

The Week Ahead

New Liturgical Year Begins - Readings for B-II

Sat / December 2

4pm - Vigil Mass: Irene Barrack † by M Barrack
St. Vincent de Paul & Food Pantry Collections

Sun / December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent

9am - Mass: *People of the Parish*
St. Vincent de Paul & Food Pantry Collections
Coffee & Donuts after Mass, in the Parish Hall
10:30am - CCD
1:30pm - B--I--N--G--O
2:30pm - Mass (L): Brett Kootz - SI by B & A Kootz

Mon / December 4 - St. John Damascene

9am - Mass: *Kiggans Family - SI* by J & D Schneider
5:15pm - KC Officers Mtg. followed by Rosary & Bus. Mtg.

Tue / December 5

Wed / December 6 - St. Nicholas

9am - Mass: Gary Rooney † by R & S VanderZyl
6:30pm - RCIA Classes, meet in Library

Thu / December 7 - St. Ambrose

9am - Mass: *For Dec. Members of our SVDP Conference* †
12Noon - Parish Council Meeting, in the Library
6pm - B--I--N--G--O

Fri / December 8 - Immaculate Conception of BI Virgin Mary

***Holy Day of Obligation / Church Office CLOSED**

9am - Mass: *Gordon Hickert* † by J & D Schneider
10am - Welcoming Ministry Meeting, in the Library
6pm - Mass: *People of the Parish*
The collection this day remains in the Parish

Sat / December 9 - St. Juan Diego

3-3:45pm - Confessions
4pm - Vigil Mass: *Marty Barrack - SI* by M Barrack
Monthly Maintenance Fund Collection
5pm - Parish Christmas Party, see announcement

Sun / December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

9am - Mass: *Joseph Wilson - SI* by R & S VanderZyl
Monthly Maintenance Fund Collection
Coffee & Donuts after Mass, in the Parish Hall

Altar Flowers *this week* are compliments of:

- Al Czech & Mary Jack *in memory of Ray Ast* †

Tabernacle Roses *this week* are compliments of:

- Charlotte Kirsch *in memory of Chuck Kestner* †
and Chuck Kirsch †

Coffee & Donuts *next week*, Dec 10th, will be served by the KCs.

Advent and New Liturgical Year

Advent should be a time of preparation & anticipation for the coming of our Savior. Our culture today has little grasp of a sense of anticipation. Often, we *see* it, we *want* it, we *buy* it. If we can't *afford* it, we *charge* it without asking if we *really* need it! Let us *wait* with anticipated *joy* for the coming of Christ at Christmas & each day.

It is *sad* to see the world has *forgotten* when the Christmas Season *begins*. The decorations are in the stores after Labor Day. Some have their trees up before Thanksgiving, only to be discarded the day after Christmas, when the REAL Season of Christmas has just barely begun. (Christmas Season continues until the Baptism of the Lord.)

This Advent, let us all try more diligently to spend time preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. We could commit to: being more faithful to our daily prayers, including family prayer time; attending a weekday Mass; going to Confession & bringing a family member or friend with us.

What does Christ want from *each* of us for His birthday this year? What can we give *Him*? The Psalms tell us, give "A heart contrite and humble." God bless us everyone this Advent!

Immaculate Conception

A Holy Day of Obligation

This Friday, December 8th, we celebrate Mary's Immaculate Conception. Masses will be Friday at 9am and 6pm. There will be one collection which will remain in our Parish.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Parish Christmas Party will be held NEXT Saturday, Dec. 9th, following the Vigil Mass. Meat and drinks will be provided by the Parish; parishioners are asked to bring the following:

A-G Finger Desserts, H-Z Side Dishes

Rumor is that Santa will show up! Please sign-up on the sheets in the vestibule so we know how many to prepare for, as well as how many children (and their ages) will be in attendance.

There is also a sign-up sheet for set-up and clean-up. For more information or questions, call Glenn Harris, 710-2692.

Parish Council Meeting - THIS Thursday
12Noon - Parishioners welcome to attend

Birthdays Next Week:

4 - Annabelle Burton

6 - Petr Oberding, Michael Reddick

7 - Lori Templet

8 - Tomas Hernandez, Joseph Wilson

10-Ruth Kathman

We wish you many blessings on your birthday!

WELCOMING MINISTRY

There will be a brief meeting of the Welcoming Ministry after the 9 a.m. Mass on December 8. If you have ANY calling to this ministry please join us in the library to see what we're about.

Advent Small Group Sign-Ups

It's time to sign-up for Small Groups for Advent. Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule; you may choose whichever day and time works best for your schedule. Be sure to take a "Blue Book" with Advent reflections, which will be the basis for discussion in the small groups. Groups will begin this week, so please begin reading your reflections. Any questions, call Rose Brandenburg, 994-2744.

Parishioners are welcome to take a "Blue Book" even if they did not sign-up for a small study group.

Scripture Study will Resume in Jan.

Scripture Study will resume January 3rd at 3:45pm. We will finish the Gospel of John using the book: "John 11-21: My Peace I Give you" by Kevin Perrotta. Make plans to join us! The book can be ordered on Amazon, or by calling Loyola Press, 800-621-1008.

BLESSED ADVENT

**The best things in life
ARE worth waiting for!
(we wait for our Lord)
Be Watchful - Be Alert!**

☺ *Wishing you a happy week!* ☺

Advent Penance Service

On Wednesday, December 13th, we will have a Penance Service. Father will begin with 6pm, then following Mass, we will have individual Confessions. One other priest will be here to help him. Fr. Amal wishes to remind everyone, the faithful are encouraged to go to Confession prior to Christmas and Easter each year. Please consider joining us.

Below is the schedule of Confessions for some of our nearby parishes:

Dec. 6th: Blessed Sacrament, Jonesboro - 6pm

Dec. 19th: St. Mary's, Batesville - 6:30pm

Dec. 20th: St. Paul's, Pocahontas - 6pm

Best Advent Ever

This year, prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join us for a Best Advent Ever, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during Advent. Each day, you'll receive an email with short inspirational videos from leading Catholic voices Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt and lots of practical tips. To sign-up, visit: BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope.

New Office Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9:30am - 12Noon

The Church Office will now be open for business from 9:30-12noon, at which time the front doors will be locked. If you are unable to come during regular hours, please call the Church Office and make prior arrangements. We ask that you not ring the door bell and disturb the person in the Chapel who has come to pray. Thank You!