

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

MASSES OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

- 9:00 am James Byrne (d)
11:00 am Tau Nguyen (d)
7:00 pm For the parishioners

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017

- 8:30 am Dennis Bedel (d)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

- 8:30 am Madelyn Voss (d)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

- 8:30 am Rose Dugan (d)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

- 8:30 am Bill Mills (d)
3pm-5pm EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017

- 8:30 am Helen & Jack Vogeles (d)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

- 8:30 am Khiem Pham (d)
4:30 pm Don Westendorf (d)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

- 9:00 am Marie Axt (d)
11:00 am Robert Rinear (d)

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

- 3:00 pm Kitty & Jack Kloepfer (d)
5:00 pm Bernie Geiser (d)
Midnight In Memory & Honor for
whom flowers were donated

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9:00 am Lisa Limerick (d)
11:00 am Deceased Prost family
7:00 pm NO MASS

St. Lawrence is thinking of you!

WELLINGTON: Margie Frommeyer

**PLACE YOUR AD IN OUR BULLETIN AND
SUPPORT OUR PARISH!**

**PRICE HILL CHILI
471-9507
Open Sundays 7am – 3pm**

PLEASE NOTIFY US AT THE RECTORY when a family member is hospitalized or homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion and/or the Sacrament of Penance.

SERVERS

December 23/24

- 4:30 pm Charlotte Sunderman
9:00 am Jay Brannon
11:00 am Emma Pitman
7:00 pm NO MASS

LECTORS

December 23/24

- 4:30 pm Sign-up
9:00 am Sign-up
11:00 am Sign-up
7:00 pm NO MASS

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

December 23/24

- 4:30 pm Sign-up
9:00 am Sign-up
11:00 am Sign-up

7:00 pm NO MASS

Please be sure to stop in the sacristy before Mass to let Father know you are present. Thank you!

OFFERING

DECEMBER 10, 2017	\$8,747.64
RETIREMENT FUND	\$2,479.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	\$1,914.00

Thank You for your Generosity!

Vocation View: Rejoice always! Our Savior is near! The call to priesthood and/or religious life is a source of great joy to those who embrace their call with their whole heart, mind and soul. (1 Thes 5:16)

Thought for the Day: It is by the path of love, which is charity that God draws near to man and man to God. But where charity is not found, God cannot dwell. If, then, we possess charity, we possess God, for "God is Charity". (1 Jn. 4:8)

St. Albert the Great

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Rose Hart who died recently.



The Laurentian

BINGO

Sunday workers: please report at 11:30am

Tuesday workers: please report at 5:30pm

Parents of the students listed below are asked to work the following Bingo:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: Yesenia Bail-Ramirez, Lawrence Brown, Huyen Dao

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19: Dominique Dunn, Empress Hampton, David Hillman

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24: NO BINGO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26: Ta'Kaia Miller, Arianna Pence, Brayon Perez-Vasquez

Diocesan Publications: Jim Mazza representing Diocesan Publications (our bulletin publisher) is renewing present advertisements and seeking new ones. If interested, please call the parish office, or you may contact Jim directly at 748-3007 or jmazza@diocesan.com. We feel this is an excellent service and the sponsors get good coverage with their ads. THANKS TO YOU and DIOCESAN PUBLICATIONS, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish.

"In Loving Memory Spaces": In January, 2018, a section on the back of the bulletin will be available to list the name of a deceased loved one. The cost is \$55 per name and their name will remain on the bulletin for one year. Or now, you can purchase a small space on the back for just your loved one or ones and insert their picture and birthday and have your own space to remember your loved ones. One space is \$220 per year and two spaces are \$440 per year. If interested, please clip and fill out the slip below and put it in the collection basket or mail to: St. Lawrence Church, 3680 Warsaw Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45205.

Make checks payable to Diocesan Publications

Loved One's Name _____

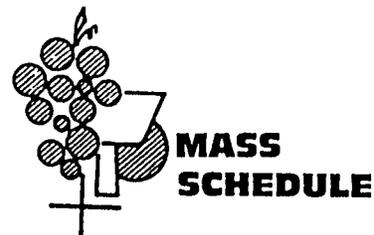
Your Name _____

Phone Number _____



Eucharistic Adoration: An excellent way to prepare for Christmas is to make a good confession and spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration. Eucharistic Adoration is on Thursdays from 3pm-5pm. During Eucharistic Adoration, I hear confessions from about 3:15pm-3:45pm.

Christmas Masses: Please make sure you see the Christmas and New Year's Mass schedule on the **GREEN** insert in the Laurentian!



St. John the Baptist, 509 Harrison Avenue, Harrison, Ohio is starting to sell tickets for their annual 2018 Lotto. How would you like a chance to win money every week of the year in 2018? It's easy when you buy a SJB Jaguar Lotto ticket between now and December 31, 2017 or until all Lotto Tickets are sold. The first winning ticket will be drawn on January 1, 2018. Tickets are \$20/each and every ticket is eligible for every drawing! A total of \$10,000 will be given away in 2018.

Following are the prizes \$1000 (1) winner on Easter, and \$1000 (1) winner on Christmas, \$500 (1) winner on July 4 and (1) winner on Thanksgiving Day, \$300 (1) winner on January 1, March 9 (Fr. Kemper's birthday), June 24 (Feast of St. John the Baptist), September 2 (Labor Day), November 1 (All Saints Day), and December 31. Also, one \$100 winner each week of the year.

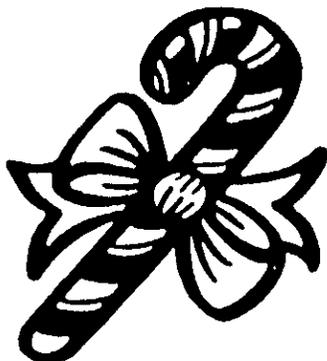
If you wish to purchase a 2018 raffle ticket, please mail your check to St. John the Baptist. Attention: Angie Land. Make checks payable to St. John the Baptist Lotto. Need not be present to win. Must be at least 18 years of age.

The Candy Cane

The development of the candy cane took a few hundred years. Before the invention of the modern pacifier, parents used to give their babies unflavored white sugar sticks to suck on. During the 1670's, a German choirmaster had the sugar sticks bent into a shepherd's staff and passed out to children attending the Christmas services. This holiday custom spread throughout Europe and fancy canes, decorated with roses, were used as Christmas decorations in many homes. About 1900 the white candy cane received its traditional red stripes and peppermint flavoring. At the same time the legend of the candy cane came into being. According to this legend, a candy maker in Indiana designed the candy cane to tell the true story of Christmas—a story about a virgin giving birth to a Shepherd who would give up His life for the sheep.

Legend of the candy cane as told by the Indiana candy maker:

It had to be special to be a gift for the King of Kings, thought the humble candy maker from Indiana. Not just any piece of candy would do. It had to be hard candy because the church is built on solid rock and God's promises are a firm foundation. It would be formed in the shape of the Good Shepherd's staff—a "J" that would also stand for the precious name of Jesus. But it had to say more. White stripes would symbolize the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Christ. Three small red stripes would represent the scourging Jesus suffered on His way to the cross. One large red stripe would be a reminder of the blood Jesus shed as payment for our sins. It would be a gift of love that would tell His story—the greatest story ever told.



Gift for the Baby Jesus: St. Lawrence will once again be collecting new and used baby items. The items will be donated to Pregnancy Center West. They are in need of diapers of all sizes, formula, baby food, new and gently used baby clothes, car seats, walkers, etc. Please put donations in the manger in church. Thank you for helping God's precious ones!



Cincinnati Men's Conference: Attention: moms, grandmothers, wives and girlfriends! A ticket to The Cincinnati Men's Conference on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Taft Theatre makes this year's perfect Christmas gift. A faith-filled day where men from all over will enjoy Catholic inspiration and spiritual growth. Features speakers: 1) Fr. Mitch Pacwa of EWTN 2) Fr. Larry Richards, founder of Reason for Hope Foundation 3) Coach Jerry Faust, former head football coach of Moeller High School and the University of Notre Dame 4) Most Reverend Archbishop Dennis Schnurr as the main celebrant and 5) A surprise 5th speaker to be announced. Get complete information on the conference and purchase tickets at www.CincinnatiMensConference.com. The event is presented by CMG Booking (the Catholic Speakers Organization) and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Project Rachel is a Ministry of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that serves anyone who has experienced a loss of a child due to abortion. There are a variety of ways persons can engage in this ministry for healing from a recent loss or a loss that occurred decades ago: one-on one conversation with a peer, priest or deacon, consultation with a priest (we can accommodate a need for consulting in Spanish), a day of reflection for anyone who has experienced loss (mother, grandparent, father, sibling, friend, etc.) support groups and retreats for mothers who lost their child due to abortion. For more information call the Project Rachel Help Line at 784-0531 or contact Noreen Wendeln at nwendeln@catholiccincinnati.org.

The Laurentian

Christmas in Bethlehem: A family celebration of the light of the season is at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center from now until January 5 featuring an outdoor starlit stable scene, mangers from around the world and a poster display of approved Marian apparitions. In addition, we plan choral concerts, family ornament making and a movie. Questions call 351-9800.



The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

During the time of Advent, many people have an Advent wreath in their homes. While these decorations are certainly festive and add to the holiday spirit, there is also much symbolism in the wreath that people may not recognize.

First, the wreath is always in the form of a circle. Since a circle has no beginning and no end, it is a symbol of God, who is eternal and without beginning or end.

The Advent wreath is always made from evergreens. These branches, as the name indicates, are “ever green” – ever alive. They are symbolic of Christ, who died, but who is alive, never to die again. The evergreen branches also symbolize our soul’s immortality. Christ came into the world to give us never-ending life. Entwined around the circle of evergreens are red berries. They look like large red drops of blood, and symbolize the bloodshed by Christ for mankind. They remind us that Christ came into this world to die for us and redeem us. It is through the shedding of His blood that we have eternal life.

The wreath has four candles, three violet ones and one rose colored candle. These symbolize the four weeks of the Advent season, our time of preparation for Christmas. Each day, the Liturgy tells us of the Hebrew expectation of the Messiah in the Old Testament reading, and the Gospels begin to introduce us to the characters of the Christmas story.

(cont’d from previous column)

At the beginning of Advent a single candle is lit, but each week another candle is lit. As the light from the wreath increases each week as more candles are lit, the wreath reminds us that the birth of the Light of the World is coming closer. So may our souls grow brighter in their love for, and anticipation of, the Christ Child as this season of grace continues.

The color of the four candles also has significance. The violet candles have a penitential appearance, much as we find violet in the church during the penitential season of Lent. The violet is to remind us that Advent is a season of preparation in which we should be spiritually preparing our souls to receive Christ on Christmas. The single rose-colored candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, which is called “Gaudete “ Sunday. “Gaudete” is the Latin word for “rejoice” and symbolizes an element of rejoicing in the midst of our penitential preparation, for the joy of Christmas is almost here.

Mixing violet with white makes the rose color. It is almost as if the joy we celebrate at Christmas (symbolized by bright white) cannot contain itself during this penitential season (violet) and burst forth a bit into the Advent season. On Christmas, the four candles are replaced with a white one – our time of preparation is over and we enter a time of great joy.

The Advent wreath should be placed in a prominent place in our church. Many families have a smaller Advent wreath in their homes. This both reminds families of the wreath in their church and serves as a reminder of their link to the parish church. The candles are lit the main meal of the day, with the new candle lit preferably at the main meal on Sunday, the first day of the week. Joining around the table for a meal should remind the family of the table of the Lord around which they gather each week to celebrate the Eucharist – the meal of the Lord that nourishes our soul.

So, the next time you see or display an Advent wreath, don’t just think of it as a nice decoration. Remember all the symbolism it has for us as it reminds us of the need for spiritual preparation to fully share in the great joy of the birth of Christ, the Son of God who gave His life for us so that we might have eternal life.