

# Third Sunday of Advent

## December 17, 2017

### December Stewardship

Underground Railroad  
and  
Holy Cross Children's Service

Budget amount  
needed for each week:  
**\$7,100.00**

December 9 and 8  
Stewardship Back to the Lord  
Envelopes: ..... \$7,832.00  
Youth: ..... \$8.00  
Total: ..... \$7,840.00  
EFT ..... \$35.00  
Total: ..... \$7,875.00

Sunday Contributions YTD \$170,800.00  
Actual YTD ..... \$167,516.22

### Thank You

**Stewardship:** All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

**Rosary:** The rosary is prayed every morning at 8:00 am in the church led by Bernie Coonrod.

**CAER Food Pantry:** Items being collected for the month of December are hand soaps, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. There is a basket in the gathering area for your donations. Thank you for your continued support to help those in our community.

### This Week's Events

**Sunday, December 17**  
Youth Ministry Bake Sale  
8:00 am Rosary  
11:30 am Individual Reconciliation (Bannister)  
**Tuesday, December 19**  
10:00 am Prayer Group  
7:00 pm Individual Reconciliation (Chesaning)  
**Wednesday, December 20**  
9:30 am Adult Choir  
6:30 pm Finance Council meet  
**Thursday, December 21**  
7:00 pm Pastoral Council meet  
**Saturday, December 23**  
8:00 am Rosary  
**Sunday, December 24**  
8:00 am Rosary



### Faith Formation

The next class will be Sunday, January 7th. Enjoy this time with your families and have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Doris

### Youth Ministry

Both Youth Groups will meet on Sunday, January 7th. High School Youth Group meet 4-5:30 pm and Junior High Youth Group meet 6:00-7:30 pm. Join us for paint day on Wednesday, December 27th from 2:00 pm until ?

### Sponsor of the Week

#### Greenfelder & Greenfelder

Patrick Greenfelder and Kent Greenfelder

233 W. Broad St., Chesaning  
(989) 845-4333  
law@greenfelder.com

### Liturgy this Week

**Sunday, December 17**  
Third Sunday of Advent  
8:30 am Mass  
**Wednesday, December 20**  
9:00 am Mass (Bannister)  
**Thursday, December 21**  
10:00 am CNCC Mass  
**Saturday, December 23**  
4:30 pm Mass  
**Lectors:**  
Angie Meder and Mike Maxa  
**Eucharist Ministers:**  
Gayle Tufts, Angie Meder, Mike Maxa, Lisa Coon, and Paulette Fuoss  
**Altar Servers:**  
Mike Maxa  
**Sunday, December 24**  
Christmas Eve  
5:00 pm Mass  
**Lectors:**  
Richard Muirhead and Greg Mahoney  
**Eucharist Ministers:**  
Gayle Tufts, Karen Hoover, Michelle Neumann, Dana Bates, Katie Eichler, Jason Eichler and Pat Walser  
**Altar Servers:**  
Karen Hoover and Nicole Neumann  
**Monday, December 25**  
Christmas Day  
8:30 am Mass  
**Lectors:** TBA  
**Eucharist Ministers-TBA**  
**Altar Servers-TBA**

### Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38  
**Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45  
**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56  
**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66  
**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:26-38



**CSA Catholic Service Appeal (CSA):**  
We have reached 78% of our CSA goal with \$54,025.00 that has been pledged. Envelopes are available in the gathering area of church if you haven't pledge yet.

**Decorating the Church for Christmas:** We will be decorating the church immediately after the 4:30 pm Mass on Saturday, December 23rd. We could use your help! Linda.

**St. Peter Parish Youth Ministry Blood Drive:** Is on Wednesday, December 27th, from 12-6 pm in the parish hall. The Youth Group will be receiving a \$10 per registrant as long as we have the minimum of 20 donors. Please call 1-866-642-5663 or visit www.miblood.org to make an appointment. Please consider helping the Youth Group while saving a life.

**School Closing due to Weather:** Now that winter has arrived, just a reminder that when the Chesaning Union Schools are closed or delayed due to weather all activities at St. Peter will be canceled. This includes week day Masses. The parish offices will also be closed.

**Knights of Columbus:** If there are any men who are interested in becoming a Knight please call Doug Bishop at 845-4310 or the K of C Hall at 845-7449. The new member meeting is January 7, 2018 at noon.

### THOSE ASKING FOR PRAYERS:

Betty Naessens, Ron Aldrich, Willburt Schneider, Clayton Meder, Mary Memmer, Thelma Schneider, Annie (Ebenhoeh) Dugalech, Jim Smith, Ray Meder, Alison Andres, Geri Sholtz, Madonna Bueche, Matt Barancik, Florence Coleman, Ed Foy, Florence Markiewicz, Linda Vincent, Stephanie Czeiszperger, Leo Henige, Deb Martin, Arnold Schultz, Mary Ann Devota, Ruth Toma, Jerry & Mary Tanner, Joyce Tithof, Jim Pitt, Benny Sims, Carol Moore, Robert Tufts, Charles Guziak, Helen Gasser, Margaret Bolinger, Matt Coughlin, Terry Kennelly, Bradley Blakeselle, Chantel Fondren, Brenda Lienau, Vickie Daniels, Mark Zvonek, Albert & Judy Storch, Sherry Storch, Joseph Klasek, Rose Bonkowski, Jim Fusina, Esther Lickman, Brady Carroll, Fred Lane, Rita Amman, Jay & Kay Glover, Susan Addington, Nancy Dennis, Barb Wenzlick, Diane DeVoe, Roxann Timm, Judy Wakeman, David and Marianne Sutter, Bessie McSwain, Judy (Willitts) Balderrama, Melanie Thiel, Brian Clark, Gloria Bates, Jeannette Somers, Kim Bruder, Gary Cech, Edward List Sr., Gary J. Tanner, Mel Gross, Nichole Horn, Henry Huntoon, Will Lucio, Al Hundt, Ruth Vrable, Jerry Hoover, Julia Mahoney, Jennie Hunt, Jacob Albers, and Joseph Sedlar Sr.

Zachary Reeves, Christopher Lickman, Garrett Mishler, and Bill Lickman Jr. (serving in the



**Advent Giving Tree:** Please return your gifts with the tag attached. Gifts should be wrapped. Gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 17th. Thank you!

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses:

This is the following Mass schedule for Christmas:  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent-December 23rd-4:30 pm St. Peter**  
December 24th-10:30 am St. Cyril  
**Christmas Eve-December 24th-5:00 pm at St. Peter**  
December 24th-8:00 pm at St. Cyril  
**Christmas Day-December 25th-8:30 am at St. Peter**  
**Solemnity of Mary-January 1st-8:00 am at St. Peter**

**Lector Formation Gathering:** On Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 10:00 am until noon, we will have a Lector enrichment workshop at St. Peter Church. Put this date in your calendar immediately as you have a three month notice of the event. Joan Brausch from Blessed Sacrament Church in Midland will be our facilitator. She is very knowledgeable in the area of Liturgy and has obtained her degrees in Theology and Scripture from what was then St. John's Regional Seminary in Plymouth, Mich. She will talk us through the ministry of being a Lector and help us hone our skills in proclaiming the Word of God. I do expect all of us who proclaim the Word to the People of God to attend this workshop. Anyone who is interested in possibly being a lector is welcome to attend. Fr. Bill Gruden, Pastor

**Catholic Women's Fellowship:** Women from around the diocese are invited to gather once a month at the Center for Ministry for prayer, faith, formation, discussion and fellowship. The next session is Thursday, January 4th, at 6:00-8:15 pm. Cost is a free will offering. For more information visit: womensfellowship.org

### A Reflection of the Gospel from Living Liturgy

**2017:** This first chapter of the Fourth Gospel reminded the early Christian community that John was merely a precursor, a forerunner, to Jesus the Messiah. We have heard these stories so often, and frequently from the Synoptic point of view. When we read the Fourth Gospel on its own terms we see that John says he baptizes with water. We might expect him to say, "but the one coming after me baptizes with the Holy Spirit" as we hear in the Synoptics. Instead, John says, "I baptize with water;/but there is *one among you whom you do not recognize.*" There is nothing in this gospel about Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit. Instead, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Even the use of the term sin in the singular rather than the plural is deliberate. Rather than merely taking away individual sins, Jesus takes away the cosmic force of sin. The Fourth Gospel reflects a different but congruent theological thought world than the Synoptics. The difference in details may seem minute but they point to profound theological emphases.

Once John points the way to Jesus, once he testifies to the Lamb of God, John in effect disappears from the gospel (there are some minor passing references). His role is basically confined to chapter 1 of the Fourth Gospel, and it consists in testifying to Jesus.

Where do we find Jesus in our midst? Are we pointing to that reality, and testifying to it? Once having done so, do we then recede into the background?