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December 3, 2017 • First Sunday of Advent

As we enter into a new Advent season, our readings urge us to watch eagerly for our redeemer. Isaiah cries out to the Lord with feeling, "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down"! Thanks be to God, we know the Lord has come down to us. God is, in fact, still present among us in the Eucharist and in every created thing. Yet, like Saint Paul, we know Jesus promises to come again; we await that mysterious, final revelation in fellowship with Jesus and one another.

Even in the best of Christian communities, however, waiting can be dreary and difficult. Mark's Gospel gets our adrenaline flowing: "Be watchful! Be alert!" Although we have the enormous consolation of knowing Jesus already saved the world by his death and resurrection, we must ask the Spirit to rouse us to prayer and service as together we watch for Jesus.

**SAINT PATRICK
CHURCH**
14936 W. PEOTONE RD.
MANHATTAN, ILLINOIS 60442



**FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2017**

FR. SEBASTIAN GARGOL PASTOR
Rev. Mr. Milt Leppert, Permanent Deacon
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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2, 2017
5:00 pm †Jim & Rita Phelan req. by Ed & Judy Phelan

Sunday, December 3, 2017
9:00 am †Suzanne Pruchinicki req. by Paul Pruchinicki also The Parish Family of St Patrick

Monday, December 4, 2017
9:00 am †Nancy Jasinski - Ann Marie Jasinski and Family

Tuesday, December 5, 2017—NO MORNING MASS
6:00 pm Adoration until 9:00 pm

Wednesday, December 6, 2017 - NO MORNING MASS

Thursday, December 7, 2017
9:00 am NO MORNING MASS

Friday, December 8, 2017 - Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation
5:00 pm †Jerry Phelan req. by Ed & Judy Phelan

Saturday, December 9, 2017 - FIRST SATURDAY
5:00 pm †Thomas & Diane Paulaskas req. by Ann Marie Jasinski Family

Sunday, December 10, 2017
9:00 am †Rose Smith req. by Bob & Mae Johnson /also Parish Family of St. Patrick

Altar Servers:

Saturday, December 9, 2017- 5:00 pm
Matthew Jasinski, Brent Bieschke

Sunday, December 10, 9:00 am
Matthew & Gabriel Barta

Extraordinary Minister:

Saturday, December 9, 2017 - 5:00 pm
Jim Kreske

Sunday, December 10, 2017 - 9:00 am
Grace Niemiec

Lector

Saturday, December 9, 2017 - 5:00 pm
Sue Nugent

Sunday, December 10, 2017 - 9:00 am
Steve Hoehn

Usher:

Saturday, December 9, 2017- 5:00 pm
Howard Bieschke, Mark Tillitson

Sunday, December 10, 2017- 9:00 am
Dennis Skolasinski, volunteer

Music: Cathy Engler / Matt Baskerville

Collection Counters : Johnson

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

For the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, the weekly Sunday collection goal is \$2,463.93

Sunday, November 26 \$2,227.00

Thank you for your support of our Parish

***Please Participate!
Your Gift Makes a Difference!***

Parish Goal: \$ 9,635.00
Amount Pledged: \$12,615.00
Amount Paid: \$11,840.00
2017 Rebate \$ 1,544.00



Thank you for your generous response.



Our Online Giving system provides you the opportunity to give to our special collections in addition to regular offerings. You can choose to do a One Time Gift or a special remembrance, or you can set up regularly scheduled contributions that are withdrawn on the date you specify in the system. Even if you typically use your offering envelopes, you may wish to contribute online to a particular collection. It's easy and it's convenient! Go to our parish website at stpatrickwiltoncenter.org. to sign up.



Our Two Week Candle is burning for Keigher & Kuntz Families req. by Roger & Janet Keigher.

Buy from Amazon You can start your Advent with "The Wonder of the Greatest Gift" by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. The link is on our website. Log into your amazon account through our website first. "We are a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate advertising program designed to provide a means for us to earn fees by linking to Amazon.com and affiliated sites."



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Flower offering envelopes are in your collection packet and also in the back of church. If you would like to honor a special person or make a donation in memory of a loved one, enter their name(s) on the envelope or on a sheet of paper and return in the collection. The names will be published in the Christmas Bulletin. Flowers will remain in church. Donations must be returned by December 10 to be included in the Christmas Bulletin.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Soon, our parishes will be conducting the appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an annual collection that benefits more than 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Our senior religious are a treasure. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and numerous social service organizations. Many continue in volunteer ministry today. Their ongoing prayer and witness enrich our faith in countless ways. I am grateful for the service of religious, past and present. I hope you, too, recall a sister or brother who made a positive difference in your life.

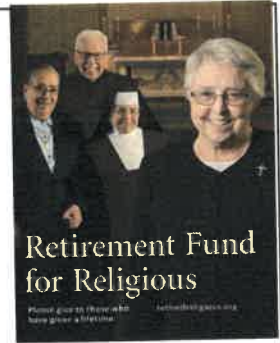
Most elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet such day-to-day needs as medications and nursing assistance. The Retirement Fund for Religious offers financial support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you only to give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Rest assured they are praying for you!



Bishop, Diocese of Joliet

This special collection will be taken up next weekend, at all of the Masses. Extra Collection are available in the back of church.



*From the fullness of his grace
we have all received one*

Blessing

after another.

John 1:16



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

St. Patrick, Wilton Center— 12/8/17— 5:00 pm
St. Rose, Wilmington—12/8/17— 8:00 am
7:00 pm
St. Joseph, Manhattan— 12/8/17 — 7:00 am
8:45 am
12:00 (NOON)
7:00 pm
St. Paul, Peotone— 12/7/17— Vigil - 6:30 pm
12/8/17 - 7:15 am
St. Boniface, Monee— 12/8/17— 8:30 am and 7:15 pm

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

**ST. PATRICK—FR. SEBASTIAN WILL BE AVAILABLE ON TUESDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 5, 12,19 at 7:00pm**

ST. JOSEPH, MANHATTAN—MONDAY, DECEMBER 18—6:00 PM

ST. PAUL, PEOTONE— WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20—6:30 PM

ST. BONIFACE—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21—6:00 PM

ST. ROSE, WILMINGTON—EVERY THURSDAY EVENING FROM 6-7PM



**LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE HELP
THERE IS A SIGN UP SHEET ON THE TABLE IN
THE VESTIBULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS
PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR
PERSONAL SCHEDULE AND SIGN UP WHERE YOU CAN**



**NEWLY BAPTIZED
BARRETT MATTHEW CYRIER
Son of
Darren & Kristin Cyrier
Baptized in our Parish
November 25, 2017**

LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of
God must be pure, with a heart as
innocent as a child's.

--St. Nicholas



CHRISTIAN HELP FOUNDATION.
Gift tags are on the table in the vestibule
Please take a tag or two and bring an
Unwrapped gift back BY DECEMBER 10.

There are more than 400 children in need in our area. Here are some gift-giving guides:

- Please refrain from giving clothing, except for babies. The sizes of the children begin served is unknown.
 - Please no food items because of unknown food tolerances
 - Young children-building blocks, board games and art supplies
 - Teens -MP3 players, fishing gear, games and gift cards (Mar Theater, Subway, McDonalds, Burger King, Hair/Nail salons, other local establishments)
- Hats, mittens, gloves & scarves are always needed.



BE AN ANGEL

Caring Closet, along with Christian Help Association will be collecting New or like new Coats, Snow Suits, Snow Pants, gloves, Mittens, Scarves and other warm winter wear. Please have items here by December 10

PROJECT NEIGHBOR

Through the Christian Help Association, project neighbor will provide blankets or throws to our neighbors in need with emphasis on our senior citizens. Blankets can be hand made or purchased approx. 48 X 60 in size. Please drop off items by December 10



GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN
YOUR PRAYERS**

Preston Wilcox; James Drozd; Nancee Long; Brett Burkhalter; Joyce Albers; Jeanne Kuzmitz; Steve Gallagher; Shay Phelan; Michelle Schneider; Barb Flatt; Naomi Theresa; Mary Cole; Torie Jasinski; Loretta Long; Jim Price; Dennis Kwain; Nancy Lawrence; Megan & Lucy Skolasinski; Allison Grskovic; Matthew Phelan; Mike Irlie; Kurt Dobbartin; Grace Niemiec; Cathy Engler; Joe Zeman; Bonnie Hack

Anyone wishing to be on the prayer list should contact the office.

**Intention of the Holy Father
MONTH OF DECEMBER**

- That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Advent

Advent is a time for contemplation of God's love and mercy. Out of love for us He sent His only begotten Son Jesus to save us. Then, Jesus showed forth that love and mercy through His teachings and His actions. In spite of our sins, faults and failings—our unworthiness—He came to earth as God-made-Man to heal and save us.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK
December 3, 2017**



Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 -- 10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

First Sunday of Advent

Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come.

-- Mark 13:33

*He will keep
you
firm to the
end
irreproach-
able on the
day of our
Lord
Jesus.
1 COR*



COMMERCIAL BREAK CLIFFHANGERS

Anyone who has ever turned on a TV is familiar with the cliffhanger strategy. Just before the climactic ending, a show is interrupted for a long series of advertisements. Dramas withhold their shocking endings, reality television makes us wait to see a makeover's big "reveal" or to learn who gets kicked off the show, and the intense battle of the last "two minutes" of Thanksgiving football games seems to take longer than the turkey in the oven. Though cliffhangers may irritate us, they almost guarantee we will watch the commercials in order to enjoy the resolution we long for. In a way, we are living in a commercial break. Forty days after rising from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven. The disciples stood gaping until angels snapped them out of it: "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Jesus' ascension is the cliffhanger; our daily life is what fills the time until Jesus comes back.

CAUGHT DOING GOOD

Thankfully, our daily life means so much more than any commercial break. We are not just marking time, because God treasures our daily thoughts, works, joys, and sufferings. Nothing escapes the loving attention of the Lord. Nothing is irrelevant to God. In fact, we are God's beloved servants, "each with [our] own work," as Jesus says in the Gospel. God knows intimately our challenges and wants to accompany us in all we do. A line from today's reading from Isaiah can help us connect our daily work with God's love: "Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!" During Advent, we can offer that prayer each morning, inviting the Lord to guide us as we live and wait.

Today's Readings: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;
1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

12/3/2017