

Faith & Hospitality ☐



THE CATHOLIC VOICE ST. SABINA PARISH

Dearborn Heights, MI
www.stsabina.weconnect.com

December 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent



*Our mortal eyes
mostly see the here
and now. When we
immerse ourselves
in the life of God,
our vision also sees
what may be, what
may come.*

*God of the future,
thank you for your
vision. Open our
eyes to see you as
you surround and
enfold us on this
journey. Help us to
see this sunrise in
which we live. We
want to walk with
you more robustly.
We give ourselves
to you this day, for
you are the source
of our hope. Fill
us with the fullness
of your peace for-
ever. Thank you
and thank you
again for your
goodness to us!*



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had
a leather belt around his waist. His food was
locusts and wild honey. - Mt 3:4



Saturday, December 7, Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. Mass—+Kevin Kirsten (6th Anniv.) - by Tim & Kathleen Kirsten
 +Frank Szpak—by Joann Szpak
 +Edward Uchwat—by Joe Frederickson
 +Al and Helen Edwards—by Debbie and Alan Edwards

Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Mass—+Helen Stec—by Family
 +Bernie Wojnar (5th Anniv.) - by Family
11:00 a.m. Mass—+Jerry Chermak—by Briski Family

Monday, December 9, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 a.m. Mass—+Tom Fitzgerald—by Bridget Schultz

Tuesday, December 10, Advent Weekday/Feast of Our Lady of Loreto

6:30 p.m. Mass—+Fred & Celia Burban—by Diane Bergman

Wednesday, December 11, Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. Mass—For the intentions of Antoinette Pilzner—by Family

Thursday, December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 a.m. Mass—+Ronald Johnson (3rd Anniv.) - by Family

Friday, December 13, St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

8:30 a.m. Mass—+Lillian Smith—by David Smith

Saturday, December 14, St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:30 a.m. Mass—For the intentions of St. Sabina Parish Families

Saturday, December 14, Third Sunday of Advent

1:00 p.m. Advent Reconciliation with Private Confession

4:00 p.m. Mass—+Michael Grysko—by Gertrude and Walter Grysko
 +Charles Mizzi—by Mizzi Family
 +Edward Rzeczkowski (33rd Anniv.) - by Joann & Bob Terski

Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Mass—+Josephine Wojcik (17th Anniv.) - by Joe & Marie Prew
 +Mary Grzywnowicz—by Bernice Wojnar
 +Helen (20th Anniv.) and Al Sieszputowski—by Chuck & Bernadette Lowe
11:00 a.m. Mass—+Irene Frain (1st Anniv.) - by Family
 +Bettie Malchow—by Richard & Joanne Fronczak

**TODAY'S
SECOND
COLLECTION:
Retirement Fund for
Religious**

**Attention Liturgical
Ministers**

Please sign up for the Christmas and New Year Masses. The sign up board will be located near the Sacristy. Coverage for all Masses is needed. Please consider serving.

**EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTERS, LECTORS,
SERVERS, USHERS**

Thank you for your
service
to our parish!

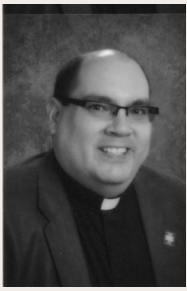
Saturday, December 14 - 1 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service with Private Confession



Before celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, one should prepare oneself with an examination of conscience, which involves reflecting prayerfully on one's thoughts, words, and deeds in order to identify any sins. There are various types of examinations of conscience but regardless of which one you use to prepare yourself for the Sacrament it should be rooted in Scripture; particularly, the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes. An Examination of Conscience can help you prepare for the Sacrament.

Not only does it [the Sacrament of Penance] free us from our sins but it also challenges us to have the same kind of compassion and forgiveness for those who sin against us. We are liberated to be forgivers. We obtain new insight into the words of the Prayer of St. Francis: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned."

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. The Sacrament of Penance is God's gift to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven. In confession we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment in which we place ourselves in his presence and honestly acknowledge our sins, especially mortal sins. With absolution, we are reconciled to God and the Church. The Sacrament helps us stay close to the truth that we cannot live without God. "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).



From the Bullpen

December 8, 2019

The lighting of the second Advent candle tells us that we are at the halfway point of our Advent journey. During the last few weeks, our Gospel readings have been stressing the preparation of receiving the Prince of Peace in the world. We are being influenced, as well, by merchants promising deals of a lifetime; radio stations playing Christmas songs; television stations removing quality mystery movie classics like Columbo, with Christmas titles, but, nothing pertaining to Christ Himself. Merchants and multi-media are vying for your attention.

Guess who else is vying for your attention? That is right, it is Jesus who is seeking each of us. For it is Jesus who came into this world to reunite God's children with the Father and His Kingdom. Jesus seeks us out, not with the things merchants push, but with His Love and Forgiveness. Jesus comes with an invitation for all of His family to return back to the Father. There have been times and occasions where we have been distracted, or maybe even lost, during our pilgrimage on earth. It is Jesus as Shepherd and Brother who seeks us, invites us and welcomes us back in His embrace to be with Him and His Father, Our Father. I pray that we hear and accept Jesus' calling, and we avoid the distractions that can keep us from Him.

One of the ways St. Sabina is striving to nurture the one family mindset is by welcoming the Capuchins "On the Rise" bakers to our parish. These individuals who are coming are receiving a second chance in life by learning a trade that produces such delicious bakery products. Be gracious and welcoming like Jesus asked us to be.

Also, this weekend our parish sponsors the annual Breakfast with Santa festive event! My thanks to all those who gave of their time and talent in preparing the breakfast. So, remember to pick up your bakery goods on your way down to the activities hall to the parish breakfast, and enjoy the time as one family.

Finally, next weekend is our parish reconciliation service. It will begin Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. Fr. Don and myself are welcoming four other priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you. It is a Sacrament of Healing not just for the penitent, but the confessor as well. Priests receive an affirmation of their vocation by being Christ's healing presence in a person's moment of need. What better way for a priest to prepare for the coming of Our King than by being His healing presence; and what better way to receive Our King than having one's sins absolved with compassion.

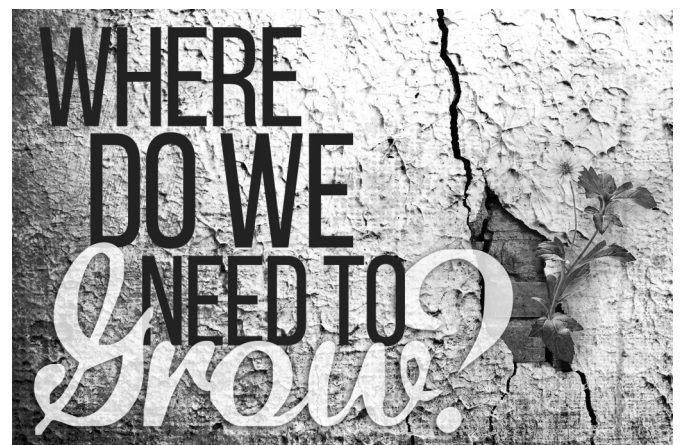
Have a blessed week, Fr. Jim

What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist.

Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. *"Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'"* Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. *"Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. *"The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals."* The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop? ©LPi





RIGHT TO LIFE-LIFESPAN... Christmas Cards

We have several designs of pro-life Christmas cards in our office. They are a wonderful way to remember The Reason for the Season and help LIFESPAN share the pro-life story. Call the office to get yours: 734-422-6230.



GUILD NEWS

The trees remain in the narthex with ornaments/envelopes for use for your donation to the **Felician Sisters and their mission in Haiti**. Members of the Guild will be at the church doors after Masses this weekend and next to accept your donation. Checks should be made payable to the Felician Sisters of North America, but turned in to the Guild, dropped in the collection basket or left at the church office. **All donations must be received by December 15th**, so we can process them on to the Sisters, as our **Christmas contribution to their ministry**. We and they are grateful for your donation, no matter how small or large. Please remember to keep them in your prayers.

Our **HOLIDAY PARTY** is Wednesday, **December 11th**, beginning at 6 pm. Guests are asked to provide an appetizer or dessert to feed 10. All men and women of the parish are invited to join the festivities which include great food, 50/50 raffle with all money awarded, door prizes, and a wonderful social evening as we anticipate the birth of our Lord. Set up will be on Tuesday at 9:30, if you have a little time to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for your support of the On The Rise Bakers this weekend. ☺

St. Vincent DePaul Thanksgiving Food Drive



Thanks and appreciation to our donors, volunteers and the opportunity to serve the needy in our community.



Thank You to our GREAT MAC members!
Appreciate your work in preparing our Nativity Scene



St. Sabina Parish Advent and Christmas Liturgy Schedule



THIS Weekend

Capuchin On the Rise Bakers Sale
Sunday, Breakfast with Santa, Sunday
8:00—11:00 a.m.

Poinsettia Flower Sale
Troop 499 Christmas Wreath Sale
Retirement for Religious Collection



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Monday, December 9th, Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 11

Guild and MAC's Christmas Party 6 pm



Saturday, December 14

Advent Reconciliation Service
Private Confession 1:00 pm

Saturday, December 28

Pray the Rosary with Fr. Veryser K of C
Following the 4:00 p.m. Mass



Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24
Masses 4 pm & 10 pm
9:30 pm Choir Cantata

New Years Eve Mass

Tuesday, December 31
4 pm Vigil Mass
11 pm – Midnight
Holy Hour

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25
Masses 8:30 am & 11 am
10:30 am Choir Cantata

New Years Day Mass

Wednesday,
January 1 2020
Mass 8:30 am

SVdP Thanksgiving Food Boxes

Thank you everyone who helped with our St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Box Event! Because of your generosity, we were able to provide 30 families with a \$25 Kroger gift card, a box of Thanksgiving food items, and a box of miscellaneous food pantry items. We could not do this without your support in keeping our pantry well-stocked.

Each family has a special circumstance that brought them to our doors, and we are grateful to be able to provide them with some hope and encouragement through this ministry. One story is of a young single mom with two autistic children who didn't know if she would be able to make a Thanksgiving dinner for her children this year. When other children at school were talking about what their plans were, they didn't know what to say. When she brought her SVdP Food Pantry items home for her children, they called to thank us for making their Thanksgiving possible this year. All of the families who came to pick up their Thanksgiving food boxes were very grateful, and many cried with appreciation. Thanksgiving is much more meaningful when we are able to help others who may be less fortunate for whatever reasons. We want to thank everyone for your donations as well as those who worked so hard to organize and prepare

for this event. Our food pantry volunteers spent many long hours preparing for the distribution of the donations that we received. Many thanks also to all of the helpers who came in to fill the Thanksgiving boxes for pick up. God bless you all!



We are now preparing for our Christmas Food Pantry event which will take place on the Sunday prior to Christmas, December 22nd, following the 11:00am Mass in the St. Sabina school hall area near the food pantry. Anything you wish to donate so that we can load up the Christmas boxes is greatly appreciated.

Here are some items for your consideration: stuffing, canned cranberry sauce, gravy, cream of mushroom soup, cream of chicken soup, canned pie filling, puddings, Jell-o, muffin mix, cake mix, pancake mix, syrup, Christmas-candy, cookies, juices, salad dressings, canned fruit, peanut butter, jellies, other canned soups, beets, Spaghettios, chili, Manwich, canned potatoes, tuna, chicken, Spam, Hamburger Helper, mac & cheese, pasta sauce, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard and pickles. Non-food items such as paper towels, Kleenex, napkins, and toilet paper are also appreciated.

Thank you for your support!



From the desk
of Fr. Don

"LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR EARS AND MOUTH"

One reason I created you with two ears, but only one mouth is so that you would do twice as much listening as you do talking. Mary,

whom we honor this week, is a good example of one who both listened and responded.

I know you are trying to follow Me and My gospel in your life. You wouldn't be reading this if that were not true. Mary's great prayerfulness was largely that of listening to what was developing for her. She was growing the body of the infant Jesus. And in her life was growing courage for trust and commitment for the unknown years and journey ahead.



In order to listen to another person, we have to be still. We need two kinds of stillness: The first is eliminating distracting noises and activities so that we can focus on the speaker. The other is that inner attention to the message of the one you are listening to.

During these Advent days when you really want to hear God speaking to you, resolve to do more careful listening to the people in your lives. Resolve to answer more often with an understanding comment like "I see", instead of an argumentative "Yeah, but. . ."



So once again, don't forget that you've got twice as many ears as you do mouths for doing twice as much listening as talking. And don't be surprised if, as you start really listening with understanding to what others are saying, you sometimes hear what sounds a lot like My Words of peace and joy.

MARY DID. YOU CAN TOO

Our Lady of Guadalupe

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she had encouraging words for him. "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" In the image on Juan Diego's tilma (tunic), Mary identifies herself with the Aztec people. She has their hair and features, their symbolic maternity dress. She incorporated their important symbols of the sun, moon, and stars. Today's Mass includes two Gospel options. Both are familiar passages from the Gospel of Luke - the Annunciation and the Visitation. Both are equally relevant to today's feast because Mary's yes to Christ isn't only to care for him but to come to us. Our Lady of Guadalupe is pregnant. The image bears witness to Mary's yes to conceive the Savior of the World. But even in her pregnancy, she goes to care for Elizabeth. Now Mother to all the world, Mary comes to the aid of her children, reminding them of her presence among them.



MUSIC NOTES...from Joanie SAVE THE DATE!



The Christmas cantata, *Walk in the Light* by Lani Smith, will be presented by our St. Sabina Adult Choir December 24th, Christmas Eve,

9:30pm, before the 10pm Mass, and December 25th, Christmas Day, **10:30am**, before the 11am Mass.

A cantata, simply put, is a work of narration and song. Thus, *Walk in the Light*, a Christmas cantata, is the story of Jesus's birth in narration and song.

Our choir has been practicing for the last several weeks preparing this presentation for our parish family and is our gift to you. Invite your family and friends to join us either **Christmas Eve at 9:30pm**, or **Christmas Day at 10:30am**, and share a new tradition with your parish family.

God bless each and every one of you this Advent and Christmas season. We thank you for all your prayers and support and know that you are in our prayers as well.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT





St. Sabina
Mission Statement
We become the Real Presence of Christ through prayer, education, worship, and service. Gathering in Christ's name we share our time and talents with our community, and welcome all.

St. Sabina Catholic Church
Fr. James Lopez, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Matthew Wisniewski
Permanent Deacon
 25605 Ann Arbor Trail
 Dearborn Heights MI 48127
 Mass Saturday 8:30 am
 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm
 Sunday Masses—8:30 & 11:00 am
 Sacrament of Penance Saturday 3 pm

Parish Office Contact Info
 8191 Kinmore St.
 Dearborn Heights MI 48127
 Phone: 313.561.1977
 Fax: 313.561.1315
 pastor@saintsabina.org
 secretary@saintsabina.org
 Office Hours: 9a—4p Mon.—Fri.

Rectory
 25605 Ann Arbor Trail
 Dearborn Heights MI 48127

Parish Website:
www.stsabina.weconnect.com

Music Minister
 Joanie Iwankovitsch 313.408.1222

Custodian
 Bob Trzeciński 313.722.5199

Parish Council Members
 Val Schuster (Chairperson)
 313.274.7026
 Joe Frederickson (Vice Chairperson)
 313.535.4248
 Jennifer Trahey (Council Secretary)
 313.529.8873
 Shirley Walmsley (Worship)
 734.722.0636
 Marlene Vincent (Vicariate Rep)
 734.459.9353
 Jennifer Trahey (Finance Council)
 313.529.8873
 Bob Csokas 313.516.0430
 Elizabeth Viviani 734.664.6068
 Megan Lizbinski 313.529.8870

St. Sabina Offertory Contributions
Weekend of November 23 & 24, 2019
November 30 & December 1, 2019

Number of Envelopes Mailed for Nov/Dec—500
Number of Envelopes Returned Today—184/182

Adult Offertory Collection	\$4,585 / \$6,523
Loose Change / Loose Check	\$1,122 / \$762
Maintenance	\$77 / \$1,003
Christmas Flowers	\$2,442
Catholic Charities	\$2,250 / \$210
Weekly amount needed	\$5,307.00

Thank you for your support to St. Sabina Church!

Minister Schedule—For Weekend of
December 14 & 15, 2019

Mass Times	4:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Celebrant	Fr. Walker	Mariannahill	Fr. Lopez/ Deacon Matt
Ministers of the Eucharist	I. Andico, S. Floyd, M. Owens, R. Mondro, T. Ostafinski	P/M Koss, K. Laczkowski, P. Tanski, M. Tront	G. Salazar, I. Rachfal, B. Klotz, D. Janson, E. Viviani
Lectors	F. Pilzner	J. Wojnarowski	S. Yesh
Ushers (Dec.)	T. Mulligan, P. Corsi, F. Grech, T. Northrup	J. Laczkowski, C. Koss, R. Vincent, E. Makowski	J. Tabor, T. Metz, L. Miqbil



Today's Focus:
Seeing Differently, through God's Eyes

ST. SABINA PARISH
SICK LIST



Natalie Baines
 Meg Bakewell
 Joseph Ballard
 Paula Barker
 Paula Benninghouse
 Mary Ellen Bork
 Marie Burmeister
 Madison Bushway
 Goldene Cinat
 Gertrude Clark
 Richard Derus Sr.
 Maureen Everette
 Larry Figurski
 Marcus Flateau
 Stephanie Gajec
 Henrietta Gdowski
 Michael Granger
 Ida Green
 Katherine Kitty Green
 Barbara Gucwa
 Irene Hejka
 Billie Janer
 Elizabeth Jones
 Cary Lamont
 Karl Larsen
 Marie Lasceski
 Olga Lipon
 Audrey Maihofer
 Frank Maguire
 Madeline McAffrey
 Louise Nikitin
 Linnea Nilsson
 Chuck Oldani
 Bernice Pawlowicz
 Louise Sielski
 Mary Jo Skubik
 M/M Sobota
 Dennis Sokol
 Madelyn Sosnowski
 Izzy Stothers
 Laura Tanski
 Beverly Wright
 Stanley Wroblewski
 Nicole Zapinski
 Stanley Zubel