



December
Month of The
Immaculate
Conception

December 4, 2022

Second 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 5		5:30 pm Jeanette Judy by Fr. Mike	Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26	
Tues Dec 6			Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14	Free Store 4 - 7 pm SB
Wed Dec 7	Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor Holy Day Vigil	5:30 pm Dorothy Gabelman by Family	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30	
Thur Dec 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation	5:30 pm Joseph Buhalak by Family	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38	
Fri Dec 9		5:30 pm Special Intention by Pauline Kovalchin	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19	
Sat Dec 10		5:30 pm Joseph Molnar, Jr. by the Molnar Family	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13	Confessions 9 am CH Free Store 9 am - Noon SB
Sun Dec 11	Third Sunday of Advent	8:30 am Caruso Family by James Caruso 11 am Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 3410	Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11	Bambinelli Sunday Bring your Christ Child to Mass

Sanctuary Lamp - Ron Donley

Holy Family Candle - Special Intention

COLLECTION REPORT

	Nov 20	Nov 27
<i>Week Ending</i>		
Sunday Offering -	\$3,879.00	\$2,105.00
Holy Day -	\$10.00	
Christmas -		\$50.00
Total	\$3,889.00	\$2,155.00
Weekly operating costs	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
(Shortfall) Overage	\$689.00	(\$1,045.00)
YTD Over (short) -	\$6,768.50	\$5,723.50
St. Vincent de Paul -	\$20.00	
Cap. Improvement -	\$675.00	\$50.00
Debt Reduction -		\$150.00
Other Gifts -		\$260.00
Diocese Designated -		\$50.00
KMA Thanksgiving Dinner -		\$50.00
Envs used of 240 sent	58	44

Upcoming Holy Day of Obligation

Our Feast Day - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Masses: Dec. 7 at 5:30 pm & Dec. 8th at 5:30 pm.

Wear something blue to honor our Blessed Mother.

Bambinelli Sunday: Next Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. On this day in Rome, children bring the Christ Child or Bambinelli figurine from their nativity scene to St. Peter's Square to be blessed. We will offer this same blessing at all Masses next weekend so remember to bring your Christ Child figurine to Mass with you.

The Altar & Rosary Society would like to thank everyone for helping to make the **Bake Sale & Raffle** a HUGE success!

100th Anniversary Events - Mark your Calendars!

•**100 Days of Prayer:** Parishioner Becky Placity has composed a list of 100 intentions for which to pray ranging from parish ministries to world situations. We've had many different fun, community building events this past year, but prayer will bring us closer & build more community than anything else. Prayers will be available the second weekend in December and we'll begin on December 14th - 100 days before our 100th anniversary which is March 23rd. We ask that you spend 1 minute in prayer for the intention of the day. 100 prayers, 100 days, 100 minutes!

•**Christmas Cards for First Responders:** are at the back of the church. Sign multiple cards as there are many officers who patrol Kenmore. Put your signed cards in the basket on the table.

•Share your **favorite I.C. Memory** - 1/2 sheet forms may be found at all doors of the church. We have a great legacy so share a memory that stands out for you. Please return the sheets in the collection basket or to the rectory.

•**Bowling:** January - stay tuned.

•Mark your calendars and tell your friends: **Night at the Races:** Saturday, Feb. 18th. Proceeds will benefit the parish Capital Improvement fund.

History of Popes

#259 – Pius XI - Pope from Feb. 6, 1922 – death, Feb. 10, 1939. Achille Ratti was born in the province of Milan, the son of a silk factory owner. He held doctorates from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, in theology, canon law, & philosophy. After ordination in 1879, he served as a seminary professor, then spent the next 30 years working in the Ambrosian Library in Milan and the Vatican Library. Pope Benedict XV assigned him as an apostolic visitor to Poland in 1918, then as papal nuncio in 1919. When the Bolsheviks invaded Poland in August 1920, most other diplomats fled the country, but Ratti, who stayed, was known to have said "I am perfectly aware of the gravity of the situation, but this morning, celebrating Mass, I offered my life to God. I am a priest in any circumstance." Pope Benedict XV pulled him out of Poland at the end of 1920, elevated him to Cardinal, and assigned him to be Archbishop of Milan, where he remained until his election to the papacy. He was an avid mountaineer, climbing several European peaks, including the Matterhorn. Upon his election, he began the tradition of greeting Rome's faithful in the open air of the St. Peter's Basilica balcony. Pius accomplished quite a bit in 17 years as pontiff. After reaching an agreement with the Italian government, he became the first sovereign leader of Vatican City. He was not a Mussolini or fascist sympathizer, and spoke strongly against both fascism and communism. Pius XI's massive academic experience and three decades of running libraries led him to be best known as a "Teaching Pope." He spoke eloquently on marriage in the encyclical *Casti Connubii*, refreshed & reminded the world of Leo XIII's Catholic Social Teaching with the 40th anniversary *Quadragesimo anno*, touched on the value of Christian education in *Divini Illius Magistri*, and began the Church's sojourn into ecumenism by seeking common ground with Protestant churches in the document *Mortalium Animos*. Pius founded Vatican Radio in 1931, pushing the Church toward new ways of proclaiming the faith. He canonized the "Little Flower," St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and others that included St. John Bosco, St. Bernadette, St. Thomas More, and St. John Vianney. He also elevated Sts. John of the Cross, Albertus Magnus, and Robert Bellarmine to Doctors of the Church. Meanwhile, Pius wrestled constantly with the persecution of Catholics in Spain and Mexico, not to mention the abuses arising in Germany. Pius XI died of a heart attack on February 10, 1939 and was buried in St. Peter's Basilica.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

St. Paul reminds us that scripture was written for our instruction. It is God's holy Word handed down through the ages to help, guide and encourage us as we make our way through our earthly life. Advent is a time to reflect on God's Word and prepare ourselves, inwardly, for the coming of the Christ Child and that's not always easy. We get so caught up in secular traditions and commercialism, decorating & shopping that by the time Christmas comes, we're exhausted. Just when the Church begins to celebrate Christmas, we're taking down trees & decorations and moving on to Valentine's Day. The Christmas season doesn't end until the Baptism of the Lord which is January 9 so keep those trees and decorations up as a witness to your Catholic faith and invite family & friends to do the same. We need to slow down and remind ourselves of the meaning of Advent and WHO, not what, we're anticipating. Do you have an Advent Wreath in your home? Did you pick up a copy of The Word Among Us or some other daily reflection to use? Will you bring your the Christ Child figurine from your nativity to be blessed on the 3rd Sunday of Advent? Let's spend some quality stewardship time reflecting on God's Word and allowing it to instruct, guide and encourage us this Advent season and beyond.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Liturgical Ministry – We're in dire need of *Lectors*, *Altar Servers* and *Contemporary Choir members*. Training provided. Please help. Please call the rectory.

CareCards – Let our shut-ins know they are not forgotten & are important to us. Buy or create cards of encouragement, add a short note & sign your name. Put the cards into the envelope (do not seal) & place into the basket. Please, no cards from charitable or religious organizations.

Free Store Help – Have a heart for those in need & like to work with friendly, faith-filled people? Stop by Tuesdays, 4-7 pm or Saturdays, 9 am-12, check it out & join the team!

Bingo – We are in real need of Bingo help. Do you have even one Wednesday to give to call Bingo, sell Instant Bingo or learn the office from our amazing Bingo Manager, Lorie? We need more people to serve our clientele & to rotate workers. Bingo income is **critical** to our parish finances so come help, be part of a team, meet new people & help your parish.

Church Decorating: Wed., Dec. 14th at 6:30 pm. Come and help us decorate the church for Christmas!

Christmas Across the Pews: Be sure to fill out and return the flier in your bulletin so that you can wish your fellow parishioners a very Merry Christmas. With the price of stamps going up again, this is a wonderful way to send your Christmas greetings.

Advent - Copies of *Journey through Advent* & The Word Among Us may be found at all doors of the church

Masses – To schedule a Mass, please call the rectory; the stipend is \$10. Available dates: Weekdays, 5:30 pm: Dec. 19, 23, Jan. 2, 9, 13, 16, 20. Saturdays, 5:30 pm: Jan. 7, 14, 28; Sundays, 8:30 am: Jan 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 11 am: Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29.

Welcome new parishioners: **Don & Diane Klein** and **Richard & Lauree Bandelow**.

Other Events

• **Prayer Service**: Every Wednesday at 6 pm, Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, Brown St., holds a prayer service for Ukraine. The service is about 30 minutes long and is in English. All are welcome.

Dear sisters and brothers,

I had not planned on writing again this soon so please forgive me, but I need to bring a couple of important things to your attention and seek your permission.

If you read the recent Parish Finance Report and its explanations or have read reports from previous years, you'd notice that the parish is behind in several financial areas regarding the diocese; one is school debt. This debt goes back to a time when the parish could not pay the health insurance for our preschool teachers. The diocese covered it and we've been paying them back over the years. In your envelope packet are 2 special envelopes: one has St. Vincent de Paul and Capital Improvements and the other has St. Vincent de Paul and Debt Reduction. Donations marked for Debt Reduction have been going to pay down the school debt, now at \$12,466 but which needs to be paid off faster so we can focus on the second area - parish assessments; the area in which we are severely behind.

Assessments are used to pay diocesan employees and run the offices that parishes call upon for guidance in the every day operation of their ministries, programs, financial, legal, liturgical and outreach needs plus much more. Each parish in the diocese is assessed based on it's offertory and whether or not they have a school. Parishes with schools receive a lower assessment than parishes without schools because schools add cost to a parish overall. Parishes with schools are assessed at 11.5% and those without schools are assessed at 16.5% of their annual offertory which varies from year to year. Right now, our assessment is \$2800.00 per month and we are woefully behind.

To aid in this, I need your permission to designate monies received for Flower Donations: Christmas, World Marriage Day, Easter, etc. for reduction of the school debt. I need your permission because in accounting, monies designated for certain purposes have to be used for those purposes; they can't be used for anything else. We have enough money in the Flower Fund, \$6500.00, to last us for several years. Rather than continue to add to that amount when we need monies elsewhere, I'd like to use the money already in the account to pay for flowers and designate all incoming flower money for Debt Reduction instead. The names of the loved ones on your envelopes will still be typed up and printed for you just like always. If anyone objects to this or has questions, please contact me directly. Once the school debt is repaid, your Debt Reduction donations will be used to begin to pay down our assessments.

Believe me, I know this is a very difficult time, financially, for all of us as inflation is making us really tighten our belts. Those who came before us sacrificed so that we would have a beautiful place in which to worship and we want to ensure that legacy continues for those who will come after us. Using your Capital Improvement and Debt Reduction envelopes will help that happen. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Melissa Keegan
Parish Life Coordinator