



# Saint Cecilia Parish

As in the days of Noah...

# SAINT CECILIA PARISH

170 Mechanic Street, Leominster, Massachusetts 01453 — 978-537-6541 — [stceciliachurch.net](http://stceciliachurch.net)



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**Jamie Camire**  
rectory cook

Deacon Ronald J. Aubuchon, Deacon emeritus

**Weekend Masses:** Vigil Mass 4:00pm Saturday, Sunday Masses at 7:00am, 9:45am and 11:15am.

**Weekday Masses:** Monday through Saturday at 9:00am; Wednesday at 6:00pm.

**Sacrament of Penance:** Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 9:30am, Saturday at 9:30am and 3:00pm.

**Rosary:** Monday through Friday at 3:00pm; Wednesday at 7:00pm.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30am to noon.



## WITH THE HELP OF SAINT CECILIA PASTORAL REFLECTIONS



Dear brothers and sisters,

What a joy it was to celebrate the baptisms of Summer and Chase, pictured here with their parents and godparents last Sunday afternoon.



Have you been to a Baptism lately? If you have, you might remember that after the renunciation of Satan and the Profession of Faith, is the Baptism of the Child. This is followed by three explanatory rites: the Anointing with Holy Chrism, the Presentation of the White Garment and the Presentation of a Candle, lit from the Paschal Candle.

The Presentation of a Candle is, of course, reminiscent of the rites which open the Easter Vigil each year, but also remind us of the importance of light and heat in these cold and darkening winter months. That is why you will notice the re-appearance of the Advent Wreath, as we prepare for the coming of Christ, the Incarnate Light at Christmas. God is light, as we profess in the Creed each Sunday, and Jesus is Light from Light. For it was at the word of the Creator that Light came into being. All light reminds us of God's presence in our lives.

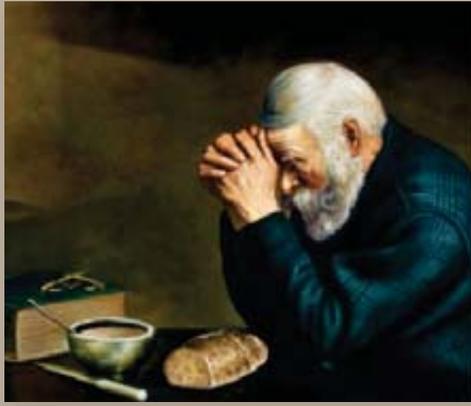
The Advent wreath began as a northern European tradition, with evergreen circles and candles to symbolize hope during the winter. The nineteenth century German Lutheran pastor, Johann Hinrich Wichern famously used it to teach children to prepare for Christmas. By the early twentieth century it had spread into Catholic homes and parishes, where its circle came to signify God's eternity, its evergreens Christ's enduring life, and its four candles the unfolding weeks of Advent.

The Advent Wreath is described in our Book of Blessings (nos. 1509–1519) as a sacramental which prepares us for both Christ's Nativity and his return in glory at the end of time. We will bless the Advent wreath this weekend with a prayer that as the candles grow in brightness, the faithful may reflect Christ who is "our light." In this way the Advent wreath serves as a simple but powerful symbol of Christian hope and watchfulness throughout the coming Advent Season. May the light of Christ grow in each of our hearts this Advent, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

In the Lord,

Monsignor Moroney





## PRAY WITH US!

**Pray for all who are sick, and especially for:** John Richard, Barbara Casey, Al Lamoureux, Connie Aubuchon, Ann Murphy, Helen St. Germaine, Janet Baron, Rosemarie (Albert) Orr, Mark Rohoc, Lisa Stacy, Steve Augat and Lindsey Booth.

Join us in praying for those who have died recently. Pray for their families, as well, that they may be consoled by the promises of Christ.

If you know someone who needs prayers, call the rectory or email [office@stceciliachurch.net](mailto:office@stceciliachurch.net) and we will add them to our prayer list for the next several weeks.



This year's Giving Trees are once again decorated with tags benefiting local families, pre-school children from The Guild of St. Agnes, diocesan seminarians, women and children in recovery, and gift cards that assist local families and individuals throughout the year. Gift cards for seminarians can be mailed to the address on the envelope. All other gift cards can be placed in the box near the trees. Gifts can be placed, unwrapped with the tag attached, under or near the Christmas trees on the weekends. Please return your gifts no later than the weekend of December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> so they can be distributed to the families in plenty of time for Christmas. God bless you for your kindness and generosity.

thank you!

**Last Weekend's  
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totaled \$11,095!**



## **MORE CHRISTMAS IN ACADIA RAFFLE WINNERS**

### **HANDMADE WITH LOVE BOOTH**

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*Farm Fresh Trees - Wendy Brown • Ski Lodge - Ann McGree • Christmas Wreaths - Beth Harris • Home for Christmas - Scott Brigate • Summer Concerts • John Bourque • Pumpkin Farm - Ann McGee • Home for Christmas - Gail Sabettini • Frosty - John Bourque • Autumn - Lisa Stroffoleno • Welcome Fall - Beth Harris • Witches Inn - Nicole Boyson • Autumn - Lisa Stroffoleno • Frosty - John Bourque • Farmer's Market - John Bourque • Frosty - J. Tatel Fall in Autumn - Beth Harris • Autumn - Ben Domenichella*



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*Joanne Bangrazi, Lisa Stroffoiens, Margaret Sargent (2), Nemi Kreidler and Richard L.*

*Statue of Saint Guadalupe: Gail Sabettini*

*Baby Dolls with Baby Items: Paula Doucet (2)*

#### **Afghans:**

*Vanessa Epro, Lisa Stroffoleno, Kelly Gallagher (2), Shaheen, Scott Brigate, Paula Doucet, Beth Harris (2), Rebekah Domenichella (2) and Joanne Bangrazi*

### **ACADIAN AUCTION BOOTH**

*Rocking Horse: Margaret Sargent • Blackstone Griddle Kit: Kim McDonald • Fondue Tray: Allison Marinelli • Knight Force Helicopter: Pam Lord • Patriots Backpack with Hat: J Rivard • Snack Box Containers: Mary Jane Thomas • Snowman: Geraldine Bourque • Adidas Duffle and Patriots Hat: Christine Deane • Unicorn Lite Brite: Ben Domenichella • Butter Bell Crock: J Rivard • Car Organizer: Tim Buckley • Lego Trash Truck: Pam Lord • Hello Kitty Advent Calendar: Heather Koll • Cirkul Cups: Margaret Sargent and Kristy Collins*

**MORE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**

# Advent Traditions

As we begin the Season of Advent, you will notice the Advent wreath in the Church in the middle of the Church and how the whole Church is decorated in the color of the sky just before sunrise, the Advent violet which heralds the coming of Christ on the eastern skies.

What a wonderful thing it would be if we were to revive many of these Advent traditions in our homes, kindling in the hearts of the whole family a longing for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let's take advantage of our newly expanded bulletin to look at three of those traditions: The Advent Wreath, the Angelus, and Saint Nicholas.

To help us remember what these traditions were like "in days of yore," we turn to the great liturgical pioneer, Monsignor Martin B. Hellriegel (1890-1981), who was born in Heppenheim, Germany and was later sent as a seminarian to the United States to work with German-speaking Catholics in the Midwest.

In a 1946 address to the Liturgical Conference in Denver on "Family Life, the Liturgical Year and Sacramentals," Monsignor Hellriegel spoke of how Advent was celebrated in his home as a little child.

A great many things from the Advent-Christmas days of my childhood are still fresh in my mind: Every morning in Advent the whole family - it was a real procession - went to [daily] Mass. How well I remember - I was five at the time - that dark-blue little overcoat which mother gave me for my name-day (for our birthdays we did not receive gifts) "so that you may be dressed warm for the [daily] Mass."



## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AT HOME

Before the family meal, or at another appropriate time, the family gather around the Advent Wreath and one of the older members says:

As we wait for the coming of the Jesus, born as a little baby out of love for us, let us ask God to bless this wreath, whose lights will help us to prepare our hearts for him.

**Lord God, your Church joyfully waits for the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. All: Amen.**

On the First Sunday of Advent, the first candle is lit with one more candle lit for each week in Advent.



The Advent Wreath is an old German Lutheran custom which was gradually embraced by Catholics. The Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet and the fourth is rose. However, four violet or white candles may be used.

The candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as *Gaudete* [joyful] Sunday.

## THE ANGELUS

Do you remember the Angelus? Wouldn't it be wonderful to pray it with your family this Advent, especially on Sundays?

V/. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,  
R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary,....

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,  
R/. Be it done unto me according to your Word.  
Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made flesh,  
R/. And dwelt among us.  
Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises  
of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and

# SAINT NICHOLAS AND HIS GIFTS

Monsignor Hellriegel also recalled how much he and his brothers and sisters would look forward to Saint Nicholas Day on December 4<sup>th</sup>, when they would receive gifts of apples, oranges, nuts or candy.

Today, of course, Saint Nicholas has been transformed into our secular Santa Claus, but Saint Nicholas was a real person, a fourth century Bishop who was noted for his generosity, giving gifts to all who were in need.

When the Dutch arrived in the United States (in New Amsterdam, a small town that came to be called New York City), they brought with them the celebration of the feast of Saint Nicholas, based on the nordic stories of a kindly old man who brought gifts to good little girls and boys. The nineteenth century “Santa Claus” was thus dressed in a Bishop’s mitre and crozier, with a bag full of gifts slung over his shoulder.

In many countries, children leave letters to Saint Nicholas with prayers for all the poor children of the world, sometimes leaving carrots or grass for his donkey or horse as he makes his round. In turn, the children miraculously receive Saint Nicholas day cookies or other treats. Here’s an old and easy recipe from the Lorraine and Alsace regions of France for Saint Nicholas day gingerbread cookies.

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## Saint Nicholas Gingerbread Cookies

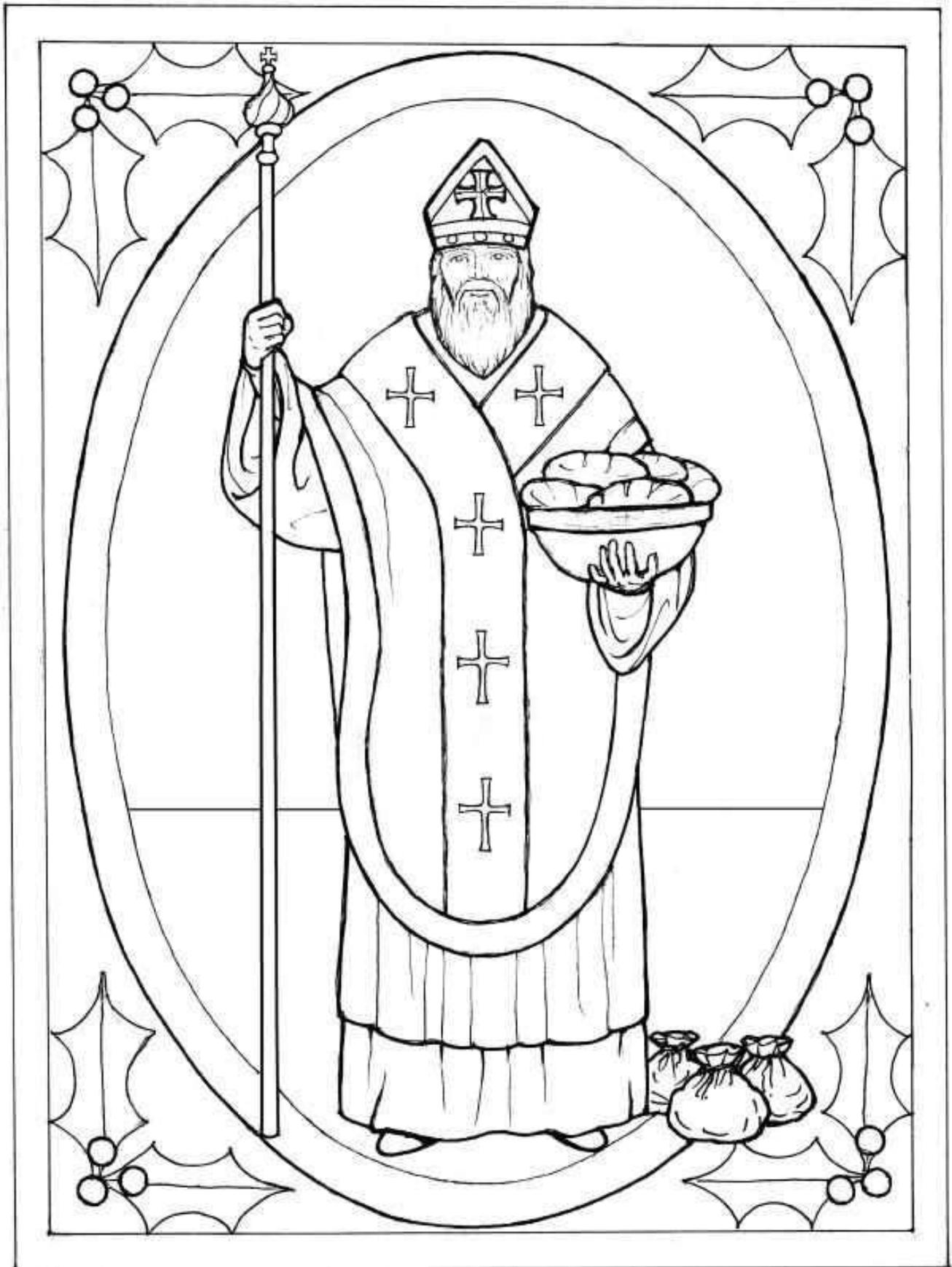
### Ingredients

- 4 cups flour
- 2½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- ¾ cup honey
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon ground cloves
- ½ teaspoon ground anise
- ¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg
- ½ cup water
- 1 egg white

### Instructions

- In a small bowl, mix all the spices (cinnamon, anise, cloves, nutmeg)
- Pour the spices in a bowl. Add flour, baking powder and sugar. Mix.
- Add honey. Knead the dough by hand or with the food processor.
- Add half of the water.
- Continue to knead the dough without adding the remaining water even if it may seem a bit dry at first.
- After a few minutes, add the remaining water, if necessary. The dough should not be sticky. If this is the case, add a little flour.
- Form a ball with the dough, cover with plastic wrap and set aside for at least 1 hour at room temperature.
- Preheat oven to 350F/180C.
- Roll the dough to about ⅓ inch (1cm) thick on a floured work surface.
- Cut out shapes with cookie cutters
- Arrange the gingerbread on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, leaving enough space between them.
- Bake for about 15 minutes.
- Cool cookies on a wire rack.





## Holy, Holy

[Mass for Advent & Lent]

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts. Heav - en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 2011 by David Lasky.

## Mystery of Faith

[Mass for Advent & Lent]

David Lasky

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro -  
claim your death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

## Great Amen

Cantor:  
A - men, A - men, A - men!  
All:  
A - men, A - men, A - men!

Music © 2011 by David Lasky

## Agnus Dei

[Chant]

*Graduale Romanum, 1974*

A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec ca ta mun - di mi - se - re - re no - bis.  
A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec ca ta mun - di mi - se - re - re no - bis.  
A - gnus De - i, qui tol - lis pec ca ta mun - di do - na no - bis pa - cem.

MUSIC FOR ADVENT

## LORD'S DAY MASS FINDER

LEOMINSTER (UPDATED NOVEMBER, 2025)

### Saturday

4:00pm - Saint Cecilia, Holy Family, Saint Leo, Saint Anna

5:00pm - Our Lady of the Lake

6:00pm - Holy Trinity Chapel (Spanish)

### Sunday

7:00am - Saint Cecilia

7:30am - Saint Leo

8:00am - Holy Family, Saint Anna, Our Lady of the Lake

9:45am - Saint Cecilia

10:00am - Saint Anna

10:15am - Holy Family

10:30am - Our Lady of the Lake

11:00am - Saint Leo

11:15am - Saint Cecilia

12:00pm - Saint Anna (Spanish)

1:00pm - Holy Family (Spanish)

5:30pm - Holy Family

6:00pm - Our Lady of the Lake

6:30pm - Saint Anna (Portugese)

## WEEKDAY MASS FINDER

LEOMINSTER

### Monday

7:30am - Saint Anna

8:00am - Our Lady of the Lake

8:30am - Saint Leo

9:00am - Saint Cecilia

### Tuesday

7:30am - Saint Anna

8:00am - Our Lady of the Lake

7:15pm - Saint Anna (Portugese)

8:30am - Saint Leo

9:00am - Saint Cecilia

### Wednesday

7:30am - Saint Anna

8:00am - Our Lady of the Lake

8:00am - Holy Family

8:30am - Saint Leo

9:00am - Saint Cecilia

6:00pm - Saint Cecilia

6:00pm - Holy Family

### Thursday

7:30am - Saint Anna

8:00am - Holy Family

9:00am - Saint Cecilia

### Friday

8:00am - Holy Family

9:00am - Saint Cecilia

### Saturday

9:00am - Saint Cecilia

## CONFESSION FINDER

LEOMINSTER

### Tuesday

8:15am - Saint Anna

### Wednesday

6:30pm - Saint Cecilia

### Thursday

9:30am - Saint Cecilia

### Friday

7:00pm - Our Lady of Lake

### Saturday

9:30am - Saint Cecilia

10:00am - Holy Family

2:30pm - Saint Leo

3pm - Saint Anna, Saint Cecilia

4:00pm - Our Lady of Lake

## ADORATION FINDER

LEOMINSTER

### Tuesday

8am-10am Saint Anna

### Wednesday

8:30am - 6pm- Our Lady of Lake

9:30am-noon - Saint Cecilia

### Thursday

5pm-Holy Trinity Chapel

### Friday

8:30am-9am - Holy Family

9:30am-noon - Saint Cecilia

### Saturday

10am - 10:30am Holy Family



## THIS WEEK AT SAINT CECILIA



Saturday      November 29      Vigil      *Breaking Bread, page 31*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)  
**4:00pm Mass** for Lucille (24<sup>th</sup> anniv.) and Lee Tucker (2<sup>nd</sup> anniv.) by the family (Church)

Sunday      November 30      First Sunday of Advent      *Breaking Bread, page 31*

**7:00am Mass** for Richard Gladding (6<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by his cousin, Larry Gladding (Church)  
 9:30-11:00am OCIA Group Meeting (Rectory)  
**9:45am Mass** for Antoine Pitre (47<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by Gerald C. McDonald and family (Church)  
 9:45-11:00am Religious Education for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through Grade 6 (Parish Center)  
**11:15am Mass** for Arthur Raymond Marcoux, by Madeleine (Church)  
 6:00-8:00pm Sunday Night Card Players (Parish Center)

Monday      December 1      Advent Weekday

**9:00am Mass** for Pius G. Yun (1<sup>st</sup> anniv.), by his family (Chapel)  
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)  
 7:00-8:15pm Religious Education for Grades 7 through 10 (Parish Center)

Tuesday      December 2      Advent Weekday

**9:00am Mass** for Charles Burke, by his wife and daughter (Chapel)  
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)

Wednesday      December 3      Saint Francis Xavier

**9:00am Mass** for Wayne Gariepy, by Wayne and Patrice Hall (Chapel)  
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass - Benediction at Noon (Chapel)  
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)  
**6:00pm Mass** for Father Robert E. Gariepy, by last will (Chapel)  
 6:30pm Confessions (Church)  
 7:00pm Rosary (Chapel)

Thursday      December 4      Advent Weekday

**9:00am Mass** for All Souls in Purgatory (Chapel)  
 9:30am Confessions (Church)  
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)  
 7:00-9:00pm Haitian Prayer Group (Chapel)

Friday      December 5      Advent Weekday

**9:00am Mass** for Father Thomas Hultquist (Chapel)  
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass - Benediction at Noon (Chapel)  
 3:00pm Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena (Chapel)  
 6:30pm BINGO Doors Open at 4:00pm; Games start at 6:30pm (Parish Center)

Saturday      December 6      Advent Weekday

**9:00am Mass** for Lien (Theresa) Le, by her family (Chapel)  
 9:30am Confessions (Church)  
 10:00am Children's Reconciliation Service for Grades 2 through 10 (Church)  
 2:00pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Church)

Saturday      December 6      Vigil

*Breaking Bread, page 33*

3:00pm Confessions (Church)  
**4:00pm Mass** for John and Victoria Daelhousen, by Kathy (Church)

Sunday      December 7      Second Sunday of Advent

*Breaking Bread, page 33*

**7:00am Mass** for Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Gallant, by Richard and Cheryl (Church)  
 9:30-11:00am OCIA Group Meeting (Rectory)  
**9:45am Mass** for Rita Richard (10<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by her daughter and family (Church)  
 9:45-11:00am Religious Education for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through Grade 6 (Parish Center)  
**11:15am Mass** for Jean Leger (8<sup>th</sup> anniv.), by his wife and children (Church)  
 1:00pm Baptism of Avery Ngoc-Lan Harkins and Vivienne Emory Carlson (Church)  
 6:00-8:00pm Sunday Night Card Players (Parish Center)





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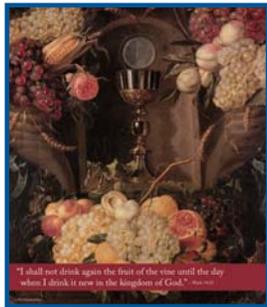
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