

December 2, 2018 • First Sunday of Advent

In daily life, it's easy simply to focus on the here and now. Life can be complex and rapidly changing. It's often plenty for us just to get through the day. Yet it seems that in Luke's Gospel today, Jesus is asking his followers, and us too, to widen our focus and see a larger reality.

We are asked to observe not only the routines of daily life, not only the large forces of history acting upon us, but also God bringing forth the birth of a new creation. Jesus asks us to see beyond today's troubles and watch God stirring up hope. We are to more truly see persons in need, those who experience violence, loss, or injustice. We are asked to see beyond the superficial during the Christmas shopping season, and to see Christ as ultimate Gift and gift-giver.

WAITING WELL

Today we begin Lectionary Year C, when the Gospel readings are frequently from the Gospel of Luke. Luke wrote for a community that wrestled with questions about what had happened and what had not (yet) happened. Some in the commu-

nity had anticipated the promised return of Jesus during their lifetimes. In today's Gospel, Jesus does not offer a timetable for his coming, but asks us to watch and wait. We can learn to wait faithfully, not knowing what will happen next, but living in trust. Advent is a time to learn again about waiting well.

Many of the events we most cherish in life involve waiting: the birth of a child, graduation, a new job, retirement. How we receive these events often depends on how well we have waited and prepared. Waiting well is not passive. We often work hard to prepare for life's big events, both externally and in our hearts. We ready ourselves, but allow for surprises. Advent's preparation for Christmas mirrors our many waitings, knowing that God may come into our lives by surprise, without a timetable.

Today's Readings: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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**ST. ISIDORE CHURCH
Laingsburg, Michigan**

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Outreach Ministry:- Jesse Anguiano – 517-881-2227
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Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm - Sunday Mass: 9:00 am
Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
Ovid, Michigan**

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Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm - Sunday Mass 11:00 am
Confession: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday—December 1	5:30 PM	† Janice Marie Tisdale by the Family
Sunday— December 2	9:00 AM	† Michael Logan by Mary Stein
Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	NO MASS	
Wednesday	6:30 PM	People of the Parish
Thursday	8:30 AM	† Sheila Doyle by the Family
Friday	8:30 AM	† Bruce Horne by Chris & Kay Basgall
Vigil—Immaculate Conception	7:00 PM	† Mary Lou Lefere by the Family
Sat.—Immaculate Conception	10:00 AM	† Don Smith by the Knights of Columbus
Saturday—December 8	5:30 PM	† In Memory of Al Ferland by Christ & Kay Basgall
Sunday— December 9	9:00 AM	† Jim Byrnes by Nancy, Bob, Melissa, Reanna & Mariah

PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR MELVIN PAMMENT, - JIM CARBARY, (FATHER OF MAGGIE SAYLES), - KEVIN PLATTE, OLIVER WASHINGTON, - LINDSEY KING (GRANDDAUGHTER OF GEORGENE KING), - GERRY PACE, - PAT SIMPSON, - RAY DOYLE, - BEN SINIARSKI, - KYLE WALLER, - TYLER KING (GRANDSON OF GEORGENE KING) - JUDITH MARTELL (MOTHER OF TERESA PICKENS), - TERRY MILLER, - JIM (MAYO) HURST, - CHARLES OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - PAT ROWLEY (SISTER OF JIM ROWLEY), - BRUCE CHANDLER (BROTHER OF MARTI ROWLEY), - JIM OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - NICHOLAS SCOTT (SON OF VERONICA SCOTT), - ROSE MORRILL, - JULIE STONER (DAUGHTER OF GENE & BARB STONER), - JOHN MARTINEZ, - FRANK LUNDIE, - JANET ARTHUR, - KIM (KOONTER) BALCARCEL, - PAM DELONG, - SUSAN DELONG, - MARY CHADWICK, - LEAH ZAMARIPA, (COUSIN OF JESSE ANGUIANO), THERESA HEEG (DAUGHTER OF JOHN & SANDY VANGEERTRUY), - BETH MUSELLA (COUSIN OF ANITA LEATHERS)

From the family of Don “Big Daddy” Smith:

The outpouring of support we have received since the loss of our husband, father and grandfather has been overwhelming. We can't begin to thank everyone enough for the calls, visits, meals, cards, donations and prayers for us during this most difficult time-he was loved by many! If you came to the visitation or the funeral, and we did not get a chance to speak with you, please know that your presence and support for our family is very much appreciated! We want to offer a heartfelt thank you from all of us.

OFFERTORY
Nov 24 & 25, 2018

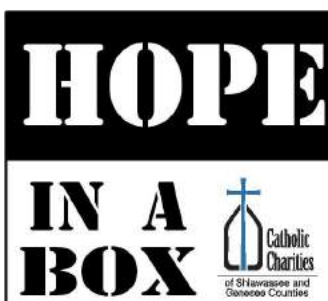
75 Adult Envelopes	\$2,271
Loose Collection	\$232
2 Children's Envelopes	\$2
9 Building Fund Envelopes	\$220
17 ACH Electronic Offertory	\$1,210
Total Weekly Offertory	\$3,943

RETIREMENT FOR RELIGIOUS

Dec 8 & 9

Envelopes are near
the bulletins

This collection provides restricted grants to any religious institute in the US that has an unfunded past service liability. It distributes basic, supplemental and special assistance retirement grants from the fund to religious institutes based on a formula and criteria approved by the conferences of major superior and bishops.



**December Need of the Month:
Hats, Gloves, Mittens,
Blankets**

Collection bins are in the entryway to the church and small hall

WOMEN' RETREAT
St. Francis Retreat Center,
Dewitt
January 4—6, 2019
Register online at
www.stfrancis.ws
More information on the bulletin boards.

PARISH WIDE

Dec. 2—Cooking Club—(During REF) 10:15-11:15
Dec.13—Christmas Potluck—Mass 11:00 AM

High School Youth Group

Sunday, December 2nd, 4:00—7:00 PM
Make Christmas bulletin board outside our room. Make stockings and stuff with parish donated gifts.

Sunday, December 9, 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Deliver stockings/sing Christmas Carols to assisted living homes and shut-ins around Laingsburg/Ovid area.

YOU ARE INVITED

Holy Family Church Movie Night

Monday, Dec. 3rd, at 6:30

No Admission, Free popcorn and water

Movie: *The Case for Christ*. Based on a true story, this movie deals with the question "Is Jesus real?" Come watch the movie and see how it is answered.

MITTENS FOR THE HOMELESS

Monday, Dec. 3

Large Hall—9 am to 2 pm

All ladies are welcome to join us. No sewing skills needed. **Donations needed:**

Sweaters and Polar Fleece

Please leave donations near office door.

The Laingsburg Community Singers will present their Winter/Christmas Concerts here at St. Isidore on Saturday, December 8 @ 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 9 @ 4:00 pm. Please join us in the large hall after both concerts for finger foods. This is our 42nd year of bringing music to the community!! Free will offering.

GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is up and tags are waiting to be filled. All gifts are for the over 30 local children in the Laingsburg Schools. Gifts should be wrapped and returned with the tags taped on the outside. Food Items do not have to be wrapped just tape the tag onto the box or bag.

Return the gifts by Dec. 16th



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION (REF)

Sundays—10:15 AM—11:15 AM

Dec. 2 —REF Sessions

Dec. 9—REF Sessions

More REF details contact:

Mary Stevens—marystevens@stisidorechurch.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dec. 9 -Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Dec. 12—Business Meeting— 7:00 PM

The Knights of Columbus will be selling "**Keep Christ In Christmas**" yard signs following Advent weekend Masses. The cost is \$10 each which is what it costs the Knights to procure.

Knight of the Month:

Deceased— David Ferland and Don Smith

Family of the Month: Chris & Amy Wilson

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Our Christmas Potluck will be held on Thursday, December 13, starting with Mass at 11:00am. The Knights will provide the meat, so bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bingo and door prizes will be available too! Please sign up in the foyers of the church.

SWEATSHIRT — THANK YOU

Thanks to all the people of St. Isidore, the Knights of Columbus were able to send 40 sweatshirts to Holy Cross Children Services. The children thank you. Once again, the Knights of Columbus thank you for your generous giving.

NOTES FROM FR. BOB BACIK

It is great to be home! I had a wonderful pilgrimage to Rome and Slovenia with three of my priest classmates. Among the highlights of this trip was having the opportunity to celebrate Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for all of your intentions. I'm sure you'll hear about more of my experiences in upcoming homilies.

Happy Church New Year! This weekend we mark the beginning of the Year of Grace, 2019. A new set of Scripture readings will be used on Sundays (Year C) and weekdays (Cycle I). Our merging parishes also begin our new Mass Schedules this weekend.

Envelopes are available for all registered families on the tables behind the Baptismal Font. Please take your envelopes home this weekend or next. If you would like to register your household in our parish (or update your information) please speak to me after Mass or contact the parish office.

Church calendars are also available by the main doorways. These calendars highlight the feasts throughout the year as well as the color of the vestments worn to match the celebration—a great resource for observant members to dress according to the seasons. I hope to see many of you break out your violet and rose this Advent season!

Please note that next Saturday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are scheduled at St. Isidore and Holy Family on Friday evening and at St. Isidore on Saturday morning. I look forward to seeing all of you twice next weekend!

Please see the enclosed Advent schedule for St. Isidore and Blessed Sacrament and be attentive to notices in the bulletin. Let us keep each other in prayer as we enter into this sacred season.

Fr. Bob
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