

Focusing the gospel

In the Second Sunday of Advent we hear Isaiah write of a voice that cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" These lines from the prophet are repeated in the Mark's Gospel as we are introduced to John the Baptist who prepares the way for Jesus. John says, "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

December 12th is the Feast- of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the U.S.

We focus on the first readings from the Prophet Isaiah this week. With the Babylonian Captivity, the temple was destroyed, the leaders of the people were taken away to Babylon and a remnant was left behind. A life-threatening desert separated the people. In this context, Isaiah proclaims God's vindication of the people in exile. The desert will be reborn. A highway will bring their liberation. And the signs will be that there is healing and peace. "Comfort, give comfort to my people," says the Lord. The valleys will be filled in the mountains leveled - every obstacle will be overcome - to build a highway for our God to come and save us. The people can hardly believe the good news. They are weak and weary of their captivity. Isaiah proclaims, "They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings." The people have been at a distance from the Lord for some time and were not obeying the commandments. The Lord says, "I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" God promises them that if they follow his teachings, "Your descendants would be like the sand... their name never cut off or blotted out from my presence." The final first reading this week is a piece from the book of Sirach in which the prophet Elijah is praised. Elijah, who was destined to come again to restore order before the day of the Lord, is seen in the reading from Matthew's Gospel to be John the Baptist.

Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on Creighton University's Online Ministries Website: <http://www.creighton.edu/collaborativeministry/prayer>. Used with permission.

"Oh Come Let Us Adore Him"



Please Remember In Prayer:

Sr. Lucille Kerschen
 Juanita Mans
 Jim Ridder
 Sue Warren
 Regina Gaytan
 Jim Monroe
 Leroy Nedeau
 Ruth Freund
 Joan Kandt
 Peggy Bowen
 Doug Howell
 Betty Sherlock
 Dorothy Dotterer
 Nancy Smith



Nell Ball
 Doug Stuhlsatz
 Don Williams
 Tim Chadd
 Nancy Bradley

Vernie Bloch
 Dave Rohlman
 Sandy Gleeson
 Jim Flanigan
 Sarah Bigley
 Jeff Dyer
 Tim Holden
 JoAnn Heimerman
 Patricia Ardissonne
 Mary Moman
 Tim Benham
 John Uphaus
 Janet Wilhite
 Jack Northern

"...In this world I cannot see the Most High Son of God with my own eyes, except for His Most Holy Body and Blood."- *St. Francis of Assisi*

Volunteers needed for the following hours:

Sunday - 2 a.m.

Monday - 7 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Thursday - 8 a.m. & 9 a.m.

Friday - 11 a.m., Noon & 6 p.m.

Saturday - 1 a.m., 2 a.m. & 6 p.m.

For more details, call Jana at 945-5379.



United in Prayer

**St. Joseph Family
 Rosary Crusade
 13,580 decades prayed**

Please join us in praying for our parish families and the poor souls. Decade cards are available in the vestibule of the church.

Weekly Readings

| | |
|-------|---|
| Mon. | 12/11: Is 35:1-10, Ps 85:9-14, Lk 5:17-26 |
| Tues. | 12/12: Zec 2:14-17, Judith 13:18-19, Lk 1:26-38 |
| Wed. | 12/13: Is 40:25-31, Ps 103:1-10, Mt 11:28-30 |
| Thur. | 12/14: Is 41:13-20, Ps 145:1-13, Mt 11:11-15 |
| Fri. | 12/15: Is 48:17-19, Ps 1:1-6, Mt 11:16-19 |
| Sat. | 12/16: Sir 48:1-11, Ps 80:2-19, Mt 17:9-13 |
| Sun. | 12/17: Is 61:1-11, Lk 1:46-54, 1Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-28 |

Thank you for your gift of treasure! July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Weekly Collection 12/032017 | \$16,571.14 |
| Weekly tithe amount needed | \$13,483.09 |
| Surplus or (Deficit) YTD | (\$19,589.72) |
| CMI Fund | \$9,712.00 |
| 2017-2018 Fiscal Year | |
| Roof & Climate Control Repairs | (\$15,242.27) |
| (cost so far this fiscal year) | |
| CMI Balance | (\$5,530.27) |
| <i>(Campus Maintenance & Improvement Fund)</i> | |

John the Baptist was not tempted to conform to this world. He knew who was coming after him, and he wasn't afraid to shout it out. He proclaimed an authentic baptism in the Holy Spirit -- a baptism we all share in! In this baptism, we are not only called to be stewards of God's gifts, but we also hope to be found "without spot or blemish" at the end of time. Advent season is a time to reflect on our baptismal promises, to clean up the blemishes, and look forward to the coming of the Savior who is already among us!

Thanks to this Parish Dinner sponsor:

Burtch Accounting & Tax

Individual & Business Income Tax
Bookkeeping & Compliance

316.253.7113

jenniferkburtch@gmail.com
Jennifer (Keiter) Burtch, Proprietor

Holy Mass Schedule & Intentions

Monday, December 11

Saint Damasus I

8:15 a.m. Mass S.I. Herb McGreevy

Tuesday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:00 p.m. Mass S.I. Daughters of Isabella

Wednesday, December 13

Saint Lucy

8:15 a.m. Mass +Bob Bolster

Thursday, December 14

Saint John of the Cross

8:15 a.m. Mass +Kay Hipp

Friday, December 15

8:15 a.m. Mass +Richard Meyer

Saturday, December 16

8:15 a.m. Mass +Duane Dater

4:00 p.m. Mass S.I. Kevin Becker Family

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

8:15 a.m. Mass +Mary Benefield

10:00 a.m. Mass -The People of St. Joseph

Ministry Schedule December 16th & 17th

4:00 PM

(S) Linda Bolster

(L1) Jeff Dyer

(L2) David Darland

(H) Shawn Vredenburg

(C1) Heather Vredenburg

(C2) Martha Raybourne

(Rosary) Ann Blick

(M. Server) Carter Martin

(Candle 1) Gage Lee

(Candle 2) Aiden Blick

(GB) Stickney Family

8:15 AM

(S) Charlie Deitchler

(L1) Cassidee Cummings

(L2) Gabby Shideler

(H) Judy Shideler

(C1) Carissa Cummings

(C2) Cassidee Cummings

(Rosary) Ken Sueper

(M. Server) Grace Boman

(Candle 1) Lauren Busch

(Candle 2) Sam Boman

(GB) LeFevre Family

10:00 AM

(S) Betty Ewing

(L1) Janet Walsh

(L2) Greg Sanders

(H) Bert Purcell

(C1) John Riddel

(C2) Bridget Sublett

(Rosary) Florence Marx

(M. Server) Matthew Probst

(Candle 1) Izzy McKinny

(Candle 2) Joshua Schnoor

(GB) Ron & Lise Fisher

Prayers for Our Military

Please pray for all members of the military,
especially our parishioners:

Jay Schoen

Sam Francis

Justin Light

Tony Jeffress

Matt Mork

Jeff Cranor

Trevor Samples

Jonathan Burke

Timothy Collier

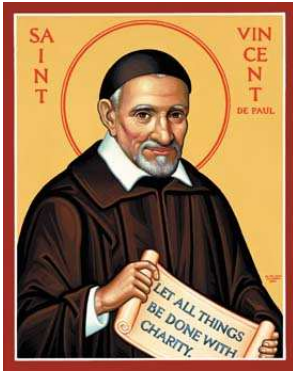
Nicholas Gerhold





Lord's Diner Hat Drive

The Lord's Diner will collect winter hats, gloves, scarves, and with NEW socks, to distribute to our guests for Christmas. Drop off your new items at the Broadway location through December 15th. Thank You!!

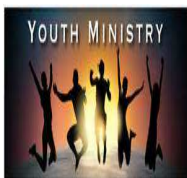


Saint Vincent DePaul Society News

The Saint Joseph Conference of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society helped two neighborhood families with \$500 in rental assistance to prevent them from being evicted.

The Saint Vincent de Paul society is a Catholic lay ministry dedicated to charitable works for those in need. Our primary mission is conducting home visits to determine people's financial needs, and then offering financial and other assistance as necessary. Please consider supporting us by joining us at our next meeting on Monday,

December 11th at 6:30 pm, or supporting us financially by donating through the parish office.



Catholic Youth Ministry

There will be NO CYM on Monday, December 11th.

Be still and know that I am God.

Psalms 46:10

Spiritual Life Center

Apologia: Defending the Faith in the 21st Century Thursday, Dec. 14; 7-8:30 p.m. Join guest presenters for these sessions of apologetic dialogue. Each session features a topic pertinent to 21st century Catholics which we have the need and obligation to be able to defend and explain. \$10

Docentium: Catholicism and Culture with Frank Sheed Tuesday, Dec. 19; 6-8:30 p.m. Join us on the third Thursday of every month for an evening of food, friendship, and learning. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m., and a lecture will be given on some topic related to religion and culture. Dr. Malcolm Harris presents on Catholic thinker Frank Sheed in December. \$15

New Year's Eve Marian Retreat December 31; 7 p.m. - midnight. Celebrate New Year's Eve by ringing in the New Year with Our Lady. Program includes conference, adoration, Mass and an indoor procession. \$20 (overnight accommodations available).

Mark Your Calendars for the Catholic Faith Conference! Jan. 19-20, 2018 - A great Christmas gift for yourself! Please join us for the 1st Annual Catholic Faith Conference: Catholicism Beyond the Pew this January, where we will celebrate all that is beautiful and inspiring about our Catholic Faith! This year's program will feature national keynote speaker Jon Leonetti, an Info Fair, Breakout Sessions, Adoration, and a 'Stump the Padre' panel! More information on our web site.

Advance registration requested. For more info and to register, visit www.slwchita.org or call 316.744.0167.