



The people had been searching and waiting for generations for the Anointed One of God. They knew in their hearts that they needed someone to bring them back, to close the divide that had grown between God and God's people. John's baptism of repentance prepared them for the advent, or coming, of the Christ. John's message of repentance and the demands of faith, of justice, and care for the poor and oppressed, while comforting to the weak and vulnerable, was challenging to those in positions of power. Like prophets before him, he refused to ignore the promptings of God to speak God's word. And like many prophets who preceded him, John was imprisoned and eventually martyred.

We can relate to the people who went out into the desert to be baptized. They heard John's urgent call to repentance and his declaration that the Messiah was coming soon. They heard him express God's care for those who needed it most. They were compelled to hear and respond. Their lives were changed, as their hearts were opened to the reality of God's love to which John so powerfully gave witness.

## GOD IS WITH YOU

We too ache for God's healing and peace. We wait for God to break into our lives with love. Who among us has not at times felt weak, feeble, afraid? Take heart, you are not alone. God is with you. God is ready to save us from the darkness of sin and lead us to joy in the presence of God's mercy. This is the message of Advent, and of the whole of the gospel: God desires so deeply to be with us that God came to be one with us in Jesus Christ.

Today's Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

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### ST. ISIDORE CHURCH Laingsburg, Michigan

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Parish Secretary: Sharon Gillespie

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Saturday Mass: 5:30 pm - Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

Confession: Wednesday 5:15 to 6:15 pm

### HOLY FAMILY CHURCH Ovid, Michigan

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

Phone: 989-834-5855

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Religious Ed. Formation (REF) Ginger Kusnier

R.C.I.A. Dir.: Vivian Durling

Web Address: <http://stisidorechurch.org/hf/>

Saturday Mass: 4:00 pm - Sunday Mass 11:00 am

Confession: Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30 pm

# Notes from Fr. Bob Bacik

**Rite of Welcome:** Last week at the 9am Mass three men declared publicly their desire to formally continue their process of entering into full communion with the Catholic Church. These men, with their sponsors and RCIA team, will continue the process of catechesis and formation. God willing, they will complete the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. We, as a parish community, must do our part to pray for and support them along the way. Congratulations and welcome to Dan Fickes, Roger Hughes and Dennis Story.

**AD LIMINA VISIT:** On a rotating schedule every bishop of the world meets with the Holy Father and various Vatican departments in what is called an 'ad limina' visit. This occurs approximately every five years. The bishops of Michigan and Ohio were in Rome this past week for this purpose. Lets continue to pray for Bishop Boyea and all our bishops that they may faithfully and courageously lead our church.

**The Church needs Knights!** Being a member of the Knights of Columbus has made me a better man, Catholic, and priest. Last week, I learned that the national organization has transformed the initiation process for the first 3 degrees into a 30-minute public ceremony. It is beautiful and Christ-centered.

I'm asking for Knights because you will have a huge effect on our parish, community, Church, and world. Learn more and join online at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) Pray about it. I'm setting a goal of 5 parish men to join through e-membership this month. (50% promo code: MIKOFc), and we'll schedule the public initiation ceremony at a later date.



Don't have the time? We're not asking for time. We're asking for faithful Catholic men. Maybe you can't make the meetings but can you put a coat on a kid? Could you give an hour to support people with disabilities or seminarians or women in unexpected pregnancies? I'm asking you to consider joining this great organization.

Next weekend we will commemorate is **Bambinelli Sunday**, a tradition that was started by Pope St. John Paul II over 30 years ago. *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. Bring your Baby Jesus next week to be blessed at whichever Mass you attend.

Have a Blessed Week!  
Fr. Bob

**RECONCILIATION:** Advent is a great time to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation occurs regularly at St. Isidore on Wednesday from 5:15 - 6:15 pm and at Holy Family on Saturday from 3:00 - 3:30 pm, or by appointment. If you would prefer to experience this sacrament with a different priest please consider attending one of the upcoming regional communal services.

If you need a refresher—a guide for confession is located near the confessional.

## Regional Communal Advent Reconciliation Services

**Sunday, December 15, 2:00 pm, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing AND St. Gerard, Lansing**



## PARISH WIDE

Dec. 15—Pancake Breakfast

Dec. 17—55 & Better Potluck after Mass at 12:10 pm  
(At Holy Family—All St. Isidore Invited)

Dec. 22—Children's Liturgy

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION (REF)

Sundays—10:15 AM—11:15 AM

Dec. 15—REF Classes

Dec. 22—REF Classes

Sign up for **REMIND** to receive all notifications for REF. Go to

<https://www.remind.com/join/stisidorer>

Sign up to receive notices via text or email.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dec. 15—Pancake Breakfast

Dec. 25—Planning Meeting— **CANCELLED**

**Knight of the Month:** Will Seymour

**Family of the Month:** Gary & Diana Hurst



## **GIVING TREE**

**Return the gifts  
this weekend  
Dec. 15.**

(Gift distribution to the school will be Monday, Dec. 16 at 8 am.)



AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF

**LESSONS**

AND

**CAROLS**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

5:30 PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ST. JOHNS

FEATURING COMMUNITY CHOIRS

DIRECTED BY STEVEN EASTERLING

Join us for this fifty-minute program of holiday music and readings from the biblical Christmas story.

Come ready to sing your favorite carols!

This is a free event. Refreshments to follow.



## MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

SATURDAY — December 14	5:30 PM	† John & Sandra VanGeertruy by the Family
SUNDAY — December 15	9:00 AM	† Sylvester "Bud" Rourke by the Family
Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	NO MASS	
Wednesday	<b>NO MASS</b>	(Fr. Bob will be hearing REF confessions at Holy Family)
Thursday	8:30 AM	† David Weber
Friday	8:30 AM	† Sheila Doyle by the Family
SATURDAY — December 21	5:30 PM	† Katie Russell Walters by the Family
SUNDAY — December 22	9:00 AM	† Charles H. & Dorothy Kendall by the Family

**PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR** MELVIN PAMMENT, - KEVIN PLATTE, OLIVER WASHINGTON, - GERRY PACE, - PAT SIMPSON, - RAY DOYLE, - KYLE WALLER, - JUDITH MARTELL (MOTHER OF TERESA PICKENS), - JIM (MAYO) HURST, - CHARLES OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - BRUCE CHANDLER (BROTHER OF MARTI ROWLEY), - JIM OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - ROSE MORRILL, - JULIE STONER (DAUGHTER OF GENE & BARB STONER), - FRANK LUNDIE, - JOHN MARTINEZ, (FRIEND OF JESSE ANGUIANO) - JANET ARTHUR, - PAM DELONG, - SUSAN DELONG, - THERESA HEEG, - LANA MIERSEN, - MARY STEIN, AGGIE CASSADY, - SHIRLEY GREENE, - MARY MAPES (MOTHER OF MIKE MAPES), - BILL DUSO, - TERESA KECK, (SISTER OF PHYLLIS HART & HELEN STELZER), - JOSEPHINE ANDERSON, - SHANNON HURST, - DENNY LEE, - DAVID OLENICZAK, - JEANNE OLENICZAK, - VERN WRIGHT, - DON ELLIOTT, - TONI DOYLE, - KEITH HURST, - MARY LOU DOYLE, - VIRGINIA BERNAL (COUSIN OF JESSE ANGUIANO), - DAWN WROBEL, - GARY ANDERSEN, - PEGGY ROUMPZ (FRIEND OF NANCY CLARK), - THERESA PICKLER (FRIEND OF JESSE ANGUIANO), - JULIE JUSTICE (GRANDDAUGHTER OF LARRY & DEBBIE EARL), - BERRY DECKER (JESSE ANGUIANO)



**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS  
MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Eve**, Tuesday, Dec. 24  
4:00 pm - Holy Family  
5:30 pm - St. Isidore

**Christmas Day**, Wednesday, Dec. 25  
9:00 am - St. Isidore  
11:00 am - Holy Family

**New Years Eve**, Tuesday, Dec. 31  
6:00 pm - Holy Family

**New Years Day**, Wednesday, Jan. 1  
12:00 (Noon) - St. Isidore

<b>OFFERTORY</b>	
Dec. 7 & 8, 2019	
70 Adult Envelopes	\$3,510
Loose Collection	\$352
Children's Offertory	\$35
18 ACH Electronic Offertory	\$1,430
<b>Total Weekly Offertory</b>	<b>\$5,327</b>

**2020 Offertory Envelopes** are in the back of church. If you do not see your envelopes please contact the office. Children's envelopes are available, please record the name and child's envelope number on the list. 2020 Calendars are also available



Need for the month of  
December

Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Blankets

Annual Men's Retreat  
January 31 – February 2  
St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt  
This year's theme:  
*River of Life: Flowing from our Baptism*  
Register: 517-669-8321 or [www.stfrancis.ws](http://www.stfrancis.ws)  
Suggested Offering for Weekend: \$185