



Church of NOTRE DAME



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**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 20
2020**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**PUBLIC ENTRY BY
APPOINTMENT ONLY
MASS SCHEDULE
(TEMPORARY)**

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 4 pm & 6 pm

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am & Noon

Weekday Masses

Monday: 7:30 am

Tuesday: 9:00 am

Wednesday: 7:30 am

Thursday: 9:00 am

Friday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 9:00 am

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Fr. Richard Allen

Director of Religious Education

Mr. Joseph Ranelli

Director of Adult Education

Mrs. Kathy Higgins

Liturgy/Music Coordinator

Mrs. Gretchen Wagner

Secretary

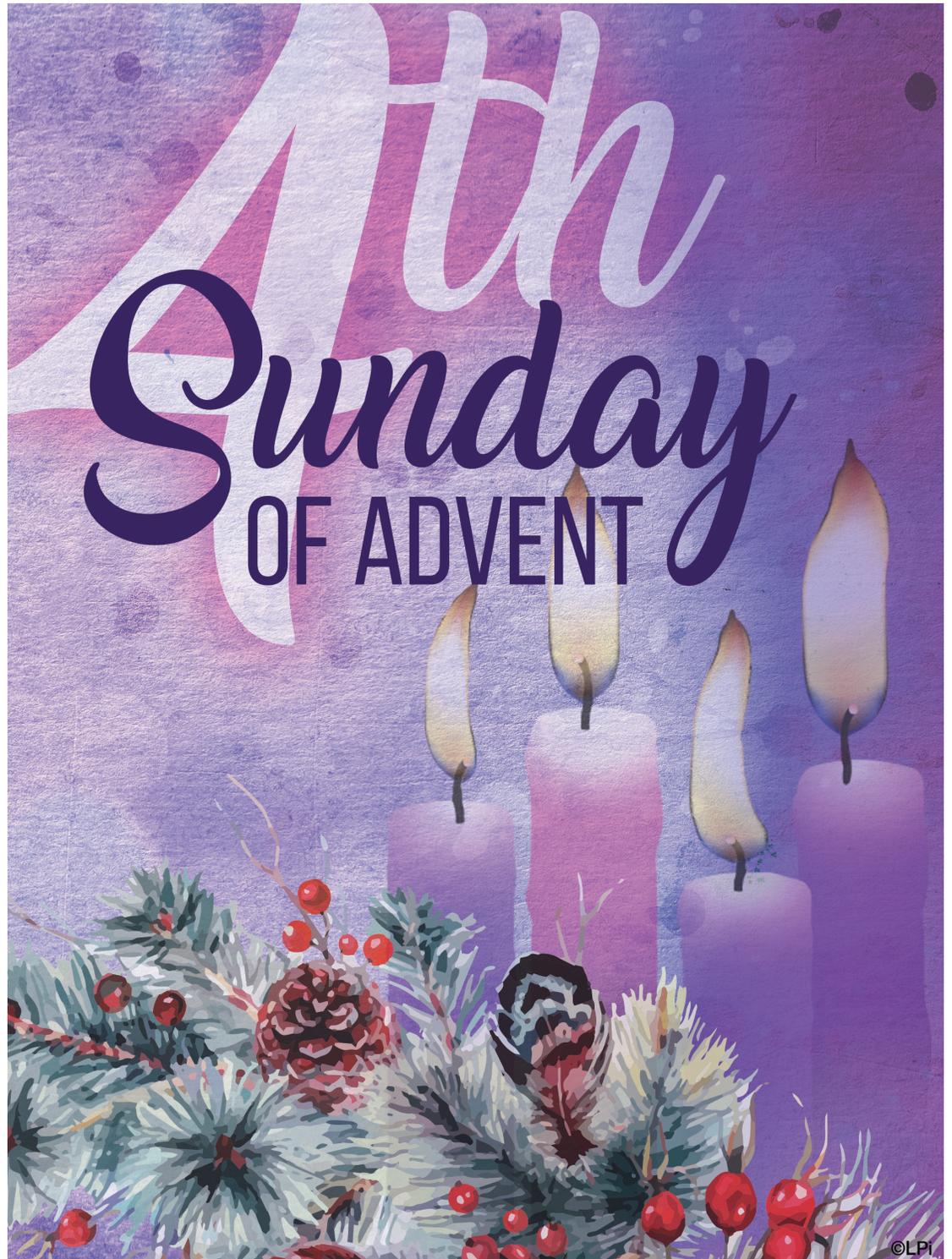
Mrs. Carrie Hannah

Religious Education Secretary

Mrs. Mary Lou Hornyak

Business Manager

Mrs. Ann Miller



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

- SUN 12/20** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
- MON 12/21** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
- TUE 12/22** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56
- WED 12/23** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
- THR 12/24** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
- FRI 12/25** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
- SAT 12/26** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
- SUN 12/27** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2020

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Thursday:** Christmas Eve
- Friday:** The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
- Saturday:** St. Stephen, the First Martyr
- Next Sunday:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

LIVE THE LITURGY

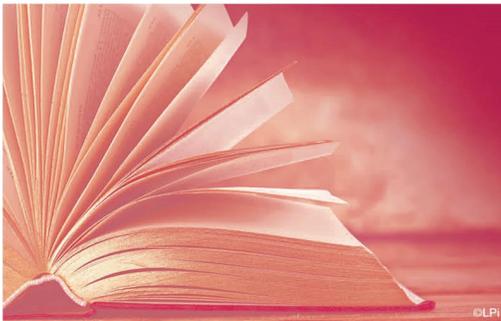
Inspiration for the week

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?



© Come
All Ye
Faithful

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

"When your times comes and you rest
with your ancestors,
I will raise up your heir after you, sprung
from your loins,
and I will establish his kingdom firm." (2 Sm 12)



PSALM

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
(Ps 89)



SECOND READING

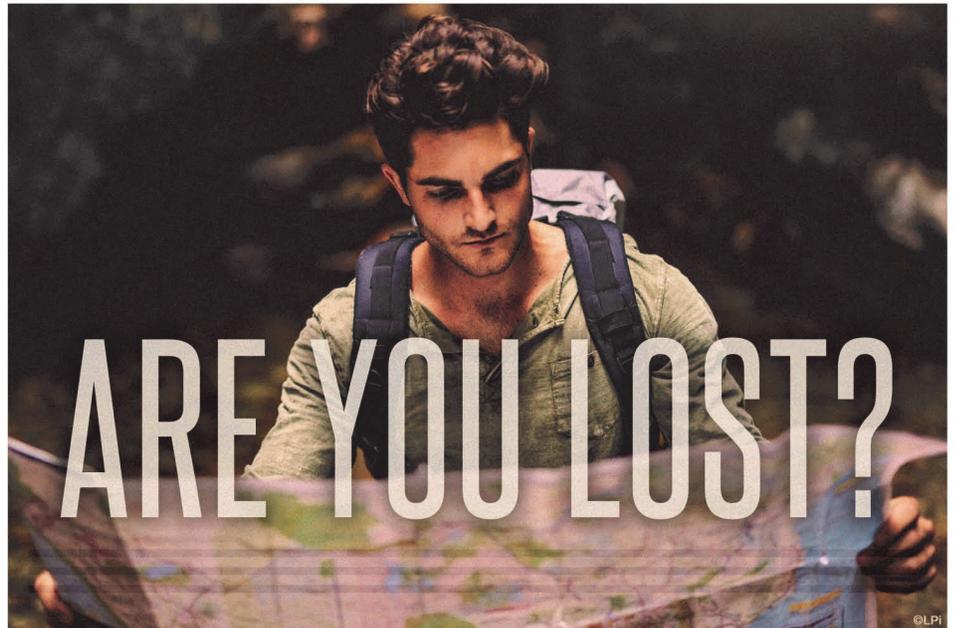
According to the revelation of the mystery
kept secret for long ages
but now manifested through the
prophetic writings and,
according to the command of the eternal God.
(Rom 16:25b-26a)



GOSPEL

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
He will be great and will be called
Son of the Most High." (Lk 1:31-32a)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

MON 12/21 7 ³⁰ AM	Msgr. Robert Schriefer
TUES 12/22 9AM	Joann Jofery [Bolt Family]
WED 12/23 7 ³⁰ AM	Msgr. Zeitler
THU 12/24 9AM	Anne Durisko [Husband, John]
THU 12/24 4PM	McGinty & Stawaisz Families [Stawaisz Family]
THU 12/24 7PM	Dave Thomas [Thomas Family]
THU 12/24 10PM	Joe Kocis
FRI 12/25 9AM	George Krantz [Jann McKenny]
FRI 12/25 12PM	Robert & Patricia Allen
SAT 12/26 9AM	Frances Moretti [Gene & Angie Leonard]
SAT 12/26 4PM	Richard Murcko [Teresa McElrath]
SAT 12/26 6PM	Jay Senko
SUN 12/27 8AM	Jeanie Oakes [Son, Joseph]
SUN 12/27 10AM	Mass for the People
SUN 12/27 12PM	Shirley Shipley [Wible Family]

SAT 12/26 4PM	Lector T. Bain	Eucharistic Min. J. Miller
SAT 12/26 6PM	Lector A. Stephenson	Eucharistic Min. K. Stephenson

SUN 12/27 8AM	Lector J. Feeney	Eucharistic Min. R. Mentrek or J. Trenga
SUN 12/27 10AM	Lector B. Moder	Eucharistic Min. A. Costar or B. Martz
SUN 12/27 12PM	Lector R. McGoff	Eucharistic Min. NOT FILLED

***ATTN VOLUNTEERS!**
PLEASE CHECK-IN WITH FR. ALLEN PRIOR TO MASS

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

- Vigil**
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Thursday, **December 24th**
4PM, 7PM and 10PM
- Christmas Day**
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Friday, **December 25th**
9AM and Noon
- New Year's Eve**
Thursday, **December 31st**
4PM and 6PM
- New Year's Day**
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
9AM

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of those who have lost a loved one. Please keep in prayer those who have entered into eternal life:

*Patricia Wallace
Anne Kudelko
Genevieve Benson
Marie Geisler
Stephen Garay*

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AT OUR PARISH



Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday
9:00 AM—11:00 PM
For more information call:
Jo Feeney 724-699-3340
Rosalee Beal 724-981-2645

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you would like to join our parish and become part of the Notre Dame Church family, please complete this form and return by mail or drop in the collection basket.

REQUEST FOR PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS SISTERS AND BROTHERS

We are so grateful to all who gave so generously to the annual retirement fund this year. In our valley, we know of the dedicated and hard-working effort by the many communities of sisters (Benedictine, Mercy and Sisters of St Joseph) who staffed and taught in our schools and religious education programs. We have special memories of the generosity and hard work of the Sisters of St. Joseph as they began: our Notre Dame School: Sr. Marie Corde (first Principal), Sr. Mary Timothy (Sr. Ann), Sr. Dominic, Sr. Cecelia and for the Shenango Valley Religious Education programs: Sr. Mary Paula, Sr. Mary Ann and Sr. Mary Rita. In the 90's, Sr. Mary Drexler, Sr. Joyce Lowrey and Sr. Ann Donahue SSJs returned and were among our school administration and teaching staff.

In a special way we remember Sr. Joyce Lowrey who died this week. Her ministry of teaching extended through her entire career in many schools. She especially was interested in assisting students with learning concerns. May she rest in peace as we remember her fondly in our prayers.

When Fr. Allen introduced the collection, last year he reminded us that these sisters, who maintained vows of poverty, "lived simply and received very little salary during their times of ministry. The majority of these sisters have aged and no longer can work outside their community and need our financial support and prayer". If you were not prepared to give last week, a donation can still be made in an envelope marked *Retirement Fund for the Sisters* and dropped in the Sunday collection basket.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Wendell August Christmas Ornament

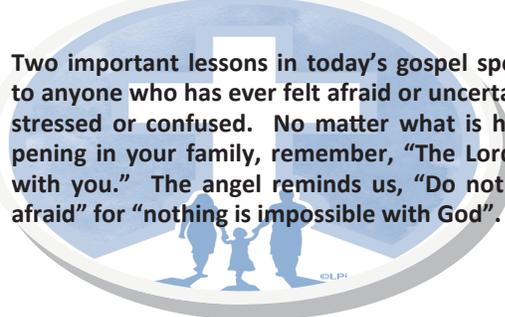
This 2020 year's annual ornament, Angel of Peace order form will be found in the church foyer. The ornament will have our Notre Dame Church stamp on the back. Many of our parishioners continue to decorate their tree yearly with this beautiful handmade metal ornament. The price will be Aluminum \$11.00 or Bronze \$14.00. This is a savings of \$1.00 from the store.

Christmas Wafer (Oplatki)

This eastern European tradition for Christmas Eve will be offered again and the Christmas wafers can be found in the church foyer. One package (4 wafers) costs \$1.25.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Two important lessons in today's gospel speak to anyone who has ever felt afraid or uncertain; stressed or confused. No matter what is happening in your family, remember, "The Lord is with you." The angel reminds us, "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God".



Be filled with hope as we anticipate
the coming of
His presence

3 EASY STEPS

TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!



Wash your hands at least 20 seconds
with soap & water.

