

December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

*What should we do to ready our hearts,
O Lord, for your coming?*

*Your Baptist says we must give away our coat,
share our food, make justice for all.*

*Lord, baptize us with the fire of your Holy Spirit.
Burn the chaff from the wheat.*

*Gather us into your kind and loving arms.
Warm our hearts to share your love with everyone.*

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FEAR AND INTIMACY

The bronze sculpture in the Vatican Museum by Francesco Messina, The Young St. John the Baptist, shows him pointing as if responding to a question or pointing the way. There was anxious anticipation amongst the Jews about the coming Messiah. Yet, we have no reason for anxiety.

Anxiety comes from fear of the unknown. When we're unsure of how things will turn out, we get anxious. When we lack control or can't plan for our security, we get anxious.

Fear and anxiety are the enemies of intimacy and love. Fear makes us run far enough away so we feel removed from danger, safe from the aggressor. Or it drives us to hold someone, seeking strength in attachment. But fear doesn't create space for true intimacy. It either creates excessive distance or suffocating closeness.

John didn't want to create fear or caution of God. Rather, he wanted to open hearts to receive God in love. Ours is not a God of fear, but of love.

In Jesus' Incarnation, he shows just how much he wants to be with us. He comes to make his home among us, while waiting for us to accept him and make room for him. He doesn't force but comes with patience and love.

Knowing that he loves and wants the best for us, we merely need to make ourselves known to him by revealing our deepest needs to him with prayer.

John the Baptist came to prepare the path for the Messiah, and many responded by asking, "What should we do to prepare?" Put aside anxiety and fear, simply prepare a home for him, and then let him in. + Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

SANCTUARY LIGHT

December 12 – Jim and Ruby Freeman
December 19 – Jim and Glenna Schuler
December 26 – Harry and Loretta Simon

MASS INTENTIONS

December 11 – Richard Wagner
December 12 – Martha Moorman
December 18 – Glenna and Trina Schuler
December 19 – Charles Simon

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – December 18 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Tara Ricke

Gifts: Mark and Rosie Lunsford

Eucharist Minister: Terry Harmeyer

Sunday – December 19 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: David Hardesty, Amanda Schutte

Gifts: Ron and Donna Harlemert

Eucharist Minister: Vicki Wagner

Christmas Eve – December 24 at 4:00 PM

Lectors: Judy Steuri, Jane Pictor

Gifts: Mike and Katie Spreckelson

Eucharist Minister: Leslie Hicks

Christmas Day – December 25 at 8:30 AM

Lector: Susan Schutte

Gifts: Volunteers

Sunday – December 26 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Amy Kinker, Grace Truesdell

Gifts: Ken and Janice Fry

Eucharist Minister: Amanda Schutte

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$3261.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 4.00
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 243.00</u>
Total Collection	\$3508.00
Capital Improvement	\$340.00
Christmas Offering	\$125.00
Christmas Flowers	\$264.00
Religious Retirement	\$145.00
Immaculate Conception	\$35.00
Cemetery	\$20.00

**THE LORD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER! THANK
YOU FOR ALL THE TIMES AND WAYS YOU GIVE!**

NATIONAL COLLECTION – Today is the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. The benefits of your generosity cannot be overestimated. Offer your prayers of gratitude for the many blessings you have received through the generous service of our now retired religious sisters, priests, and brothers. (Archbishop Thompson)

PARISH MISSION – The Parish Mission being held at St. John, Osgood, begins this Sunday, 7:00 PM, and continues to Wednesday evening.

GIVING TREE – Please return all gifts, if possible, by next Sunday, the 19th.

PICK POCKETERS – We thank our “pick pocketers,” Alan and Lee Huff, Aleena and Reid Hicks, and Grayson Moberly, for collecting **\$89.54** for our Capital Improvement Fund.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – The Masses for Christmas are as follows:

Friday, December 24 – *Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM*

Saturday, December 25 – *Christmas Day: 8:30 AM*

**NO Saturday Evening Mass*

Please Note: If Father Bill has returned, we will most likely need to change the Christmas Day Mass to 9:00 AM.

**Mass on Sunday, December 26, Feast of the Holy Family, 10:00 AM. This Mass fulfills your weekend obligation.

THE GREATEST GIFT-GIVER – When we give each other Christmas presents in God’s name, let us remember that he has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans – and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused. And to save us from our own foolishness, from all our sins, *he came down to earth and gave himself.*

QUOTE – Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are in the midst of, invites us to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us. (Pope Benedict XVI)

PRE-CHRISTMAS GATHERING - TODAY!
December 11 and 12 following the Masses



**HOT CHOCOLATE, COOKIES,
TREATS FOR THE CHILDREN**

*Stay as long or as briefly as you wish!
Let's come together "in His Love."*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Preschool through Grade 5 on Wednesday, December 15, 6:45 PM. Elementary Christmas Party.

Junior High and High School – Your next class is on Sunday, December 19, 8:30 AM.

Confirmation class will also meet on December 19, 8:30 AM.

HELP NEEDED – Immediate Full-Time Nursing positions available with the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg:

Assistant Director of Nursing: Day Shift Hours, Full-Time Salaried Position


Nurse Assistant: Day or Evening Shift, Full Time

PRAYER – Lord, you are gracious and kind to all your people. Instill within me a compassionate and generous heart that I may respond to my poor sisters and brothers near and far away. (From *Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney)

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS – Many Christians have that face...from a funeral wake, a face of sadness. But Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: “Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?” (Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020)

THE LORD’S LAUGHTER – “In the after-school ministry at McCurtain (OK) United Methodist Fellowship, my wife served ice cream sandwiches to the children one day. Apparently, young Garit had never seen one before and said, ‘What? Ice cream on bread?’” (Pastor David Warden Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, McCurtain, OK, The Joyful Noiseletter)

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			Confession for Grades 3, 4, and 5 7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 – Noon 	Celebration of the Eucharist 4:00 PM Confession Before and After Mass Hall Rented
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Mass – Second Sunday of Advent Religious Education 8:30 AM Hall Rented		 Ladies Christmas Party 6:00 PM (Doors Open at 5:30 PM)	Mass for Feast of the Immaculate Conception <i>Religious Education Children Will Attend</i>		St. Anthony, Morris, Live Nativity 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Celebration of the Eucharist 4:00 PM Confession Before and After Mass Parish Pre-Christmas Gathering
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
RE Classes – 8:30 AM 10:00 Mass – Third Sunday of Advent Confession Before and After Mass Parish Pre-Christmas Gathering St. John Parish Mission – 7:00 PM	St. John Parish Mission 7:00 PM	St. John Parish Mission 7:00 PM Holy Family, Oldenburg, Parish Mission 7:00 PM	RE Classes and Christmas Party 6:45 PM Holy Family, Oldenburg, Parish Mission 7:00 PM	Holy Family, Oldenburg, Parish Mission 7:00 PM		Celebration of the Eucharist 4:00 PM Hall Rented
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
RE Classes and Breakfast – 8:30 AM 10:00 Mass – Fourth Sunday of Advent GIVING TREE GIFTS RETURNED DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS					 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Mass 4:00 PM	 <i>Christmas Day</i> Mass 8:30 AM
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10:00 Mass – Feast of the Holy Family 					Feast of Mary, Mother of God 4:00 PM	