



## December 3, 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

This past Monday, Bishop Paprocki and I concluded another round of Andrew Dinners in the seven deaneries of the diocese.

An Andrew Dinner is an event where priests of each deanery are encouraged to invite any young men who they feel might show signs of being open to a vocation to the priesthood. Just as St. Andrew invited his brother St. Peter to come meet Jesus, so these priests are inviting these young men to meet Jesus and ask more specifically what His will is for their lives.

At these dinners, the bishop and the priests present share a brief version of how they heard the call to consider the priesthood. At the dinner this past Monday was a former pastor of mine who had a big influence on my life. I shared with the group how I had been inspired by his reverent celebration of the Mass, his inspiring preaching, and his welcoming attitude. How he impacted me the most, however, was that I had gone to him for confession after having been away from that sacrament for more than ten years. That experience changed my life and was likely one of the key moments in putting me on the path of truly becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ, which would eventually lead to my hearing Jesus call me to this wonderful life as a priest.

I share this with you because of my firm conviction that the life of intentional discipleship to which all of us are called is intimately connected with our encountering the loving mercy of God, especially as He shares that gift with us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Advent is a time during which many Catholics make use of this gift as they prepare to welcome Christ into their lives in a special way as we celebrate His birth at Christmas. As our parish and our diocese begins this exciting journey of embracing a way of life rooted in discipleship and stewardship, let me humbly invite you to go to confession and see how encountering Jesus in this way can kindle a fire in your heart to want to love and serve Him more than ever before.

This will be my special prayer intention for our parish family during this Advent season. Having been profoundly affected by this wonderful sacrament, in my love for all of you, I can't help but desire for all of you to be touched by this gift as well.

Since I know going to a priest who knows you might be a little intimidating (though I promise we are both very friendly), I'll share with you that the Cathedral has confessions Monday through Friday from 4:15 pm to 5:00 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, Saturday from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, and Sunday from 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm.

- Father Alford

### Anointing of the Sick:

If you are going into the hospital for surgery or have a serious illness, receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Please call the parish office to receive the Sacrament, administered privately or during daily Mass. Call Barb Scoggins at 217-498-9197 to have a family member placed on the prayer list.

### Prayer List:

**Lynn F. Leach**, parishioner  
**Kathy Smith**, parishioner  
**Randy Brusco**, parishioner  
**Joyce Hogan**, parishioner  
**Evelyn Conboy**, parishioner  
**Jim & Mary Kates**, parishioners  
**JoAnn Camille**, parishioner  
**Harold Sheppard**, parishioner  
**David Laub**, parishioner  
**Betty & Ray Rowden**, parishioners  
**John & Co Fox**, son & daughter-in-law of John & Mary Fox  
**Bob Goin**, father of Vicki Walker  
**John Rentschler**, son of Ginger Rentschler  
**Diane Bartlett**, sister of Jeannette Waters  
**Adam Garrett**, brother of Carrie Zucco  
**Evelyn James**, cousin of Barbara Hattes  
**Margie Lammert**, mother of Sarah Clare  
**Nick Riordan**, cousin of Amy Zack  
**Steven Butts**, brother of Michelle Bullock  
**Mary Ann Midden**, mother of Kathleen Quinn  
**Reba Cloyd**, mother of Anita Schwab  
**Ray Roth Sr.**, father of Deacon Ray Roth  
**Jim Reiser**, father of Kevin Reiser  
**Joanne O'Connor**, sister of Ginger Rentschler  
**Jennifer Harbeck**, cousin of Brad Zack  
**Joanna Laabs**, wife of Deacon Al Laabs  
**Mary Alice Tuxhorn**, friend of JoAnn Camille  
**Fr. Barry Harmon**, Diocesan Priest



### In Memory:

**Mira Fox**, granddaughter Of John & Mary Fox  
**Evelyn Goin**, mother of Vicki Walker  
**Robert Beals**, husband of Frances Beals

## HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!!

The † symbolizes the Mass is for someone who is deceased.

### Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 8:30 a Confessions  
9:00 a Mass (Int: Leonard Howard†)  
10:00 a Decorating Church for Advent  
1:00 p Sew-n-Sews Christmas Potluck  
3:30 p Confessions  
4:30 p Mass (Int: Jim Waters†)

### Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 7:30 a Confessions  
8:00 a Mass (Int: Catholic War Veterans)  
9:10 a PSR  
9:30 a Wyndcrest: Calverts  
9:45 a Confessions  
9:45 a Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a Rosary  
10:30 a Mass (Int: For the Parish)

### Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00 a Counting Team #1  
5:00 p Confessions  
5:30 p Mass (Int: Christopher Weier†)  
6:00 p *The Bible Timeline*  
7:00 p Pastoral Council meeting

### Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 a Morning Prayer  
7:30 a Mass (Int: Mary Calvert†)  
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary

### Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 a Morning Prayer  
7:30 a Mass (Int: Limper/Engeling families)  
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary  
6:00-8:00 p Confessions  
6:30 p PSR

### Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 a Morning Prayer  
7:30 a Mass (Int: Kathy Blasko†)  
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary  
6:00 p Mass (Int: All Souls†)  
7:00 p Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

#### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

- Office Closed  
7:00 a Mass (Int: For the Parish)  
6:00 p Mass (Int: Bob Gatschenberger†)

### Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

- 10-11:30 a Confessions  
3:30 p Confessions  
4:30 p Mass (Int: Tim Kincaid†)

### Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

- 7:30 a Confessions  
8:00 a Mass (Int: John Brandis†)  
9:10 a PSR  
9:30 a Wyndcrest: Fr. Alford  
9:45 a Confessions  
9:45 a Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a Rosary  
10:30 a Mass (Int: John Blasko†)

### Parish Sacrificial Giving Fiscal Year 7/1/17-6/30/18

	Last Week	Year to Date
Collection (89)	\$ 4,432.00	\$108,856.33
Electronic funds (19)	\$ 2,005.00	\$ 26,252.50
Bldg. Dev. Fund (4)	\$ 103.00	\$ 5,847.00
EFT – Dev. Fund (4)	\$ 225.00	\$ 3,205.00
Poor Fund	\$ 48.25	\$ 1,259.67
Children's Stewardship(1)	1.00	\$ 13.00
Justice & Hope (4)	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,211.41
Calvary Cemetery (2)	\$ 20.00	\$ 376.00
Number of collection envelopes used:	99	
Number of electronic contributions:	24	

#### LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

##### Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 p.m.

**Euch. Min.:** Fr. Adam, Riedle, Deacon Tom  
**Lectors:** Bertrand, Blumhorst  
**Servers:** H, M, M Weier  
**Hospitality:** D & J Kratz, J Thull

##### Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 a.m.

**Euch. Min.:** Fr. Alford, L & R Eifert, Godar  
**Lectors:** Helling, Newman  
**Servers:** Lauwerens, McClintock, Newman  
**Hospitality:** D & M Anderson, Brandis, McWard

##### Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 a.m.

**Euch. Min.:** Fr. Adam, Clare, Livengood,  
Deacon Ray  
**Lectors:** Kerley, Kohlrus  
**Servers:** Delgado, A & A Livengood  
**Minister of Care:** Fr. Alford  
**Hospitality:** Decker Family  
**CLOW:** Kohlrus

#### Volunteer for this week – Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>

**Church Dusters:** Suzann Segatto & John & Mary Fox  
**Recycling Vol. Dec.:** Jeanette Waters  
**Dec. Food Volunteer:** David Waters Family  
**Coffee & Donuts Sun., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>:**  
Don & Roberta Vanover

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Dec. 3-Dec. 10**

**Sunday:** IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7  
**1COR** 1:3-9                      **MK** 13:33-37

**Monday:** IS 2:1-5                      **MT** 8:5-11

**Tuesday:** IS 11:1-10                      **LK** 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** IS 25:6-10A                      **MT** 15:29-37

**Thursday:** IS 26:1-6                      **MT** 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** GN 3:9-15, 20                      **EPH** 1:3-6, 11-12  
**LK** 1:26-38

**Saturday:** IS 30:19-21, 23-26  
**MT** 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8

**Sunday:** IS 40:1-5, 9-11                      **2PT** 3:8-14  
**MK** 1:1-8



**CHRISTMAS FRIENDS**

This weekend and next will be the time to drop off your Christmas Friends gifts at the parish center. You can drop them off after mass, or during the week during office hours. If you are interested in helping to deliver them, please contact Deacon Tom at [twalker@stjude.dio.org](mailto:twalker@stjude.dio.org) with your name, phone number and email address. **Your help is needed** to make this program a success. Remember, you must be in compliance with the Protecting God's Children program to volunteer for the Christmas Friends Program.

Dec. 2/3 – Gift drop-off week #1  
 Dec. 9/10 – Gift drop-off week #2

Dec. 15 - 7:30 a.m. Volunteers meet at St. Jude Parish Center to pack trailers and vehicles.  
 8:00 a.m. St. Patrick's School to deliver gifts  
 9:30 a.m. Aperia Care Center to deliver gifts.

**Confession Times During Advent**

**Normal Times:**

Monday – 5:00-5:20 p.m.  
 Saturday – 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.  
 Sunday – 7:30 a.m.- 7:50 a.m.  
 Sunday – 9:45 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.

**Additional Times for Advent:**

Saturday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
 (Dec. 9, 16, 23)  
 Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
 (Dec. 6, 13, 20)  
 Thursday, Dec. 14 6:30 p.m. – combined Parish Penance Service at Little Flower, Spfld  
 Monday, Dec. 18 – 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
 (during Adoration)

**Prather Family**



**Ward Family**



We are pleased to welcome Chloe Nell Prather, who received the Rite of Baptism on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

We are also pleased to welcome Kevin Ward, who was received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mission Trip Meeting!!!**

The next meeting for the 218 Mission Trip will be held **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Topics for discussion will be the next fundraiser and available seats for the trip. Your input is important, so please plan to attend!

**Razzo's "Pack the House Event"**  
On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Razzo's Restaurant in Rochester will give a percentage of all dine-in, carry-out, delivery and gift card sales to our Mission Trip Youth. Please mark your calendars to enjoy some delicious pizza on that date!



**PSR NEWS** – December is when we collect cans of Chili to donate to the Food Pantry. Remember to bring in your donation to PSR!

**Upcoming Parish Meetings/Events:**

Sat., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10 am Decorate church for Advent  
 Sat., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12:30 pm Sew-n-sews potluck  
 Mon., Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm Pastoral Council meeting  
 Thurs., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass  
 Fri., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm Mass for Immaculate Conception  
 Wed., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – noon Ladies Tea/Bunco potluck  
 Thurs., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Mission Trip meeting

**Retirement Fund for Religious** – Next weekend we will take up a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation will help the religious communities provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Your generosity is much appreciated.

### **NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

The Novena in Honor of the Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated each evening at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 524 E. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, from Thursday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. The Novena will begin at 7:00 p.m. each evening, except for the final evening on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, when it will conclude with the 5:15 p.m. Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Each evening will include a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Liturgy of the Word, Rosary Benediction, Novena Prayer and the recitation of the Litany of Loreto. Fr. Alford will be the Homilist on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

### **SHG Placement Test for 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Students**

All area 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to Sacred Heart-Griffin on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. for the Placement test for incoming freshmen. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Students should enter through the circle drive entrance at 1200 W. Washington St. and bring two #2 pencils and a \$10 testing fee. Calculators are allowed.

There will be a parent meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Choral Room where Tuition Manager Becky Jones and President Sr. Katherine O'Connor will be available to answer questions.

For more information, call Stephanie Phillips at 217-787-1595 ext. 126, or email [phillips@shg.org](mailto:phillips@shg.org).

### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie Walk**



The St. John Vianney women's Society will hold their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. until noon in the activity center at 902 St. John Drive in Sherman. Shoppers will be

able to select their favorites from dozens of varieties of fancy cookies, candies and breads. Cookies are sold for \$6.50 per lb. We will also offer pre-packaged trays for the hurried shopper. There will also be other vendors, a silent auction, and raffle.

**Hansen Heating & Cooling**  
**Home of the \$50 Service Call**  
**217-525-8452**

### **We Keep Advent**

The slow sailing of the Earth around its star brings another winter. An old hymn sings our impatience:

How long, dear Savior, O how long,  
shall this, thine hour delay?  
Fly swift around, ye wheels of time,  
and bring the promised day.

We wait for Christmas. Yet even more, the church looks forward to that promised day when Christ will return and time will end.

But in all the anticipation and preparation, let's not overlook the present moment, this holy time of Advent. We keep Advent now until sunset on December 24.

The word *advent* is from a Latin word for "coming."

We remember Christ's first coming at Bethlehem, and we "wait in joyful hope" for Christ to return in glory.

John of Damascus (who died in the early 8th century) wrote this prayer: "You have taken me captive with longing for you, O Christ, and have transformed me with your divine love. Burn up my sins with the fire of your Spirit and count me worthy to take my fill of delight in you, that, dancing with joy, I may magnify your two comings."



### **Prophet Isaiah**

Written down in its present form about 200 years before the birth of Christ, the book of Isaiah is a collection of prophesies, some of

which were told for centuries before being put to papyrus. Next to the Psalms, it is the most frequently quoted scripture in the gospels and epistles. No wonder. In Isaiah's stirring images, the church sees the coming of God's reign: good news for the poor, the release of the captive, freedom for the oppressed.

The gospel of Luke tells us that the first time Jesus preached the scriptures in the synagogue, he preached on a passage from the book of Isaiah. All during Advent we read through this holy book. Promise yourself to listen carefully to what we hear. Peek into your own Bible, too, and look to Isaiah. (We'll return to Isaiah on Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil, too.) Gaze into a candle's flame. Look up at the starry sky. With Isaiah imagine a world where blind people see, where people who couldn't walk now dance, where lions frolic with lambs, and where children are safe from all harm.

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