend in person on the weekend? Please register below:

> https://tinyurl.com/stsjccmass No computer? Call the parish office to sign up!



Celebrate this Advent season with your parish family! Music from The Vigil Project, reflections by Fr. Dave Pivonka TOR, and a devotional companion booklet are all part of the plan to help you celebrate these seasons in a deeper way. Bundles are available in the parish office. Have a blessed Advent as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior this Christmas!



Jeanne Angevine, Brigette Babin, Jerry & Linda Baldwin, Lou Bartolacci, Dorothy Burch, Doris Coolidge, Deacon Tom Feiten, Ellis & Joan Foss, Andrea Hartman, Donna Hancock, Deacon Gordy & Caren Kilborn, Michael Meyers, Gabrielle Mikelonis, Kari Olney, Jayden Rockwell Arnulfo Rodriguez, Gloria Schultz, David St Pierre, Ayden Weyer

May the Angels welcome you to paradise...



## **Shirley Grieve**

Please email heather@saintsjcc.org if you have a seriously ill relative or friend, prayer need, or deceased to be added to our prayer list. Also please email any updates needed to the current list.

#### Love God ~ Love People ~ Make Disciples

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

## LITURGICAL LIFE

## **QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**

#### **First Reading**

Isaiah shares his understanding of his prophetic call and his experience of the Lord as a God of justice and compassion. As we continue in the season of Advent, what new spiritual insights are you discovering?

#### Second Reading

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be thankful to God and be active in their newly found faith in Christ by following his moral imperatives. How are you putting your faith into practice during this Advent?

#### **Gospel Reading**

John tells us that the religious leaders in Jerusalem questioned the identity of John the Baptist, wondering if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet who Moses prophesied would come. John the Baptist responds in humility, with a clear sense of his own call. Do you humbly accept God's call in your life?



## GOSPEL MEDITATION Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 13TH



Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 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 Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

## Thursday

Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

Friday Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

Saturday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38



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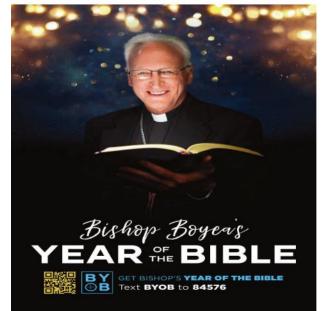
## **ADVENT PROJECT 2020**

More than 2,000 years ago, our Savior was born with no place to lay his head but the manger in a primitive stable.

Today, there are thousands of Haitian families who tragically face a similar fate. They must lay their heads on dusty, dirty floors to sleep, with nothing but sticks and mud walls to protect them from extreme weather, vermin & the threats of the outside world.

This Advent, celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ and glorify his name by opening your heart to these impoverished families. Our parish is partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach to provide safe, durable homes for those who need help most. Your compassion & generosity will provide support for the Kobonal Haiti Mission as it blesses families with both material & spiritual support.

Donations can be made online or in the offering.



## Calling all Liturgical Ministers! Sign Up Time!

If you are interested in serving for any position during Mass, please contact Bonnie by **Monday, December 14th.** 

We need all current liturgical ministers (including ushers) to update whether you want to be **actively serving & your availability** schedules for January-March Please submit any unavailable dates to Bonnie@saintsjcc.org



# LITURGICAL LIFE



## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments 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, MTS



## Love God ~ Love People ~ Make Disciples

## Pray Without Ceasing Anne M. Schmidt

In April, New York City was the epicenter of the U.S. coronavirus pandemic. Hospital ICUs were stretched beyond capacity. There were shortages in PPEs, in medical staff, and Covid-19 tests. Stay-at-home orders were strict; yet, every night at 7:00, NYC residents would open their windows to clap and cheer. Occasionally, they listened as a voice would sing out in song or a musician would play in tribute. In addition to following their stay-at-home orders and sending their own personal donations, this collective voice was a visual sign of their appreciation for all the health-care workers and first-responders.

Moved by their commitment, one night, I stepped on my porch and joined them. I did not clap my hands or cheer, but I thought of all those who were helping us through this crisis, of health care workers and first responders. Of the people caring for my mom in her senior care home. Of the farmers, truck drivers, food plant workers and grocery store workers who were working to keep food on our tables. Of my children, all teachers, trying their best to adapt to remote teaching. I said a prayer for health care workers during this time of pandemic, adding specific prayers of thanksgiving and continued good health for my family. I turned on the porch light and went inside.

Mason is a long way from NYC, and our house, built back from the road in the middle of a corn field, is not part of a cohesive neighborhood. By stepping onto that porch, though, I felt myself become part of a larger voice. I continued this ritual on a regular basis. Over time, my initial mediations varied. I added prayers for those victimized by natural disasters such as the wildfires out west, the hurricanes in the Atlantic, the flooding in Sanford, Michigan. I prayed that the social and political tensions that divided us would tone down as we tried to find common ground. I prayed for the business owners and workers particularly hurt economically by the pandemic, and for those isolated as they dealt with grief or illness; and, I asked God to inspire generosity among all of us to ease their pain. I thanked God for the times that I was finally able to visit my family. Every night, I ended with my prayer for the safety of health care workers and for the finding of medical breakthroughs in the treating of this and all flu viruses.

Back in the spring, this was easy to do. The days were getting longer, warmer, greener. We were flattening the curve and our numbers were improving. We were going to beat the odds and find ourselves on the other side of the virus quickly. As restrictions were lifted, I had opportunities to visit my family, including window visits with my Mom and outdoor visits with friends. No traveling, but I bicycled, walked and gardened. It was not the life I previously enjoyed, but there were more positive days than not. Fall changed things. The days became colder, darker and after a brief burst of color, more grey. Most evenings, I continued to say my prayer, but I began to question its worth. As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations increased, I dreaded the day when I would step on my porch in freezing temperatures and snow, when I would be praying for someone close to me who had contracted the virus. For months, I stood by myself on the porch. For the first time, I began to feel alone.

Then I happened to read St. Paul's words: *Rejoice al*ways. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

I've been a Catholic all of my life, and have heard these words many times. Despite having undoubtedly heard more than one sermon about this passage, I have always glossed over these words. After all, St. Paul makes no promises. He doesn't tell us how to pray, what to pray, or when to pray. He doesn't use cute analogies or anecdotes. He doesn't speak of the power of prayer or even the power of praying in a group. He doesn't allow for us to live our lives recklessly, to disregard our Christian responsibilities and expect God to intervene on our behalf. He simply asks us to commit to prayer and to make it part of our daily life for this is the will of God. And somehow that offers me hope.

As we end 2020, I take comfort in these words: Rejoice. Pray. Give Thanks. Hope.



**Knights of Columbus Corner** Upcoming Events for Mason Council

**December 20** - 10:30 AM Corporate Communion. **December 20** - 6:00 PM Zoom Regular Meeting.

## Annual Knights of Columbus State Raffle

The St. James Knights of Columbus Council 9182 will be selling Michigan State Council raffle tickets. The raffle provides the funds for the numerous charities the State Council supports. Tickets are \$5.00 each. For each ticket that we sell, \$1.00 comes back to our council & goes to the St. James Knights of Columbus Scholarship Program. The drawing will be April 15, 2021. If you would like to purchase a ticket, contact any Knights of Columbus member or context Jay Jensen at 517-281-3698.

The Mason Council has some Keep Christ in Christmas items available for purchase. Due to pandemic concerns, the order form is on the Mason Knights of Columbus website

masonknights.org/home & St. James, Cornelius & Cyprian website. It is a PDF file, so you can fill it in & forward to geroge.wygant@yahoo.com. He will fill your order & call you to

arrange deliver. Payment can be made by check or credit card.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

Join the Mason Knights of Columbus until December 31st for **FREE** by going to kofc.org/joinus, & enter the password MCGIVNEY2020. Once you are a member, we will get you into our council.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

To learn more about Mason #9182 Knights of Columbus Council visit www.masonknights.org, or contact any council member at Church.



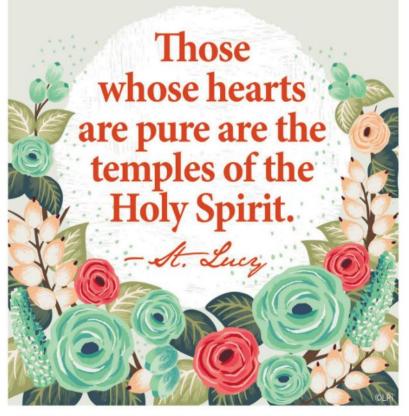
A big thank you to all the parishioners that gave to the Holy Cross Children's Services (HCCS) this year. Some of the children at HCCS only receive one gift. From the generosity of our parishioners some children will have a better Christmas. As we all know with his year being so unpredictable and totally different, it means a great deal to have you give.

Knights of Columbus Council #9182 Knights Angels "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." Psalm 127:3



# 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.



PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you!



## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT





## WHY DO WE DO THAT? **Catholic Life Explained:**

## **Ouestion:**

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).

## PARISH DIRECTORY

## The Catholic Community of Sts. James, Cornelius & Cyprian

1010 S. Lansing St. Mason, MI 48854

517.676.9111

## www.saintsjcc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 - 4:00 Friday: 8:00 - 12:00

## Parish Staff

Pastor Rev. Fr. Kusitino Cobona kusi@saintsjcc.org Rectory 517.676.1159 Emergencies only 517.775.0302

Senior Priest-in-Residence Fr. Jim Shaver

Deacon Chuong Nguyen Deacon Al Turkovich	517.388.0017	chuong@saintsjcc.org DeaconAlturk@gmail.com
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Maintenance Michael Offenbach	er	michael@saintsjcc.org

#### Parish Leadership Teams

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#### Parish Councils & Commission Chairs

	Pastoral Council: Pete Barnum	517.930.6282	barnumpe@gmail.com
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-International Outreach Sue Powers		517.449.0999	
-Knights of Columbus (CC) Grand Knight Fred Wilson		fpw1962@frontier.com	
	-Knights of Columbus (SJ) Grand Knight Tom Shaver -Knights Angels President Teresa James-Bates		shaaver171@yahoo.com 517.980.4167
	-St. James Women's Club President Chris Harrison		517.290.5525
	-Sts. CC Ladies President Anne Ro	owse	517.851.7588

Spiritual Directors					
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Bulletin Deadline—Monday NOON, Email preferred Please email: heather@saintsjcc.org

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