



First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019



Sunday December 1, First Sunday of Advent, Children's Mass

8:30a For the Intentions of all Parishioners
 10:30a Henry Miliski Req. Carol & Chuck

Monday December 2, Advent Weekday

8:00a Elizabeth "Betty" Boukus Req. Family

Tuesday December 3, St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:00a Janusz Krupa

Wednesday December 4, St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00a No Mass

Thursday December 5, Advent Weekday

8:00a Sydney Symolon Req. Daughter Lorraine

Friday December 6, St. Nicholas, Bishop

8:00a Santo & Genevieve Aparo Req. Family

8:30a Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday December 7, St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:00a Jeannette DeBlois Month Anniv.
 Constance Boucher 1st. Anniv.
 Joseph Kelliher Month Anniv.

Saturday December 7, Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent

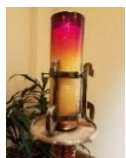
4:00p Marylene DeVoe Req. Jim & Maryan Davis
 5:00p Anointing of the Sick

Sunday December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

8:30a For the Intentions of all Parishioners
 10:30a Bernie Peters Req. Family



Church Support
 Due to an earlier than usual deadline for this week's bulletin, the offertory will be printed December 8th, 2019.



The Tabernacle Lamp...

is lighted for the Greater Glory of God and in recognition of the Real Presence of Christ. This week the candle is flickering *in memory of Robert Mercer & Christina Mercer*. The Tabernacle Lamp is available as a memorial for a \$5 donation per week. Consider having the lamp burn in memory of or the intentions of a loved one. Please call the office to schedule at 860.747.6825.

We welcome all who gather here to worship with us. You are most welcome if you are visiting with us today.

If you are new to our parish and wish to become a member of OLM, we invite you to introduce yourself to our pastor, Fr. Raymond Smialowski, and to register. Registration can be completed by stopping by the parish office, filling out the short form on the front page of our bulletin, or completing a short registration form which can be found on our home page at www.olmct.org under

the heading "New to Our Parish?" Please return the form to the office by dropping it in the collection basket or mailing it to 19 S. Canal St., Plainville.



This Week This Week This Week This Week

Sunday December 1

9 – 10:15a Rel. Ed. Classes, *Parish Center*
 10:30a Men's AA Meeting, *Rm 107*
 11:30a – 12:30p Sundaes on Sundays, *Parish Center*

Monday December 2

9:30a Legion of Mary, *Library*
 4:45 – 5:45p Valley United Basketball, *Gym*
 6 – 8:45p Farmington Boys Basketball, *Gym*

Tuesday December 3

3 – 5:45p St. Joseph Basketball, *Gym*
 6 – 8:30p Valley United Basketball, *Gym*
 7p NA Meeting, *Rm 106*

Wednesday December 4

2 – 3p Religious Education, *Parish Center*
 3 – 3:45p Children's Choir, *Parish Center*
 6 – 7:30p Talented Basketball, *Gym*
 7 – 8:15p Confirmation Classes I & II, *Parish Center*
 7p Men's NA Meeting, *Rm 107*

Thursday December 5

1p Building and Grounds Committee Meeting, *Parish Center*
 3 – 5:45p St. Joseph Basketball, *Gym*
 6 – 8:45p Farmington Boys Basketball, *Gym*

Friday December 6

6 – 7:30p Talented Basketball, *Gym*

Saturday December 7

11a – Noon Teen Talks, *Parish Center*
 Noon Confession, *Church*
 7p AA Meeting, *Rm 107*

Sunday December 8

8 – Noon Breakfast with Santa, *Parish Center*
 10:30a Men's AA Meeting, *Rm 107*

Religious Education News



Christmas Pageant

On the 22nd of December, the children will be performing a Christmas play, following the 10:30 Mass. We will rehearse with the children after the 10:30 Mass today.

All children are invited to participate. Please come to the rehearsal after Mass today. We will gather in the church right after Mass. There are speaking and non-speaking roles. If you have any questions, ask Susan Van Cott in the Faith Formation office at 860.747.6825 or email her at susan.faithformation@yahoo.com.

Attention Teens

There are 2 *NEW* exciting programs beginning soon in Youth Ministry.

First one starts *TODAY*, Sunday, December 1st at 11:45am (after the 10:30am Mass)

"*Sundaes on Sunday*" - Create your own ice cream sundae and socialize with other teens your age. Topic of discussion will be, "What do Sunday's



mean to you and how can it relate to your everyday life?"

&

Teen Talks - Starts *NEXT* Saturday, December

7th from 11:00am-12:00pm

Lunch will be served and topics of discussion will be on cultural issues such as drugs, dating, anxiety, depression, peer relationships, pressures at school and how the Catholic Faith can help you in your everyday life.

questions - please call or text Mrs. Donna at (860) 952-4005

Family Discussion for Today's Gospel Reading:

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

This is a busy time of the year for families, but through all the shopping and cooking and excitement surrounding the gifts, it is a good idea to talk about being ready to welcome the Lord into our lives. Is there something you can do as a family to be ready to hear the words of Jesus throughout the new year ahead? Is there a charity you can participate in? Is there someone who needs your prayers? Reflect

together as a family on how you, might help one another to be better Christians during Advent. Commit to doing one thing that you think will help make this Advent special. You may want to write it down, and put it near your Advent Wreath or Calendar. Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment.

Christmas Carol Sing
Come and prepare for
Christmas here at OLM on Dec.
15th at 4:30pm in the church!



Plan to attend, bring a friend and enjoy
sacred Advent and Christmas Carols.
Admission is 1 canned or household item to be
donated to the Plainville Community Food
Pantry.

Breakfast with Santa

The OLM Breakfast with Santa will be held Dec. 8, 8am - Noon, \$4 adults, \$1 Ages 13 - 18, 12 and younger FREE, Parish Center. Come visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and take your pictures with them! There will be free Christmas crafts for the children to decorate and take home with the help of a few Confirmation students assisting. St. Anthony Society will also be hosting a Christmas Boutique of hand-made ornaments, baked goods, and small gift items. St. Anthony Society will be gratefully accepting donations of baked goods, hand crafted items, and knit or crochet items to sell. Items can be dropped off at the parish office during the week or early in the morning of the breakfast. Bring your children or grandchildren and share your good cheer with each other!



Christmas Flowers

Donations to help defray the costs of Christmas flowers are gratefully accepted. Please use the flower envelope found in your envelope donation packet. If you do not use parish envelopes, flower donations can be placed in a plain envelope then placed in the offertory basket. If you wish to make a flower donation in memory of loved ones, please indicate their names on the envelope. A listing of those in whose memory Christmas flowers have been donated will be printed.





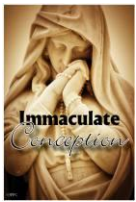
Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is set up in the Gathering Space. Please plan to stop by the Tree, choose a tag of the gift you

wish to give, follow the directions on the tag as to whether the gift should be wrapped or not, and please return the gift by **Monday, Dec. 9th**, so that we have time to distribute the gifts to the agencies listed. The agencies

participating in the program this year are: Catholic Worker, Apple Rehab, Plainville Senior Center, Rocky Hill Veterans, St. Philip House, and St. Mary's Parish in New Britain.

Your participation in this community outreach project will bring much joy to those in need. Thank you!



Feast of Immaculate Conception...

will be observed on Dec. 9th. The Blessed Virgin is the patron of the US. Mass schedule for the Feast is 8am and 6pm. On this Feast we celebrate **Mary's** Immaculate Conception, being conceived without original sin.

Best Advent Ever

Dynamic Catholic is offering a free email program entitled BEST ADVENT EVER. Each day you'll receive an email with short inspirational videos, practical tips for everyday life and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey.



All you have to do is sign up at

www.BestAdventEver.com.

Inclement Weather

Please remember that in the case of late openings or school closures due to snow, the weekday 8am Mass will not be celebrated. Also, if school is closed on a Friday, GIFT will be cancelled that same day. This long-standing policy here at OLM is to insure the safety of those attending Mass and GIFT.

Pastoral Council Meeting

The meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 12th at 7pm in the parish center. All parishioners are invited.

Support the Retirement Fund for Religious

A donor writes, "Your flyer touched my heart - seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced." Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance.

Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week's second collection.

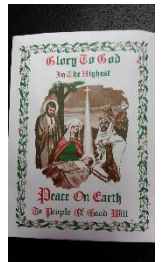
Advent Thought for the First Week

Spend more time than usual during this first week conversing as a family. Try to see and enjoy the light in one another's eyes.



Christmas Wafers

(Oplatek) are available on weekends on the table behind the Lectern. A free-will donation to help defray the costs can be left in the designated basket. Many families with roots in Poland or other Central and Eastern European countries take a few minutes before sitting down to Christmas Eve dinner to break and share the unleavened Christmas Wafer with wishes of a long life, good health, joy and happiness; not only for the Christmas Season but for the coming year and for many years to come.



Is a Vocation Right for You?

Jesus announces his return to our world. The Lord is near. He used signs that anticipate His arrival. Am I able to read these signs? What is God asking of me? If He is asking you to consider a vocation as a priest or religious, call Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 860.761.7456, vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

The Sacrament Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament will be offered NEXT Saturday, Dec. 7th following the 4pm Mass.



Food Pantry Collection

You are encouraged to donate a non-perishable item to the Plainville Food Pantry next weekend. Items that are always needed are personal hygiene products and food staples such as peanut butter, tuna fish, pasta & sauce, and macaroni & cheese.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Please be generous in this week's special collection. In the US, 1 in 6 people live in poverty. Through this collection, you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for people across the country who struggle. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. Thank you.

Buildings and Grounds

The Committee will meet this Thursday, Dec. 5 at 1pm in the parish center.



The Advent Season
With Advent, the church year begins anew. It is the first day of a new faith journey, a new year to walk with Jesus and to

serve others in His name. This journey leads to the great feast of Christmas, which celebrates how God enters our world and dwells among us. Christmas offers all of us new life within Jesus.

Thus, Advent is a time for getting ready. It is a time for us to think about what we can share with others in return for all the gifts God has given us, to be born anew in our hearts. When we are too concerned with gift-giving, parties and decoration, sometimes this sense of joy gets lost.

An Advent wreath can help us get back the real "spirit" of the season. The Advent wreath reminds us that Jesus is the true source of joy.

The lighting of the candles each day of the week is also very symbolic. For centuries, it has been a religious practice to represent Jesus, Our Lord, by a burning candle. *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness"* (John 8:12).

The purple color is the ancient color of royalty as well as penitence and symbolizes that we are in a period of preparation to receive a newborn king. The single pink candle among the three purple reminds us that joy is part of penitence and that is why it is lit on the third week.

Keep Christ in Christmas

An Evening of music, story, and fellowship for all! Sunday, Dec. 8th, St. Dominic Church, 1050 Flanders Rd., Southington, 4pm, *Keep Christ in Christmas: "An Angel Came Down."* A modern story about the true meaning of Christmas told through Music, Narration, Film Slides, Lights, Special Effects, and live Presentations – all designed to show how we all need to *Keep Christ in Christmas!* The music ranges from contemporary Christmas songs to popular Christmas songs we all know and can sing along to. Followed by refreshments and fellowship in the Geraghty Parish Center. Admission is Free and open to adults and children of all ages! Info: 860.302.1685 or alexandkellywhitham@gmail.com.

Prayer for Lighting the Purple Advent Candle for the First Week

Dear Jesus, you are the Hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.



Thank You from the Knights of Columbus

Thank you to all who donated to the Tootsie Roll Drive this past month. Thank you to Gnazzo's for allowing them to conduct their drive there also! \$1,442 was raised from the drive. All monies will be donated to PARC of Plainville.



Advent Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Blessing the Advent Wreath with Children

Dear Jesus, as we light the candle on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.

