



CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:

**LITURGY SCHEDULE
December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent**

Monday, December 7, Holyday Vigil at St. John's
5:30p.m...Margaret Wilson
Tuesday, December 8, Immaculate Conception
12:00noon...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's and Holy Family at St. Mary's
5:30p.m...Robert Moore at Holy Family
Wednesday, December 9, at St. John's
11:00a.m...Funeral Mass for Larry Aulbach
Thursday, December 10, at St. Mary's
5:30p.m...George Watson
Friday, December 11, at Holy Family
9:00a.m...Marcia Ann Coulter & Sandra Schroeder
Saturday, December 12, at St. Mary's
5:00p.m...Don Martin
Sunday, December 13
9:00a.m...Nancy Schorey at St. John's
11:00a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's and Holy Family at Holy Family

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

NEW MISSALETTES FOR NEW CHURCH YEAR

Our new missalettes are here for St. John's and St. Mary's. You are welcome to take a missalette home with you, but keep it as we are still not able to distribute these at church. There is a box at each church entrance.

PRAYER CHAIN: Contact Janice Jackson at 348-1521 or the office at 348-3889 or 674-2605

After a rather unique Thanksgiving week and recovery, we get back into our work preparing for the Lord's coming. And as the letter from St. Peter reminds us this Sunday that "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day." God's sense of time is significantly different than ours, yet He is quite patient with us as He guides us to our proper end. When we reflect on our past Advents and the Church and the local traditions that make them up, these are precious gifts and reminders of how God is trying to get us to think of time from His perspective. It is a challenging task to say the least, but that is why we have liturgical seasons to give us a pattern and process to start thinking and seeing time from a less human perspective.

And the amazing thing is that when this happens, we end up becoming more human and happier in the process. If we call to mind some of our greatest Advents and Christmas of the past, they typically will involve moments when we are not so focused on our selves or the pressures of the season, but quiet and still moments where we can simply be the people God wants us to be. I hope and pray that in this Advent season, we develop a greater appreciation of God's gift of time to us, and how we can use it better to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley

ADVENT PRAYER:

O Mary, give us a heart as beautiful, pure, and spotless as yours. A heart like yours so full of love and humility. May we be able to receive Jesus as the bread of life, to love him as you loved him, to serve him under the mistreated face of the poor. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

--St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

FOR DECEMBER:

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

HOLYDAY & HOLIDAY MASSES:

Immaculate Conception of Mary, Dec. 8, is a holyday of obligation (dispensation covers Sunday and holyday obligations). Mass will be celebrated as follows:

Vigil Monday, Dec. 7, 5:30pm at St. John's Holyday, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 12noon at St. Mary's and 5:30pm at Holy Family

Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve 5pm at St. Mary's
Christmas Eve 8pm at St. John's
Christmas Day 9am at Holy Family

Solemnity of Mary, January 1, is a holyday of obligation with Mass schedules as follows:

Vigil, Thursday, Dec. 31, 5pm at St. Mary's
7pm at St. John's

Holyday, Friday, Jan. 1, 10am at Holy Family

Join us as we give thanks and praise and celebrate each of these special days.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

There will be additional reconciliation times during Advent with penance services not available this year. Fr. Hurley will have extra reconciliation times each Wednesday evening from 6-7pm on December 9, and 16, along with the weekly regular times. Please, especially this year, make use of this sacrament and receive Jesus' healing graces through confession, penance and forgiveness.

Wednesday, December 9, 6-7pm at Holy Family

Wednesday, December 16, 6-7pm at St. John's

Each Thursday 5-5:25pm at St. Mary's

Each Saturday 3-4pm at St. John's

Each Friday 8:30-8:55am and Sunday 12noon-1pm at Holy Family

The above listed times are tentative end times as Fr. Hurley will stay past the end time listed until all confessions are completed.

SAINTS OF THE SEASON

How can we imitate a saint during Advent? Each week there will be a question(s) for us to consider as we strive to grow in faith like the saints.

What gifts can I share with the poor to make their Christmas special? How can I help those in need or imprisoned during this season? And, how can I forgive those who have hurt me?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 7: [St. Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the Church] Is 35: 1-10; Lk 5: 17-26

Dec. 8: [Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary] Gn 3: 9-15, 20; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk 1: 26-38

Dec. 9: [St. Juan Diego Cuauhtiatatzin] Is 40: 25-31; Mt 11: 28-30

Dec. 10: Is 41: 13-20; Mt 11: 11-15

Dec. 11: [St. Damasus I, pope] Is 48: 17-19; Mt 11: 16-19

Dec. 12: [Our Lady of Guadalupe] Zec 2: 14-17; Lk 1: 26-38

Dec. 13: [Third Sunday of Advent] Is 61: 1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5: 16-24; Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Please remember in your prayers Larry Aulbach, parishioner of St. John's, who passed to eternal life this week. May his family be comforted by your prayers.

ST. JOHN'S ADVENT JESSE TREE

We ask everyone to take as many tags from the Advent Jesse tree as you like. Please return the tags with the items unwrapped and place under the tree. Everything we collect will be taken to the head nurse at the BJSHS to be distributed to all the public schools in our county. Please see the full list in the November newsletter. Thank you for making this ministry possible.

Holy Family is collecting toiletries for the Twin City Christmas We Care families. Please, choose a tag(s) off the Angel tree located in the Narthex and bring the unwrapped items back to Holy Family by Sunday, December 13. Thank you!

The St Mary's Altar-Rosary Christmas gathering scheduled for Dec 14 has been cancelled due to Coved 19.

PRAY THE ROSARY

As our new liturgical year begins with Advent, let us pray the rosary for spiritual healing and hope and trust in the Lord.

The rosary is prayed each Sunday at 4pm with Divine Chaplet and each Wednesday at 4pm with recitation of 15 decades at Holy Family.

WEEKLY CALENDAR:

Tuesday, Dec. 8: **Immaculate Conception Holyday**

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Reconciliation 6-7pm at Holy Family

Thursday, Dec. 10: Adoration & Reconciliation 5-5:25pm at St. Mary's

Saturday, Dec. 11: Food Pantry at St. Mary's

Sunday, Dec. 13: Third Sunday of Advent
RCIA 10-10:50am at Holy Family



An excerpt from the November 29th edition of *The Catholic Moment*

Uniting our hearts in Christ through change, by Deacon Steve Miller

In recent weeks our diocese has undergone a lot of change. The creation of new parish pastorates, restructured deaneries and the assignment of missionary pastors has invited us to embrace much change in our lives. This transformation is calling us to new ways of thinking, seeing, experiencing and living as a Local Church.

Change can be a good and positive occurrence in our life. Change challenges us to look deep within our hearts, to examine our dispositions and responses regarding the events around us. Through change we learn more about ourselves, how we perceive the world around us, and how we react to such challenges.

Change can be difficult depending on the various demands it makes. It can mean wrestling with some unknowns, which can make us anxious or fearful.

No matter what our perspective or response to change may be, earthly living requires us to confront change from time to time. Life never stands still.

As Catholics we are called to approach change with *faith*. To have faith in God's loving plan of salvation. Although God has revealed much about His plan of salvation to us, how it unfolds is never fully known or completely understood. We are called to trust in God's providential care and His desire to give us what is truly good.

We must hunger and thirst for holiness, seeking intimacy with God in daily prayer, through His grace, in the frequent reception of the sacraments, the Eucharist and reconciliation. We must reject sin, earthly attachments and passions to become united with God and one another. This is the essence of *uniting in heart*.

As we begin this new and exciting time in our diocese, let us receive the change we have been presented with holiness and joy, going forth as humble servants of Christ, united in mission, and glorifying His name through patience, kindness, compassion, and mercy.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

St. Mary's

Sunday Collection: \$626.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

St. John's

Sunday Collection: \$2,830.00

Haiti: \$71.00

Building: \$50.00

Food Pantry: \$120.00

Flower Fund: \$50.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$20.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

Holy Family

Sunday Collection: \$1,938.81

Sharing Cupboard: \$65.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$30.00

Needed Weekly: \$2,238.00

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

IS 40:1-5, 9-11; PS 85:9-14; 2 PT 3:8-14; MK 1:1-8

We serve a merciful and patient God. In His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us.

The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

St. Peter describes the loving kindness of the Father in our Second Reading today, saying God "is patient with you, not wishing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance." Yet, in the same passage we receive this warning: "The Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar... and the earth and everything on it will be found out."

How are we to assimilate these two truths — the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion." Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent "reset" — to return to living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us.

In our Gospel passage from Mark, John the Baptist instructs us to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." We must make good use of the gift of time we have been given this Advent season. Let's be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading the of Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service.

In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the parish office about preparation.

The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass. May God continue to bless you and your new little one.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available by appointment as well as:

St. Mary, 5-5:30pm each Thursday

St. John, 3-4:00pm each Saturday

Holy Family, 12noon-1pm each Sunday; 8:30-8:55am each Friday.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. Please contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Hurley is available after Mass for anointing, or you may contact the parish office to arrange a time.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Sessions for children and youth (grades K-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

St. Mary, Dunkirk

**St. John the Evangelist,
Hartford City**

**Holy Family,
Gas City**

A Pastorate of

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Pastor, Fr. Kevin Hurley

PARISH OFFICES

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St. Mary, Dunkirk

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336

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Church Basement: 765-768-1283

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

213 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

Parish Office: 765-348-3889

Fax: 765-348-4399

Holy Family, Gas City

325 E North A St, Gas City, IN 46933

Parish Office: 765-674-2605

PARISH REGISTRATION

Visitors are always welcome. Residents are invited to join the community by calling the parish office.

RCIA

People interested in knowing about the Catholic faith and way of life meet each week. Contact the parish office for information