

First Sunday of Advent, St. Andrew the Apostle, St. Francis Xavier

MASS INTENTIONS—November 26th—December 4th
Saturday—5pm Father's Day Novena
Sunday—8am +Max & Edna Every
 (Bob & Cathy Bartelli)
10am People of St. Patrick's Parish
Monday—7am +Andrew Schibi (Family)
Tuesday—8am +Paul Shipman (Patterson Family)
Wednesday—7am Buller Family (Dan & Cheri Allen)

Thursday—8am +Valentine Hernandez
 (Millie Bogner)
First Friday—8am +Barbara Johnston
 (Ray Johnston Family)
First Saturday—8am Father's Intention
 Next Weekends Intentions:
Saturday—5pm +Angel R Sierra & Manuel Sierra
Sunday—8am People of St. Patrick's Parish
10am Betty Blubaugh

The Catholic Side

Praised Be Jesus Christ!

As we begin Advent, it is important to keep our hearts and minds fixed on the real reason for the season: **Jesus Christ!** When I was a relatively new priest, I remember a friend of mine saying that if you want to really celebrate Christmas, then you better make sure you prepare during Advent. I have found this to be completely true. If I lose sight of Advent, then I can be about burned out from my Christmas celebrations before the season truly begins. So, I would like to offer this brief reflection from Pope Emeritus Benedict for the start of Advent.

The word "advent" means "coming" or "presence". In the ancient world it meant the visit of the king or emperor to a province; in the Christian language it refers to the Coming of God, to his presence in the world; a mystery that embraces the entire cosmos and history, but that has two culminating events: the First and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The first is, precisely, the Incarnation. The second is his glorious return at the end of time. These two events that are chronologically distant — and we are not given to know by how long — are deeply connected, because with his death and Resurrection Jesus fulfilled that transformation of man and of the cosmos which is the final goal of Creation. However, before the end, the Gospel must be proclaimed to all the nations, as Jesus says in the Gospel according to St Mark (cf. Mk 13:10). The Lord's Coming continues, the world must be penetrated by his presence and this ongoing Coming of the Lord in the proclamation of the Gospel requires our continuous collaboration. Moreover the Church, who is, as it were, the Betrothed, the promised Bride of the Lamb of the Crucified and Risen God (cf. Rev 21:9), in communion with her Lord, collaborates in this Coming of the Lord, in which his glorious return has already begun.

Today the word of God calls us to this, outlining the lines of conduct we should follow to be ready for the Lord's Coming. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus says to the disciples: "take heed... lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life... at all times, praying" (Lk 21:34, 36). Therefore, moderation and prayer. And the Apostle Paul adds the invitation to "increase and abound in love" among ourselves and for everyone, to make our hearts blameless in holiness (cf. 1 Thess 3:12-13).

In the midst of the upheavals of the world or in the deserts of indifference and materialism, may Christians accept salvation from God and bear witness to it with a different way of life, like a city set upon a hill. "In those days", the Prophet Jeremiah announced, "Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: The Lord is our righteousness" (33:16). The community of believers is a sign of God's love, of his justice which is already present and active in history but is not yet completely fulfilled and must therefore always be awaited, invoked and sought with patience and courage.

The Virgin Mary perfectly embodies the spirit of Advent that consists in listening to God, with a profound desire to do his will and to serve our neighbour joyfully. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her, so that God who comes may not find us closed or distracted but rather may extend a little of his kingdom of love, justice and peace in each of us.

May you have a prayerful, joyful, Advent Season!

May our holy patron, St. Patrick, intercede for us. Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, pray for us. Peace in Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Borkenhagen

P.S. If you would like to have an Epiphany blessing of your home, please call the rectory and sign up for this. I will again visit homes and bless them around the date of the Epiphany (formally 6 January). It is a blessing that you can have more than once.

PARISH NEWS

"IN THE BEGINNING..." *(A journey through the development of a child—a parallel of Christ being formed in the womb from March 25th–December 25th).*
Week 36—Chris weighs about 5 and half pounds now. Chris is really putting on baby fat which will help keep Chris warm after birth. I'm still eating leftovers from Thanksgiving. The lungs are almost complete. You may be able to see Chris' body parts as the uterine wall gets thinner – feet, head, and hands. Mom is looking for a pediatrician to examine the baby after birth. She's getting ready in case Chris is ready. *"So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming." Mt. 24:42*

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK—HAPPY NEW YEARS!!! I guess I could say a late Happy Thanksgiving. But today begins the new liturgical year. The first Sunday of Advent, when we begin preparing for the Birth of Jesus, is the first day of the new Church year. Maybe we should begin our New Year's resolutions now. So whatever way we choose to recommit ourselves this year, we can also offer that up as a sincere sacrifice in preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. "So too, you also must be prepared... the Son of Man will come." Advent then becomes almost like a little Lent. It's not quite as sorrowful or penitential, but it is a season of preparation none the less. So let's prayerfully consider together how we can best recommit and prepare ourselves today to Christ Our Lord. God Bless, *Emilio Aita*

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER!!!—The Knights of Columbus and the Altar Society will be hosting a Christmas Dinner, Saturday, December 3rd at 6pm in the Parish Hall. The menu includes turkey and noodles (with homemade noodles!), mashed potatoes, dinner rolls and delicious homemade desserts!

DON'T FORGET.....To purchase your tickets to Hannah's Promise Christmas Home Tour and Tea, Saturday, Dec. 3rd, from 1-4pm. Tour begins at: Hannah's Promise, proceeds to the Thomas Home at 1526 Morgan Ave, then the Rexwinkle Home at 1516 Morgan Ave and ends at First Presbyterian Church with gourmet teas and desserts. Cost is \$25/adult and \$5/child, 18 and under. RSVP to Lisa Johnson at 778-0339 or lmjohn66@hotmail.com

ADVENT STARTS TODAY—"If you really want to celebrate Christmas, then make sure to keep Advent. Have a clear plan of how you are going to keep Advent a season of preparation by making an effort to get to at least one Holy Mass during the week, praying an extra (or starting to pray) Holy Rosary, using the Magnificat Advent Companion and following its suggestions each day, having and using an Advent wreath and an Advent calendar, setting aside a few extra moments of silence to pray; these are just a few ideas that will help keep the focus on Advent and preparing for the great and joyful Feast of Christmas."—*Excerpt from "The Catholic Side" by Fr. Borkenhagen, November 30th, 2014*

FYI—Listen to Sunday homilies on the parish website. Both are accessible from the Home page—www.stpatricksparsons.org

SPEND ONE HOUR WITH OUR LORD!

Adorers are needed for the following hours:
Wed 3-4am, Tues 10-11am, Sat 2-3am,
Sat 5-6pm, Sat 6-7pm, Sat 10-11pm,
Sun 12-1am, Sun 5-6am.

Stewarding our Gifts...

"GO IN PEACE, GLORIFYING THE LORD BY YOUR LIFE."

First Sunday in Advent

When we start a new calendar year, we often use it as a time to take stock and resolve to make changes in our lives. The Church begins a new year today and the readings remind us to be watchful and prepared. Isaiah announced a vision of the New Jerusalem with all nations streaming toward it. St. Paul instructs us to turn away from works of darkness and seek the light of truth. Jesus warns that one must always be prepared for the final judgment. Throughout the history of man, God's saving grace has been offered to those who seek him. May we accept the loving generosity of our heavenly Father and share the Good News with our neighbors.

Stewardship of Treasure

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH:

November 19th–November 20th

NEEDED: \$17,081.46 RECEIVED: \$11,127.00

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. PATRICK'S THIS WEEK:

Sun Nov 27	*No RCIA Class	
Mon Nov 28	*Rosary in the Church	6:30am
Tue Nov 29	*Rosary in the Church	7:30am
	*Cursillo Group Meets	5:30pm
	*Parish Council Meeting—Parish Hall	6pm
	*Parish Library Work Day	6:30pm
Wed Nov 30	*Rosary in the Church	6:30pm
	*Religious Articles Sale for SPCS	9am-3pm
	*Cursillo Group Meets	5:15pm
	*K-5 PSR	5:30pm
	*Religious Articles Sale— —For PSR and EDGE Children in the Parish Hall	5:30pm
	*Jr. High EDGE	6pm
	*CYM	7pm
Thur Dec 1	*Rosary in the Church	7:30am
	*Theology on Tap—Kitchen Pass	6:30pm
Fri Dec 2	*Rosary in the Church	7:30am
	*Day of Penance: abstinence from meat, prayer and works of mercy, reading of Sacred Scripture for an outpouring of God's mercy and the Holy Spirit's gifts of holiness and strength upon the Church	
Sat Dec 3	*Rosary	6:30am
	*Cursillo Group Meets	7am
	*First Saturday Mass	8am
	*Confessions	3:30pm
	*Parish Christmas Dinner —Homemade Turkey and Noodle Dinner—featuring homemade noodles—includes mashed potatoes, rolls and homemade dessert; In the Parish Hall	6pm
Sun Dec 4	*RCIA Class—Baptism & Confession	9:15am-12pm

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES SALE—The Catholic Culture Committee will be selling Religious Articles after Masses on December 10th & 11th. They purchase a variety of beautiful items that make perfect Christmas gifts.

ANOTHER SMART USE OF YOUR IRA—While you may initially appreciate the income from your IRA, as time goes on the higher withdrawal requirements may push you into a higher tax bracket, increasing your taxes. Last year, Congress made the IRA charitable rollover permanent. This allows taxpayers who are required to withdraw money from their IRAs to give directly to their parish. Because the distribution counts toward your required minimum distribution, but does not count as income, making an IRA gift to your parish is a great way to reduce your taxes. While you won't receive an income tax deduction for this, you also won't pay any income tax on the transfer. Requirements for making an IRA rollover: You must be age 70 ½ or older. You must transfer money directly from your IRA to your parish. You can give up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA. The transfer only works for IRAs and not other retirement accounts. However, you may be able to roll over your 401k or other plan into an IRA and take advantage of this opportunity. Check with your tax advisor.

Altar Servers:

Dec 3—5pm B Chavez/Z Collins/C O'Hara
 Dec 4—8am J O'Hara/C Buller/E Wheat
 10am A Farris/Z Johnston/Ky Waun/L Forbes

Extraordinary Ministers:

Dec 3—5pm Teresa Bogner
 Dec 4—8am Max Dhooghe
 10am Mark Martin

Lector:

Dec 3—5pm Scotty Zollars
 Dec 4—8am Jeff Perez
 10am Nick Pfeifer

Offertory Gifts:

Dec 3—5pm Rick and Tammy Goodyear
 Dec 4—8am Rob and Ellie Montee
 10am Gary and Karen Haynes

Ushers:

Dec 3—5pm VanMieghem/McKinney/Ritz/B Allen
 Dec 4—8am Swearingin/Perez/Jacquinot/Chandler
 10am Vincent and Mary Schibi

Money Counters:

Dec 3 & 4—Dan and Cheri Allen
 Rob and Ellie Montee

"KNIGHTLY" NEWS—I would like to thank everyone that participated in our 65th annual Turkey Shoot. This year we had more shooters than we have in the past. I want to thank all the members that worked so hard to make it all possible. I also want to give a special thank you to our new and younger members that provided so much energy and enthusiasm. It's great to see a new generation of Knights becoming active with their Council, Parish, and Community.

I would like to invite everyone to join us on December 3rd at 6pm in the Parish Hall for the St. Patrick's Christmas Dinner. This is the first time the Knights of Columbus and Altar Society have come together to offer a Parish dinner. I think it is a great blessing when the different organizations of the Parish come together and work together to serve the people of the Parish.

A Knights of Columbus rosary was found in the Church and given to me. If this is your rosary please call me, Rick Goodyear, at 620-423-4417, so I can return it.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and may God bless. Vivat Jesus, Rick Goodyear, Worthy Grand Knight