

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

NOVEMBER 19, 2018



A FEW WORDS FROM FR. DAVE:

Continued thoughts and commentary on highlighted items in my prayer books.

A true friend loves you at all times.

Prov. 17

When we think about it, there is a broad category of friends that might be better classified as acquaintances. And, we describe friends in different ways: old friend, family friends, friends from school, friends from work, good friends, etc.

True friends are the best of friends. They love us when we are at our best, and they love us when we are at our worst. Much like God, they love us not because of what we do. Rather, they love us because of who we are. Whether we have one true friend in a lifetime or a handful, they are each unique and wonderful blessings. They are genuinely gifts from God.

When we pray to Jesus, we are also talking to a true friend. Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves, so we do not need to tell him about ourselves. But we usually do, because that is part of having a true friend – sharing with another from the depth of one’s being. I have been blessed, on rare occasions, to be talking with a non-Jesus true friend and having the experience of Jesus’ presence through, with, and in the other person. What a wonderful blessing our love of Jesus can lead us to greater love and trust of our friends. And our love and trust of our friends can lead us to a deeper experience of Jesus’ love for us.

DJN

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

“For Americans, Thanksgiving Day is a special day when we celebrate family unity. In Fact, families get together on Thanksgiving more often than on any other holiday, including Christmas.

“But besides the traditional family get-together and the big mal, there is also the religious meaning of the holiday that has been present since its origins. According to tradition, the pilgrims celebrated the first meal of thanksgiving in 1621 together with the group of natives to give thanks to God for the abundance of the harvests in the new world.

“Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving not only as a national holiday but also as a day symbolic for Catholics. After all, the word *Eucharist* comes from the Greek word, *eukaristein*, which means *thanksgiving*.

“The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that “Believing in God, the only One, and loving him with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life” (#222). Then it adds that this includes “living in thanksgiving: if God is the only One, everything we are and have comes from him: ‘What have you that you did not receive?’ (1 Cor 4:7) ‘What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me? (Ps 116:12)’” (#224).”

--AllSaintsPress.com

ADVENT YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Advent was originally celebrated as a kind of “Lent” during the forty days before the feast of Christmas. Gradually, Advent developed its own distinctive character, retaining a slight penitential dimension but emphasizing our joy-filled hope in the coming of the Lord.

Today, these two aspects continue side by side. During the first part of Advent, we are reminded through scripture that we are waiting for God’s coming and need to prepare. During the latter part of the season the focus shifts on the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. These lead us to introspection and renewal, and to the exuberant joy and celebration of Christmas.

This season of Advent as we begin a new year in the cycle of the Church, let us look for ways to deepen our faith. Now more than ever the Church needs the faithful to strengthen their faith and prayer life to be witness to the Gospel and help lead others to the great love of Jesus. Many avenues are available both through the internet or other materials. Check out these free resources as we begin a new liturgical year:

- The Word Among Us found on the bookcases at both St. Mary’s and St. John’s
- BestAdventEver.com/YoureInvited by Dynamic Catholic
- Word On Fire by Bishop Barron Advent email series at dailycatholicgospel.com
- Prayer pamphlets located at church
- The rosary
- Pick an article in The Catholic Moment each week.

It isn’t so much the material as the action. Make time to enhance your day with added prayer.

THREE ARRIVALS OF CHRIST

“Advent is a Latin word meaning *the coming* or *arrival*. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three arrivals of Christ.

Jesus Comes in Human History

Our celebration of Christmas focuses on the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The Christmas creche at home or in the church, Christmas pageants and liturgies all help us recall the moment Jesus was born as a human being to live his destiny as the Son of God and our redeemer.

Jesus Comes in Our Hearts

Alive and among us through the Holy Spirit, Jesus continually reaches out to us. Advent renews our desire for the daily coming of Jesus as we recall the story of our salvation and look forward to the coming of the kingdom. We “wait in joyful hope,” as the eucharistic liturgy says, for the coming of that kingdom.

Jesus Comes in Glory

The haunting melody and refrains of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* serve to remind us of our longing for the completion of Christ’s reign at the end of time. This season gives special meaning to the phrase from the Lord’s Prayer, “thy kingdom come.”--*AllSaintsPress.com*



CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the Feast of the Incarnation and Christ takes on a human body precisely so as to offer the sacrifice of that body that saves the world.

"A Savior is born for you." He is a savior precisely because he bears our human nature and has a human body like we do – a body offered on the cross and in the Eucharist.

As we see in readings and the Gospels, the details of His birth are carefully planned by God and foretold by his prophets. His birth is all about hope fulfilled and hope inspired. That hope outlasts his birth and extends to us today as we work to build a world in harmony with the vision of peace, life, and love that Christmas inspires.

Abortion is diametrically opposed to this vision of peace, life and love. May all believers and their clergy, take renewed strength and courage to speak out against abortion, consistent with the vision of Christmas and the proclamation of the Gospel.

"How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers."

--Saint Mother Teresa

NOVEMBER CHALLENGE BY K OF C

Jesus said to his disciples, “In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened...and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Gospel for Nov. 18, Mk. 13:24, 32)

There’s an old country Gospel song with a catchy refrain that asks this question: “What would you do if Jesus came to spend the day with you?” As Advent quickly approaches, the Church invites us to ponder this question—and prepare our hearts and souls accordingly. We frantically prepare for Christmas, buying gifts and decorating our homes. But will we prepare our soul with the same sense of urgency, purpose, and care? Advent is a sobering time of reflection on the second coming of Jesus. “What would you do if Jesus came to spend the day with you?” Soon he will. May we meet him with open arms and pure hearts.

NOVEMBER CHALLENGE by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori: **This month, recalling that we do not know the “day or the hour,” I challenge you to go confession, and make a commitment to go monthly thereafter as a means of maintaining vigilant care over your soul. Secondly, I challenge you in the coming month to forgive someone who has hurt you in some way.**

--Knights of Columbus.org

RADIATE THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE

(From 100 Prayers, Reflections by Fr. Leo Piguett)

**Let us rejoice and be glad
for Christ has come
to show us the path home.
Come, Lord Jesus!
bring your light into the
darkest recesses of the world
through us, your Body on earth today.
Shed the light of your justice where systems
oppress the imprisoned,
impoverish the destitute,
violate the young and helpless.
Radiate the light of your love where people
feel abandoned,
live in violence,
encounter hatred.
Show us our true home as we address these
needs in this time and place. Amen.**

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

We are six weeks into the pledge portion of the Fruitful Harvest 2018 biennial appeal, *Walking Together in the Light of Christ*. As a Catholic community, we are called to respond to God’s grace in our lives. Fruitful Harvest is an opportunity to respond to His grace by sharing your blessings.

If you have not already done so, I ask that you prayerfully consider your pledge and plan to participate in our diocesan appeal. Even if, at this time, you are not able to make a pledge, please return your card indicating such.

The diocesan goal is \$9,800,000 with St. John’s assessed \$44,717 and St. Mary’s set at \$13,697. As of November 16, St. John’s has received \$21,365 in 41 pledges and St. Mary’s has 13 pledges totaling \$8,550.

Extra pledge cards and envelopes are on the bookcases at both St. John’s and St. Mary’s. Feel free to contact the office if you wish to know your pledge from 2016. Contacts will begin in a couple of weeks to those that have not returned a pledge card.

Thank you to those that have returned the pledge card and thank you to all for your continued stewardship and prayers as we progress through this next diocesan appeal, “Walking Together in the Light of Christ.”

DJN



CAROL OF THE LIGHT

In a world which seems so dark; In a world which seems so lost:
May the light of Christ this Christmas, be a beacon, be a light.
May the light of Christ be a beacon, May the beacon light your way,

May the light send you forth, May it journey at your side,
May the love of the Christ-child be your guide.
In the cold of the night, in the warmth of the day, in the stillness of a newborn child;
When we can't comprehend, why our wars never end:
May the peace of Christ enfold you this year.

May the love of Christ flow among you, May it hold the weak and strong;
May that love never cease, May it offer signs of peace;
May the love of the Christ-child hold you strong.
In the cold of the night, in the warmth of the day, In the stillness of a newborn child;
When we can't comprehend why our wars never end:
May the peace of Christ enfold you this year.

By David Barton

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES:

DECEMBER

20 John & Karen Shields

29 Rich & Karen Uggen

JANUARY

8 Charles & Sarah Montgomery

BIRTHDAYS:

DECEMBER

3 Becky Cain

5 Ted Fettig

5 Rich Uggen

6 Jacob Holsten

12 Rose Stroup

16 Tom Aulbach

17 Steve Schuck

23 Kyle Holsten

25 Brian Kitterman

27 Amy Hardesty

JANUARY

8 Ammee Uggen

10 Adam Aulbach

21 Linda Trant

23 Jerry Trant

25 Bernadette Elkins

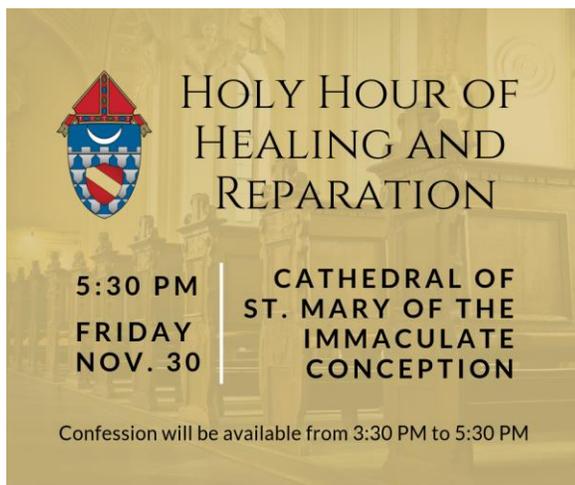
29 Jessica Kitterman

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*.



PRIESTS VS. SEMINARIANS

The Diocese of Lafayette, on Thursday, December 27th we will host the Fourth Annual "Cassock Classic" Basketball game where priests from our diocese will play against the seminarians at Guerin Catholic High School in Noblesville. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Doors open at 5:30pm, tip-off is at 6:30pm. This event is sponsored by the Frassati Society. All are invited.



All are invited to participate in a Holy Hour of Healing and Reparation at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Lafayette, Friday, November 30, at 5:30PM led by Bishop Doherty. Leading up to the Holy Hour, there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3:30PM-5:30PM. This will coincide with the national Holy Hour service being offered at the Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

DECEMBER RETREATS

The following retreats are being offered at the beautiful St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center in Tipton, IN.

Advent Day of Reflection – December 10, 9am-3:30pm.

Do you struggle with balancing the Advent season of joyful waiting with your responsibilities for the holidays? Can you prepare your heart for Jesus . . . and still prepare holiday traditions for your family? Get away from the hustle and bustle the world tries to convince you is Christmas and spend time in hopeful anticipation of Jesus' birth. The day will include conferences on balancing Advent and holiday activities and the use of Advent Music to foster the spirit of anticipation. Time for prayer and reflection, Mass, and lunch will fill out the day.

Cost: \$40. This retreat is available for men and women age 19 and older. Register by December 6th or (765) 551-9585.

Experience the Life of a Monk or Nun--Three days, Midweek – December 11, 10am to December 13, 3pm

Have you ever wondered what life in a monastery is like? Here is a retreat that will allow you to experience the basic life of a monastic. It will be an opportunity to live the Benedictine motto: ORA ET LABORA. The retreat will include living by a monastic schedule that will include time for Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, private prayer, meals, as well as work periods! Daily conference topics will be on Lectio Divina, Liturgy of the Hours, and the spirituality of work. Amenities include a comfortable, full-service room and seven meals.

Cost \$185. This retreat is available for men and women ages 19 and older. Register before December 4th.

Men's Silent Retreat—Weekend – December 14, 7pm to December 16.

Come and enjoy a weekend experience of the wonder of silence and scripture in the beautiful confines of the St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center.

Cost: \$170. The retreat includes Mass, Holy hour, conferences on prayer, and plenty of quiet time to reflect on the scriptures. Amenities include a comfortable, full-service room and five meals. Register before December 7th

To register for the above retreats contact SJRCC Director Samir Azer at (765) 551-9570 or email sazer@dol-in.org. Visit www.stjosephretreat.org for more information or contact Fr. David Huemmer at fr.dhuemmer@dol-in.org or (765) 551-9585.

Retreats being offered at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center in Donaldson, IN

Advent Day of Contemplative Prayer - Saturday, December 8, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sister Coletta Wrasman, PHJC, will lead you into the silence of the day through the ancient Christian form of contemplative prayer. There, you will listen for God's love within you. God invites you to be present to God's presence throughout the day. Short presentations will help guide you into contemplative prayer, where in the presence of the Spirit, you will receive the support of the group. You will also have time to be alone with God. There will be Mass in the Catherine Kasper Home Chapel at 11:15 a.m. The cost is \$35 and includes the retreat, refreshments, and lunch. Please register at Linenwood.org by December 1, 2018.

Advent Day - December 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Through storytelling, Phyllis Hostmeyer will delve into the meaning of halakh in the Old Testament. Halakh means to go, to walk, or to follow the way. In the Gospels, God instructs people to go. This retreat will look at those who followed God's command and those who did not. Discussion includes how one can obey God's command, "halakh." Hostmeyer graduated from Ancilla Domini High School in 1967 and since that time has traveled many paths as a Biblical storyteller. As the word Halakh rang in her ears, she traveled to the Philippines and the Dominican Republic to share Bible telling. She has carried God's word throughout the U.S. as she teaches and tells stories at churches, schools, and prisons. She has also returned to Israel several times to tell Bible stories on location and to study the fifth gospel – the land of Israel. During this retreat, be prepared to delve into the Bible and create poetry, share stories, and discuss art. The cost is \$35, which includes lunch and refreshments.

For more information, email lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org or call 574-935-1780.

The following is offered by Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana

Sisters to host 'Christmas Fun at the Woods'

People of all faith traditions are invited to join the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, for a festive afternoon on Saturday, Dec. 1, for Christmas Fun at the Woods from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Many activities will be available, including crafts, cookie decorating, face painting, wagon rides, sing-a-longs and more. Stop by the North Pole Zone and visit with Santa and meet with the alpacas. Cost is \$5 per person and children ages 3 and under will be admitted free. For more information, log on to Events.SistersofProvidence.org, call 812-535-2952 or email jfrost@spsmw.org.

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST

Dec. 1-Pope Francis I
Dec. 2-Bishop Timothy Doherty
Dec. 3-Fr. Dave Newton, St. Mary Dunkirk and St. John the Evangelist Hartford City
Dec. 4-Fr. Paul White, retired
Dec. 5-Fr. Bob Williams, retired
Dec. 6-Fr. Dominic Young, St. Ann Lafayette
Dec. 7-Fr. Derek Aaron, St. Maria Goretti, Westfield
Dec. 8-Fr. Raymond Akeriwe, St. Patrick, Kokomo
Dec. 9-Fr. Raymond Alaneme, St. Mary Lafayette
Dec. 10-Fr. Tim Alkire, St. Boniface Lafayette
Dec. 11-Fr. Kenneth Alt, Holy Trinity, Trinity
Dec. 12-Fr. Matthew Arbuckle, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo, Monastery of the Poor Clares
Dec. 13-Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, St. Thomas Aquinas West Lafayette
Dec. 14-Fr. Jim Bates, retired
Dec. 15-Fr. Joshua Bennett, St. Francis of Assisi, Muncie
Dec. 16-Fr. Robert Bernatos, St. Joseph Kentland, St. John the Baptist Earl Park, Sts. Peter and Paul Goodland
Dec. 17-Fr. Gerry Borawski, retired
Dec. 18-Fr. Michael Bower Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville
Dec. 19-Fr. Phil Bowers, retired
Dec. 20-Fr. David Buckles, Franciscan Health Lafayette
Dec. 21-Fr. Pat Click, St. Louis de Monfort Fishers
Dec. 22-Fr. Paul Cochran, Sorrowful Mother, Wheatfield & St. Cecilia, DeMotte
Dec. 23-Fr. John Cummings St. Joseph, Reynolds & Sacred Heart, Remington
Dec. 24-Fr. Cole Daily, St. Lawrence, Lafayette
Dec. 25-Fr. Donald Davison, St. Augustine, Rensselaer
Dec. 26-Fr. Christian DeCarlo, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmel
Dec. 27-Fr. Andrew DeKeyser, Diocesan Chancery & Diocesan Tribunal, Blessed Sacrament, West Lafayette
Dec. 28-Fr. James DeOreo, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Zionsville
Dec. 29-Fr. Brian Doerr, St. Francis of Assisi,
Dec. 30-Fr. Richard Doerr, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Carmel
Dec. 31-Fr. Andrew Dudzinski, St. Mary Muncie

JANUARY

Jan. 1-Pope Francis I
Jan. 2-Bishop Timothy Doherty
Jan. 3-Fr. Dave Newton, St. Mary Dunkirk and St. John the Evangelist Hartford City
Jan. 4-Fr. Brian Dudzinski, St. Patrick, Kokomo
Jan. 5-Fr. Ted Dudzinski, Vicar General; Blessed Sacrament, West Lafayette
Jan. 6-Fr. Daniel Duff, St. Mary, Alexandria
Jan. 7-Fr. Stephen Duquaine, St. Lawrence, Lafayette
Jan. 8-Fr. Cajetan Ebuziem, Emmaus House Lafayette
Jan. 9-Fr. Dale Ehrman, Sacred Heart, Cicero
Jan. 10-Fr. Dennis Faker, St. Cecilia, DeMotte
Jan. 11-Fr. Michael Ford, St. Thomas Aquinas West Lafayette
Jan. 12-Fr. Tom Fox, retired
Jan. 13-Fr. Alan Funk, retired
Jan. 14-Fr. Sam Futral, St. Joseph, Covington & St. Francis Xavier, Attica
Jan. 15-Fr. Daniel Gartland, Holy Spirit, Fishers
Jan. 16-Fr. James Goodrum, retired
Jan. 17-Fr. Dennis Goth, St. John the Baptist, Tipton
Jan. 18-Fr. Paul Graf, Franciscan St. Elizabeth Healthcare Lafayette
Jan. 19-Fr. Don Gross, retired
Jan. 20-Fr. Kevin Haines, St. Maria Goretti, Westfield
Jan. 21-Fr. Thomas Haan, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Carmel, St. Theodore Guerin High School
Jan. 22-Fr. Phil Haslinger, retired
Jan. 23-Fr. David Hasser, Consultant in the Office of Divine Worship, Director of Vocations, Blessed Sacrament, West Lafayette
Jan. 24-Fr. Dave Hellmann, St. Lawrence, Muncie
Jan. 25-Bishop Emeritus William Higi, retired
Jan. 26-Fr. Kevin Hurley, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmel
Jan. 27-Fr. Patrick Hosey, retired
Jan. 28-Fr. Paul Hudson, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Remington
Jan. 29-Fr. David Huemmer, St. Joseph Retreat Center, Tipton, with ministry to the Monastery of the Poor Clares, Kokomo
Jan. 30-Fr. Kevin Hurley, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Jan. 31-Fr. Samuel Kalu, Emmas House West Lafayette

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST?

**LITURGICAL
MINISTERS FOR
DECEMBER—ST.
JOHN'S**

**Immaculate Conception
Holyday Vigil, Friday, Dec. 7,
5:30 pm** **Reader:** Fred
Hoffman **Gifts:** Karen & John
Shields **Communion
Ministers:** Sonya Hoffman &
Anna Cimino

Saturday 5:00 pm **Reader:**
Fred Hoffman **Gifts:** Renee &
Richard Gillis **Announcements:**
Vince Cimino **Communion
Ministers:** Sonya Hoffman,
Serena Merkel, Anna Cimino,
Diana Holsten, Scott Hutson

Sunday 8:30 am **Reader:**
Religious Ed 2, Becky Cain 9,
16, 23, 30 **Gifts:** Religious Ed
2, Karen & John Shields 9, 16,
23, 30 **Announcements:**
Bernadette Elkins **Communion
Ministers:** Ruth Ann Clawson,
Linda Trant, Amy Henderson,
Eric Aulbach, Tom Alfrey

**Christmas Eve, Monday 5:00
pm** **Reader:** Fred Hoffman
Gifts: Pat Dee **Communion
Ministers:** Sonya Hoffman,
Serena Merkel, Kellee Merkel,
Anna Cimino, Scott Hutson

**Christmas Day, Tuesday 8:30
am** **Reader:** Claire Aulbach
Gifts: Diana & Jake Holsten
Communion Ministers: Tom
Aulbach & Tom Alfrey

**Solemnity of Mary, Holyday,
Tuesday, Jan. 1, 12noon**
Reader: Fred Hoffman **Gifts:**
Karen & John Shields
Communion Ministers: Sonya
Hoffman & Anna Cimino

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER &
JANUARY—ST. MARY'S**

December 2: **Reader:** Bob Banser **Gifts:** Laverne Watson **Communion
Ministers:** Amy Grady & Connie Hartnagle **Greeter:** Phil & Jane Crouch
Counters: Danette Hamilton & Jane Crouch **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

December 9: **Reader:** Sandy Doyle **Gifts:** Dean & Loretta Wilson
Communion Ministers: Dan Watson & Colleen Bicknell **Greeter:**
Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress **Song
Leader:** Amy Blakely

December 16: **Reader:** Dan Watson **Gifts:** Danette Hamilton
Communion Ministers: Laverne Watson & Loretta Wilson **Greeter:**
Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Dan Watson & Danette Hamilton **Song
Leader:** Amy Blakely

December 23: **Reader:** Bob Banser **Gifts:** Amy & Brad Grady Family
Communion Ministers: Susan Louck & Kelli Grady **Greeter:** Phil &
Jane Crouch **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress **Song Leader:**
Amy Blakely

December 30: **Reader:** Dan Watson **Gifts:** Laverne Watson
Communion Ministers: Loretta Wilson **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell
Counters: Dan Watson & Angie Burress **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

Immaculate Conception Holyday, Saturday, December 8, 10:30am:
Reader: Laverne Watson **Gifts:** Connie & Ken Hartnagle **Communion
Ministers:** Loretta Wilson, & Susan Louck **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell
Counters: Dan Watson & Jane Crouch **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 8pm: **Reader:** Sandy Doyle
Gifts: Matt & Jenny Johnson Family **Communion Ministers:** Connie
Hartnagle & Danette Hamilton **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Dan
Watson & Danette Hamilton **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

Solemnity of Mary, Holyday Vigil, Monday, December 31, 5:30pm:
Reader: Laverne Watson **Gifts:** Chuck & Sharon Fullenkamp Family
Communion Ministers: Colleen Bicknell & Amy Grady **Greeter:** Phil
& Jane Crouch **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Jane Crouch **Song Leader:**
Amy Blakely

January 6: **Reader:** Dan Watson **Gifts:** Jeff & Lisa Geesaman Family
Communion Ministers: Kelli Grady & Connie Hartnagle **Greeter:**
Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress **Song
Leader:** Amy Blakely

January 13: **Reader:** Bob Banser **Gifts:** Kevin & Wendy Stout Family
Communion Ministers: Danette Hamilton & Susan Louck **Greeter:** Phil
& Jane Crouch **Counters:** Dan Watson & Jane Crouch **Song Leader:**
Amy Blakely

January 20: **Reader:** Laverne Watson **Gifts:** Christa Stigleman
Communion Ministers: Amy Grady & Dan Watson **Greeter:** Colleen
Bicknell **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress **Song Leader:** Amy
Blakely

January 27: **Reader:** Sandy Doyle **Gifts:** Phil & Jane Crouch
Communion Ministers: Connie Hartnagle & Colleen Bicknell **Greeter:**
Phil & Jane Crouch **Counters:** Dan Watson & Danette Hamilton **Song
Leader:** Amy Blakely

WHAT'S THE SMOKE FOR?

This year in this section of *The Good News Letter*, we will focus on Catholic furniture, fixtures, sacramentals and icons.

Indulgences

The entire month of November is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory. You might ask, what does that have to do with being a saint? Well, everybody in heaven is called a saint. Did you know that? It's true.

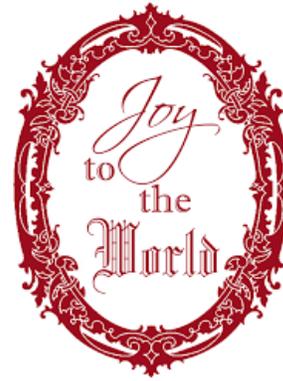
Of course, some saints are CANONIZED. That means they did something in life so amazing and holy and good, that they're recognized for that work and are called Saints from then on. But in heaven, everybody is a saint. The canonized ones just get better seats and get to stand in line first at the buffet dinner. Everybody gets fed, though. So don't worry.

Now in order to get to heaven, you often have to pass through Purgatory first. What is Purgatory? It's like detention. You've done something bad, so you have to stay after school. And you suffer, so you can wash all the sins or stains off your soul. You have to be nice and clean to get into God's party.

The Catholic Church has what is called Indulgences. An indulgence is basically time off for good behavior. Let's say you're in Purgatory, suffering away, and then someone on the outside says a prayer for you and you get an indulgence, time off. More indulgences mean you get to heaven faster. See how that works?

A partial indulgence can be obtained if you visit a cemetery and pray for your dead relative or friend. A partial indulgence can also be obtained if you say this prayer: "Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen." Say that out loud several times and help that special someone get to heaven a little faster.

There's a second kind of indulgence, a plenary one, which removes all of the sins of the person you want to target. So how do you do that? You can provide a plenary indulgence by visiting a cemetery each day between November 1 and November 8. Or if you visit a church on November 2, All Souls Day, and pray for your special person, saying at least one Our Father. But don't wait till November, indulgences can be offered anytime.



FAMILY SECTION— JOY FOR THE WORLD

Pope Francis spoke on the Feast of the Holy Family in his [Sunday Angelus](#) on December 28, 2014, noting the celebration of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. They go to the Temple according to the Law, but are surprised by God's work in their midst.

"They do not stand out to the eye, they can't be distinguished. Yet they do not go unnoticed! Two elderly people, Simeon and Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, approach them and begin to praise God for that Child, in which they recognize the Messiah..."

Even as a baby, Jesus brings the generations together. "He is the source of that love that unites families and people, overcoming all mistrust, all isolation, every distance." The Pope encouraged us to reflect on grandparents and how important their presence is in the family and society.

The Holy Father went on to speak of the message of the Holy Family as one of faith that can carry people through hard times: "In the family life of Mary and Joseph, God is truly at the center, and it is in the person of Jesus... When parents and children breathe together this climate of faith, they possess an energy that allows them to confront difficult trials, as shown by the experience of the Holy Family, for example, during the tragic event of the flight into Egypt: A hard trial." With Jesus at the center, families can endure through many trials.

The Pope calls the Holy Family an "icon" that is "simple yet illuminating." It radiates light that can encourage people in difficult family situations to offer "human warmth" in the midst of challenges. Pope Francis led the people present in a prayer (the "Hail Mary") for all families in difficulty, entrusting them to Mary, Queen of the family.

PEOPLE WITH GOOD NEWS

Anya Aulbach was on the A/B honor roll at BHS.

Bethany Elkins was on the all A honor roll at BHS and was inducted into the National Honor Society at Blackford High School.

Allyson Henderson was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier School.

Ashley Henderson was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier School.

Madison Henderson was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier School.

Mason Kitterman was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier School.

Jessica Manley was on the all A honor roll at BHS.

Lance Manley was on the all A honor roll at BHS.

Madison Merkel was on the A/B honor roll at BHS.

Mason Merkel was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford Junior High.

Cameron Rinker was inducted into the National Honor Society at Blackford High School.

Kelli Rinker was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford Junior High.

Damien Shields was on the A/B honor roll at BHS.

Ammee Uggen was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford Junior High.

Anya Uggen was on the all A honor roll at BHS.

Helen Whitesell was on the all A honor roll at BHS.

Logan Wilson was selected Sadie Hawkins sophomore frog at BHS.

CHRISTEENS ENJOY PRAYER, SERVICE AND FOOD

St. John's Youth Group, ChrisTeens, consists of students in junior high and high school. The group is led by religious education instructors Lisa Rinker and Eric Cale.

The group meets monthly usually on a Sunday afternoon or after class. They try to pick a community service project, spiritual lesson, and/or craft, and of course, FOOD!

During the month of October the group participated in the annual Hartford City downtown Trunk or Treat passing decorating the rear of a minivan and passing out candy to the children as a safe trick or treating activity. They won first place for their efforts.



The November project focused on military service members. They made Paracord survival bracelets, did a bible activity on service, played games, and of course ate food!



They are currently collecting donations (monetary or items) to send to Operation Gratitude Care packages. They help retired, deployed and new service men and women. Items include: travel size deodorant, gum, drink mix packets, lip balm, playing cards, socks (black crew length), sunscreen (non-aerosol), puzzle books, all-purpose wipes (30 ct or less), jerky, hand warmers, knit hats or scarves, travel size sewing kits.

For the upcoming December activity, the group will meet at Meijer on December 1st to participate in Secret Families shopping for those less fortunate for Christmas. Their next meeting is Sunday, December 2nd, after class. They will be looking to do a fundraiser activity in the near future.

Please pray for our youth as they look to deepen their faith through togetherness, prayer, and service.

Jesus Brings the Generations Together

**St. Mary Parish and
St. John the Evangelist Parish**

209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

PASTOR - Rev. David J. Newton

Hartford City: 765.348.3123 Office Secretary:

765.348.3889

Dunkirk: 765.768.6157

stmaryjohn@att.net

Return Service Requested

Lord's Day Liturgy

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm at St. John's

SUNDAY: 8:30 am at St. John's
10:30 am at St. Mary's

- Weekday Liturgy: Please consult inside the bulletin. -

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Editor: Diana Holsten

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into our hearts this peace for which we sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give us. Help us know one another better, and live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to us also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join us all together in your love, and give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

--Pope St. John XXIII



Just as the Virgin Mother pondered in her heart on the Word made flesh, so every individual soul and the entire Church are called during their earthly pilgrimage to wait for Christ who comes – and to welcome him with faith and love ever new.

--Pope Benedict XVI



JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve: 5pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, Hartford City

8pm at St. Mary Church, Dunkirk

Christmas Day: 8:30am at St. John the Evangelist Church, Hartford City

ALL ARE WELCOMED