

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

The final words in the Book of Revelation and therefore the final words in the Bible are "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all." Those words are picked up in the familiar Advent hymn "O come, o come, Emanuel" and direct the theme of the advent season as one of joy-filled expectation.

We celebrate this weekend the First Sunday of Advent and immediately notice changes from the weeks of Ordinary Time. Perhaps the most obvious change is the color of the vestments—from green to violet. There is an advent wreath. The Gloria is not sung or said except on a few specific dates.

There is another aspect of Advent that most of us are well aware of and that is one of preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation at Christmas. This is the aspect of Advent that usually overwhelms us because our culture puts such a premium on decoration, baked goods, purchase of gifts, and holiday parties.

What we really need is a balance between these two aspects of Advent—joy-filled expectation and preparation to fully appreciate the season. Throughout the few weeks of Advent we should experience hope and the only way to do that is to keep things in balance. Otherwise, we just feel tired.

In the busy-ness of these days we can become so wrapped up in trying to get everything done that we forget to take time to enjoy each day. Even if we have to cut back a little to enjoy a little more we should. *Fr. Rick*

**PARISH NEWS**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND PAGEANT**

Signups have started! Students preschool-12th grade may participate in the choir, and children in preschool-3rd grade may participate in the pageant. Rehearsals begin Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Forms may be found at the church entrances or on the website. Choir questions may be directed to Rachel Harvey at 706-2262 or [singplay@yahoo.com](mailto:singplay@yahoo.com). Pageant questions may be directed to Jenn Wortman at 723-2090 ext.15. We hope your children can join us for this wonderful celebration of Christ's birth!



**Thank You!!!**

The CCY Youth Group extends a sincere **THANK YOU** to all who made the delicious soups & pies and those who came to share the Soup & Pie meal with us on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at Holy Redeemer. The variety was wonderful, and no one went home hungry. The total raised for CCY Programs was **\$487.25**.

Thank you to all the groups and families that donated Baskets for the **CCY Christmas Basket Raffle**. CCY will be selling Basket Raffle Tickets after Masses this weekend at St. Joseph Church. During the week, they will be on display and tickets will be available at the St. Joseph Parish office. There are 20 wonderful baskets to choose from. **Check it out!**

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Help care for elders. Next weekend there will be a second collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Your donation helps the religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give generously to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Thank You.

**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.**

**OUR PARISH GOES MOBILE NEXT WEEKEND**

Saint Joseph Parish will launch our own app for iPhone and Android smart phones. **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.** Feel free to download at your convenience in your own home prior to our official launch. **OR** after Masses next weekend there will be parishioners available to assist you with the download. The My Parish App will allow us to better communicate with you throughout the week and keep you updated with relevant parish news or updates. It will be a great resource for parishioners by providing daily Mass readings, Catholic news and prayers, convenient prayer and Confession reminders, our bulletins and more.



**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.**

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

**Donald E. Lewis  
Funeral Home, Inc.  
814-723-9270**

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, 12/3 First Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00am Mass @St. Luke Dick & Carolyn Hutley by M/M Rick Hutley  
 10:30am Frank Chiodo by Mary Jane & Children  
**Monday, 12/4 Advent Weekday St. John Damascene**  
 12:00pm Mass @ St. Luke Mary Russo by Richard & Edna  
**Tuesday, 12/5 Advent Weekday**  
 12:05pm Linda Dahays by Joanne  
**Wednesday, 12/6 Advent Weekday St. Nicholas, Bishop**  
 9:05am Michael Kolos by Karen (School Mass)  
 2:00pm Mass @Rouse Home Mel Kramer by Knights of Columbus  
**Thursday, 12/7 Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**  
 12:05pm Bernard & Esther Lignian by Estate  
 7:00pm Vigil Mass @ St. Luke Charles Jewell  
**Friday, 12/8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 12:05pm Christine Fire by Tom & Patsy Arrowsmith ( School Mass)  
 5:30pm Shirley Fasnmyer by Jean Black & Family  
**Saturday, 12/9 Second Sunday of Advent (Vigil Mass)**  
 5:30pm Living & Deceased Member of St. Joseph Church  
**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

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Extraordinary Ministers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
<b>12/8</b>			
<b>12:30pm</b>	Students	B Williams, J & V Siliano	Students
<b>5:30pm</b>	D Pusateri	T & R Fadale, B Crowley	E Dippold
			L Dippold
			T Dippold
<b>12/9</b>	B McGinn	J Anderson, H Zaffino,	M Walker
<b>5:30pm</b>		B & R Williams, G & P Peck,	S Walker
		P Bailey	L Stanley
<b>12/10</b>			
<b>10:30am</b>	D Wortman	C Zawacki, T Siliano,	G Wortman
		L & A Tyers, A & P Webster,	N Smelko
		C Bevacqua	J Westover

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CANDLES in memory of  
 Joe & Helen Castagnino & Frank Dilick  
 By Joe & Loni Castagnino

**St. Joseph Church**

Weekly Donations -November 26th—\$6409.75

*Thank you for your continued generosity!*

**VOCATIONS ICON**

We would like to thank **Arlene Molinaro & Owen & Adam** for taking the Vocations Icon this week and praying for an increase in vocations here at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

**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 2:1-5; Gospel Matthew 8:5-11  
**Tuesday** Isaiah 11:1-10; Gospel Luke 10:21-24  
**Wednesday** Isaiah 25:6-10a; Gospel Matthew 15:29-37  
**Thursday** Isaiah 26:1-6; Gospel Matthew 7:21,24-27  
**Friday** Genesis 3:9-15; Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12; Gospel Luke 1:26-38  
**Saturday** Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26; Gospel Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8  
**Sunday** Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Gospel Mark 1:1-8

**THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sunday, December 3 First 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  
 11:30am Christmas Choir Rehearsal (PreK—1st Grade)  
**Monday, December 4**  
 12:00pm Mass @ St Luke Church  
 5:00pm RCIA Team Meeting (Meyer Hall)  
**Tuesday, December 5**  
 12:05pm Mass  
 4:30pm Soup Kitchen  
 6:00pm Pastoral Council Meeting (Boardroom)  
 6:30pm RCIA Meeting (Meyer Hall)  
**Wednesday, December 6**  
 9:05am School Mass  
 10:30am Faith Share (Meyer Hall)  
 2:00pm Mass @ The Rouse Home  
 5:00pm Prayer Shawl Meeting (Boardroom)  
 6:30pm St. Joseph School Christmas Concert  
**Thursday, December 7**  
 12:05pm Mass  
 12:30pm Adoration (Mothers Chapel)  
 4:30pm Christmas Basket Com. Meeting (Boardroom)  
 5:00pm Evening Prayer (Mother's Chapel)  
 7:00pm Vigil Mass @ St. Luke  
**Friday, December 8—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 12:05pm School Mass  
 5:30pm Mass  
**Saturday, December 9**  
 4:30pm to 5:15pm Reconciliation  
 5:30pm Mass  
**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  
 Coffee & Donuts after Mass (Cafeteria)  
 1:00pm- 2:00pm Christmas Choir —2nd —12th Grade  
 3:00pm Penance Celebration @ St. Thomas Church in Corry

**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.