ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

511 South Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161 • 734-241-8910
Office Hours: Monday 9am-4pm (Closed for Lunch 12-1pm);
Tuesday 9am-3pm; Thursday 9am-3pm
Closed Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
www.stjohnmonroe.com

Second Sunday of Advent • December 6, 2020

ANote from Father David

Advent, by its nature, is a very simple and quiet season in the Church. This year, we feel Advent a little differently as we continue to navigate the uncertainty of these stressful times. Can we take time to reflect in faith on how we take God's blessings for granted? Can we bring a more clear expression of our faith to this coming Christmas as we change many of our family traditions and practices? God, who has come in Jesus our Lord, is already among us and desires to lead us to a better place. Do we believe this? Can we strive to break our addictions to things that really don't satisfy us, and that even separate us from each other?

This year, we are not planning any communal reconciliation services during Advent. Instead, Fr. Giancarlo and I will be available at extra times for spiritual conversation and confession. We will be in church with physical distancing and face coverings. If anyone would like to set up an appointment for a more extensive spiritual conversation, contact Fr. Giancarlo, myself, Deacon Mike, Deacon Zaid, or Lorie Bronson directly or through the parish office.

Please remember that, in order to best accommodate people, we will celebrate Christmas masses spread over the whole weekend of December 24-27. Reserve your seats now by going to the parish website or contacting the parish office. Read more about this in the bulletin or on the parish website.

The Immaculate Conception

This Tuesday is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, at which we honor our belief that Mary, from the moment of her conception in St. Anne's womb, was free from sin and remained so throughout her life. Her free will cooperated with God's grace to be a pure vessel to bring Jesus, the Son of God, into our broken human condition. Hers is a model of humility, trust, and deep faith, even when there seems to be little or no hope of God's continuing presence.

Please join us for mass if you can. St. John will have mass at 8:15 am (with the rosary prayed at 7:40 am), and at St. Mary, mass will be at 12:15 pm (with the rosary prayed at 11:45 am) and 6:00 pm.

Advent Schedule

This week, confession/conversation times will be:

- Tuesday following 12:15 mass and 6:00 pm mass at St. Mary
- Wednesday 3:00 to 4:00 pm at St. John
- Thursday following 12:15 pm mass at St. Mary and 6:30 to 7:30 pm at St. John

Twice a week during Advent, we will have a <u>holy hour</u> of prayer. These will be Mondays at St. Mary from 6:30 to 7:30 pm and Thursdays at St. John from 9:00 to 10:00 am. During the holy hours, there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a brief Scripture and reflection, quiet prayer time, concluding with benediction. Join us a we contemplate God's loving care for us through Jesus and our need for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to remain faithful and joyful disciples in these times.

Something new this year: the parish clergy and staff will offer brief online video reflections on the traditional "O Antiphons" every day from December 17-24. More details will be

(Continued on page 3)



2020 Christmas Mass Schedule for Downtown Monroe

I want to give you a heads up that we are having a different approach to the Christmas Masses this year. Since we have limited capacities in our churches, and since Christmas is so close to a weekend, we will be asking people to consider **the whole four day weekend**, from Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, through Sunday, December 27 as one celebration of Christmas. The archbishop is asking everyone who is able to physically to come to Mass to **plan on coming once that weekend (Thur-Fri-Sat-Sun) for your Christmas Mass**. This way we can better accommodate everyone. The Masses will all have the same Christmas "feel", with no special features like involvement of the children or choir musical pieces (since we cannot have choirs at this time). We will plan to have signups for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses on Thursday and Friday. This information will be made available in the coming weeks and we will do a general parish mailing as well.

For our regular parishioners, I would ask that you consider coming to Mass on Saturday afternoon or Sunday for Christmas to help us better accommodate our visitors and those that we cannot communicate with as easily. Thank you for your understanding as we strive to be welcoming evangelizing in this year that is not like any other that we have known.

Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm 4:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm St. John the Baptist St. Michael the Archangel

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

St. John the Baptist
St. Michael the Archangel
Spanish Mass at St. Mary's

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Midnight St. Michael the Archangel

Midnight St. John the Baptist

Friday, December 25

9:00 am 10:00 am St. Michael the Archangel

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

11:00 am St. John the Baptist

Saturday, December 26

4:30 pm

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

5:00 pm St. Michael the Archangel **5:30 pm St. John the Baptist**

Sunday, December 27

7:30 am 8:00 am **9:00 am** St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

St. Michael the Archangel St. John the Baptist

10:00 am St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception St. Michael the Archangel

10:30 am St. Michael the Archangel
11:30 am St. John the Baptist
2:00 pm Spanish Mass at St. Mary's

PARISH DIRECTORY

Rev. Fr. David Burgard, PASTOR

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fathergiancarlo@gmail.org 734-241-8910 ext. 115

Dcn. Zaid Chabaan, TRANSITIONAL DEACON

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parishoffice@stjohnmonroe.com 734-241-8910 ext. 100

Amy Cooke, Music Director

> musicdir@stjohnmonroe.com 734-241-8910 ext. 107

Leslee Smith,
DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

faithformation@stmarymonroe.org 734-241-6097

(RCIA) Rite of Initiation for Adults:

Anyone interested in inquiring about the Catholic faith, or in becoming a member of our Catholic Community, is invited to contact the parish office at

parishoffice@stjohnmonroe.com.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Call the parish office to make for baptism dates at least one month in advance.

Sacrament of Marriage:

By arrangement with the pastor at least six months prior to planned date.

St. John Parish Council

Fr. David Burgard Eric Kuehnlein Ray Hartman Ralph Carducci Pam Mushung Angela Venier

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Fr. David Burgard Peter Fales Steve Goodman Don Lieto Peg Mueller Matt Zwack



Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools

www.mcesmonroe.com 734-241-6335

Kyle Kubik,

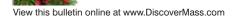
Executive Principal

Karol Applin,

St. John Campus Assistant Principal **Melody Setzler**,

St. Michael Campus Assistant Principal **Amber Scudder**,

St. Mary Campus Assistant Principal



Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday
Tuesday
8:15am - St. Michael Church
8:15am - St. John Church
6:00pm - St. Mary Church
8:15am - St. Mary Church
8:15am - St. John Church
12:15pm - St. Mary Church
8:15am - St. Michael Church

1st Saturday 8:30am - St. Mary Church

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30pm - St. Mary Church

5:00pm - St. Michael Church 5:30pm - St. John Church

Sunday 7:30am - St. Mary Church

8:00am - St. Michael Church 9:00am - St. John Church 10:00am - St. Mary Church 10:30am - St. Michael Church 11:30am - St. John Church

Spanish 2:00pm - St. Mary Church

Confessions are every Saturday from 4pm-5pm



ANote from Fr. David (cont)

coming. Join as we ponder the many ways Jesus is present to us.

Retired Religious Collection

Extra envelopes for this annual collection next weekend are in church. Please consider making a sacrificial offering to support so many men and women who have dedicated their lives to teaching the faith and proclaiming Jesus and who now need our support in their senior years. You may place your offering in the basket on your way out of church or bring or send it to the parish office.

RAFFLEWINNERS

Congratulations to the following members who were winners in the weekly raffle during the office closure and during our reduced office hours. You should expect your check soon.

November 9
November 16
November 23
November 30
Justin Kugerreis
Tisha Held
Chris Harris
due to publishing

due to publishing deadline, this will be announced next week



Saturday, December 5

G 5:30pm + Gloria M. Zafra by Mole & Dona Family

† Anton Sailer by Famly

† William Jambor by Greg & Chris Gebolys

† Joseph A. Costello, Sr. by Mr. & Mrs. Jason Beck

† Allen Bressler by Sandy & Tony Banek

Sunday, December 6

A 9am † Margaret Kirby by Richard Kirby

† Julius & Muriel LaRoy by LaRoy Family † Jim Kitchen by Mark & Carol Templin

A 11:30am † Theodore Colucci Family by Marie Linkes

† Nicolene Diulio by Marie Linkes† Joseph A. Costello, Sr. by Dr. Hunt† Chester Calhoun by Wife Rita

Tuesday, December 8

G 8:15am † Joseph A. Costello, Sr. by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry lott

Thursday, December 10

G 8:15am People of the Parish

Saturday, December 12

D 5:30pm † Joseph A. Costello, Sr. by Mr. & Mrs. Jason Beck

† Allen Bressler by Sandy & Terry Banek

Sunday, December 13

D 9am People of the Parish

D 11:30am + Chris Siterlet (birthday) by Mark Miller

† Joseph A. Costello, Sr. by Dr. Hunt

† Barbara Greashaber by Tim Greashaber

† William & Verna Burkardt by Laura Leicht

† Deceased Members of the Frank & Lucy Lazette Family by Darlene Diekman

† Charlene Pittman by Daniel Sordini

D - Fr. David Burgard - G - Fr. Giancarlo Ghezzi - K - Fr. Kishore Battu - A - Fr. Allen Zobler





For the Weekend of December 12/13

5:30 pm Barbara Emerick 9:00 am Don Lieto 11:30 am Lori Kelly

Christmas Flower Memorial

There are Flower Memorial envelopes in your envelope packets and at the back of church on the side chests. As always, a list of Flower Memorial names will be listed in the bulletin and on line after Christmas.

Please consider this offering as

we were unable to take up an offering for the Easter Season.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6 Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85: 9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8 Monday, December 7

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Is 35:1-10: Ps 85:9-14: Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 9

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 10 Our Lady of Loreto

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13; Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 11 Saint Damasus I, Pope

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a, Rv 12:1-6, 10; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13 Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24;

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

PANTRY

We need our Parish Faith Community to help us. We will be collecting the following grocery items in the coming months. We also gladly accept monetary donations made out to: St. John Food Pantry

December: Canned Progress Soup or Campbell's Chunky Soup January: Cereal

We also accept non-perishable food at any time. Please be sure items are not out of date. There are baskets for food drop-off in the church vestibule or bring items to the Parish Office.

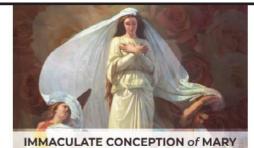
St. John Food Pantry Statics November 21, 2020 Distribution

- Clients Served: 65/10 emergency
- Number individuals: 154
- Number of bags given: 73
- Total pounds of food: 2880
- Gift Cards Giving Out- For Thanksgiving Turkeys 65 –total of \$725.00

Extra items giving out for Thanksgiving Meal: 50 extra food bags

- Lg. box instant potatoes
- · 2 pkg. gravy
- Box stuffing mix
- 2 cans peas, cranberry sauce
- Salad dressing, salt grinder

For further information about Christian Service or the Food Pantry, contact Lillian Williamson at lillianwilliamson@att.net or call 734-770-7046.



(Holy Day of Obligation) Monday, December 7 (Vigil Mass)

St. Michael - 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 8 St. John - 8:15 am

St. Michael - 8:15 am St. Mary - 12:15 pm & 6:00 pm



The CSA gives us an opportunity **1** to live out our

Christ through the many benefits our annual appeal provides. These ministries, programs, and services meet the spiritual and physical needs of parishes and countless people throughout the Archdiocese. Our support demonstrates our own Catholic faith as we strive to grow in our love of Jesus as His missionary disciples.

When we embrace the CSA for carrying out the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, we witness Christ, and in turn, we open doors so others may also develop a deeper relationship with Him. We also extend our personal involvement in our local Church beyond our home parishes.

The CSA enables Archbishop Vigneron, his auxiliary bishops, the clergy, religious men and women, and the lav faithful to carry out Christ's ministry of mercy and love throughout southeast Michigan and beyond — works no one individual or parish could possibly do alone.



St. John's Prayers

St. John's Prayer List exists for the purpose of remembering in our prayers all our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally, or spiritually, especially:

Jim Adams Thomas Barron Pamela Barron Angelo Benvenuto Ben Budzios Betty Budzios Jack Burns Fr. David Carrucci Denise Darin-Clark Tom Clark Terrie Crutchfield Dan DePuydt Darlene Diekman Barb Du Oall Nancy Earls Annie Germani David Graves Sandra Harter Emily Haynes Kate Herr-Maletich Zenda Howell Evelyn Ibershoff Sis Iocoangeli Oalerie Kiley

Kathleen Krevsky Tom Lindsey Lisa Lliteras Beth Lovett Terry Messerschmidt Herbert Meyer Cathy Miller Sierra Miller Frank Nagy Pat Orr Zandra Perry Zayden Perry Robert Rogers David Russeau Lillian Sasfy John Skeens Mary Slavik Fr. Jim Smalarz Daniel Sordini Maxwell Stotz Ben Tallerico Steve Toth Tim Weeks

We are hopeful that many on the list have received help and healing through the prayers that have been lifted up by our parishioners. If you are still in need of prayers and would like to remain on, or be added to our prayer list, contact the parish office. Names on the list will remain for a duration of six weeks.

We can only publish the names of people who have consented to be added to the list. Please check with the individual before contacting us to protect their privacy.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Almighty and eternal God, Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care. We

ask this through Christ our Lord. Brandon Anderson, Vandenberg AFB, CA Pvt Derek Barron, Army/ Fort Benning, GA Cpl Michael J. Carrabino, Jr., USMC/USA 2d Lt Alexander L. Compean, USAF/USA Cpt Andrew J. Compean, USA/Colorado BU3 Nate Cook, Virginia Beach, VA CMCR Kyle Cook, Port Hueneme, CA Cpt Jonathan A. Dieckman, Deployed Chief MSgt Mark Fisher, USA SrA Stacy Krzyston, USAF/USA SSgt Andrea L. Lake, USAF/USA PFC Darrion LaRoy, Fort Leonard Wood, MO LCpl Mitchell Layhew, USMC/Yuma, AZ MSgt Christopher Lindsey, USAF/USA PFC Anthony Marquette, USCG/USA AB Dakota Mills, USAF/USA Sgt Tyler Morrison, USA EM1 Tad Murphy, USCG/Coos Bay, OR A1C Dalton J. Neff, USAF SSgt Natalie A. Neff, USAF/USA SSgt Eric D. Paul, USAF BMC E-7 Chad Pietszak, USCG/Guam PFC Donald Puruleski, USA/South Korea AB Jeffrey Stead, USAF/USA MSgt Nicole Stibbe, USAF/San Antonio, TX Pvt Dawson Wohlgamuth, Fort Benning, GA



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we begin this new liturgical, we turn to the Gospel of Mark. I was able to study the Gospel of Mark twice in my seminary studies. I took one course called "Śynoptic Gospels" where we studied the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. I also chose to take a class specifically on the Gospel of Mark. I am fascinated by Mark. This is the shortest Gospel of the four.

Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark reports no genealogy for Jesus, yet he establishes Jesus' honorable status and authority. When we read the Sacred Scriptures we must keep in mind what The Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Dei Verbum tells us, "investigate what the sacred writer intended to express and actually expressed". Who wrote the Gospel of Mark? There is debate by scholars as to who Mark was, yet tradition has it that a certain "Mark", companion of Peter in Rome (1 Pt 5:13) is the writer of the Gospel. Although Mark's Gospel appears after Matthew's Gospel, Mark's Gospel was actually written first. When we read Mark's Gospel, it reads like an eye-witness account. It is short, blunt, and the most primitive!

Mark calls his work a Gospel. This was originally a secular term meaning "good news" and was generally reserved for such special announcements as the birth of a king, a decisive victory in battle, or the inauguration of an emperor. Thus, the very first words of Mark's Gospel reminds us that Jesus will issue in a new era with new hope. What is the reason for our hope? Jesus is the Son of God. The Good News or Gospel, then, is that the Son of God became man and laid down his life to save us.

Brothers and sisters as we continue to seek a new normal and the end of COVID-19, we turn to Jesus the Son of God to be our only hope and source of refuge. Maybe during these days of Advent, you can read a chapter of Mark every day (if you do, you can finish the Gospel before the New Year). Be blessed and be a blessing

Deacon Zaid

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 2020



SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION

The parish clergy and staff will offer Sunday Scripture reflections on our parish website, www.stjohnmonroe.com. They will also offer daily reflections on the "O antiphons" from December 17 through 23.

PRAYER

Come to church for quiet prayer time. Holy hours with exposition of the Eucharist. Mondays at St. Mary: November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Thursdays at St. John the Baptist: December 3, 10, and 17 from 9:00 to 10:00 am.



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

local community. Return wrapped gifts, or the monetary value of the gift, with their tag visible, by Monday, December 21. The St. John food posture in need of monetary supr The Giving Tree is set up in church. Please take a tag or two and purchase the named items for people in our Monday, December 21. The St. John food pantry is in need of monetary support and non-perishable food items. Your offerings may be brought to the ENDS ROPE WARMEN church vestibule or the parish office. he Spirit of

FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

Monroe Knights of Columbus Council #1266 **Knights For Life**



Christmas

The Monroe Council would like announce AND thank everyone who helped to make the 2020 "Coats for Kids" drive a huge success! Battling through this pandemic year our Brother Knights rolled up their sleeves and worked persistently determined to continue this much needed program for

the needy children of Monroe. When all donations were totaled we can actually announcé that we will be purchasing more coats than last season!

The Monroe Council joined in this K of C national program in 2009. Each year as more Knights have join in with the drive the donations have increased and the total number of coats purchased has steadily multiplied. In our first year 15 cases were purchased. Now in our 11th year we will be providing 26 cases of coats. That means 312 children will have safe winter coats this year!

Money raised to purchase these coats came from members donations, local businesses, and a Dance Class that was utilized as a fund raiser.



All money raised in this program stays in Monroe County! 100% of the money raised go to purchase new coats. The coats will be distributed out to the public November 21st.



The Knights Of Columbus is the worlds largest Catholic Fraternal Service Organization, Charity is our foremost Principle. To learn more about us, go to http://www.kofcmonroe1266.com



Lay Leanings... By Deacon Mike Stewart

Several years ago, in the process of moving between rented college housing, our daughter acquired an old, large, and very bulky coffee table. I know ... I've moved it a few times, and the last time, up three flights of stairs. Not only is this table a behemoth, but at one time it looked like it was dragged behind a car. Before I was forced to lug this monstrosity up yet another flight of stairs, I tried bribing her with money to let me give it a proper burial ... in the dumpster of her apartment complex. Nothing doing. Though she bought it for pocket change, it's become a conversation piece, and so it stayed.

So attached was my daughter to this table, that she eventually convinced her now -husband to help her refinish it. The first order of business was to bring it home, since she couldn't do that sort of work in her small apartment. Once again, I offered her money to let me 'take it for a ride.' Nothing doing. For a time, the table sat dry-docked in my garage while my car sat out in the cold.

Even before she started to strip the finish from the table, I continued to try and convince her to come to her senses. Surely there was a better way to invest your time, I assured her. But to my surprise, as I went into the garage a couple hours later, I saw a beautiful, unfinished piece of art, with the vibrant grain now evident in the freshly bleached and sanded wood. Not long after, the first coat of mahogany stain was applied, and the following day, the glossy coat. That old beast of a table - my dumpster dream - was, in reality, a very beautiful piece of furniture.

So what was the difference between the value my daughter placed on this table and mine? I saw value in its past; she saw its value in its future. I didn't see beauty, I saw battered. She saw beauty through the battered. I was prepared to take the easy path which would have never allowed us to see the potential of this table. She never even considered that path because all she could see was the potential.

That old table is a constant reminder to me of the people I've encountered in my life who have become my used up furniture ... never allowing me to see their true potential, clouded only by my view of their past. And yet, <u>every</u> life, even those allegedly used up, has value in the eyes of our Creator. Let's pray about that.

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:31

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St. Joseph Cemetery Monroe CfCS Living Our Mission

St. Joseph Cemetery Remembrance Tree Lighting & Ornament Making

Monday, November 30 from 5-7 pm. Music, prayer & remembrance. All supplies are provided. You may bring a photo if you wish. 909 N. Monroe St., Monroe, MI, Located in Chapel of Light. Please RSVP 734-241-1411

St. Joseph Cemetery Fall Clean Up

December 1-15

All decor will be removed during this clean up. Please remove all items that you wish to save by Dec. 1. Winter & Christmas decor may be placed the week of Thanksgiving. Call 734-241-1411 with questions.



Needed Greeters/Cleaners
Lectors, Greeters, EME, Parish
Council members anyone
that can help greet and
clean after all Masses.
Please contact Lillian Williamson
at 734-770-7046 or
lillianwilliamson@att.net

Saint John the Baptist Monthly Memorial

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