

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

December Parish Stewardship

Underground Railroad
and
Holy Cross Children

Budget amount
needed for each week:
\$7,300.00

December 12 and 13
Stewardship Back to the Lord
Envelopes:\$6,594.50
Youth:.....\$3.00
Total:\$6,597.00
EFT:\$790.00
Total:..... \$7,387.50

Thank You

Sunday Contributions YTD \$175,200.00
Actual YTD \$161,921.27

Stewardship: The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

CAER Food Pantry: Items collected for the month of December are: hand soaps, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. You may bring your donations to the gathering area of church; there is a basket available. The CAER Center accepts donations of any kind. **Thank you for your continued support.**

Box Tops for Education & Campbell Soup UPC's: We collect box tops for education & Campbell Soup UPC's for our Catholic schools. There is a container in the gathering area of church for your convenience.

This Week's Events

Sunday, December 20
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am RCIA
11:30 am Individual Reconciliation (Bannister)
12:00 pm Holiday Kid's Day
Wednesday, December 23
9:30 am Adult Choir
Thursday, December 24
Parish Offices closed
Friday, December 25
Parish Office closed
Saturday, December 26
8:00 am Rosary
Sunday, December 27
8:00 am Rosary
8:30 am RCIA
11:30 am Individual Reconciliation (Bannister)



Rosary Devotions: Rosary devotions are prayed every morning from 8:00-9:00 am.

Faith Formation

There will be no classes until Sunday, January 10th, beginning with family prayer at 6 pm in the church. Enjoy this time off with your family. Merry Christmas! Doris

Youth Ministry

There will be no Junior or High School Youth Group until Sunday, January 10th. Have a wonderful time with your family and friends.



Save the Date! Cabin Fever Chicken Dinner: Our wonderful Cabin Fever Chicken Dinner will be Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 5-7 pm in the St. Peter Parish Hall. This is an all you can eat dinner! The cost is \$10 for adults; \$5 children ages 4-12 years; and children under three are free. See you there!

Liturgy this Week

Sunday, December 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 am Mass
Wednesday, December 23
9:00 am Mass (Bannister)
Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve
5:00 pm Mass (Chesaning)
8:00 pm Mass (Bannister)
Friday, December 25
Christmas Day
9:00 am Mass (Bannister)
Saturday, December 26
4:30 pm Mass
Lectors:
Laura Moliterno and Cassidy Bucholz
Eucharistic Ministers:
Tim Martz, Laura Moliterno, Ellen Martz, Sarah Mahoney and Doris Mahoney
Altar Servers:
Kassidy Bucholz and volunteer needed
Sunday, December 27
Holy Family
8:30 am Mass
Lectors:
Richard Muirhead and Rosemary Newcomb
Eucharistic Ministers:
Bernard Coonrod, Karen Hoover, Kathy Thompson, Bob Corrin and Judie Giesken
Altar Servers:
Isaac Tessman and Gavin Tessman

Readings for the Week

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Lk 1:39-45

Sponsor of the Week



Baptismal Catechesis for Parents of Infants and

Young Children: It our policy that at least one of the parents be a registered member of a parish and practicing their faith. Parents are to register for the Sacrament of Baptism with Colleen at the parish office. The next preparation session is Sunday, January 31, 2016 at 11:30 am in the parish conference room.

Jail Ministry: We are in need of more people ministering with the Jail Ministry program. This ministry is not overly demanding and your service will make a life time of a difference. If you are interested, please call Colleen at 845-1794.

Save the Date! Catching Fire Becoming Flame:

The next DVD presentation by Albert Haase, OFM is Wednesday, February 17, 2016 from 9-11 am in the parish hall. The topic is: *The Examen and Seven Principles of Prayer*. To register or for more information, please contact: Colleen Ontko at 845-1794 or Diane Hungerford at 845-6856.



Decorating the Church for Christmas:

We will be decorating the church for Christmas after Mass on Sunday, December 20th. We could use your help! Please call Linda Calandrino at 845-2363 for more information

Parish Offices Closed: The parish office will close at noon on Monday, December 28th. We will be back in the office on Monday, January 4th.



THOSE ASKING FOR PRAYERS:

Robert Tufts, Charles Guziak, Helen Gasser, Tim Amman,

Margaret Bolinger, Matt Coughlin, Geri Sholtz, Eugene Sutter, Jim Meder, Val Perkins, Terry Kennelly, Joann Richardson, Mary Lou Kligar, Bradley Blakeselle, Petrina Workman, George Czeisperger, Chantel Fondren, Tim Apsey, Irene Nietling, Laurie Tufts, Brenda Lienau, Mechelle Kuchar, Vickie Daniels, Sarah (Chernow) Fischer, Mark Zvonek, Wolfgang Franke, Albert & Judy Storch, Sherry Storch, Joe Lane, Fran A. Gross, Joseph Klasek, Ray

Tithof, Rose Bonkowski, Bertha Hart, Roger Nietling,

Jim Fusina, Esther Lickman, Brady Carroll, Fred Lane, Ernie Newcomb, Rita Amman, Jay & Kay Glover, Susan Addington, Nancy Dennis, Rich Greenfelder, Joey Kligar, Barb Wenzlick, Diane DeVoe, Sue Adams, Roxann Timm, Gayle Shooltz, Judy Wakeman, David and Marianne Sutter, John Sims, Bessie McSwayn, Judy

(Willitts) Balderrama, Melanie Thiel, Brian Clark, Gloria Bates, Jeannette Somers, Kim Bruder, Gary Cech, Edward List Sr., Virginia Lawton, Gary J. Tanner, Mel Gross, Nichole Horn, Franklin Bates, Henry Huntoon, Will Lucio, Al Hundt, Ruth Vrable, Johannes Vogelaar, Jerry Hoover, Tom & Julia Mahoney, Jennie Hunt, Bob & Jacob Albers, Madeline Klopp, and Joseph Sedlar Sr.

CAER Center: If you would like to make a monetary donation, please put your gift in a white envelope and place in the collection basket marked "CAER Donation". We have been informed that the CAER Center is in need of monetary donations at this time.



Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses:

Dec. 24th-4:00 pm at Mary of the Immaculate Conception in St. Charles

5:00 pm at St. Peter

6:30 pm at St. Michael in Maple Grove

8:00 pm at St. Cyril in Bannister

11:00 pm at St. Michael in Maple Grove

Dec. 25th-8:30 am at St. Michael in Maple Grove

9:00 am at St. Cyril in Bannister

10:30 am at St. Mary Church, Albee

Accompanying and Praying with the Sick and

Dying: On Saturday, January 16, 2016 with Fr. James Bessert at the Center of Ministry, Saginaw from 9 am to 3 pm. The cost is \$35 which includes lunch. Many lay people generously seek to be the face of Jesus to those who are sick and dying. Some bring holy Communion to the elderly and to those suffering from illnesses; other make frequent visits to hospitals and assisted living facilities. Please join Fr. Bessert for a workshop especially designed to assist all of those involved in these beautiful ministries to the sick and dying. Deadline to register is Saturday, January 9th by calling 797-6607.

A Reflection on the Gospel from the 2015

Living Liturgy: Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and they were present to each other in a most extraordinary encounter. Clearly also present and active was the Holy Spirit who overshadowed Mary to conceive the Savior of the world, inspired Elizabeth to extol Mary and the "fruit of her womb," and prompted the unborn John to leap for joy. The Holy Spirit brought an intensity to each encounter that augured the singularity and significance of all these happenings. Mary didn't simply "set out" to visit Elizabeth; she went "in haste." Elizabeth didn't simply say "hello" to Mary, but "cried out in a loud voice" the blessings of Mary and her unborn infant. John didn't simply give a gentle kick in Elizabeth's womb at this encounter, but "leaped for joy."

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, quickly approaching our celebration of the birth of the Son of God, we need to open ourselves to receive this same intensity from the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit overshadows, inspires, and prompts those of us who believe to "set out" "in haste" to touch others with divine Presence. Elizabeth blesses Mary because she "believed" that God would fulfill in her all that the angel Gabriel had said to her. Now so must we believe that God fulfills in us all the goodness and love that is promised. Like Mary and Elizabeth, we must make any no to what God asks of us absent from our lives. Mary and Elizabeth show us the way to *our* being overshadowed by the Spirit by their offering their own bodies in cooperating with God's plan of salvation. So must we offer ourselves with the same willingness, with the same love response, with the same eager desire for divine Presence within and among us. This divine Presences is never gone, never absent. We cannot ever forget that.