



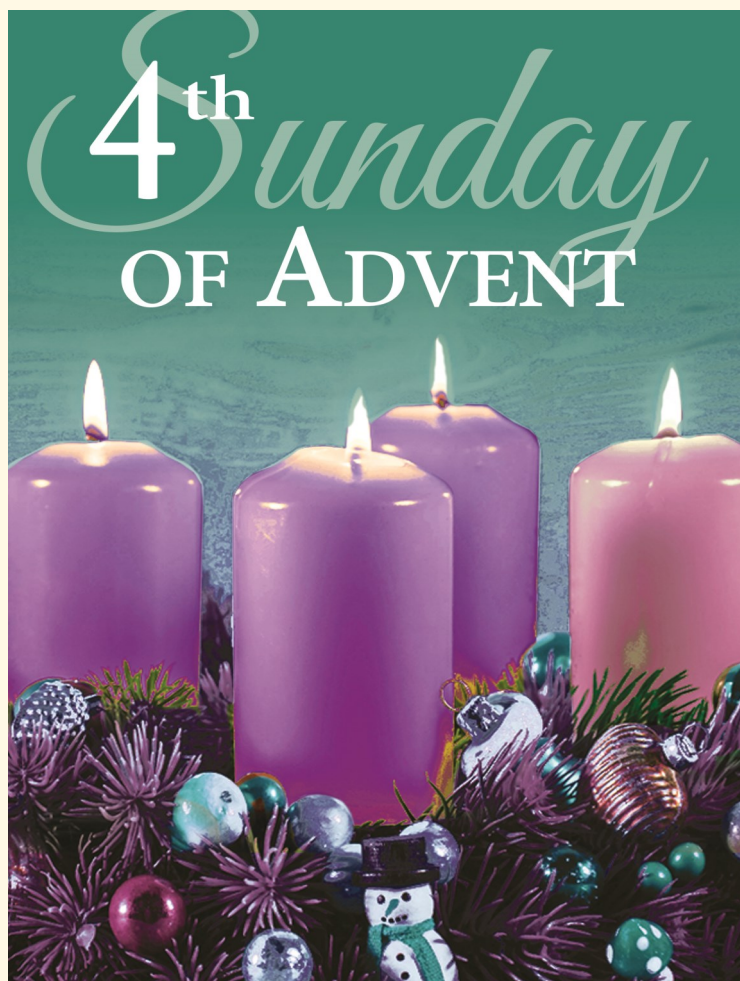
Corpus Christi Parish

"Building the Body of Christ"

We strive to radiate the presence of Jesus Christ
In our parish and community and invite **others**
to join us on our journey.



December 24, 2023



Prepare Your Heart:

Jesus, the Gift, Is on the Way

Life Anew with Emmanuel

Merry Christmas brothers and sisters in Christ! The blessed days of Christmas have arrived when we are renewed in the truth that *"the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared."* (Tit 3:4) On the most blessed day of Christmas God appeared in the flesh, in the most tender form of a beautiful baby boy...God became man and Jesus Christ came into this world "not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of His mercy." (Tit 3:5)

As we rejoice in the miracle of the birth of Jesus, we're invited to be renewed in the miracle of life with Jesus...that we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19) and truly members of His body. The Christmas season is a time to receive the grace to live life anew with Emmanuel. This particularly happens by our continuous meditation and celebration of the truth of Christmas, *"the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son full of grace and truth."* (Jn 1:14)

Prayerfully gazing on the face of the baby Jesus, singing His praises, soaking up the

Christmas story in the scriptures in Matthew 1 & 2 and Luke 1 & 2 we continue to delight in the reality that Jesus is God, and Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. The beauty of God's presence filling our minds and hearts happens when we direct our gaze towards God and engage our minds and hearts in prayer, praise, worship, meditation, and adoration. This in turn leads to an overflow in our day-to-day service of God and neighbor. We do things differently when we've been touched by God in a way that we remain mindful of God's loving presence with us always.

This Christmas Season may our hearts and minds grow glowingly beautiful as we direct our attention to the light of glory shining on the face of Jesus and the love that overwhelms us as we take account of the reason Jesus came. He came to free us from sin and death. Without Him we were entirely lost. With Him, we're found. The gift of His life presented to the world in a simple manger pointed towards the moment His life would be offered as a gift to the world on the cross. Oh come let us adore Him...and not cease to give Him the affection of our hearts in this Christmas season.

God bless you!

Fr. Patrick

Holy Homework: This week, spend a good 15 minutes each day meditating with a beautiful image of the nativity of Jesus...this is where Christmas cards are particularly wonderful, they provide copious prayer opportunities!

Corpus Christi Catholic Church

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Detroit MI 48219-2145
313-537-5770

www.corpuschristi-detroit.org

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Fannie Larkins, Music Ministry, Fannie.Larkins@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Family Pastoral Council Representatives:

Christeena Livingston-Long, christeena04@gmail.com

Valerie Berry, valerieberry04@gmail.com

Parish Office Hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9 am - 4 pm

Saturday Mass 4 pm Sunday Masses 9 am and 11am

Daily / Holy Day Masses See weekly parish schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 1–3:45 pm; during Penance services; by appointment (call the Parish Office)

Sick Calls/Prayer Requests: Please call the Parish Office to schedule or visit or add someone to parish prayer list

Funerals: Please call the Parish Office before making arrangements with the funeral home.

Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the Parish Office for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage: Please call the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding date.

Sunday Offertory Report

Weekly Budget 2023 – 2024	\$ 7,213.00
Sunday Offerings 12/17/2023	\$ 9,141.08
Over/Under for the Budget Year	\$ 3,051.51

The Week Ahead**Monday, December 25**

Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am MASS

11:00 am MASS

12:00 pm First Communion Reception (Rainbow Room)

**Tuesday, December 26**

Church Offices CLOSED

8:30 am MASS

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 pm - SFE Ministry (RR & Neighborhood)

Wednesday, December 27

Church Offices CLOSED

8:30 am No Mass or Communion Service

Thursday, December 28

Church Offices CLOSED

8:30 am MASS

9:15 am - 12:15 pm Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, December 29

Church Offices CLOSED

8:30 am MASS

11:00 am Prayer Meeting - St. Eugene Chapel

Saturday, December 30

Church Offices CLOSED

10:00 am -12:00 pm Image of God Crisis Pregnancy Center (Activities Center)

1:00 pm - 3:15 pm Eucharistic Adoration

1:00 pm - 3:45 pm Confessions - Church

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Recovery (Rectory Basement)

4:00 pm - MASS

Sunday, December 31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:00 am MASS

9:00 am CGS Level 2 (Atrium)

11:00 am MASS

11:00 am CGS Level 1 (Atrium)

11:00 am Children's Liturgy of the Word (Rectory)

Monday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day

Church Offices CLOSED

10:00 am MASS

**Please Note:**

**Parish offices will be closed from
December 25, 2023 – January 7, 2024**



Corpus Christi Parish
Central Trinity Vicariate 1
Family of Parishes

ONE IN THE SPIRIT

Corpus Christi:
Presentation Our Lady of Victory:
SS. Peter and Paul-Westside:
Saint Juan Diego:
Saint Mary of Redford:
Saint Scholastica:

Fr. Patrick Gonyeau: corpuschristi-detroit.org
Deacon Hubert Sanders: presentationourladyofvictory.org
Fr. Jerry Pilus: sspddetroit.net
Fr. Jaime Hinojos: stjuandiegoparish.com
Fr. Athanasius Fornwalt: saintmaryofredford.church
Fr. Jim Lowe: scholastica.church

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

December 24 – December 31, 2023

Sunday	9:00 am	For the Family, Friends and Benefactors of the Sisters at Corpus Christi (req by Sr. Rita)
	11:00 am	Intentions of our Parishioners
Monday	8:30 am	Peace in our City, Country, and our World
Tuesday	8:30 am	Intentions of our Parishioners
Wednesday	No Mass or Communion Service	
Thursday	8:30 am	All the Sick and Homebound
Friday	8:30 am	For the legal Protection of the Unborn and the Corpus Christi Crisis Pregnancy Center
Saturday	4:00 pm	Intentions of our Parishioners
Sunday	9:00 am	For all Families
	11:00 am	In thanksgiving for the priestly ministries of Fr. Patrick and Fr. Jim Lowe



The Gift of Prayer

Do you want to give an amazing gift to someone you know? Have a Mass offered for their intentions or in Thanksgiving for God's continued blessings in their lives! Mass intention forms can be found at the back of the church and also online.

Pat Tillery is coordinator for Mass Intentions. She can be reached by calling the main office at (313)-537-5770.

Please Remember the Sick in your Prayers Members of our Parish Family...

Shermia Anding, Jane Breslin, Michael Busby, Jr., Lucius Davis, Roy Ford, Connie Gant, Dionne Garner, Camille Graves-Douglas, Michael Lanton, Nancy Loper, Yve Nemeth, Elaine O'Neill, Varnard Plain, Sean Ross, Michael Sands, Shirley Sands, Lois Shepherd

Friends and Family of Parishioners...

Sheila Adams, Evelyn Akins, Kelly Davis, Samuel Fooks, Barbara Gay, Agnes Holt, Seretha Howard, Robert Jarey, Pat LaRoy, Harold McRae, Sandi Neely, Jill Stachkunis, Marilyn Waddell, Sara Nell Wallace

Please Remember the Homebound in your Prayers...

Joseph Cagle, Michelle Cagle, Beatrice Hunter, Beverley Brown-Johnson, Lucy Lee, Thelma Polley, Mary Thompson, Beverly Walker, Joyce Wilson

A Child Shall Lead Them

by Sister Therese MacKinnon, D.C.

A blessed Christmas to each of you. May you experience Christ coming into your lives with joy and peace.



Jesus came to us as a child and we remember and welcome him

again this Christmas. So many people helped him, Mary, his mother, gave Him herself, Joseph his foster father protected the family, the shepherds welcomed and praised Him, the wise men honored Him with gifts, and so many unnamed others supported Jesus and the holy family.

What wonderful examples for us to reach out and support the children and young people among us. Jesus depended upon people from the minute of his conception. Mary and Joseph worshiped God in the temple, and they brought Jesus to the temple to pray. Our children need this experience also.

If they are to learn to worship as a community, it is up to their family members to bring them to church. And it is up to the rest of the church to support the family.

We remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me." (Matthew 19:14) I wonder if today, he would say, 'Bring the kids to Me.' Jesus is waiting. Are we coming and bringing others with us? Are we bringing the young ones to Jesus who came as a child, dependent on others to help him?

Jesus is our hope, our youth are also our hope. May they know Jesus who is the source of faith, hope and love. May hope also fill our hearts as we experience the love that Our Savior brought that first Christmas and may love motivate us to love and care for those who depend upon us.

As a church community we celebrate Christ's presence in the sacraments. On December 9 eight young people, Ian Chapman, Anthony Detroyer, Precious Ejiogu, Alexis Mata, Oluoma (Benita) Amakor, Keagon Frisbee, Jesus Viera and India-Rose DeSloover received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Thanks to all who supported them and may we continue to keep them in prayer as their faith journey continues.

Looking ahead to January 7 we will celebrate the Rite of Welcome for our OCIA candidates. On January 14 our First Communion and Confirmation candidates will affirm their desire to receive these sacraments.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All.

Sr. Therese



Readings for the Week of December 24, 2023

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

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

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14
Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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Prepare Your Heart: Jesus, the Gift, Is on the Way

It is the Third Week of Advent and hearts are rejoicing at the Lord's coming at Christmas!!!! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!!!!

Some recognize the faithfulness of the Lord who comes in the dawn of a new day and, therefore, have said to themselves, "Why wait for Christmas! Let's call family together and celebrate Christ Jesus' goodness right now!!!!!"

And so, Corpus Christi member Evelyn Worsham has asked her family to gather together before Christmas Day to rekindle the joy and blessedness of being a family!! 'We should prepare our hearts with togetherness as a family and celebrate God's great blessings in our lives now!'

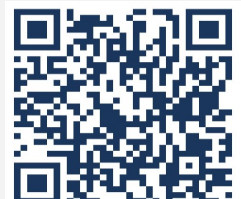
Sheila Pope, similarly, has stated that while she has 'intensified prayer' as a means to prepare her heart, she also will be calling her relatives together to celebrate the blessedness of family!!! Her grandson, Khairi, has been accepted into flight school, and with his acceptance family will gather to pray over him. Sheila asks that her CC faith community join with them spiritually by praying for a hedge of protection around Khairi so that his young heart is prepared for the road ahead.



PLEASE register and use these to support Corpus Christi Parish. The links to Kroger Community Rewards is found on our website:

[How to Donate - Offertory - Kroger - CSA - Endowment Fund | Corpus Christi Catholic Church | Detroit, MI \(corpuschristi-detroit.org\)](#)

These are two simple, automatic ways to support Corpus Christi Parish every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at Kroger, a portion of your purchases is donated to Corpus Christi. **During the quarter beginning August 1, 2023-October 31, 2023, Corpus Christi Parish received \$79.59 in donations from 33 households.** Please encourage your relatives, friends, and neighbors to choose Corpus Christi as their charity.



(Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

What Is Your Fiat?

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here:

"Sounds great!"

"No worries!"

"Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not exactly disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done.

Not: Yes, this is exactly what I asked for!

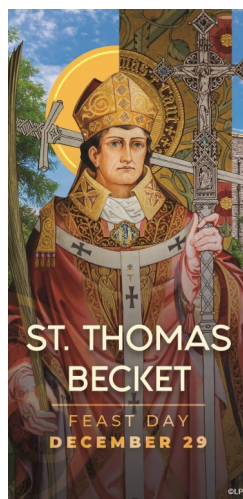
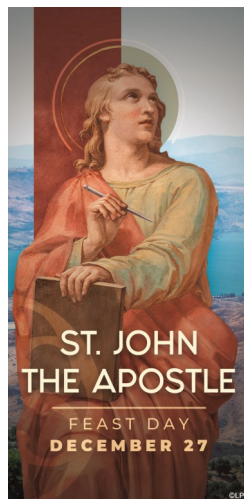
Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38

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Corpus Christi Christmas Schedule of Masses

**Sunday, December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve**

4:00 pm Children's Christmas Eve Mass

9:00 pm Christmas Carols before Mass

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

**Monday, December 25, 2023
Christmas Day**

9:00 Mass and 11:00 Mass

**Sunday, December 31, 2023
Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

9:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass

**Monday, January 1, 2024
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

10:00 am Mass

The Best Christmas Gift Ever!!



Presents under the tree are wonderful gifts, but can they heal a hurting marriage? Transforming your marriage into a mutually satisfying relationship is a "gift that will keep on giving." With the help of Retrouvaille, it can be done!

Retrouvaille is a Christian peer ministry specifically designed to help heal troubled marriages. This very well could be the best Christmas gift you could ever give yourself, your spouse, your children, your family and your friends!!

**The next Retrouvaille program is
January 12-14, 2024
Farmington Hills, Michigan**

**For confidential information or to register call
800-470-2230
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: HelpOurMarriage.org**



Lighting Candles in Church

Question: Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically “shining a light” on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints. ©LPi



First Communion Celebration

On Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 at the 11:00 am Mass, three of our young people, Oluoma (Benita) Amakor, Keagon Frisbee and Jesus Viera will receive Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time. Following the Mass we will have a luncheon-reception in the Rainbow Room. All are invited to join our parish celebration.

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

(Psalm 24 1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

Eucharistic Adoration at Corpus Christi

Tuesday: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Thursday: 9:15 am - 12:15 pm
Saturday: 1:00 pm - 3:15 pm



One of the greatest treasures of the Catholic faith is the Eucharist. Ever since the Last Supper, the Catholic Church has believed that the Eucharist is truly the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

You are invited to come and spend time in adoration with Jesus at Corpus Christi. Ideally, we'll have two people in the Church before Jesus whenever adoration happens...so that's why you'll see two slots for each time on our website, but please know, if the slot is filled there is still plenty of room in the Church for you!

Prayer of St. Teresa of Calcutta After Communion

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Your Spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, that my life may only be a radiance of Yours. Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. Amen.



Reflection: Light Shines in the Darkness

There is an amazing story about Mother Teresa that came from Malcolm Muggeridge, the award-winning British journalist who was an atheist at the time he did a documentary about her in Calcutta. Muggeridge claimed that due to the **awful lighting in the poor facilities** where Mother Teresa took care of her patients, his film crew believed that none of their shots would have the film-quality lighting needed to produce their documentary. They filmed anyway. When the film was developed, the figure of the saint had a **distinct glow around her** at all times and all the other scenes of the film always had just the right amount of light for production.

Of course! Mother Teresa prayed daily after Communion that her life would be like “a radiance” of Christ's pure light shining through her to others.

The Eucharist has this effect on us too when we commit ourselves to faithful participation in the Eucharist. Christ's light simply cannot be suppressed in the darkness of our world.

December 25, 2023



Nativity of the Lord



“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.” - Lk 2:11

Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong

Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong worked as a FOCUS missionary and a lay parish minister in the early 2000's. Her life was a testament to her commitment to following Jesus in sharing the Gospel and pursuing souls for him. She died at age 31 in 2015, but her legacy lives on today in those whose lives she touched.



Some of her simple, yet inspiring, diocesan podcasts can be found on the website, bismarckdiocese.com, under News>Presentations/Talks>Parish Formation Series, as well as her writings known as the Run to Win column for the Dakota Catholic Action publication, in the years of 2013-2015.

Michelle Christine Duppong's cause for canonization was opened in June 2022 by Bishop Kagan, and she was named a Servant of God on All Saints Day, the same year.

Communion or Bulletins for the Homebound

Please call the Parish Office if you would like to have Communion brought to you or have a bulletin mailed to you.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please send bulletin articles and any additional information to : cc.bulletin@corpuschristi-detroit.org by **12:00 pm on Tuesday** for consideration in the Sunday bulletin.

Everyday Stewardship - Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember it is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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MASS	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Servers	Ushers	Greeters	Coffee & Donuts	Sun Bus Driver	Video
December 30 Saturday 4:00pm	Lori S.	Cup - Ilene J-R.	Server Needed	Alexis A	Greeter 1			Cathy L
		Ciborium -Dionne G.	Server Needed	Michael J	Greeter 2			
			Server Needed					
December 31 Sunday 9:00am	Lola L.	Cup - Needed	Server Needed	Kenneth T	Greeter 1	No Coffee and		Marilyn W
		Ciborium -Hayden A.	Server Needed	Joseph N	Greeter 2	Donuts		
			Server Needed	Jim Y				
December 31 Sunday 11:00am	Cleo A.	Cup - Ogechi O.	Server Needed	Joseph N	Greeter 1	No Coffee and		John S
		Ciborium - Lori S.	Server Needed	Emmanuel P	Greeter 2	Donuts	Needed	
		Ciborium - Ilene J-R.	Server Needed	Greg S				
		Ciborium- Needed						