

The Week Ahead

We begin a new Liturgical Year; Readings are from Year C, Cycle 1

Sat / December 1

4pm - Vigil Mass: Irene Barrack † by M Barrack
St. Vincent dePaul & Food Pantry Collections

Sun / December 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent

9am - Mass: *People of the Parish*
St. Vincent dePaul & Food Pantry Collections
Coffee & Donuts after Mass, in the Parish Hall
10:30am - CCD Classes
1:30pm - **B--I--N--G--O**
12pm - Mass (L): Greg & Marie Curry - SI by M & M Winston

Mon / December 3 - St. Francis Xavier

9am - Mass: Nick VanderZyl - Thanksgiving by R & S Vander Zyl

Tue / December 4 - St. John Damascene

Wed / December 5

9am - Mass: Pres. Donald Trump - SI by M & M Winston
6:45pm - RCIA, in the Parish Library

Thu / December 6 - St. Nicholas / Office Closing at 10:30am

9am - Mass: For Dec. Members of our SVDP Society †
6pm - **B--I--N--G--O**

Fri / December 7 - St. Ambrose

9am - Mass: End to Abortion & Euthanasia by M Barrack
First Friday Confessions after Mass

Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation

6pm - Vigil Mass: Joe Wilson - SI by R & S Vander Zyl
Collection for Holy Day will remain in the Parish

Sat / December 8 - Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

9am - Mass: *People of the Parish*
Collection for Holy Day will remain in the Parish
Advent Quiet Day - see article on back & sign-up in vestibule
3-3:45pm - Confessions
4pm - Vigil Mass: Marty Barrack - SI by M Barrack
Monthly Maintenance Fund Collection

Sun / December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

9am - Mass: Gerald Stehno † by I & D Wiest
Monthly Maintenance Fund Collection
KC Breakfast after Mass, in the Parish Hall
10:30am - CCD Classes

Altar Flowers this week are compliments of:

•Bob & Clobeaut Laszacs for Deceased Family

Tabernacle Roses this week are compliments of:

•Bob & Clobeaut Laszacs † Julia Laszacs

Advent and New Liturgical Year

It is sad to see the world has forgotten when the Christmas Season *begins*. The decorations are in the stores after Labor Day. Some have their trees up before Thanksgiving, only to be discarded the day after Christmas when the REAL Season of Christmas has just barely begun. (Christmas Season continues until the Baptism of the Lord.)

This Advent, let us all try more diligently to spend time preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. We can commit to being more faithful to our daily prayers, including family prayer time; we can attend a weekday Mass and bring a family member or friend; we can go to Confession.

What does Christ want from *each* of us for His birthday this year? What can we give *Him*? The Psalms tell us, give "A heart contrite and humble." God bless us all this Advent!

Immaculate Conception

A Holy Day of Obligation

Next Saturday, December 8th, we celebrate *Mary's Immaculate Conception*. Masses will be Friday at 6pm and Saturday at 9am. (Please note, the 9am Mass on Saturday does not fulfill your Sunday obligation, as well as the 4pm Vigil Mass on Saturday does not fulfill your Holy Day Obligation. You are obliged to attend two separate Masses where the prayers and readings will be specific to the Solemnity being celebrated.) There will be one collection at both Holy Day Masses which will remain in our Parish.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Parish Christmas Party will be held Saturday, Dec. 15th, following the Vigil Mass. Meat and drinks will be provided by the Parish; parishioners are asked to bring the following:

A-R Side Dishes / S-Z Finger Desserts

Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule. Please let us know how many from your family will be attending, as well as the names and ages of your children. (*Only those children present will receive gifts.*)

For more information or questions, call Glenn Harris, 710-2692.

PC Mtg - Next Thursday - Dec. 13

Parishioners are invited to attend.
Join us in the Parish Library at 12Noon.

Birthdays Next Week:

- 3 - Greta Ishmael
- 4 - Annabelle Burton
- 6 - Petr Oberding, Michael Reddick
- 7 - Lori Templet
- 8 - Tomas Hernandez, Joseph Wilson

We wish you many blessings on your birthday!

Open Adoration Hours

Monday: 2-3pm

Thursday: 11am-12pm

Friday: 8:30-10pm

If interested in any of the above, or in being a substitute, please call Rose, 870-994-2744, or Anne, 870-847-1985.

Best Advent Ever

This year, prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join us for a Best Advent Ever, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during Advent. Each day, you'll receive an email with short inspirational videos from leading Catholic voices Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt and lots of practical tips. To sign-up, visit: <https://DynamicCatholic.com/best-advent-ever>.

Please join us for an Advent Quiet Day

"The Hidden Treasures of Christmas"

Schedule:

9 a.m., Eucharist, Feast of the Immaculate Conception

10:00 Refreshments and First Address

10:30-11:15 Silent reflection/meditation

11:15 Group sharing of reflections

Noon: Brown bag lunch

1:00 Second Address

1:30-2:15 Silent Reflection/meditation

2:30-3:15 Group sharing of reflections

3:15 Closing prayer & regularly scheduled confessions

Participants will receive a Third Address and questions for reflection as "homework". If there is enough interest we will gather after the Christmas Octave to discuss/share.

Dress comfortably and bring a Bible, a journal or notebook and a brown bag lunch.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule to help plan for handouts and refreshments.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."

~ C.S. Lewis

Wishing you all success for the New Beginning and a Fruitful Advent. ☺

Advent Penance Service

On Wednesday, December 12th, we will have a Penance Service. Father will begin with 6pm Mass, then follow with individual Confessions. One other priest will be here to help him. Fr. Amal wishes to remind everyone, the faithful are encouraged to go to Confession prior to Christmas and Easter each year. Please consider joining us.

Eternal Rest

We received word this week that longtime parishioner, Ruth Chandler, died. She was living in Indianapolis near her daughter. May Ruth now rest in Eternal Peace. †

New in January

Sign-up to be Gift Bearers at Mass

Would you like to be a Gift Bearer at Mass but feel like you never get called upon? You now have the ability to sign-up to be Gift Bearers, beginning in January. Sign-up sheets are available now on the bulletin board by the Sacristy (next to the flower and rose sign-up sheets). Pick the Vigil or Sunday Mass on the date you prefer and put your name down. You may sign-up as an individual, as a couple (friends or spouses), or as a family. Fr. Amal asks that you wear reverent attire to Mass on the weekend you have chosen. Also, please introduce yourselves to the ushers when you arrive at church so they know you are there and can give you any needed instructions before Mass begins.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention

December 2018

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.