



Joy

*"...there is one among you whom
you do not recognize, the one who
is coming after me, whose sandal
strap I am not worthy to untie."*

--John 1:26-27

Advent



*Masses
For The Week*

Monday, December 18 (Chapel)

9:00am - Timothy Smith - Family

Tuesday, December 19 (Chapel)

9:00am - Catherine & Henry Kantosky - Bill Kantosky

Wednesday, December 20 - (Church)

6:30pm - Joseph Ferut - Family

Thursday, December 21 - (Chapel)

9:00am - Rose Smith - Family

Friday, December 22 (Chapel)

9:00am - Guy Page - Judy Page

Saturday, December 23

4:30pm - Camille Fuehrer - Family

Sunday, December 24

10:00am - ALL PARISHIONERS

Christmas Eve Masses

4:30pm - ALL PARISHIONERS

10:00pm - ALL PARISHIONERS

Parish Council

Kim Wilfong

(Chair)

Beth Adams

Andrew Carden

Michelle Denham

Sarah Hoover

Chris Martin

Rosemarie Pierson

(Vice-Chair)

Christian Roig

Margie Toombs

Jean Witt

Kathy Yourkiewicz

Vincent Zemanek

Finance Council

Brad Neumann

Joan Radzysinski

Jim Ries

Bryan Scheetz

Dennis Wilfong

Chris Yacobozzi

Building Committee

Lewis Behlke

Joanna Blaz

Jim Ries

Greg Rowe

Mike Ruebensaal

Mike Serdinak

Ken Shifferly

Darlene Stutz

Patrick Weir

Rick Wiedenmannott

Sandy Yovanovich

Pray for the Sick: Tina Abshire, Kristen Barney, Kathy Borowy, Lou Burrows, Deborah Cormier, Cathy Cornish, Jennifer DuPont, Ethel Faber, Karen Faulkner, Walter Fowler, Dennis Frabotta, Alyassa Frost, Don Gates, Marcie Grealis, Marilyn Hamm, Dorothy Hannes, Richard Heath, Joan Henschel-Blake, Gloria Janosko, James Kwiatek, Bob & Joyce Lark, Debbie Listwak, Ron Listwak, Toni Long, R. Lottman, Jose' Magiste, Neil Maier, Elise Martin, Hannah Haas Martin, Christopher Miller & Family, Michele Miller, Becca Mullins, George & Margaret Murray, Philip Myers, Rhonda Norman, John O'Connor, Ron O'Hearn, Maggie Oros, Mark Petricevic, Jane Peyton, Donald Plas, Adam Postelwait, Colleen Ray, Gladys Rising, Adam Rone, Mary Ross, Cristina Safille, George Schaefer, Monica Schaefer, Paul Smith, Rhonna Smith, Thomas Southam, Al Traxler, Ted Turner, Rick Tylicki, Roger VON Seggern, Melody Wallace, Dick & Nancy Webber, Ezra Weller, Daniel White, Pat Wittine, Amy Woodburn, Pat Wracker & Bernadette Zielinski.

Please call the Parish Office on (440) 926-2364 or email us at info@olqpgrafton.org to have a name of a friend or relative included in this list.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54;
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;
Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Thursday

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Friday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and
14; Lk 1:57-66

Saturday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,
27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

just to let you know

WELCOME! If you are interested in joining OLQP, please call the parish office at 440.926.2364 or go to our website at www.olqpgrafton.org. Registration forms are on our website and by the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

BULLETIN DEADLINES:

For inclusion in a weekly bulletin, please submit all announcements to Joanna at jblaz@olqpgrafton.org by the following dates:

Sunday December 31 by 5:00pm Thursday, Dec. 21

Sunday January 7 by 5:00pm Monday January 1

FATHER JOHN'S CORNER:

The "9 Nights of Night Prayer" was a great success in my opinion. Not that numbers determine a success, but the lowest turnout was 30 people and there were nights of well over 50-60 people. The success, however, was in the response of people who returned night after night as it settled their spirit at the close of the day. One person told me that they were already praying night prayer that is on Halo and another couple told me that they were going to make this prayer a part of their evening routine. You can download an app to pray this as well as Morning and Evening Prayer. I use IBreviary but there is also Laudate and various others. Thank you to the Greeters, Lectors and Musicians each night and to everyone who came out to pray. It has me thinking of how we can use this experience moving forward in other spiritual activities in the parish.

Another great success was the Choir Concert this past Sunday. The choir was phenomenal! As I introduced the choir that afternoon, I said that it would be more a prayer experience than a performance and it truly was. In song they led those of us in attendance (which was a very good number) to pause from activities of the season to reflect upon the meaning of Christmas. The members of the choir and musicians shared the gift of music that God had given them and from their heart brought that gift to us. We are so blessed to have the dedication of these members of our community to lead us in prayer by song, especially in the Eucharist.

The Responsorial Psalm is ideal for what I have just written. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." taken from Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1:46-47. As I look around the parish, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, as I see his stamp on the people and activities happening. Mary continued, "...the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name." When was the last time you rejoiced in God's blessings? Where do you see God at work in those around you? Take time during these last days of Advent to pause and rejoice in all that God is doing in your life. When you stop and look, you will not be disappointed as God is doing incredible things when our eyes and hearts are open to witness his marvels.

I was asked where we stand with the matching gift toward the Capital Campaign. As of Friday, Dec. 8th we have received \$36,127 in new or additional contributions to the campaign. The matching gift is for \$50,000 so we are almost there! Thank you to everyone who has contributed or made a pledge to the campaign over the past year!

As you make your final plans for Christmas, please double check the Mass schedule for the weekend Masses as well as for Christmas. It can be very confusing as Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. May we keep each other in prayer as we draw closer to Christmas that we may be found peaceful, hopeful and joyful.

--Fr. John

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

This Advent we are making a special effort to welcome home for Christmas those who have not been active in the church. Think about family members, friends, neighbors, etc. that you can invite to our Christmas liturgy celebration and extend a warm welcome to join you and our parish community at Mass.

CHANGE IN MASS SCHEDULE

Due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday there has been a change in the Sunday Mass schedule for one week only. This is to give time to prepare the church and to give the musicians and other liturgical ministers a breather before Christmas. And no, going to Christmas Eve Mass does not fulfill your Sunday obligation.

4th Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, December 23, 4:30pm Mass

Sunday, December 24, 10:00am Mass only (no 8:30 or 11:00am Mass)

Christmas Eve:

Sunday, December 24: 4:30pm Mass (children's program 4:00pm)

10:00pm Mass (choir program 9:30pm)

Christmas Day:

Monday, December 25: 8:30am Mass

11:00am Mass



Join Our Lady Queen of Peace

This Advent Season as we light the way for
Jesus in our acts of
prayer, service, and celebration.



Come Pray with us....

- ♦ Adoration will take place Every Wednesday in the Church from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM.
- ♦ Confession: Every Saturday, 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
- ♦ Bring your prayer intentions with you to Mass to be added to our Prayer Intention Trees.

Pray at home....

- ♦ Enjoy a Scripture and Service Based Advent Calendar from Loyola Press for the youth of our parish and one from the USCCB for the adults of our parish. Both are available in the Gathering Area.
- ♦ Enjoy the practice of a daily Advent Reflection booklet: Encounter Great Joy, A Growing Season, or Learning to Love like Jesus available in the Gathering Area.
- ♦ Check out BustedHalo.com for a daily Advent themed quote and Advent challenge.
- ♦ Sign up for digital Advent Reflections through:
 - ♦ Dynamic Catholic's "Best Advent Ever"
 - ♦ FORMED Daily Reflections

Join us in celebrating

- ♦ By volunteering to carry up an Advent Candle to be placed in our Advent Wreath. Sign-up in the gathering area or call the office to reserve your spot.
- ♦ Bring your family's Nativity Jesus to be blessed for Baminelli Sunday the weekend of 12/16 and 12/17 at all Masses.
- ♦ Join us for a Children's Story of Christmas presentation before the 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass. See the Bulletin for more information to become a part of this beautiful tradition.



ADVENT

"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world."

--Pope Francis, Angelus, 2018



GAUDETE SUNDAY

Rejoicing is the theme of today's readings on this Gaudete Sunday. We are filled with joy, because the Lord is coming and is almost here! "God is the joy of my soul," the prophet Isaiah says in the first reading. He truly is my joy, my God, my all.

I have joy because I know what is to come. My Savior, Jesus Christ, will soon be born again. Joy beams in the broad smile that instantly bursts onto my face when I see a friend or family member. I feel joy hearing a child giggle or an adult unexpectedly laugh out loud. I rejoice knowing that the love of the Lord is really present in my life and in the world.

Being human, there are many times that I forget that joy. The words proclaimed in the first reading remind me to make my ways straight, to prepare for His presence in the world and most importantly, in my life. I need to be intimately aware of this Companion on my journey during the highs and lows and turns and twists of life, the gift of Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The "O Antiphons", which begin annually on the 17th of December, are seven ancient refrains that proclaim titles of the Messiah going back to the 4th century. They are sung or prayed during evening prayer before the Magnificat during the days leading up to Christmas Eve. Each speaks about the coming of the Messiah from prophets of the Old Testament.

"O Wisdom" is today's refrain before the Gospel. "O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!" I have joy in the wisdom and knowledge of what is to come: my Savior, Jesus Christ. I am aware of the joy of anticipation of a birth or new beginning. It is the gift of metanoia, a change of heart to begin anew with the graces given to me through His humble birth to Mary.

May my soul rejoice in my Lord and Savior! May I be granted a metanoia of heart and spirit to grow in wisdom and knowledge that leads me closer to the glory and wonder of God. Amen!

By Beth Price

CALLING ALL KIDS!

We will be doing a performance of the "Story of Christmas" prior to the 4:30pm Christmas Eve mass. If your child would like to participate, please sign them up on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

The children will need to be at the Christmas Eve mass by 3:30pm in order to prepare for the performance. The performance will not include any speaking parts, just acting or singing (their preference).

We will have one more practice before the performance this **Sunday December 17 from 12:15-1:00pm.**

Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COLORING CONTEST RESULTS

The Knights of Columbus Council 8369 would like to thank all the young people of the parish who participated in the "Keeping Christ in Christmas" coloring contest. The winning entries were submitted by:

Kaia Campolo Simkovich
Lucy Hoover
Tyler Wilfong
Abigail McCloskey
Riley Wilfong
Sophia McCloskey

All the winners have received prizes for their good work. Let each of us, in our own way, continue to keep Christ in Christmas.

CALENDAR CLUB

We'd like to thank everyone for participating in the 2023 Calendar Club. Tickets are on sale for 2024 and the monthly payouts have doubled! Please see the table after masses.

We'd like to congratulate our three \$500 December winners: **Joanna Blaz, Carol Mole and Jim and Sue Ries!**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone!

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH IN TRANSITION

O faithful God, as your people, we cherish our memories and our history as a sacred gift. We also ask you to guide us in our time of transition. We need your wisdom that we might be receptive to change, conversion and growth. We need your grace to redirect our hearts that we may be willing to offer ourselves in joyful service.

Do not allow fear, ignorance or pride to limit the work of your spirit, nor custom to prevent the creativity within us from bearing fruit. Open our hearts to the call of the Gospel. Give us courage and renewed hope that we may meet the challenge of being the Church in our time. Amen

TOGETHER 
LET US PRAY ...

Third Sunday of Advent Reasons to Rejoice

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always? Who can do that?" It sounds absurd, but the next two lines give it context: If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Whatever happens is the will of God for us. Even the bad things, things we don't like, can be allowed by God, so that God can bring good out of them. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

The next two sayings may be a little obscure. When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit, he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17) we won't be so distracted by the things of this world that we cannot hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit in us. We won't be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them.

How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? The next phrase helps with that: Test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. And most of all trust God to help with all this because God wants us to be holy. God will make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice.

--Tom Schmidt

PRAYER

Prayer honors God,
acknowledges His being,
Exalts His power,
adores His providence,
secures his aid.
--E. M. Bounds

SYMPATHY to the family of **Teresina Montorsi** who passed away recently.

May she rest in the peace of Christ.

HOMEBOUND?

If you or someone you know would like to receive communion please contact the parish office 440-926-2364. Also, if you are a Eucharistic Minister and would like to take communion to the homebound and those in local facilities and/or the hospital, please contact the office as well.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Our women & men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares: "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank-you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps. Please visit www.retiredreligious.org.



FAITH FORMATION / UPDATES

"He rules the world with truth and grace!"

As we roll into this Third Week of Advent, we are reminded of the need for JOY! Gaudete Sunday focuses our intention on Joy! How are we joyfully preparing for the Lord? How are we joyfully preparing our homes? How are we joyfully preparing for the celebrations?

PSR will meet today, 12/17 to joyfully prepare for your Christmas Break. We will join back together for class on January 7, 2024.

Here is a prayer to use as you light, your Third Candle on your Advent Wreath:

"Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen." Loyola Press

"If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all." -St. Peter Canisius

This seems a very appropriate quote for this time of year, but who is St. Peter Canisius?

He was a Jesuit priest in the late 1500s. He worked for the renewal of the Catholic faith in Germany after the Protestant Reformation. He preached charity amidst a time period of violence and hostility between Catholics and Protestants. He is a Doctor of the Church, which means a person whose teaching on faith has been deemed sound and of benefit to the church through their writing, study, or research. A Doctor of the Church is appointed by a pope or an ecumenical council. He is honored on his Feast Day 12/21.



THANK-YOU for your generous support of OLQP and your help with the needs of the community through your ongoing participation in our various ministries.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Sunday, Dec 9/10	\$7,887.93		
E-Giving:	\$4,980.70		
Total:	\$12,868.63	\$12,551.00	\$317.63
YTD:	\$292,214.95	\$301,224.00	(\$9,009.05)



Sunday, December 17

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

9:35am-10:50am - PSR

12:15pm - Children's Christmas Play rehearsal

Monday, December 18

Tuesday, December 19

Wednesday, December 20

2:30pm-6:30pm - Adoration

Thursday, December 21

9:30am - Divine Mercy Chaplet

5:30pm - Community Meal

Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

Sunday, December 24

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help us in our ministry and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish. Questions? Contact Joanna Blaz in our parish office at 440.926.2364 or visit: www.catholiccommunity.org/ira.

\$50,000 CHALLENGE

The need for space, increased parish activities and community outreach are some of the reasons we've shared regarding our capital campaign. Would you like another reason? How about 50,000 of them? A generous parishioner will match any new donation to the *Continuing Our Journey* campaign up to \$50,000. This is a great opportunity to double your donation without doubling the amount you are giving! Currently the campaign is at \$2,106,909 and growing. By joining those who have already given, we can reach our goal of \$2.5M through your generous support and prayers.

Diocesan is proud to now be printing

Our Lady Queen of Peace's Sunday Bulletin

You are invited to help support our Parish!
For opportunities to advertise,
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<p> Get this bulletin emailed to you every week. Simply go to www.DM.CHURCH/2594 ...or scan </p> <p> DISCOVERMASS</p>		<p>ADVERTISE HERE Promote your Business AND Support your Parish. Give us a call! 800-997-4986</p>		

