

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

I read a couple of quotes the other day that I think are wonderful sources of inspiration for the Advent season. The first suggests that the work of reconciliation should be valued over making judgments and the second tells us that gracious behavior is more important than right belief.

In each case we are being asked to consider the big picture and not the picture from our vantage point. When we make a judgment, generally speaking, we make it because we believe that judgment is the right decision. However, if we are in a discussion and we hold so strongly to that judgment, we can affect the stability of the relationship, depending on how far we push the matter. That means that if I am right, the other person must be wrong. When that occurs we risk alienating the other person and polarizing the relationship.

These two quotes merely suggest that we consider the importance of the relationship. Even if I am right I can practice gracious behavior by removing my ego from the discussion (my desire to demonstrate my correctness at the expense of the other person) and perhaps, to agree to disagree.

As an example of this that we are all too familiar with, let's look at the disfunction of the Congress. The common good is often suspended because Senators and Representatives vote according to which side of the aisle they sit. Consequently, the polarization that results means that loyalty to the party and voting according to party lines is more important than the common good. That results in very little being accomplished.

Reconciliation and gracious behavior, then, are wonderful Advent preparations for the coming celebration of Christmas. With all the other things that keep us busy during this season, maybe we can squeeze a little of each (reconciliation and gracious behavior) into our daily routine. *Fr. Rick*

**PARISH NEWS**

**OUR PARISH GOES MOBILE THIS WEEKEND**

Our new St. Joseph Parish app is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications and an easy-to-access event calendar. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more. Help foster a stronger parish life at St. Joseph Parish and better engage the New Evangelization. Download our app today at my-parishapp.com or search your phone's app store for myparish.

**You can check out the large banner in the vestibule of the church and the posters at all the entrances of the Church for information on how to download My Parish APP.** If you have any questions please contact the parish office at 723-2090.

**ITEMS NEEDED IN DECEMBER**

The Month of December we will be collecting nonperishable food and cleaning and paper products for our Christmas Food Basket Ministry. Thank you for your generosity in helping the needy families of our community this Christmas Season. **Our Helping Hands Ministry has a special need for twin and full sheets and blankets. These items can be gently used. The bedding can be dropped off at the Parish Office.**

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care for our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders! Thank you for your generosity!

**SCRIP GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS** Reminder that Scrip gift cards are available at the St. Joseph School office and after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday. Purchase your Scrip cards today and help support our St. Joseph Catholic School. **The deadline to purchase scrip cards for Christmas is December 11th.**

**LAST WEEK FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD FOR THE NEEDY**

It is not too late to donate to our Christmas Food for the Needy project!! Each and every donation is important! Some ideas for nonperishable donations are peanut butter, canned meats, tuna fish, pasta, tomato sauces, spam, soups, mac and cheese, chili, canned vegetables and fruit, cereals, oatmeal, mixes of all kinds (muffin, cookie, cake, pudding, jello, brownie, pancake, bread, etc). Donations of paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper and napkins are needed as well as hygiene/cleaning supplies (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, plus dish soap and laundry detergent. You may place your nonperishable donations on the altar steps. **Please do not bring turkeys--we have no space to store them.** Monetary donations are also needed to purchase turkeys and fresh foods. Please make out your check to St. Joseph Church and designate on the envelope or check that the money is for **Christmas Food for the Needy.** You may place your envelopes in collections baskets during Mass, leave in the parish office or mail to the church address. We are looking for help **packing** the boxes on **Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** in the school gym. We also need help to **deliver** the boxes to 93 families on **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.** At 9:00am we will gather in the cafeteria for refreshments and directions for delivery. **Please bring a wagon, dolly or cart with you** (if you own one) to help with the packing and delivering of boxes. If you are not able to be present, please support our project with your **Prayers! Confirmation and Salt & Light students be sure to sign in (name and grade) to get credit for service hours.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**

Volunteers are asked to meet on **Dec. 22nd at 10:00am** to put up Christmas trees, the outside wreaths, garland, the Nativity Set and to change the backdrop behind the altar. **On Dec. 23rd we will meet at 9:00am** to arrange all the flowers, and to add extra chairs into church. There is a lot to do and many hands are needed. Please call Vilma Siliano at 726-1638 if you have any questions. Thank you !



**SAVE THE DATE**

Mark your calendars now for our **Annual Appreciation Dinner** for all our parishioners and families of those who volunteer in some capacity here at St. Joseph. It will be held **Saturday, January 6th after the 5:30pm Mass in the St. Joseph School Gym.**

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

**Northwest**

Please patronize the sponsors of our bulletin. It is through the paid advertising of the sponsors that we can publish the bulletin.

*Please thank them.*

**LITURGY INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, 12/10 Second Sunday of Advent**  
**8:00am** Mass @ St. Luke Anthony & Katherine Yasurek by Mr & Mrs. Rick Hutley  
**10:30am** Alice Tomasone by Family  
**Monday, 12/11 Advent Weekday St. Damasus 1, Pope**  
**12:00pm** Mass @ St. Luke Mel Kramer by K of C #13006  
**Tuesday, 12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
**12:05pm** Lucy Notoro by Family  
**Wednesday, 12/13 Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**  
**9:05am** Joan DeStefano by Carl DeStefano (School Mass)  
**Thursday, 12/14 Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of Church**  
**12:05pm** Brian Gabriel Good by Pamela Notoro Good  
**Friday, 12/15 Advent Weekday**  
**8:00am** Michael Kolos by Karen  
**Saturday, 12/16 Third Sunday of Advent (Vigil Mass)**  
**5:30pm** Sam & Jennie Castagnino by Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren  
**Sunday, 12/17 Third Sunday of Advent**  
**8:00am** Mass—The Living & Deceased Members of St. Luke Church  
**10:30am** Joe & Jennie Colosimo by Mary, Patty, & Bob

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
<b>12/16</b> <b>5:30pm</b>	M Sandberg	T & R Fadale, D Geiger, A Kiehl, R Kujawa, Volunteer	K Fadale M Fadale L Fincher
<b>12/17</b> <b>10:30am</b>	P Nasman	*S Cole, G & M Belleau, D Bogniak, A Kirkpatrick, M Kirkpatrick	C Smelko L Smelko B Shene

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES in Memory of  
*Brian Good* By Godmother

**St. Joseph Church**  
 Weekly Donations -December 3rd—\$9373.75  
*Thank you for your continued generosity!*

In your charity please pray for the souls of **Frank Cataldo, father of Debbie & John Bogniak and Marianne Scheer wife of Bob Scheer** who passed away this past week. We extend our sympathy to the families, and ask God's love and strength to bring them peace and consolation.

**PENANCE CELEBRATIONS DURING ADVENT:**  
 Dec. 10th @ Saint Thomas Church in Corry-3:00pm  
 Dec. 12th @ Saint Luke Church in Youngsville-7:00pm  
 Dec. 13th @ Holy Redeemer Church in Warren-7:00pm

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday** Isaiah 35:1-10; Gospel Luke 5:17-26  
**Tuesday** Zechariah 2:14-17; Gospel Luke 1:26-38  
**Wednesday** Isaiah 40:25-31; Gospel Matthew 11:28-30  
**Thursday** Isaiah 41:13-20; Gospel Matthew 11:11-15  
**Friday** Isaiah 48:17-19; Gospel Matthew 11:16-19  
**Saturday** Sirach 48:1-4,9-11; Gospel Matthew 17:9a, 10-13  
**Sunday** Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Gospel John 1:6-8,19-28

**THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sunday, December 10- Second Sunday of Advent (2nd Collection)**  
**8:00am** Mass @ St. Luke Church  
 9:15am Faith Formation K-9  
 Confirmation 10-11  
**10:30am** Mass  
 Liturgy of the Word for Children - Pam Kupchella  
 Coffee & Donuts after Mass (Cafeteria)  
 1:00pm- 2:00pm Christmas Choir -2nd -12th Grade  
**3:00pm** Penance Celebration @ St. Thomas Church in Corry  
**Monday, December 11**  
**12:00pm** Mass @ St Luke Church  
**Tuesday, December 12**  
**12:05pm** Mass  
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen  
**7:00pm** Penance Celebration @ Saint Luke Church  
**Wednesday, December 13**  
**9:05am** School Mass  
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)  
 6:30pm RCIA meeting (Meyer Hall)  
**7:00pm** Penance Celebration @ Holy Redeemer Church  
 7:00pm Choir Practice  
**Thursday, December 14**  
**12:05pm** Mass  
 12:30pm Adoration (Mothers Chapel)  
**6:30pm** Reconciliation  
 7:15pm Evening Prayer (Mother's Chapel)  
**Friday, December 15**  
**8:00am** Mass  
 6:30pm Packing of Christmas Food Baskets (Gym)  
**Saturday, December 16**  
 9:00am Delivery of Christmas Food Baskets (Gym)  
**4:30pm to 5:15pm** Reconciliation  
**5:30pm** Mass  
**Sunday, December 17- Third Sunday of Advent**  
**8:00am** Mass @ St. Luke Church  
 9:15am Faith Formation K-9  
 Confirmation 10-11  
**10:30am** Mass  
 Liturgy of the Word for Children - Julie Bennett  
 1:00pm- 2:00pm Christmas Choir -Pre K -12th Grade  
 6:00pm CCY Movie Night & Basket Raffle Drawing  
 (Youth Room)

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
 If you or your children want to send your/their child/ren to St. Joseph Catholic School, please call the school at 814-723-2030. We have open enrollment.