

# Third Sunday of Advent, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucy, St. John of the Cross

**MASS INTENTIONS—December 10<sup>th</sup>—December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Saturday—5pm** +Merle & Mildred Westhoff  
 (Don & Vicki Morris)

**Sunday—8am** People of St. Patrick's Parish  
**10am** Aristeo & Transito Fuentes  
 (Bill & Mary Fuentes)

**Monday—8am** Bill Pearson (Joan Pearson)

**Tuesday—No Mass** Those incarcerated  
 throughout the world (Katie Potocnik)

**Wednesday—7am** Larry Dwyer (Phyllis Pracht)

**Thursday—8am** +Charlie Steinbacher  
 (Mary Greenough)

**Friday—7am** +Julie Stevenson (Bill & Joan Pearson)

Next Weekends Intentions:

**Saturday—5pm** +Vera J. VanMieghem

**Sunday—8am** +Gary Severt

**10am** People of St. Patrick's Parish



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** R.L. Carter

## The Catholic Side

Praised Be Jesus Christ!

Next week at noon we will begin to decorate the church for Christmas. It is a big job, and we are more than accepting of any and all help to get the work finished. I've quoted this before, but it is worth quoting again. Several years ago, a high schooler at the time came to help decorate. When it was all over, she told me, "I'm really going to enjoy the decorations this year because I had no idea how much work it took to get the church to look so beautiful at Christmas!" So, if you would like to deepen your appreciation for our beautiful church at Christmas, just come and help decorate! The more, the merrier, and the faster; I hope you can help!

Tomorrow is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is one of my favorite feasts of our Lady because of the immense power of the revelation of Our Lady to St. Juan Diego that led to the conversion of literally millions of people. Today, thanks to Pope St. John Paul the Great, Our Lady of Guadalupe is not only the patroness of Mexico, but of all of America—North, Central, and South. She is also the protectress of life. Every year at the March for Life, there are many huge images of Our Lady. I encourage all of you to come to the Holy Mass tomorrow in her honor. I also encourage you to come to the parish celebration of Our Lady after the Holy Mass @ 10 am today. It is always a good time and there is good food, too!

There is a Catholic outreach to the poor that I support any chance I get called *A Simple House*. The man who founded it has family from our area. Every month I receive a letter from one of the volunteers with an update on how things are going in Washington, DC or Kansas City. I would like to share a few excerpts from the one I received right before Thanksgiving by Mary Kate Burns.

*"Before serving at A Simple House, I held notions of the poor built from experiences at homeless shelters, pregnancy centers, and soup kitchens. I conceptualized the poor as a source of either inspiration or penance. In the former case, they passed along wisdom gained by overcoming life's many hardships. They were witnesses to Christ among the marginalized. In the latter, the poor were unpleasant and ungrateful. Ministry with them enabled me to become more Christ-like; I could act as Jesus to the lepers and those who persecuted Him."*

*"Then God put someone like Gerald in my path and totally upset my neat categorizations. After my first visit, I subconsciously labeled him as a source of penance. He was difficult to engage, hard to understand, and chose a restaurant with a ridiculously long line. I envisioned our visits as opportunities to bear the crosses of patience and grace. Then he made some jokes that made me laugh and I realized that he has a personality and a sense of humor. He is not a source of penance. Nor is he only a source of inspiration. He is a person whose life gets to intersect with mine for some time. We get to eat fast food, navigate the mayor's call system, sit in traffic, grumble, and laugh. We are witnesses of God to one another, but Christ is fully divine and fully human. I cannot claim to know God through Gerald without really knowing Gerald. This is the beauty of our ministry. We meet people in their homes. We fully experience the chaos and messiness of their lives without artifice or separation. And thus, we come to really know them."*

The people who volunteer at *A Simple House* embrace voluntary poverty, live without the internet, television, and air conditioning. What is more striking is how they befriend the people they serve! They do not just look for ways to alleviate material hardships, but spiritual ones, too. This is what leads them to get to actually know the people they seek to serve. It is a powerful way to live what the Lord commands us to do in St. Matthew's Gospel - to see Christ in others. As Mary Kate will tell you, it is not easy, but it becomes easier when you look and see Christ and not just an anonymous person who has needs. Please pray for the continued fruitfulness of this ministry and those who make it possible, especially during this Advent Season.

May our holy patron, St. Patrick, intercede for us. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico and the Americas and protectress of life, pray for us.

Peace in Jesus and Mary,  
*Fr. Borckenhagen*

## PARISH NEWS

**"IN THE BEGINNING..."** *(A journey through the development of a child—a parallel of Christ being formed in the womb from March 25<sup>th</sup>-December 25<sup>th</sup>).*  
**Week 38**—Chris is now considered full-term but continues to gain and grow every day. Lungs are days from completion. I'm practicing breathing with my amniotic fluid. It is easy to grasp things with Chris' little fingers. Typically, boys will weigh more than girls at birth. Only 4% of babies are actually born on their due date. Mom, pack your bags and don't forget the camera for those all important pictures of the baby. *"They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God."* Isaiah 35:2

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK**—"They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song." It almost sounds like Isaiah is talking about poinsettias and church choirs. But he was talking about the savior coming several hundred years before Jesus was even born. Now we have the Christ, the Savior is with us. So keep in mind that flowers, lights, Christmas music, etc. are more than just nice seasonal decorations. They are triumphant fulfillments of Isaiah's prophecy. Because Jesus is born, we celebrate with song and flowers and trees and light and more. With this in mind I want to congratulate all the students on a great Christmas Concert last Tuesday evening. We had two groups of violin students perform orchestra pieces, and all students in preschool-grade 8 performed in singing groups. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Burke, whom we share with USD 503, and especially Mrs. Wilhoft, for all their work in preparing for this years program.

God Bless, *Emilio Aita*

**ADOPT-A-MOM**—St. Patrick's Pro-Life Committee is adopting one mom from Hannah's Promise for Christmas this year. We will also be adopting two families from our Parish. Check the Christmas Tree in the vestibule. Return your wrapped gift with the tag attached by December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you don't want to purchase a gift, you also have the option this year to purchase a variety of Scrip cards! Grab a list by the tree and return your envelop to the school, rectory or drop it in the collection basket.

## 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.**

**SEE THE SHRINES OF SPAIN, LOURDES AND FATIMA**—Go on a Jubilee Pilgrimage with Fr. Michael Schemm to the Shrines of Spain, Lourdes and Fatima from April 20<sup>th</sup>—April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Some stops on the way include Barcelona, Madrid, Avila, and Lisbon. Cost for Air and Land from Wichita is \$3,495.00 per person. For more information contact Susan Prendergast at Select International Tours by calling 800-842-4842 or emailing [susan@select-intl.com](mailto:susan@select-intl.com)

**NFP & FERTILITY CLASSES** are available right here in Parsons! Sonja has an Intro Class this week. Sign-up today by calling 307-760-2580 or email [sonja.cmfc@gmail.com](mailto:sonja.cmfc@gmail.com)! Or call Jackie to get enrolled in Marquette Model II (316)641-5446 or email [jackie.mmnfp@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.mmnfp@gmail.com)

## Stewarding our Gifts...

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

*Third Sunday in Advent*

Advent prepares us for the birth of Jesus Christ. The prophets prepared Israel for the coming of their Savior. Isaiah proclaimed a world full of life and beauty readying itself for the Son of God to appear. Jesus tells us that John the Baptist was a prophet foretold in scripture to be the messenger sent by God to prepare the way. St. Paul tells us to be prepared for the second coming of our Lord. Jesus preached that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. May we contemplate his words and allow them to grow to fulfillment in our lives as we share Christ's message of love.

## Stewardship of Treasure

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH:**

December 10<sup>th</sup>-December 11<sup>th</sup>

**NEEDED: \$17,081.46 RECEIVED: \$20,864**

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

|             |   |             |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| Sun Dec 11  | *RCIA Class—The Eucharist/The Mass 9:15am-12pm  |             |
|             | *Religious Articles Sale—Hall   | 9 & 11am    |
|             | *Our Lady of Guadalupe Potluck  | 11am        |
|             | —Parish Hall  |             |
| Mon Dec 12  | *Rosary in the Church   | 7:30am      |
|             | *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe!  |             |
| Tue Dec 13  | *Rosary in the Church   | 8am         |
|             | *Cursillo Group Meets   | 5:30pm      |
|             | *FertilityCare Services Intro Class   | 7pm         |
|             | —Parish Hall; Sonja Schibi, FertilityCare Practitioner Intern   |             |
|             | *Knights of Columbus Meeting  | 7pm         |
| Wed Dec 14  | *Rosary in the Church   | 6:30am      |
|             | *Cursillo Group Meets   | 5:15pm      |
|             | *K-5 PSR  | 5:30pm      |
|             | *Middle School EDGE   | 6pm         |
|             | *CYM  | 7pm         |
| Thur Dec 15 | *Rosary in the Church   | 7:30am      |
|             | *Altar Society Meeting—Parish Hall  | 6pm         |
|             | *Theology on Tap—Kitchen Pass   | 6:30pm      |
| Fri Dec 16  | *Rosary in the Church   | 6:30am      |
|             | *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 17  | *Rosary   | 6:30am      |
|             | *Latin Mass   | 7am         |
|             | *Cursillo Group Meets   | 7:40am      |
|             | *Confessions  | 3:30pm      |
| Sun Dec 18  | *RCIA Class—The Eucharist/The Mass  | 9:15am-12pm |



**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 24—5pm C O'Hara/B Brungardt/M Bogner  
 Dec 25—8am I Reitemeier/J O'Hara/C Westhoff  
 10am Dylan G/J Schibi/Dawson G/L Forbes/Ka Waun

### Extraordinary Ministers:

Dec 24—5pm Vicki Templeton  
 Dec 25—8am Tom O'Hara  
 10am Sherri Martin

### Lector:

Dec 24—5pm Mike Carson  
 Dec 25—8am Megan Rexwinkle  
 10am Daniel Schibi

### Offertory Gifts:

Dec 24—5pm Brian and Julie McIntosh  
 Dec 25—8am Jim and Judy Vitt / Sherry Seibert  
 10am Doug and Tracy Holzem

### Ushers:

Dec 24—5pm P Yanez/W Cupp/D Moreno/B Allen  
 Dec 25—8am Aaron and Terri Saye Family  
 10am K & L Keller / T & L Hunter

### Money Counters:

Dec 24 & 25—Gary and Judy Harris  
 Ryan Templeton

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING**—If you would like to help decorate our beautiful church for Christmas, you will have the opportunity to do so on Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, at Noon. We will do all the "behind the scenes" work, such as carrying everything into the church, sorting and placing things in the approximate vicinity of where it is to be used, setting up the trees, etc. Then we will do all the detailed decorating and put on the finishing touches. Remember, the more help we have, the quicker we can get it all done! There's usually pizza involved!