

DECEMBER  
2019

NEWS FROM AROUND  
THE MONROE VICARIATE

# MONROE Vicariate



VICAR

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

[www.monroevicariate.com](http://www.monroevicariate.com)



"It's Advent! We consider the many comings of Christ—the First Coming (the first Christmas), the Second Coming..."



## Celebrate Advent

It's Advent! We consider the many comings of Christ—the First Coming (the first Christmas), the Second Coming, the encounters with him each day, and much later in the Advent season the coming at the Feast of Christmas itself. In the old days, Advent was a solemn time, quite similar to Lent in that there was fasting and penance in preparation for Christmas. Christmas itself was not observed or celebrated in the home until Christmas Eve. It was then that the tree was lit and/or decorated, that the figure of the Infant Jesus was placed in the crèche, and that the merriment truly began. The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" tells us quite correctly that Christmas is a season in itself (quite distinct from Advent) about twelve days long until Epiphany, which concluded the grand celebration on January 6 in the old liturgical calendar.

How our society has changed! Our so-called "Christmas" now begins well before Thanksgiving with music, trees, and parties included. "Christmas" ends on the 26th of December with the removal of the tree, the same time that the "after Christmas" sales begin in our stores. Unfortunately, we have lost our perspective on the observance of Christmas as a Season. And just as unfortunately, we have lost the true meaning of Advent Season. Although there is a place for Christmas greeting cards, shopping, and decorating during Advent as legitimate preparation, it seems that a large gap has grown between Advent and Christmas as the Church celebrates the seasons versus social celebration and commercial enterprise.

### A few practical suggestions to consider:

1. Celebrate Advent by having an **Advent wreath** around the table. Light the candles before your main meal with a prayer as simple as "Come, Lord Jesus!"
2. Try using a special **Advent calendar** that not only gives the number of days until Christmas, but also a short verse of scripture or a thought for the day.
3. Go out and buy a **Christmas present for someone less fortunate** than yourself and put it under a "Giving Tree" or a "Toys for Tots" bin as an Advent sacrifice.
4. Spend a **few moments each day with the Lord**, recognizing your need for a Savior. Try reading the Bible readings for the daily Liturgy. Try meditating. Try another spiritual exercise you haven't yet tried.
5. **Fast from "premature Christmas."** Wait until Christmas Eve to light the tree or put Christ in the manger.
6. If you want a tree up during Advent, decorate it with symbols from the Old Testament prophecies (**Jesse tree**).
7. **Save your Christmas parties for the "Twelve Days."**

Peace,  
Fr. Mike Woroniewicz  
Vicar

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2020 ISSUE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
Please email information to: [Crysti Esper at communications@monroevicariate.com](mailto:CrystiEsper@monroevicariate.com). Thank you!





Need more details for events? Check our event calendar at [www.monroevicariate.com](http://www.monroevicariate.com) or our Facebook page for full details!

► **St. Mary Christian Women  
2019 Soup Luncheons**

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Parish Life Center,

held on Wednesdays:

• December 4, 2019

Assorted hot soups, bread,  
desserts and beverage,  
\$7 donation.



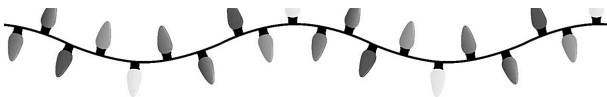
**St. Gabriel, Ida/Dundee**

► **Christmas in Ida Annual Spaghetti Dinner**

Saturday Dec. 7, 2019 • 4:00-6:30PM

St. Joseph Hall 8295 Van Aiken, Ida

Come in, get warm and enjoy a full spaghetti dinner including hot/cold beverage and dessert. Or, if a chili dog, taco, nachos & cookie are more to your liking, we have those too. Our dinner precedes the Christmas in Ida Parade. Children under 5 eat free. Menu board at the corner of Lewis Ave & Van Aiken.



**ST. ANNE'S**



**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 8, 2019**



**Bring your Friends  
Tell Your Neighbors**

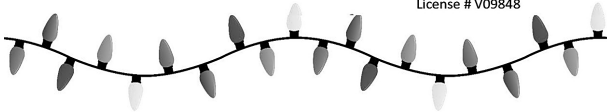


Doors open at 4:00pm  
Sales begin at 4:15pm  
Lightning Bingo: 5:30pm  
Regular Games: 7:00pm  
Concession Foods

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN!!**

St. Anne Parish, 2420 N. Dixie Hwy., Monroe, MI. 48162

License # V09848



*Vocations*

**Holy Hour  
for Vocations and Priests**  
*Holy Hour begins at 7:00 pm*

*Includes Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament  
and Benediction*

**Thursday, December 12  
St. Charles Borromeo**

8109 Swan Creek Rd, Newport

A Holy Hour is held on **the second Thursday of each month**, and held at a different parish locations each month. The Holy Hour includes prayers, the rosary, spiritual reading, intercessions, litany for priests, silent prayer and meditation. Join us in praying for vocations to the priesthood, religious life and permanent diaconate and for our ordained priests.

*Sponsored by the  
Vicariate Vocations Committee*

*Young Adult Ministry*

► **Monroe Gatekeepers Happenings**

- Dec. 13: Theology on Tap
- Bible Study ongoing!

Sign up online for Small Group, join young adults from the Monroe Vicariate for these and more events. For more information, visit [www.monroegatekeepers.com](http://www.monroegatekeepers.com).

*Catholic Schools*

► **21<sup>st</sup> Annual St. Patrick School Benefit Auction**  
Saturday, December 7, 2019  
Knights of Columbus Hall, Monroe

- Doors open at 5pm dinner promptly at 7pm.
- Prime rib and chicken dinner - all you can drink wine and beer!
- Silent & LIVE auction, live music entertainment!
- Buy dinner tickets online at <http://spscarleton.com/benefit-auction> or call St Patrick school at (734) 654-2522

*Peace & Justice*

**Welcoming People with Disabilities into Your Parish, Part 2**

**People First Language**

People first language is used to speak appropriately and respectfully about an individual with a disability. People first language emphasizes the person first not the disability. When referring to a person with a disability, refer to the person first by using phrases such as: "a person who ...", "a person with ..." or, "a person who has ..." Here are some suggestions on how to communicate with and about people with disabilities.

**Say...**

- Person with a disability rather than disabled person
- Person with an intellectual, cognitive, developmental disability
- Person with an emotional or behavioral disability
- Person who is hard of hearing
- Person who uses a wheelchair
- Person with a physical disability
- Person with epilepsy or seizure disorder, and
- Person with cerebral palsy.

Finally, avoid negative, disempowering words like "victim" or "sufferer" with any type of disability; for example, say "person with multiple sclerosis" instead of "multiple sclerosis victim" or "person who suffers from multiple sclerosis." More information is available on the National Catholic Partnership for Disability (NCPD) website and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website.

*If you are aware of resources in our parish for people with disabilities, please contact Valerie Tyldesley, [valerie.tyldesley@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.tyldesley@gmail.com), so the information can be published in the Monroe Vicariate Newsletter.*

**STAY TUNED**  
MORE INFO TO COME IN OUR VICARIATE PARISHES!

24-HOUR LIVE **SOCIAL MEDIA TELETHON 2020**  
**TO BENEFIT ST. JOSEPH CENTER OF HOPE**  
Friday, January 24 – Saturday, January 25  
KICK-OFF DINNER @ 4:30PM | St. Mary's Parish Life Center  
127 N. Monroe St., Monroe, MI 48162

CATHOLIC CHARITIES of Southeast MICHIGAN

## IHM Motherhouse

### ► The Monroe High School Orchestra

The Monroe High School Orchestra, under the direction of Ann Felder, will perform on **Sunday, Dec. 8, at 3 p.m.** The orchestra has earned accolades throughout the area and has received superior ratings at every festival performance it has participated in for the past five years. During the annual Candlelight Classics Concert, the orchestra will be joined by members of the Monroe College-Community Symphony Band and Monroe High School Choirs.

### ► Festival of Lesson and Carols

On **Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m.**, the annual Festival of Lesson and Carols takes place. The John Tyner Chorale presents a service modeled after the Christmas Eve service that has taken place in Cambridge Cathedral in England since 1918. It will include scripture readings by various pastors from the Monroe area and carols performed by both the congregation and the Tyner Chorale. This type of service has been used around the world and has become a tradition of the Christmas season.

## IHM River House

IHM Spirituality Committee will be offering programs to help you with your spiritual journey.

**Second Monday of each Month, "Prayer Conversations."** Are you interested in learning more about prayer and how it is woven into everyday life? Would you like to listen and share with others to explore how God is inviting us all into deeper relationship and openness to life? Each month, we will explore a new dimension of prayer with time for input, conversation, prayer and reflection. These sessions are open to all spiritual seekers and is designed to allow participants to come when they can. Invite your friend, neighbor, colleague, or family member to come too!

**There is no fee and no registration is required – drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact River House – IHM Spirituality Center at [riverhouse@ihmsisters.org](mailto:riverhouse@ihmsisters.org) or 734-240-5494.**

### A Day of Reflection on Prophetic Hope: An Advent Imperative

**Friday, Dec. 6 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the Maxis Community Room of the IHM Motherhouse**

We live in a beautiful yet fractured world that yearns for signs of hope. Advent invites us to embrace hope as we walk with our brothers and sisters in the reality of these times. Where does each one find hope? How do we build a future rooted in a hope that flows from our unique and varied life journeys? What is the invitation offered each of us, as it was to Mary and Elizabeth, to find life and hope in our encounters with others?

Sister Lisandra currently ministers as a tenured auxiliary professor at the University of Puerto Rico – Río Piedras Campus, teaching courses and coordinating the master's degree programs for early childhood education and for reading, writing and children's literature. She shares interest in topics related to children's spirituality, justice, peace and sustainability from perspectives related to her professional field.

**Suggested offering is \$50 and includes lunch. To register, call 734-240-5494 or email [riverhouse@ihmsisters.org](mailto:riverhouse@ihmsisters.org)**



## Knights in Action

Our local First Responders with the 2019 litter of "CASEY THE BEAR". Captain John Wall of the Monroe Police Dept. was presented

the bears this past month to pass out to area first responders.

"Casey The Bear"? is a Knights of Columbus program that has been around for over 20 years. Casey is a teddy bear that is given to children by emergency responders in stressful situations, medical emergencies, and accidents. These children are often traumatized and hugging Casey calms them down. This definitely makes the emergency situation easier for the children and the responders to handle. The bears were purchased by donations Brother Knights and friends of the Monroe Council.



The Monroe Council Knights of Columbus "Goodfellows Club" will be conducting our 104th consecutive Christmas food program for the needy in Monroe County.

The fund raising Paper Sale Drive will be Sat. Dec. 7th. Moneys from the paper sale, plus donations from members and businesses allows us to provide food for families that the Salvation Army has selected. PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED!

**The Knights Of Columbus is the worlds largest Catholic Fraternal Service Organization, Charity is our foremost Principle. To learn more about us - <http://www.kofcmonroe1266.com>**

## Top "Liked" Facebook photos in November



**A beautiful traditional Latin Mass in extraordinary form on All Saints Day (Nov. 1) with Fr. Robert Slaton at St. Anthony Church in Temperance.**



**CCSEM ribbon cutting at the St. Joseph Center of Hope. This photo was taken one year ago on November 21, and reposted recently to celebrate its first anniversary. Pictured are Fr. Ray Arwady, formerly of St. John and Archbishop Vigeron.**

## IHM Senior Living Community

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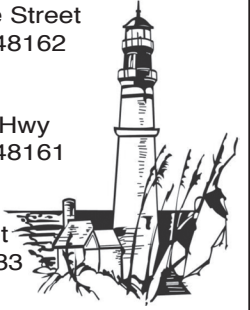
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