



Dear Parish Family,

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the new church year.

Saturday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holyday of obligation. Masses will be Friday evening at 6 p.m. and Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States. This is why the Immaculate Conception remains a holyday

of obligation even if it falls on Saturday or Monday while many others do not. Our country faces many challenges at home and abroad. This is a good opportunity to pray for our country.

Next Sunday, December 9, is our annual Christmas party following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please check out the bulletin announcement for details.

During Advent we prepare to celebrate the three comings of Christ: his birth, his final coming in glory, and his coming into our lives and hearts. One of the best ways we can prepare for his coming into our lives and hearts is to put out of our lives and hearts whatever is selfish or sinful. This year our Advent Penance Service, in conjunction with Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette, will be celebrated at St. Bernadette next Monday, December 10, at 7 p.m. Please mark your calendars and try to attend. Several priests will be available for confessions.

Have a great week.

fr. bob

Advent Day of Reflection Archbishop Daniel Buechlein Hosting

Single men of the parish...everyone has a vocation. What's yours? A Day of reflection, hosted by Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, will be offered for all men who may be discerning a call to the priesthood on Dec. 15, at his home in Indianapolis. This time of prayerful reflection and discernment is intended for all single adult men between the ages of 18 and 40 who may be considering the priesthood in their future. For information contact your parish priest. *Perhaps God is calling you...are you listening?*

Next weekend, December 8th and 9th there will be a collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. The average Catholic sister, brother, or order priest remains in active ministry until age 74. Today, 37,870 religious are past age 70 and need our help with the current high cost of living and health care. Please use the envelope provided in your regular packet and be as generous as possible.

A big thanks you to all who so generously donated food to Saint Vincent DePaul for Thanksgiving food baskets. Because of your generosity we were able to help 45 families have a better Thanksgiving.



Please welcome into our Christian Community Noah Jeffrey, son of Jeff Schmaltz and Becky Deery and Camille Madelyn, daughter

of Andrew Massari and Brandy Walls, baptized on Sunday, November 11, 2207.



MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

Don't miss the Adventuresome Christmas Party! We will meet on Wednesday, December 12th, beginning with Mass at 11:00 am. Watch the bulletin for more details.



Masses of the Week

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DEC 3 – DEC 9, 2007

03 Dec	Monday
7:00 am	Communion Service
5:30 pm	Julia McNally
04 Dec	Tuesday
8:30 am	Communion Service
5:30 pm	Intentions of Patricia Lathrop by Ruth Kunkel
05 Dec	Wednesday
8:30 am	Alice Lundy by Mary Anne Lundy
5:30 pm	Communion Service
06 Dec	Thursday
8:30 am	Rusty Schwaneckamp
5:30 pm	Communion Service
07 Dec	Friday
8:30 am	Mr. and Mrs. James Spalding by Dottie Spalding
6:00 pm	For the People – Anticipation Mass for Holy Day
08 Dec	Saturday – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation
8:30 am	Mary Carrico by Peggy Kosterides
5:00 pm	Saturday Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent
	Matej Triska by Arcela Triska
09 Dec	Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 am	Orville W. Peters by Aberta Peters
10:30 am	Mary Frances Dugan by John and Helen Smith
6:00 pm	For the People



ADVENT

Advent comes from the Latin word *ad-venio* to come to. We are to pray and wait for the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. The first evidence of Advent in the Catholic Church was the fourth century. Easter was and is considered the holiest and most important feast of the Church, but Advent begins the church year.

The Church discourages loud celebrations and boisterous music in the liturgy. The color is purple, a sign of penance. It is a time of "quiet hope." The Advent wreath represents the promise of Jesus to come again for us. We wait for the coming of the infant Jesus in the manger—a time of penance and preparation for the celebration of the Christmas feast. As Catholics, we often receive the sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare our souls to receive the light of the world, Jesus Christ. "My soul in stillness waits..."

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Stay awake! Be prepared. To what are we being told to stay awake and be prepared? We're told to stay awake and be prepared for the coming of the Lord. The coming doesn't have to be in the distant future. The coming can be right now. With the eyes of faith we will be able to see God's kingdom all around us, now. What prevents me from really seeing the kingdom all around me? It is certain that God intends a new creation that is formed out of the old world.



Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord....

Please pray for Marian Kebe, who died November 24th, and Elinor Johnson who died Nov. 20th and for their families.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

December 2 - December 9, 2007

DAY	ROOM	TIME	GROUP
Sunday	Parish Center	8:30 am	Nursery
	Parish Center	8:30 am	Children's Liturgy
	School	9:30 am	Religious Education
	Duffey Hall	9:30 am	Coffee & Donuts
	Parish Center	7:15 pm	Confirmation Prep
Monday	Duffey Hall	4:30 pm	Cheerleading
	Scout Room	6:00 pm	Wolf Scouts
	St. Therese	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
	Scout Room	7:00 pm	Webelo Scouts
	St. Patrick	7:00 pm	SVDP
Tuesday	Duffey Hall	7:00 pm	Girls Volleyball Sign-ups
	Scout Room	6:00 pm	Daisy Scouts
	Parish Center	7:00 pm	RCIA
	Church	7:30 pm	Christmas Choir
	Wednesday	St. Patrick	9:30 am
Holy Family		2:30 pm	Girl Scout #195
Scout Room		2:30 pm	Girl Scout #799
Holy Family		5:00 pm	Browines
Scout Room		5:00 pm	Girl Scouts #787
Thursday	Schoolrm102	6:00 pm	Ladies Craft
	John 23 rd	7:00 pm	School Commission
	Scout Room	7:00 pm	Bear Scouts
	Duffey Hall	6:30 pm	Ladies Club Christmas Party
	St. Therese	8:00 pm	AA
Friday	Duffey Hall	4:45 pm	Market Day Pick-up
Saturday	St. Therese	7:00 am	Men's Prayer Group
Sunday	Church	All Masses	Ladies Club Bake Sale
	Parish Center	8:30 am	Nursery
	Parish Center	8:30 am	Children's Liturgy
	School	9:30 am	Religious Education
	Duffey Hall	11:30 am	Parish Christmas Party
Gym	1:00 pm	Band Concert	
Parish Center	7:00 pm	Youth Room	

LADIES CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

There is a Christmas party on Thursday, Dec 6th, at 6:30 pm in Duffey Hall, for all the women/girls of the parish. It comes complete with food, entertainment, decorations and \$5.00 gift exchange (optional). Mark your calendar and plan on coming. Any questions call Eileen Walters 353-9243.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This weekend, our Christmas giving trees are in the gathering area. You will be invited to take tags from the tree to help provide Christmas gifts for those less fortunate. Wrapped gifts should be returned to church on the

weekend of December 15th and 16th. Please be sure the tag from the tree is firmly attached to the outside of the wrapped gift.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE
YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH**

Weekly Budget Goal	\$ 13,650.00
Collection of November 17 th and 18 th	\$ 11,690.22
Electronic Contribution 11/13 to 11/19	\$ 3,346.00
Collection of November 24 th and 25 th	\$ 11,242.15
Electronic Contribution 11/20 to 11/26	\$ 380.00
Year to Date Budget Goal	\$ 300,300.00
Year to Date Collections	\$ 258,983.79
Year to Date DEFICIT	\$ - 14,657.84

Home Improvement Fund

September Contributions	\$ 1,214.00
October Contributions	\$ 1,457.00
November Contributions	\$ 1,218.70

Legacy for our Mission Capital Campaign

As of 10/30/2007

Amount Pledged	\$898,000.00
Amount Received on Pledges	\$540,358.00

**IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RETURNED YOUR COMPLETED
STEWARDSHIP CARD, PLEASE DO SO
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU!**

Youth News

(grades 8 thru 12)

Youth choir - We will sing at the 6pm Mass on Sunday, December 2nd. Please meet in church at 5pm.

Youth room will be open on Sunday, December 9th immediately following the 6pm Mass until 8:30 pm.

Candidates will meet on Sunday, December 2nd in the parish center beginning from 7:15 pm until 9:00 pm.



Our recycling company is running an additional promotion for the period of October thru March that could allow us to gain earn an additional \$1,000.00. We will need to collect 72.86 tons during this time period, and our past success indicates we can do this again! **Tell your friends and neighbors! Looks like we will need lots of help this time!**

Month	Amt. Needed	Collected to date
October	11.12 tons	8.90 tons
November thru 11/15	14.05 tons	5.48 tons

**Babysitting Service Available
By Scecina Swimming and Diving Team**

When: Sunday, Dec. 2nd and 9th

Where: Scecina Memorial High School

From: Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Gift-wrapping available from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Donations will benefit the swim and dive team.