

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

Let's continue on with some Advent ideas:

Jesse Tree: If you have kids, the Jesse Tree (named after the father of King David, the ancestor of Jesus, as mentioned in Isaiah 11) is a fun biblical activity during the Advent season which prepares for the birth of Christ and his mission. It's fun for kids and great catechesis. It goes through the ancestry of Jesus and how all of his ancestors played a role in salvation history. The tree created can then be used as a holiday decoration.

Small Sacrifices for the Christ Child: Because Advent is known as the "little Lent," prayer, alms, and sacrifices are also a part of Advent season. Just as the Magi labored through a long journey to worship and gave precious gifts to the Christ Child, so we can do the same; we can give the Baby Jesus our sacrifices during the Advent season.

Adults can do this alone, but with kids a visual aid goes along well with the practice. Two popular ways are Jesus Stockings and a Baby Jesus creche. For the stocking, small sacrifices are written on little slips of paper and placed into the stocking; for the creche, a piece of straw is added for each good deed. These add up each day of Advent as birthday presents for the newborn King. When Jesus is born, and the baby Jesus is placed in the creche, the prayers and sacrifices have prepared Him room in our hearts.

Almsgiving: Good deeds and generosity have always been an important part of preparation for Christmas. Advent is a great time to practice spiritual and corporeal acts of mercy such as Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children, volunteering at a nursing home or soup kitchen, visiting the sick in a hospital, or simply inviting people into your home who may have no friends or family of their own to celebrate the holidays with. If you can't find something to be a part of in your parish or local community, be an organizer for a cause you're passionate about and get others involved.

Adopt a Cultural Tradition: There are also other Advent traditions that you can incorporate into your celebrations this year, such as the Oplatki Christmas wafer from Eastern Europe, and the La Posada introduced by missionary Augustinian friars in Latin American countries. La Posada is acted out as a play and recounts the difficult yet joyful journey of Mary and Joseph as they seek lodging for the birth of Jesus. Simbag Gabi is a similar tradition from the Philippines with special Masses celebrated for the nine days leading up to Christmas. **Christmas Tree Blessing:** When you finish decorating the Christmas tree, bless it.

Most importantly take advantage of Reconciliation Monday. Tomorrow Father Csete and I will be hearing Confessions from 4pm to 8pm and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. If we make this effort we will be ready to receive the grace of the new born Savior of the World.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb



***We will be decorating the Church for
Christmas today,
Sunday, December 17th at 3pm.***



Reconciliation Monday will be tomorrow, December 18th from 4pm until 8pm.



We will be collecting Turkeys and Hams on Tuesday, December 19th from 4pm until 6pm in the Most Sacred Heart Hall. We are hoping to have enough to feed 100 families this Christmas season.

All "Giving Tree" donations are due tomorrow, Monday, December 18th to allow the organizations ample time to distribute gifts to the children.



The K of C Council# 471 is hosting **Breakfast with Santa TODAY** **Sunday, December 17th** in the Most Sacred Heart Hall. All proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Food Pantry. Adults \$7 Children \$5

St. Mary's Little Lambs will be having their Christmas Pageant on Friday, December 22nd at 10am in the Most Sacred Heart Hall. *All are welcome!*

Our parish high school group **S.M.A.R.T.** is having a Christmas Pageant. All children of the parish are welcome to participate. Practice will be today, December 17th from 12:30 until 1:30 in the hall with a run through on January 7th during the religious education classes. Anyone will costumes for angels, wise men etc. are asked to bring them to the practice.

The pageant will be on **Sunday, January 7 at 4pm.** Coffee, water, and cookies will be served after.

We are happy to announce that we have access to **Formed** for another year! You can create your own account **FREE** of charge at Formed.org and use our parish access code *WXXVJT* to gain access to multiple programs, movies, ebooks, and audios.

Save The Date!

Catholic Daughters Tricky Tray Sunday, January 14th in the Most Sacred Heart Hall.

The collection for December 9/10 was \$4,270.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

- Monday, December 18**
9:00am Willard Dixon Morrison, by Patrick Leap
- Tuesday, December 19**
9:00am Michael Canfield, by the Cuello family
Ann Jenks, by Dorean and Jack Reilly
- Wednesday, December 20**
9:00am Gladys Kesterson, by Dr. Jane Brooks
Julia Olenick, by Barbara and Dick Drew
- Thursday, December 21 (Peter Canisius, priest & doctor of the Church)**
9:00am Robert Burns, by Carol and Ron Burns
- Saturday, December 23**
4:00pm Dennis Simmons, by Robert and Dianna Witherow
- Sunday, December 24**
8:30am Steven Ludwig, by Juliene and Jonathan Saletto
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
4:00pm John Coady, by the family
10:00pm Ida Lissner, by Irene Coady

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Sue Fitzsimmons, Barbara Straub, Robert Cinerar, Sandy Osbourne, Theresa Kavanagh, John McKean, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Brennan, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Thomas Davies, Pat Arnold, William Gaide, Sue Arnold, Steve Wilkinson, William Thomas, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Dotty Lynch, Jesse G Smith, Charlie Gard, Marge Evans, Kaitlyn Smith, Jerome Smith, Joseph Fritts, Patricia Meinhold, Susan Upton, Devin Upton, Kathy Drane, Wayne DeMarco, Danielle Devore, Jennifer Utz, Jacqueline Hamilton, Tonya Cannon, Ryan O'Connor, Peter Billman, Helen Andreano, Tito Rivera, Maryann Gasko, Chris Marion III, Carson Fuller, and Neil Stasilli.

Liturgical Ministers for December 23/24, 2017 ** Special Schedule for Christmas Masses**

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	B. HECKMAN	A. WITKOWSKI, K. BOBISH, H. ECKES	E. AND A. WITKOWSKI
8:30AM	P. CAL	J. TAYLOR, R. BABEY, V. LIVINGSTON	T. LAMOREAUX
11:30AM	M. ESLING	T. MARION, H. MARINARO, B. DENNINGTON	DJ PERRIN, S. MASCI, S. BHIKARRY