



December 24, 2017 4th Sunday of Advent

A few years ago, I was attending a meditation given by a priest shortly before Christmas. He mentioned that his favorite Christmas song was “The Little Drummer Boy.” Ever since then, I’ve listened to the words of that song more carefully and found in them some helpful points for my own reflection surrounding the birth of Jesus. I’m happy to share some of those with you as we once again celebrate this joyful feast.

In the second verse, the drummer boy recognizes that he has “no gift to bring...that’s fit to give our King.” When it comes to Christmas, we spend a lot of time, energy, and money on gifts to give other people. That’s a respectable tradition, but do we consider giving a gift to the one whose birthday is the reason for this great day? To be sure, the drummer boy has it right, recognizing that there is nothing that we can give Him that is fit for the Messiah. We know that God has no need of anything from us, and that can be a humbling thought. Even though He does not need us, He *wants* us. Otherwise, He would have given up on us after the sin of our first parents. Instead, He loves us so much that He wants us to share in the gifts He desires to shower upon us.

So, then, the question still remains – what can we give to this newborn King who has no need of anything that we can bring? Look at the next verse as the drummer boy looks at what little he has and asks the question – “Shall I play for you...on my drum?” Mary, His Mother, nods, and the drummer boy begins to play his drum for Jesus. I remember reading a commentary on this song and how foolish it was of this boy. Why would you go banging a drum in front of a new baby? I think they miss the deeper point. In playing the drum, the boy is offering to Jesus what he has, humble as it may be, out of a sign of reverence for Him who is the Savior of the world. The Lord has blessed each of us with gifts, humble as they may seem to us. We don’t have to have extraordinary gifts in order to offer them to our God. What He wants is for us to use the gifts He has given to us in the best way possible as a sign of our gratitude for the giver of every gift that we have, the Lord Himself.


This Christmas, let us take some time to reflect on all of the gifts He has given to us, not worrying about what we lack or what other people have that might be more attractive than what we have. Then, let’s bring them to the newborn baby and resolve to use them to the best of our ability each day and experience the same thing the drummer boy did: “Then He smiled at me.” Merry Christmas!

- 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:

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- Lynn F. Leach**, parishioner
 - Kathy Smith**, 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
 - 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
 - Louise Cardoni**, aunt of Frances Tomashavich
 - Paul Huber**, brother-in-law of Marie Ginter
 - John Vercautern**, cousin of Laurie White
 - Fr. Barry Harmon**, Diocesan Priest

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Dec. 24-Dec. 31

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sunday: | 2SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 | LK 1:26-38 |
| | ROM 16:25-27 | HEB 1:1-6 |
| Monday: | IS 52:7-10 | JN 1:1-18 |
| Tuesday: | ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59 | MT 10:17-22 |
| Wednesday: | 1JN 1:1-4 | JN 20:1A, 2-8 |
| Thursday: | 1JN 1:5-2:2 | MT 2:13-18 |
| Friday: | 1JN 2:3-11 | LK 2:22-35 |
| Saturday: | 1JN 2:12-17 | LK 2:36-40 |
| Sunday: | SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 | COL 3:12-21 |
| | | LK 2:22-40 |

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!!

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

Saturday, December 23rd

10-11:30 a **Confessions**
2:00 p **Bivens Baptism**
3:30 p **Confessions**
4:30 p **Mass** (Int: John Blasko†)

Sunday, December 24th

7:30 a **Confessions**
8:00 a **Mass** (Int: Mercedes Fleck†)
9:10 a **NO PSR**
9:30 a Wyndcrest: Wrincik
9:45 a **Confessions**
9:45 a **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 a **Rosary**
10:30 a **Mass** (Int: Brian Heissinger†)
4:30 p **Mass** (Int: For the Parish)
9:30-9:50 p **Choir Prelude**
10:00 p **Mass** (Int: All Souls†)

Monday, December 25th

Parish Office Closed
9:00 a **Mass** (Int: For the Parish)

Tuesday, December 26th

Parish Office closed
7:00 a Morning Prayer
7:30 a **Mass** (Int: Limper/Engeling families)
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary

Wednesday, December 27th

7:00 a Morning Prayer
7:30 a **Mass** (Int: All Souls†)
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary
9:00 a **Counting Team 4**
6:30 p **NO PSR**

Thursday, December 28th

7:00 a Morning Prayer
7:30 a **Mass** (Int: Kathy Blasko†)
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary

Friday, December 29th

7:00 a Morning Prayer
7:30 a **Mass** (Int: Michael R. Leach†)
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary

Saturday, December 30th

3:30 p **Confessions**
4:30 p **Mass** (Int: Robert Dees†)

Sunday, December 31st

7:30 a **Confessions**
8:00 a **Mass** (Int: For the Parish)
9:10 a **NO PSR**
9:30 a Wyndcrest: Nelson
9:45 a **Confessions**
9:45 a **Choir Rehearsal**
10:00 a **Rosary**
10:30 a **Mass** (Int: Evelyn Cannon†)

Monday, January 1, 2018

Parish Office Closed
9:00 a **Mass** (Int: For the Parish)

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

	Last Week	Year to Date
Collection (123)	\$ 7,848.30	\$127,835.13
Electronic funds (1)	\$ 200.00	\$ 29,255.60
Bldg. Dev. Fund (7)	\$ 193.00	\$ 7,029.00
EFT – Dev. Fund (0)	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,628.00
Poor Fund	\$ 27.01	\$ 1,378.33
Children's Stewardship(1)	1.00	\$ 15.00
Retired Religious (4)	\$ 170.00	\$ 2,256.00
Immac. Conception (2)	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,066.00
Cath. Childrens Home(2)	\$ 55.00	\$ 192.00
Number of collection envelopes used:	139	
Number of electronic contributions:	1	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Saturday, December 30th – 4:30 p.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Adam, Biesiada, Riedle, Scheufele

Lectors: Blumhorst, Maynerich

Servers: Heiple, Sommer

Hospitality: J & S Thull

Sunday, December 31st – 8:00 a.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, Krug, C & G Leach

Lectors: J & N Calvert

Servers: Delgado, Lauwerens, Zeidler

Hospitality: Brandis, McClintock family

Sunday, December 31st – 10:30 a.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Adam, Krug, Livengood

Lectors: Petty, Toliver

Servers: A & A Livengood, Long Jr.

Minister of Care: Nelson

Hospitality: Decker Family

CLOW: Kohlrus, Toliver

Volunteer for this week – Dec. 25th – Dec. 31st

Church Dusters: Donna Spurlock

Recycling Vol. Dec.: Jeanette Waters

Dec. Food Volunteer: David Waters Family

Coffee & Donuts: Sun., Dec. 31st:

Don & Roberta Vanover

St. Jude Parish Confession 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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter – Give your children the best gift possible: The abiding love between their parents. Learn how to encourage it by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend. The next Weekend in Springfield, IL is on March 23-25, 2018. The next Weekend in the St. Louis area is on February 2-4, 2018. To register or for more information call 314-649-7317 or go online to www.stl-wwme.org.



The staff joins me in extending prayerful blessings of Christmas joy, peace and love to each of you. You are being remembered in prayers especially at Mass throughout the Christmas Season.

March for Life 2018

The Diocesan March for Life pilgrimage to Washington, DC is January 17-21, 2018. With the early deadline for registration now past, space may be limited for the trip. Contact Kyle Holtgrave in the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for availability and rates. Kyle can be reached at (217) 698-8500 ext. 154 or by email kholtgrave@dio.org.

THANKS to **Kellie Brewer** and **Deacon Tom Walker** for facilitating the Christmas Friends Program again this year, and to **YOU** who provided the gifts for the many children, youth and adults who will be the recipients of your generosity. **THANK YOU.**



2018 CALENDARS

Wilson Park Funeral Home has graciously provided the 2018 Calendars for your use. Please take one. **THANKS** to **Greg & Kathy Park** for their generosity. These calendars will be available in the foyer of the Church and at the parish office.

The Razzo's "Pack the House Event"

On Sunday, December 17th was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who enjoyed a delicious meal and supported our Mission Trip Youth!

Catholic Children's Home Collection

For the past 138 years, the Catholic Children's Home in Alton has served as a 'beacon of hope' for thousands of children who have needed the love and compassion of God's mercy in their lives. Today, the Catholic Children's Home continues this mission by meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic needs of all the children sent for care and professional services, including a new program designed to serve the needs of children faced with the struggles of Autism. Please help to continue the good work by using your envelope and being as generous as you can. Thank you.

SHG Placement Makeup Test for 8th gr. Students

All area 8th graders are invited to SHG on Saturday, January 6, 2018 from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. for the Placement Test makeup 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 \$10.00 testing fee. Calculators are allowed. **Pre-registration for the makeup test is required.** Please call Stephanie Phillips at 787-1595, ext. 126, or email phillips@shg.org to register.

Elite Autobody & Paint Works
3901 Yucan Dr. 726-6200
1901 N. Dirksen Pkwy 744-0500
John Conlon, Co-owner

PLEASE NOTE: For **2017 Financial Contributions** to the parish, envelopes must be turned into the parish office by **12:00 noon on Sunday, December 31, 2017.**



FORMED.ORG is the newest offering from our Parish to you. FORMED.ORG is an online Catholic media center, offering movies, talks, ebooks, and Bible Studies.

It's easy to register for and easy to use.

Get FORMED Now!

It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- Visit stjude.formed.org with a web browser
- Click on Register (lower right of page)
- Enter Parish Access Code: 3VFNXZ
- Enter your email and create a password (you need this to login later)
- Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

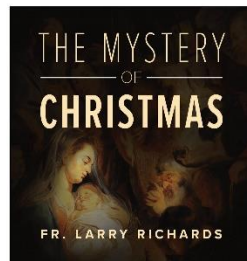
The Mystery of Christmas

By Fr. Larry Richards

Unwrap the Greatest Gift Ever Given with Fr. Larry Richards

With humor, compassion, and clarity, Fr. Larry illuminates the true joy of Christmas and inspires us to better recognize, receive and respond to God's immense love for us.

Listen on formed.org



"Fr. Richards challenged me to enter into the Christmas story with my eyes opened ... not just by celebrating Jesus' birth, but by participating in his life!"

—Maureen, Spencer, NY



PASTORAL COUNCIL POSITIONS

Each year three to four persons are selected to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council for a three-year term. The qualifications are: an actively participating and registered member of St. Jude Church and a willingness to commit to monthly meetings generally on the first Monday of each month. The Pastoral Council offers counsel and/or recommendations to the Pastor regarding the pastoral activity of the parish.

If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone to serve on the Pastoral Council, please use the form below, contact Mark Schudel, chairman, or the parish office by Friday, January 5, 2018. The names of those willing to serve on the Council will be placed in a bowl and four names will be drawn during the 5:30 Mass, Monday, January 8th. The First meeting of the new Council will be February 5, 2018

Recommendation for Pastoral Council

I would like to be considered to serve a three year term on the St. Jude Pastoral Council.

Name: _____

I would like to nominate the following person to serve on the St. Jude Pastoral Council:

Name: _____

