

Christmas BLESSINGS



God bless all military, first responders, health workers, and all those who can't be with their families on Christmas Day.

May the joy of our Savior's birth be with you,
WHEREVER YOU MAY BE.

The Catholic Community of Sts. James, Cornelius & Cyprian

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 19th	4:00 P.M.	Howard Emey
Sunday, Dec. 20th	8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	David, Joseph, & Joanna Raciborski For People of the Parish
Monday, Dec. 21st	No Mass	
Tuesday, Dec. 22nd	No Mass	
Wed, Dec. 23rd	No Mass	
Thursday, Dec. 24th	4:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M. 7:00 P.M. 10:00 P.M.	Milton & Marge Bergeon Joe Heeney (CC) For People of the Parish For People of the Parish
Friday, Dec. 25th	8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	For People of the Parish (CC) For People of the Parish
Saturday, Dec. 26th	4:00 P.M.	Sister Maureen Martin
Sunday, Dec. 27th	8:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	For People of the Parish Deceased members of the Mullin Family

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

Register early to attend Christmas Masses

We need you to register for which Mass you will be attending. As these are our most attended Masses of the year, we are trying to prepare to accommodate as many, as safe as possible. Registering early will help us to prepare properly. Please help us to have a smooth welcome to Mass on these special days!

Please register below:

<https://tinyurl.com/stsjccmass>

With the additional Christmas Masses, we need more helpers! Greeters, Ushers, and Covid Clean Up!

We appreciate all those who are able to volunteer to help us have a wonderful Mass experience. We couldn't offer Mass in person without the **AMAZING Volunteers!**

Please contact the office to help with these Masses!



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, Brigitte 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...



Ellis Foss ~ 12/11
We've Lost a Friend **Calvin Face ~ 12/11**

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.

LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading

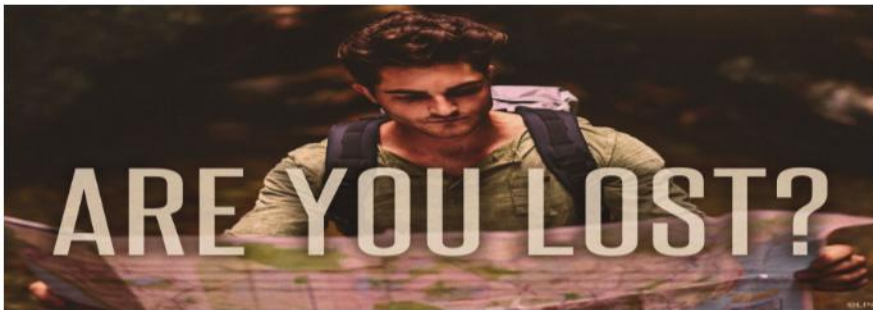
Today's reading from Second Samuel narrates the context in which God establishes his covenantal promise to King David around the year 1000 B.C. In the birth of Jesus, God fulfills his covenant with David. What does this teach us about the idea of "salvation history?"

Second Reading

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God for the long-awaited revelation that all are saved and justified through faith in Christ. In what ways are you praising God during this season of Advent?

Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20TH

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

Monday

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday

1 Sm 1:24-28
1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14
Lk 1:57-66

Thursday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29
Lk 1:67-79

Vigil: Is 62:1-5

Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Friday - Christmas

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

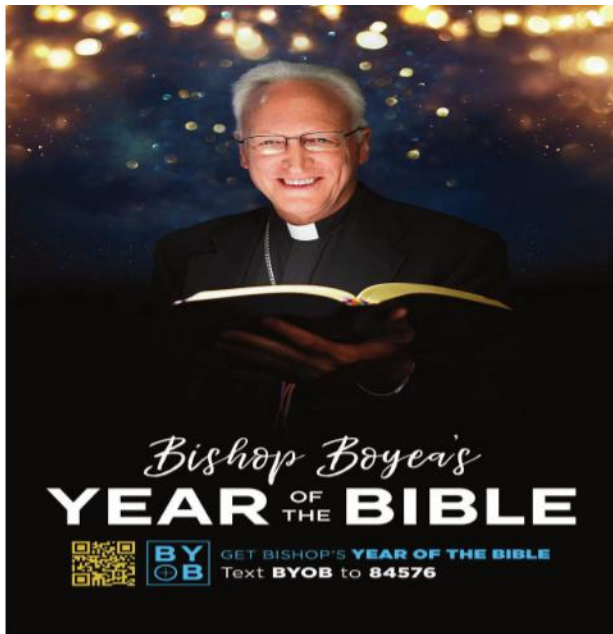
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday

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

Sunday - Feast of the Holy Family

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40



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.



100% charitable gifts on itemized taxes this year!

Online Giving at
<https://stjamesmason.weshareonline.org/>
 or

By Mail To:
 St James, Cornelius & Cyprian
 1010 S Lansing St, Mason, MI 48554



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 contact 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.



*"Let us ask the Lord for
the grace of being generous,
so that our hearts may be opened
and we may become kinder."*

-Pope Francis

A portion of our 4%
Christian Service
Tithe has been
sent to:
EVE Inc.



Thank you to our
sponsor this week:

**North Winds
Heating &
Cooling**

STEWARDSHIP

St. James, Cornelius & Cyprian

Last Week's Collections

December 13th	\$8,071.00
<i>Last Year</i>	<i>\$13,550.21</i>
(58 EFTs, 59 envelopes from 793 registered households)	
Fiscal Year to Date (since July 1st)	\$242,025.72
<i>Year to Date Last Year</i>	<i>\$269,460.09</i>

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

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES?

When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: *apostles* and *disciples*. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many *disciples*, the group of *apostles* was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word *apostle* essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognizes Saint Paul

and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.



When we think of the word *disciple*, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they

receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.

LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that 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. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?



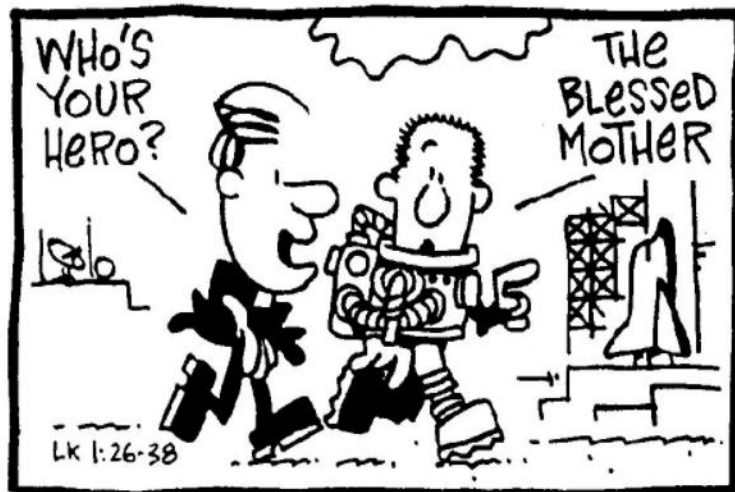
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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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during these difficult times!*

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!

And the angel said to her
in reply, "The Holy Spirit
will come upon you, and
the power of the Most
High will overshadow
you. Therefore the child
to be born will be called
holy, the Son of God."

– Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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PARISH DIRECTORY

The Catholic Community of Sts. James, Cornelius & Cyprian

1010 S. Lansing St. Mason, MI 48854

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www.saintsjcc.org

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-Knights Angels President Teresa James-Bates

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-St. James Women's Club President Chris Harrison

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-Sts. CC Ladies President Anne Rowse

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Bulletin Deadline—Monday NOON, Email preferred

Please email: heather@saintsjcc.org

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