Go and do likewise... Luke 10:37

St. Maximilian Kolbe

A Catholic Church in Rural Southeastern Portage County, WI

8611 State Highway 54 • Almond, WI 54909

December 9-10, 2017 | www.stmaxkolbe.org | Season of Advent

Website:
www.stmaxkolbe.org

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Leo Gonnering 571-243-0250

Parish Council of Catholic Women —
Sherry Fay 920-636-5010

Pro-Life Committee — Cindy Gresl 920-566-2305

Elizabeth Ministry — Jennifer Hendrix 715-344-3099

Family Life Committee — Tasha Shurpit

Prayer Chain — Helen Buckholt 920-622-4461
Judy Scholler 920-765-0419

Sacred Steps Program — Jane Bauer 715-258-9563

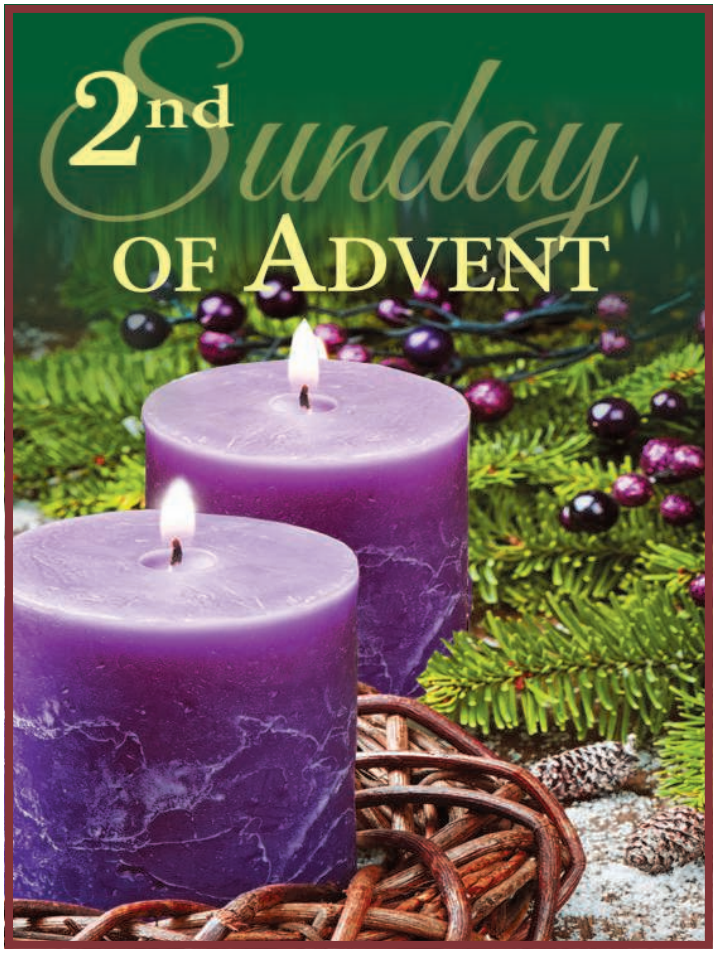
SCRIP — Terri Hoerter 715-340-9816

Knights of Columbus —Bob Elwood 715-310-4374

Garden Club — Peggy Root 715-498-1597

Religious Education (CCD) — Kim Auer 715-252-8745

Confirmation Program — Jeremiah Auer 715-281-9825
Guardian Angels Cemetery — Ken Trzebiatowski
715-498-6066
Hope Cemetery (Heffron) — Sharon Lorenz
715-366-4557
St. Martin Cemetery — Tom Guth 366-4104
St. Patrick Cemetery — Helen Helbach 715-824-5880



Readings for the Week of December 10, 2017
Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Fri: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

FATHER"S CORNER

Dear Loving parishioners!

Love and Peace of Christ!

Peace [Shalom] and Homecoming is the central theme of the second Sunday of Advent.Psalm 85 describes how shalom or perfect peace is coming home with the Lord's coming.

John the Baptist tells how we should prepare to receive Jesus our Savior's "coming home" into our lives by repentance and the renewal of life. He wanted the Jews to prepare their lives for the Messiah by filling in the valleys of prejudice, leveling the mountains of pride and straightening out their crooked paths of injustice and immorality.

Let us ask with Alexander Pope the challenging question, "What do I profit, if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world unless he is born in my heart and in my life?"

Let us experience the prayer life this weekend by attending our retreat on Monday and Tuesday. Prayer makes you transcend your thoughts and actions. It calms down and transports you beyond the state of body and mind and gives you perfect peace.
Come and experience the sweetness of the Lord!

God bless you!

Fr.Peter

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

John the Baptist announced, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Does preparing a way for the Lord have priority in our lives? Often we spend more time preparing paths for ourselves rather than a path for God. Advent calls us to take the focus off ourselves and put it on God. We prepare a path for God by practicing and living the virtues, being holy and devoted, patient and repentant, and attentive and humble. We are asked to bring comfort and healing to people and to show others by the way we live our lives that we have a higher calling and purpose.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question:
What is the Hispanic Advent custom of "Las Posadas"?

Answer:
"Posada" is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. "Las Posadas" refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our "posada." As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Timothy Higgins 12/10
Clayton Preusser 12/10
Peggy Root 12/11
Mike Helbach 12/11
Jacob Barden 12/12
Samual Zimmerman 12/13
Kevin Peterson 12/14
Dale Hintz 12/14
Kesha Butzin 12/14
Michelle Warzysnki 12/14
Paige Hintz 12/15
Sarah Biadasz 12/16
Jessica Doyle 12/16
Carlee Helbach 12/16

Anniversaries

Matt & Julie Sneller 12/16

Thank You

A special to thank you to both the vendors and the shoppers who participated in the St. Max's Christmas Craft Fair. It was a busy and fun weekend!! All Proceeds from the fair will go toward costs for adult education.

Order Your Magnificats

We will be placing our next order very soon for subscriptions starting in March of 2018. The cost is $30 payable to St. Max's. If you are interested, contact the parish office at 715-824-3380. Deadline is December 15th. Don't Delay!!

Help Decorate for Christmas!

Christmas is coming quickly!
We need your help on **December 17th** following the10:00am Mass to prepare our church for Christmas. We welcome both seasoned veterans with years of experience, and first-timers with new ideas. Decorating the church, gathering area and pastoral hallway does not take long and is a joyful fellowship time for all involved. Please consider joining us to help with decorations this year!

Christmas Pageant

Join us in the presentation of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Christmas Pageant.
The traditional nativity story is performed by youth during the St. Maximilian Kolbe Church
Christmas Eve Mass, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.
If you would like to participate, contact Kim Auer at 715.252.8745.

Attention Liturgical Ministers

There is a sign-up sheet by the ministry station for volunteers needed for Christmas and New Year's weekend Masses. Please stop by and sign up to help out when you are able to do so!! Thank you for all you do!

St. Max's Recycles!!

Our parish owns 2 blue recycling buckets, one at the rectory and one at the far end of the church hall. The town of Buena Vista recycles every other Thursday. The Building and Grounds Committee has the responsibility to place our blue buckets by the road. The committee member assigned that week will take the church's buckets and all the recyclable material by the bucket to the road. They will also go get any material they are informed as to its whereabouts. There is also a red bucket in the kitchen that is labeled recyclables. Nearly all the people working at church are volunteers, and they do great things. However, there is room for improvement. Let's all work together to make recycling at St .Max's a priority!

New Parishioners

We welcome you to our parish family. If you wish to join our parish, you may register by calling the parish office.

Marriage Arrangements

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Baptism

Please call the parish office prior to the birth of your child.

Sacrament of the Sick

Please call the parish office at 824-3380.

Mass Intentions

Please submit Mass Intentions to the parish office or call 715.824.3380.

Please call the parish office before coming in to the church. Office hours will vary, and we would hate for you to come and no one be here.

Office Hours

Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9am-1pm

Saturday, December 16 7:00 pm

Servers: Volunteers
Reader: Mary Shea
Usher Captain: Mike Weller
Eucharistic Ministers:
Mary S., Carol W., Mike W., Diane Z.

Sunday, December 17 8:30 am

Servers: Carson Z., Wyatt B., Max T.
Reader: Sharon Lorenz
Usher Captain: Randy Krusick
Eucharistic Ministers:
Sharon L., Sharon C., JoAnn D., Mindy K.

Sunday, December 17 10:00 am

Servers: Harlee K., Jeremiah A., Anna A., Grace A.
Reader: Dan McDowell
Usher Captain: Pat Peskie
Eucharistic Ministers:
Dan M., Mel D., Sharon K., Deone P.

Your Financial Support for 12/3/2017

Adult Envelopes	3143.00
Offertory:	273.00
Maintenance & Repairs:	18.00
Vigil Candles	87.00
Retirement Fund	558.00
Total:	**4,079.00**

What's Happening in Your Neighborhood?

Cookie Walk

In lieu of our annual cookie walk, please bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share at the parish Advent retreat on December 10-13th!!

St. Max's Advent Parish Retreat December 10-12th

Please plan on attending!

Mark Your Calendar!

Our next blood drive will be Sunday, January 7th. Please Plan on donating. There will be a Signup sheet in the gathering Space!

Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 16, 12:00 pm
Franciscans Downtown
1000 Main Street, Stevens Point
Joyfully anticipate the Third Sunday of Advent and Christmas: Lessons & Carols with master organist William Weinmann including original composition. Refreshments to follow. FREE and open to the public ALL are Welcome!

Pilgrimage to Oberammergau

Fr. Al Burkhardt invites you to join him from August 18-28, 2020 on a pilgrimage to visit Classical Europe: Budapest, Bratislava, Prague, Nurnberg, Rothenburg, Heidelberg, Rhine River Cruise, Neuschwanstein, and Oberammergau. The highlight of the trip is attendance at the Oberammergau Passion Play scheduled for 2020! Number is 40 participants which will be shared with a group hosted by Fr. Dennis Lynch. If you are interested in learning more about this pilgrimage, please attend a meeting at St. Anne Parish: February 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Learn about the Oberammergau Passion Play and the additional places that we will visit, cost and inclusions. Brochures will be available. If unable to attend the meeting but desire information, please call St. Anne Parish, 715-849-3930, X302. Share the incredible ability to see this long standing Passion Play, offered only every 10 years!

Parish Weekly Schedule and Mass Intention Offerings

Saturday, December 9 **St. Juan Diego**

9:00 am Choir Practice
6:15 p.m.-6:45 p.m. Confessions
7:00 p.m. MASS:+Natasha Biadasz
by Norm & Marge Biadasz

Sunday, December 10 **2nd Sunday of Advent**

7:45 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Confessions
8:30 a.m. MASS: For the people of St. Max's
10:00 a.m. MASS:+Laurie Potocki
by Mindy Kottke
5:00 p.m. Adoration
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Reconciliation Parish Retreat

Monday, December 11 **St. Damasus I**

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Parish Retreat

Tuesday, December 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Parish Retreat/Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, December 13 **St. Lucy**

8:00 a.m. MASS:+Irene C. Lella
6:00 p.m. CCD adoration/reconciliation service

Thursday, December 14 **St. John of the Cross**

8:00 a.m. MASS:+Julian Wierzba
By Gene & Barb Volk Family

Friday, December 15

8:00 a.m. MASS:+Tom Barden
By Patty O. Barden

Saturday, December 16

9:00 am Choir Practice
6:15 p.m.-6:45 p.m. Confessions
7:00 p.m. MASS:+Bernice Swendrzynski
By Lorraine Kedrowicz
*Rosary Procession & Benediction following Mass

Sunday, December 17 **3rd Sunday of Advent**

7:45 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Confessions
8:30 a.m. MASS: +Marcile Baumann
By Alan & Joan Baumann
10:00 a.m. MASS: For the people of St. Max's
11:00 a.m. Decorate the Church for Chriistmas
6:30 p.m. Adoration

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