



*Mass Intentions for the Week*

- 12-16 Mon 9:00 AM All deceased parishioners
- 12-17 Tues 9:00 AM John Elbrecht  
By Pat Elbrecht
- 12-18 Wed 9:00 AM All deceased parishioners
- 12-19 Thurs 9:00 AM Marilyn Schmidt  
By Carol Jensen
- 12-20 Fri 9:00 AM Communion Service  
(weather permitting)
- 12-21 Sat 4:00 PM Michael Gregory Jr.  
By the family
- 12-22 Sun 10:30 AM All deceased parishioners

**2025 Envelopes**

Please pick up your envelopes in the vestibule this weekend. If your number changed there is a letter standing up in your box of envelopes. A contribution of \$5.00 in the initial offering envelope will help defray the cost of the envelopes. After January 1, 2025 all remaining boxes will be in the office.



**Roof Construction**

The replacement of the roof on the church began this week. Pews, altars and other areas have been covered in plastic sheeting to help keep as much dust and debris off them as possible. We ask for your patience and understanding as work on this project begins. Work will proceed as quickly as weather permits.



**Communal Advent Reconciliation Service**

The celebration of the Communal Advent Reconciliation Service will take place next Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</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.

**“Gaudette” Sunday: Cultivate the spirit of joy within you**

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent also known as “Gaudete” Sunday. “Gaudete” is a Latin word which mean rejoice. The liturgy for this day bids us to rejoice because our salvation is near at hand. Today we light the pink or rose candle on our advent wreath and the priest celebrant wears rose-colored vestments to signify our joy in Christ, and the liberation and restoration he brings to our lives.

A spirit of joy runs through the first reading, the responsorial psalm and the second reading. All of them encourage us to trust in God’s unfailing love and care for our lives.

In the first reading, the prophet Zephaniah proclaimed the message of hope and comfort to the despondent people of Judah and Jerusalem. He told them to rejoice because God is in their midst to deliver them from the hands of their enemies and restore their ruined city of Jerusalem. Zephaniah urged the people to trust in God’s unfailing mercy to pardon their iniquities and renew them in his love.

The responsorial psalm uses the words of the prophet Isaiah to stir the sense of hope and joy in our hearts. It calls us to cry out with joy and gladness and trust in God’s greatness to save us.

Saint Paul echoes the theme of joy in the second reading telling us to rejoice always in the Lord and make our kindness and gentleness known to all. Saint Paul exhorts all of us to have no anxiety at all, but rather to pray constantly, and give thanks to God in all the situations and circumstances of life.

In the gospel, John the Baptist preached repentance and transformation to people along the Jordan bank. John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus Christ. His preaching and testimony touched the hearts of his listeners including the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers. These groups of people asked him the question; “What should we do?”

John the Baptist urged the crowds to seek the good of others, to share their cloaks and food with the needy. Likewise, he challenged the tax collectors to stop cheating people and act honestly and justly. He called the soldiers to be kind in their dealings with others and to be content with whatever they have.

We all need a turning point in our lives. Sometimes we fail to relate to others in a fair and just way. We are dishonest and unkind to others. In this holy season, we are offered the opportunity to turn a new leaf and grow in God’s grace. We are encouraged to go to confession and receive God’s mercy, healing, peace, and joy.

Let us pray that as God renews us in his love and grace, we too may strive to become his true instruments bringing love, peace, and joy to all those we meet and encounter each day in our lives.

God bless,  
Fr. Dr. Ben



**Weekend of December 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

First Reading-Micah 5:1-4

Second Reading- Hebrews 10:5-10

**Saturday 4:00 PM**

**Celebrant:**

Fr. Ben

**Lector:**

Nancy Kahane

**Eucharistic Ministers**

Pat Tartaglia

**Altar Servers**

Quinn & Ayla Gronwall

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Gospel- Luke 1:39-45

**Sunday 10:30AM**

Fr. Ben

Judy Roldan

Kristin Reuter

Anderson & Garret Callender

Offerings from December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular collection, \$2,593.00; Repairs, \$75.00; Evangelist, \$122.00 Campaign for Human Development, \$30.00; All Saints, \$25.00; Flowers, \$578.00; Immaculate Conception, \$476.00



### Religious Education 2024-2025

12/15 9:00-10:15 AM Classes for grades Pre-K-10<sup>th</sup>  
12/22 9:00-10:15 AM Assembly for grades Pre-K-10<sup>th</sup>

## Adult Faith FORMATION

### An Advent Scripture Study over Zoom

Led by Dr. Joy Galarneau

10:00 AM-noon December 17

Join us to delve into the Christian Scriptures and beyond to uncover the wisdom buried there through the study of Jesus' family tree and the women named there; Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary. What do we know about these women? Why were they included in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus? Cost: \$110.00 to be divided by the number of participants

The 2025 Mass Intention book has arrived. If you have Masses that you would like scheduled for 2025 please call or stop by the office or send your requests in writing to the Parish Office.



### 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 Christmas bulletin. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket.



### Advent Candles

Thank you to Father Ben for providing Jessica Wheeler and the decorating crew with the inspiration for the new Advent candle display on the altar. It is a beautiful and inspirational display for the Advent season.



### 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 Faith Formation Office to get a shawl for someone special.

### December Bulletin Quotes

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

### Free Community Christmas Meal



There will be a free community meal at the Elks Club in Sidney on December 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meal. If you are interested in helping contact Gene Schmidt at 607-610-4030

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 PM under the direction of Jack Doyle. Please join us for an uplifting celebration of the "Love" of Jesus.

### Biking for Babies

Young adults ages 18-39 are invited to join in a cycling mission ride to pursue the discipline of a disciple. Both riders and support crew missionaries embark on a spiritual and physical training program, preparing them for the National Ride, a 6-day, 600-mile bicycle ride. Applications are due February 21, 2025 at [www.bikingforbabies.com/join](http://www.bikingforbabies.com/join).



Thank you for your overwhelming support of the Giving Tree. Your generous gifts and monetary donations will bring the joy of Christmas to more than eighty one children. May the joy you bring to the children also be your gift throughout Advent and Christmas.

**Please pray for the following people, who have requested our prayers:** Gussie Shifflett, Steve Pickwick, Joe LaFave, Ginni Roe, Gabi Bakeman, Kimberlee Roe, Kevin, Michael Bell, Grady Charles Weigand, Barbara Bennett, Daniel Rickard, 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, Joseph Dermody, Alice Anderson, Sandy Kemp, George Walters Lorraine Keckisen, Maria LaBar, 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, Rev. Steve Deckard, Terry Nicolini, Nick Gibson, Andy Woods, Bob Jenks, Jane, Dolores Storzinger, Alexis Spencer, Ines Warlock, Susan Chidester, Bob Oliver, Rose LoCasci, Eugene & Yvonne Cutler, Timothy Bell, Barb Doyle, Tom DeMulder, Ruth Glaum, Holly North, Dixy Pflug, Celeste Hartman, Aidan Burns, Bill, Alicen Knapp Feroletto, James Jennings, Marge Suriano, Marlena Keath, Marian Agyemang, Frank Holley, Nicholas Gaedeke, Pat Hamilton, Gary Maraia, Rachel Feyh, Marge LaFave, Denise Dinato, Joe Maggio, Olivia Ross & family, Eric Roll, Barbara Haynes, Renee Joseph, Susan Pondolfino, Charlie Washburn, James Rattrie, Sean Granan, Marge Ramsey, Beverly Pierce, Fran Groshans, Marion Kiselica, a dear friend, Pat Nabinger, James Stanley, Chris Smith, Pat Elbrecht, Bonnie De Salvo, Lori White, Ellen Reuter, Danielle & Phil Gugliermo, Jaxson Beadle, Francis & Alfreidine Duguay, Joan Rice, Rowan DeCocker, Stephanie Soldinger, Bonnie Tabone, Austin Kilmer, Daniel, John Gilmore, Will Sterchak, Donna Khan, Anthony Barber, Jr., Payton Lakin, Theresa Zieno, Joan & Tony Barber, parishioners with COVID, Kyle Roy, Phyllis Blincoe, Maggie Hoffman, Marybeth Modinger, Jacqueline Richardson, Celeste Aber, Max & Kyle Cochrane, Teri Frallich, Rochelle Knapp, Caceres, Gustavo, Rios, Alonso, & SantaCruz families, Andrea Emilia Bernabey

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