



December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

HH - Hitch Hall MH - Maher Hall
SB - School Basement
R - Rectory CH - Church
WH - Waldeisen Hall

Date	Observance	Mass Intention	Readings	Event
Mon Dec 20		5:30 pm Annie & Joe Gnap by Bernie Gnap	Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38	
Tues Dec 21	Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor		Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45	Kenmore Free Store 4 - 7 pm SB
Wed Dec 22		5:30 pm Dorothy Gabelman by Family	1 Sm 2:24-28; Lk 1:46-57	
Thur Dec 23	John of Kanty, Priest		Mal 3:1-4, 23-27; Lk 1:57-66	
Fri Dec 24		5:30 pm Tony Phillips by Joe & Beth Langton <hr/> 10 pm Frank C. Smith by Fr. Mike	Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 <hr/> Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14	
Sat Dec 25	The Nativity of the Lord	10 am Domenick Felice by Linda Morgan	Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20;	
Sun Dec 26	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8:30 am Anna & Steven Zamesko by Stephen & Toni Zamesko 11 am Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla by Melissa Keegan	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52	

Sanctuary Lamp - Special Intention

Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

COLLECTION REPORT

Week Ending	Dec 5	Dec 12
Sunday Offering -	\$4,084.00	\$3,357.00
Daily Offering -		\$100.00
Holy Day -	\$125.00	\$435.00
Christmas -	\$60.00	\$495.00
Total	\$4,269.00	\$4,387.00
Weekly operating costs	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
(Shortfall) Overage	\$699.00	\$787.00
YTD Over (short) -	\$857.75	\$1,644.75
St. Vincent De Paul -	\$190.00	\$45.00
Capital Improvement -	\$40.00	\$3,140.00
Debt Reduction -	\$285.00	\$285.00
Other Gifts -		\$3,000.00
Diocese Designated -	\$25.00	\$355.00
Envs used of 240 sent	76	89

Stewardship of Treasure: Your parish envelopes are a sign of your willingness to practice the Stewardship of Treasure assuring the continued ministry of Immaculate Conception to the people of Kenmore. If you visit another parish or are not yet coming to Mass, please send in or drop off your envelopes. Thank you.

Due to the rise in **COVID** cases, Bishop Malesic is strongly urging us to wear masks once again at Mass – daily and weekly. We also ask that you wear a mask when coming to Confession.

Important Holy Day Information

Pre-Mass Music will begin at 9:45am Christmas morning. Please note there will be **NO 5:30 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 25th**.

Mary, Mother of God Holy Day – Because Jan. 1st falls on a Saturday this year, the Holy Day is dispensed: No Saturday morning Mass. There will be a Vigil Mass on Fri., Dec. 31st at 5:30 pm.

There will be a Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm on Saturday January 1st.

Rectory Hours – The rectory will close at noon on December 24 and December 31.

Acme Cashback – The current earning period ends on December 25th. Please bring all receipts to the church and place them in the containers at all doors.

New Voice of the Parish!

Please join me in welcoming **Mary Buckson**, our new Parish Secretary and Office Manager! Mary brings her abundant people skills and bundle of energy to the Rectory Office! And join me in thanking **Grace Ortscheid** for her 13 years of patient, dedicated and skilled service to the Parish as our Parish Secretary and Office Manager. We are truly blest! *Fr. Mike*

Advent Reflection

Today's reflection is from *Sunday Connection* by Loyola Press and can be found at www.loyolapress.com. On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded his birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah. Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy. It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

In the verses preceding our Gospel reading, Mary not only learns she has been chosen to be the Mother of God, but also that her cousin Elizabeth, who was long considered barren, was 6 months pregnant. In our Gospel, Mary travels to hill country to visit Elizabeth. We don't know whether Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, was there, but we do know that the Holy Spirit was. The Spirit was present in Mary and then filled Elizabeth as well. Once filled with the Spirit, she cries out blessings over Mary and her unborn child, Jesus. We are filled with the Spirit as well. How do we express the Spirit within? Do we allow the Spirit to flow freely from us to others and through us in our stewardship? As we enter this last week of Advent, let us strive to be more open to the Spirit and cooperative with the Spirit's promptings.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Subway Cards – We've had quite a few people come to the rectory door in need of food & our card supply is getting low. We'd love to get more \$5 & \$10 cards so that we can continue to feed the hungry. Drop donations in the collection basket or at the rectory. Thank you.

In His Name: Warm socks for Project Hope at Hoban High School and hygiene products for the homeless served by the Peter Maurin Center. Please place donations in the basket by the main doors of the church. Thank you.

Church Housekeeping: We're in desperate need of two more people to help one Monday or Friday a month. Call Cherylyn at 330-825-5949 for more info.

CareCards - Please keep them coming! To participate, purchase cards of encouragement, add a short note and sign your name. Put the cards into the envelope (do not seal) & place into the basket. Please do not drop off cards from charitable/religious organizations.

Needed: Able-bodied parishioners to help with snow removal. Shoveling, use of snow blowers will be necessary. Please call the rectory to sign up.

Liturgical Ministers

Christmas Eve 5:30 pm: Lector – B. Langton; EMHC - Sandy Mason; Server - J. Langton; M of H: need

Christmas Eve 10 pm: Lector: L. Woods; EMHC: Osolin; Server: Keegan, Morgan; M of H: S. Woods, need

Christmas Day 10 am: Lector: D. Novitsky; EMHC: need; Server - Baker; M of H: need

Dec. 31 Holy Day Vigil 5:30 pm: Lector: B. Langton; EMHC: J. Langton; M of H: need; Server: L. Morgan.

Masses - If you'd like to schedule a Mass, please call the rectory; the stipend is \$10. The next available dates are: Sat., Jan 8, 5:30 pm, Sun., Jan 9, 11 am; weekdays: Jan. 5, 10, 12, 14.

Community Meal – There will be NO Community Meal in December. Stay tuned for future needs.

Synod Listening Session – We are being called to gather together, by Pope Francis, as a people of faith. Sessions consist of personal reflection, listening and discussion and takes about 2 hours. Come, reflect, listen and help identify how the Holy Spirit is working in the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of the People of God. January sessions will be held: Thurs., Jan. 6th at 1 pm; Tues., Jan. 11th at 1 pm; Wed., Jan. 19th at 6:30 pm; Sun., Jan. 23rd at 12:30 pm and Wed., Jan 26th at 6:30 pm. Sessions will be held in Hitch Hall and RSVPs are requested.

The Kenmore Free Store - Store hours are Tuesdays 4 – 7 pm & Saturdays 9 am – noon. Protocol: Masks **must** be worn by everyone in the store. Sanitizer will be available. Donations may be placed in the red cart in front of the school during store hours only. The Free Store will be **closed Dec. 25, 28, & Jan. 1.**