



*John  
proclaimed  
a baptism  
of repentance*

**December 9, 2018 • Second Sunday of Advent**

John the Baptist preached from the desert. The desert not far from Jerusalem is extremely rugged, where steep hills and deep valleys are common across a barren landscape. When John quoted Isaiah in today's Gospel, this rough terrain stirred the imagination of John's listeners. John proclaimed that these hills and valleys are to be made level, to provide a smooth path for God to enter.

John's listeners recognized that the height of hills and the depth of valleys are similar to human attitudes and relationships: heights of personal pride and depths of discouragement and fear. Hills and valleys evoked how people treat each other, with some people raised high and others brought low. They suggested how social structures embody and harden these tendencies with large-scale systems of military, political, or economic oppression. John proclaimed that God was about to alter this social landscape through the work of Jesus.

**EARTH-MOVING**

Transforming the human landscape, like the task of smoothing the desert hills and valleys, is an enormous under-

taking, truly the work of God. Yet God looks for partners in this transformation. John the Baptist, and Jesus afterward, called followers to participate in God's work, and to begin with repentance. We the Church respond to this call today, and acknowledge our ongoing need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Our Advent preparation for Christmas includes opening our hearts to God's forgiveness, so that Jesus might come to take residence there.

We join in God's earth-moving project by repenting of how we block God's path with resentments and fears. When we are brought low in our lives, we seek God's help, and God will enlist the help of others. When we realize that we reside on mountains of advantage or privilege that place others in valleys, we are to repent and to change how we live. When we bring healing and justice to others, we are sharing in God's earth-shaking work, and preparing a straight pathway for our God.

Today's Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

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**ST. ISIDORE CHURCH  
Laingsburg, Michigan**

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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**

**Sr. Priest in Residence:** Rev. Raymond J. Urbanek  
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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

Sat.—Immaculate Conception Saturday—December 8	<b>10:00 AM</b> 5:30 PM	† Don Smith by the Knights of Columbus † In Memory of Al Ferland by Christ & Kay Basgall
Sunday— December 9	9:00 AM	† Jim Byrnes by Nancy, Bob, Melissa, Reanna & Mariah
Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	NO MASS	
Wednesday	6:30 PM	† David Ferland by the Knights of Columbus
Thursday	<b>11:00 AM</b>	† People of St. Isidore & Holy Family Parishes
Friday	8:30 AM	† Souls in Purgatory
Saturday—December 15	5:30 PM	† Jerry Barnum by Ann Barnum
Sunday— December 16	9:00 AM	† Sylvester "Bud" Rourke by the Family

**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)

**OFFERTORY**  
Dec. 1 & 2, 2018

81 Adult Envelopes	\$2,562
Loose Collection	\$328
3 Children's Envelopes	\$4
8 Building Fund Envelopes	\$245
<b>Total Weekly Offertory</b>	<b>\$3,140</b>

RETIREMENT  
FOR RELIGIOUS  
Dec 8 & 9  
Envelopes are  
near the bulletins

**Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Every Saturday in Advent  
12:30 - 1:00 pm - St. Isidore  
3:00 - 3:30 pm - Holy Family  
*Or Anytime by Appointment.*  
Sunday, December 16

**Regional Advent Reconciliation Service**

2pm - St. Thomas, East Lansing  
OR St. Gerard, Lansing



**Second Sunday of Advent**

As Christmas approaches, you may have noticed that your box of envelopes does not contain an envelope marked "Pastor's Gift" as in years past. Our diocese discourages this practice since it gives the impression that the pastor is actively soliciting gifts.

Also, contrary to "urban legend" or past practice, the Christmas Day collection does NOT go to the pastor. It is treated like any Sunday offering.

If you would like to remember Fr. Bob at Christmas with a card or monetary gift, you may drop it in the collection basket anytime. —Please place it in a separate envelope with Fr. Bob written on the outside.

--Parish Financial Committee

**2019 Offertory Envelopes** are in the back of church. If you do not see you envelopes please contact the office. 2019 Calendars are also available.

**WOMEN' RETREAT**  
**St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt**  
**January 4—6, 2019**  
Register online at [www.stfrancis.ws](http://www.stfrancis.ws)  
More information on the bulletin boards.



### PARISH WIDE

Dec. 9—Cooking Club—(During REF) 10:15-11:15  
Dec.13—Christmas Potluck—Mass 11:00 AM  
Dec. 16—Pancake Breakfast

### High School Youth Group

**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.

**Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 – 11:30 AM**

- FORMED – Session 5: Engaging Moral Relativism

### MITTENS FOR THE HOMELESS

Monday, Dec. 10

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.

**At this time we really need sweater donations to continue**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION (REF)

Sundays—10:15 AM—11:15 AM

Dec. 9—REF Sessions

Dec. 16—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

Dec. 16—Pancake Breakfast

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.

### 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.

### 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

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**



**The Guitar Group is  
celebrating their  
25th year this month!**



## NOTES FROM FR. BOB BACIK

It has been wonderful to watch so many wrapped gifts come in for our Giving Tree ministry. This year we are sponsoring over a dozen local families and I am so appreciative of your generosity. I'm hoping that the last few remaining tags will be picked up this weekend. Remember to return your wrapped gifts with the tag by December 16.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the front of the bulletin has not caught up to our current Mass Schedule. Pay attention to the purple Advent Schedule handout and times posted inside the bulletin.

**On Tuesday, December 18th** I will be presenting an Advent Catechesis entitled *Mary's Advent* at St. Isidore. Together we will explore the significance of Mary and consider Advent from her perspective. Note the date change from the previous Advent handout. The program will begin at 6:00 pm and conclude by 7:30.

**Next weekend** is Bambinelli Sunday, a tradition that was started by Pope St. John Paul II over 30 years ago to coincide with Gaudete Sunday. *Bambinelli* is Italian, the plural of *bambinello* which means "little baby [boy]." People from all over Italy are invited to come to St. Peter's Square bringing the Baby Jesus from their nativity scenes to be blessed by the Pope. This beautiful tradition has really caught on in Italy, I noticed that Baby Jesus figurines were one of the most popular items in gift shops. Bring your Baby Jesus next week to be blessed at whichever Mass you attend.

**Prepare the way!** This reoccurring theme of the season of Advent challenges us to take stock of our lives and root out anything that separates us from encountering the gift of Christ. To this end I encourage all of our parishioners to consider experiencing the Grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) during Advent. Please note the many opportunities to celebrate this Sacrament in our parish and at the Regional Communal Services that take place next Sunday at St. Thomas and St. Gerard.

**Keep Christ in Christmas!** The yard signs provided by the Knights of Columbus were a huge success. We have sold out several times over! A few more signs have been acquired and area available, while they last, for \$10. Hopefully this becomes an annual practice, a great reminder to the community and ourselves about Whom the season is about.

Another reminder of [FORMED.ORG](http://FORMED.ORG), the amazing resource that has been purchased for all parishioners and friends. Please be sure to check out the timely Advent resources for all ages. Parish Code: NH8RB3.

Remember that next weekend is the Third Sunday of Advent— Wear a splash of rose (pink, salmon) as we mark the halfway point of Advent.

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