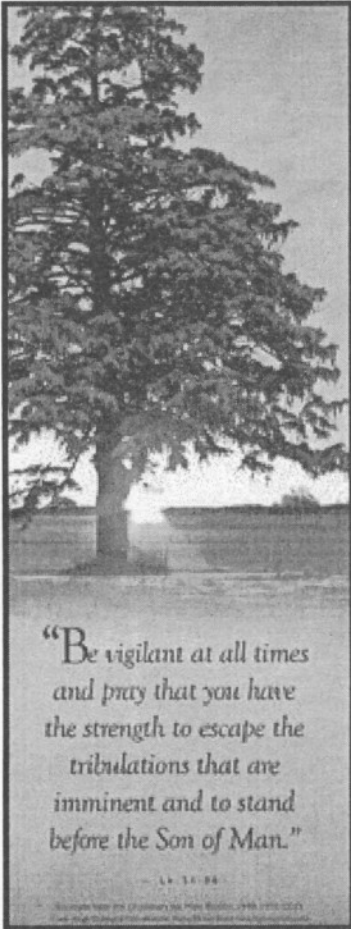


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
NOVEMBER 29 2009



Advent invites us to begin the new church year by doing some interior decorating as we prepare for Christmas. Just as many of us will be pulling out the boxes to decorate our houses for Christmas, we can think of Advent as a time to engage in some interior decorating of our hearts.

How do you prepare a heart for Christmas? It is not all that different from how we prepare any

room for the season. We move some things out and bring others in: lights, candles and appropriate decorations. We can also apply this to our hearts, both our individual heart and our community heart.

*With almost four full weeks of Advent ahead, what are some ways to open your heart to others? What needs to be taken out to make more space for God's love?*

Advent is a time to enter more deeply into conversation with God. Pray with the words of the psalmist, who encourages us to turn to God, who will make known the way, teach us the right paths, and draw us into divine kindness, constancy and friendship.

We will begin our Quest bible study program this week. So far we have only received 4 responses to our invitation. We had decided to offer this program once during the day and once in the evening each week so that we would be able to try and meet everyone's schedule. If there is not a bigger interest, we will cut back to once a week. This is a great opportunity to meet with others, pray with scripture, prepare in a deeper way for Sunday liturgy and faith share with others who profess their belief in God.

**St. Bartholomew's 60th Anniversary**

In speaking with some of our parishioners, I was approached about planning a trip to Italy (Rome, Venice, Florence, etc.).

On Monday, November 30th at 6:30 pm in the Church we will host an information session. David from Wendt Touring will present a itinerary and options for a trip.

Before I can actually put these plans in action, I would like to see how many people may seriously be interested. I encourage you to attend this meeting and find out what Wendt Touring has to offer.

No one is under any obligation by attending this meeting. If you have any questions, please give me a call at the rectory.

I hope that the Advent book of reflections that are available this weekend will help make your Advent season more focused and will lead you to a deeper relationship with your God.

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

I am sorry that I have no amount to share with you. This bulletin had to go to print before the collection was taken up.

**Budgeted Collection Amount \$8,100.00**

*Thank you for your sacrificial offering to your parish.*

*Have a Blessed Week.  
Sister Dorothy*



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Thanksgiving Recess

Students will not have class on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving. There will be no extended care offered these days.



### Santa Shoppe

Students will have the chance to go shopping at our Santa Shoppe on Wednesday and Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Information was sent home with specific class times.

### Mass

Please join the Miss Begley and the 2nd graders for mass on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am. The students have prepared for this mass and would love to have you attend.



### Santa Brunch

The PTG will once again be hosting a Santa Brunch in the school cafeteria on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. Reservations are required. The reservation deadline is Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Reservations can be sent to the school office care of the PTG.

### CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

I have received questions from many parishioners who have received in the mail allegations regarding the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the support of abortions. I have contacted the Diocese to find out there response, which I am including in this issue of the bulletin. One thing to be aware of, this collection is not taken in November, it is taken up in March. This response comes to us from Fr. Ron Lengwin and is written by Fr. Frank Almade:

*These are serious charges, without proof. They are baseless. The US bishops have responded to these charges on their website: [www.usccb.org/cchd/](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/) at the top of this page is a link to "CCHD responds to allegations". There you will find FAQs about CCHD, a letter from Bishop Morin, the current prelate who heads up the committee having oversight of CCHD, and other material.*

*Let me speak about my experience. For seven years (1995-2002) I served the Diocese of Pittsburgh as Secretary for Social Concerns. One of the tasks of the secretariat was to investigate and vet groups seeking local or national CCHD grants. The questionnaire was extensive, and was backed up by field interviews done by my colleague John Hannigan. The questionnaire was (and remains) very explicit in stating that any practices of the community group which opposed Catholic teaching would eliminate if from consideration of funding. And, if the leaders of the community group lied on the questionnaire, or in the interview, the church reserved the right to end funding at any time. The three year grants (which were only a portion of any group's operating budget) were reviewed annually.*

*I can state that John and I never promoted any group for CCHD funding which taught or advocated positions opposed to Catholic teaching. And you can be sure that Bishop Wuerl would never have allowed this, even if I/we did.*

*I ask you, do you think Bishop Wuerl (or now Bishop Zubik) would knowingly fund groups that promoted abortion, birth control, same-sex marriage or other policies that directly contradict Catholic teaching? In other words, are Archbishop Wuerl, and Bishop Zubik, complete hypocrites, speaking one thing to the faithful and the public, and then in the diocesan office saying the opposite by supporting groups with money and the good name of the Catholic Church? The general charges against CCHD have been around since the fund was begun by the Catholic bishops in 1970. Basically some Catholics do not agree that community organizing is a good thing, or helpful in local and national efforts to end various economic and social injustices. When it comes down to it, these people do not want the poor, or economically or politically*

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deprived, to speak up, address concerns or improve their lot. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue, this is a matter of accepting or rejecting Catholic social teaching, which supports the dignity and worth of all persons. One aspect of Catholic social teaching is that people have the right (and indeed the responsibility) to participate in social and political life, in order to speak up for themselves and for their rights.

Historically it was community organizing which led the fight against racism and discrimination against black persons in the US, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; it was community organizing which changed laws to allow women to vote -- and it is community organizing which is leading the fight to overturn Roe v. Wade and legalized abortion. You or anyone else may disagree with the positions any particular group takes in the public arena, but community organizing is as old and American as Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and Ben Franklin revolting against the British government in the 1760s.

If anyone has any questions or would like more information, please give me a call at the rectory and I can put you in touch with who to speak to at the Diocese regarding this issue. I hope that those who have been sending this false information will be more diligent in researching such allegations before passing them along to unsuspecting people.

**GIVING TREE (ANGEL TREE)**

Once again as a community we will be helping families in need through our giving tree efforts. If you haven't done so thus far, I encourage you to take an angel from our tree and purchase the item and return it by December 6. Thank you for your continued generosity to families in need.



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**MASS  
INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, November 30, Andrew**

10:00 AM John Stack (Winifred Slatery)

**TUESDAY, December 1, Advent  
Weekday**

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph

**WEDNESDAY, December 2, Advent  
Weekday**

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Susanna

7:00 PM Holy Hour

**THURSDAY, December 3,  
Advent Weekday**

10:00 AM Margaret DeMine (Patti Diamond)

**FRIDAY, December 4, Weekday**

10:00 AM Leslie Kensinger (Rose Lew)

**SATURDAY December 5,  
Vigil Second Sunday of Advent**

4:00 PM CONFESSIONS

5:00 PM People of the Parish

**SUNDAY December 6,  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 AM Tedesco Family (Granddaughters)

10:30 AM Deceased King & Brutscher  
Families (Betty King)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of our Parish. The Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in memory of The Deceased Members of the Cicero Family

