



*Mass Intentions for the Week*

- 12-11 Mon 9:00 AM All deceased parishioners
- 12-12 Tues 9:00 AM Marion VanHensbergen  
By Charles & Jean McKilligan  
Patrick Hastings  
By Val Maruszewski
- 12-13 Wed 9:00 AM All deceased parishioners
- 12-14 Thurs 9:00 AM Dorothy Cronin  
By Paula Ciborowski
- 12-15 Fri 9:00 AM Communion Service
- 12-16 Sat 4:00 PM Roger & Pearl Smith  
By Gary Smith
- 12-17 Sun 10:30 AM Michael Gregory, Jr.  
By the family

**Annual Christmas Cantata**



A Gospel Christmas celebration by a choir of voices from many local churches will be presented at the Sidney United Methodist

Church on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM under the direction of Jack Doyle. Please join us for an uplifting celebration of the "Love" of Jesus.

**Communal Advent Reconciliation Service**



The celebration of the Communal Advent Reconciliation Service will take place next Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in the church. There will be individual confessions at this service.

Also, individual confessions are always available by calling the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

**2024 Envelopes**

Please pick up your envelopes in the vestibule this weekend. There is a list next to the boxes to assist you in finding your envelopes. There have been changes to assigned numbers so be sure to double check the list to ensure you are taking the correct box of envelopes. A contribution of \$4.00 in the initial offering envelope will help defray the cost of the envelopes.

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Waiting patiently for the coming of the Messiah**

Advent is a season of patient waiting. It is a time when we reawaken our hope and trust in God's promises. During the four weeks of Advent, we learn from the experiences of the ancient Israelites who waited in hope for God to liberate them from exile in Babylon. The people of Judah suffered a lot at the hands of their oppressors. God saw their pain and sorrow and he reached out to them with love and compassion.

In today's first reading, God instructed the prophet Isaiah to speak words of hope and consolation to his wearied and desperate people. God said to the prophet Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at end and her guilt is expiated" (Isaiah 40:1-2).

God's consoling words brought renewed hope to the people of Judah and encouraged them to place their trust in the Lord. We too need renewed hope, freedom, comfort, and peace in our lives. We need God to deliver us from the darkness of sin, from fear, anxiety, despair, and discouragement.

In the gospel, John the Baptist tells us to change for the better. He calls us to forsake our sins and turn to God for mercy and forgiveness. John the Baptist was the voice in the wilderness who preached the baptism of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. People from all of Judea and Jerusalem flocked to him to be baptized in the river Jordan. John the Baptist challenged them and all of us to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight the paths of God.

He pointed his audience to the Messiah. He made it clear that he baptizes with water but there is one mightier than him who will baptize people with fire. He is the precursor of this great person.

John the Baptist is our Advent voice. He calls us to prepare ourselves morally and spiritually to receive the Messiah. He brings our awareness to the hills and mountains that are within us and that need to be brought low. Inside each of us are hills and mountains of pride, arrogance, self-exaltation, and selfishness. We have crooked paths to be straightened out such as our indifference, prejudice, our biasness and unfair treatment of others. We are often judgmental of others. We are quick to see the faults of others but never our own. We sometimes harbor hatred toward others and hold grudges and resentment against those who hurt or offend us. We need to renounce our negative attitudes and grow within us the virtues of love, forgiveness, gentleness and kindness.

St. Peter reminds us of the kind of attitude we should exhibit while waiting for the Lord's final return. He exhorts us in the second reading to live blameless lives, to hold fast to what is holy and upright so the Lord may find us without spot or stain and bring us to share in the joy and peace of his eternal kingdom.

This Advent, let us do our best to turn away from sin and walk on the path of holiness and righteousness. Let us pray to God for the grace to stay awake and wait patiently for his coming at Christmas and for his glorious return at the end of time.

God bless.

Rev. Dr. Ben

**Weekend of December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

First Reading- Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

**Saturday 4:00 PM**

- Celebrant:** Fr. Ben
- Lector:** Jane Artis
- Eucharistic Ministers:** Yvonne Sliney
- Altar Servers** Quinn & Ayla Gronwall

Second Reading- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Gospel- John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Sunday 10:30AM**

- Fr. Ben
- Kerri Green
- Dolores Starzinger
- Jack, Henry & Ella Grigoli

Offerings of December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Regular, \$2,153.00; Fuel, \$53.00; Repairs & Improvements, \$193.00; Christmas, \$50.00; Campaign for Human Development, \$45.00; Evangelist, \$5.00; Immaculate Conception, \$35.00; Christmas Flowers, \$15.00



December 10<sup>th</sup> - 9:00-10:15 AM PreK-10<sup>th</sup> grade classes  
 December 17<sup>th</sup> - 9:00-10:15 AM PreK-10<sup>th</sup> grade classes  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> - No Classes

The weekend of December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 the regular, Immaculate Conception and Christmas collection was \$2,238.00. The budget for the regular collection is \$2,395.00. To date we have collected \$49,578.00 which is \$15.00 above budget.



**Diocesan Appeal 2023-2024**

Did you know that you can now apportion your gift within 4 areas of focus: General budget underwriting of diocesan services for parishes; Parish operational support services of the diocese; Parish ministry support services of the diocese; and Vocations. Our assessment for this year is \$14,576.00 which is \$368.00 less than our 2022-2023 assessment. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the Diocesan Appeal and help Sacred Heart to reach our assessment once again!

**12 Signs of a Christian in Name Only vs. One Who Lives the Faith**

Nominal Christians might keep their faith private, avoiding discussions about religion, while a true Christian embraces opportunities to share the Gospel and their personal testimony.

To be continued next week  
 ~provided by guide2Free

**Rosary Society**

We are looking for new members and new ideas for the Rosary Society. We meet the second Tuesday of each month after morning Mass. On December 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM, we are gathering for our Christmas brunch. Miguel Dumay will be preparing our meal.

**New Advent Webpage**

This new Diocesan page is designed to enrich your Advent experience with activities you can share at home with family and friends, tips on how to go deeper in your faith, and help for those who haven't been to Reconciliation in a while. Fr. Matt Duclos answers common Reconciliation questions. Find this webpage at: <https://www.rcda.org/advent>.

**December Bulletin Quotes**

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother.” Learn how at [respectlife.org/support-her](http://respectlife.org/support-her).

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
 “10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”



**Christmas Flowers**

In your packet of envelopes there is one for Christmas flowers and there are envelopes in the vestibule if you do not use offertory envelopes. Donations can be made in honor or memory of your loved ones by writing their name(s) on the back of the envelope. A list of names that flowers are given in memory of will be in the bulletin a future date. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket.



**Christmas Gifts**

Are you looking for a gift for the person who has everything? Maybe a prayer shawl is the gift you are looking for.

There is no charge for a shawl but donations are always appreciated. Contact the Parish Office to get a shawl for someone special.

**“Zoom” With Us Into Advent**

On Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to noon join us as we take an Advent journey into the New Testament to uncover the portrait(s) of John the Baptist. See the flyer on the bulletin boards for more information.

**NYS Eucharistic Congress**

The New York State Eucharistic Congress, held October 20-22 at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, was a huge success. If you were not able to attend, you can still check out the wonderful talks, Masses, and music shared. All are posted at <https://nyseucharisticcongress.org/> just click the Photos & Videos tab on the top right of the homepage. This page will not live forever so we are planning to create a NYS Eucharistic Congress 2023 tab on the RCDA website to allow continued access to the beautiful Eucharistic messages.

**Please pray for the following people, who have requested our prayers:** Gussie Shifflett, Steve Pickwick, Joe LaFave, Ginni Roe, Gabi Bakeman, Bettye Pete, George Mertz, Kimberlee Roe, Grady Charles Weigand, Kevin, Michael Bell, Barbara Bennett, Daniel Rickard, Andre' Lundstrom, Mark & Andrea, Kim Sumski, Dorothy Kashuda, Alyson Sabillon, Linda Falk, Debra Barnard, Diane, Bonnie La Voie, Doug Williams, Faith Williams, Don Butler, Debra Patterson, Ed Nicol, Dawn Maruszewski, Carey, Madlyn Sumski, Alex Roberts, [Paul J. Hamilton, Sr.](#), Ray & Mary Munetz, Jazmers Moore, Bruce Allen, Kimberly Bosket, David Rivera, Jackie Bargher, [Matthew Baxter](#), Darline Smith, Daniel, Joseph Dermody, Alice Anderson, Sandy Kemp, [George Walters](#), Lorraine Keckeisen, Maria LaBar, Kathryn Wickham, [Patrick](#), John McCann, Natalie Stone, Marian Heeps, Mary Kolermous, Clare Sterchak, Terri Cristofaro, Liliana, Nancy Daugherty, Mark Morotwe, Sharon Guenther, Kira Cronk, Terry Yackel, Jack Yackel, Jim Mylotte, Alice Walters, Mariah Pierce, [Rev. Steve Deckard](#), Terry Nicolini, [Tammy Byrnes](#), Nick Gibson, Andy Woods, Bob Jenks, Jane, Dolores Storzinger, Alexis Spencer, Susan Chidester, Ines Warlock, Alyce Hopkins, [Bob Oliver](#), Rose LoCasci, Eugene & Yvonne Cutler, Timothy Bell, Barb Doyle, Ruth Glaum, Tom DeMulder, Holly North, Dixy Pflug, Tony & Lila Donnolo, Stefanie Smith, Celeste Hartman, Aidan Burns, Bill, Alicen Knapp Feroletto, Assunta Siniscalchi, James Jennings, Marge Suriano, Marlana Keath, Marian Agyemang, Frank Holley, Nicholas Gaedeke, Pat Hamilton, Gary Maraia, Rachel Feyh, Mike Andersen, Marge LaFave, Denise Dinato, Joe Maggio, Olivia Ross & family, Anne Terzo, Eric Roll, Barbara Haynes, Jess Johansen, Renee Joseph, Susan Pondolino, Charlie Washburn, Sean Granan, Marge Ramsey, Beverly Pierce, Fran Grashans, Marion Kiselica, a dear friend, Anne Powell, Father Peter, John Miller, Pat Nabinger, James Stanley, Chris Smith, Marlana, Pat Elbrecht, Dorothy Cronin, Anthony Barber, Jr., Bonnie De Salvo, Lori White, James Rattrie, Danielle Guglielmo, Ellen Reuter, Francis & Alfredine Duguay, Chelsi Byrne, Jaxson Beadle, Joan Rice, Joe Santorelli, Jaime Mathewson, Theo Williams, Joan Barber, Stephanie Soldinger, Eileen Donohue, Rowan DeCocker, Bonnie Tabone, Nancy Peck, Mike Blincoe

*Please Note: All names will remain on our list and will be prayed for unless our office is notified to remove an individual.*