

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

True Love Means Sacrifice

God is often present in the little, hidden things of life. Take for example the small town of Bethlehem. This place barely appeared on the maps of the time. Yet in this dull town, overlooked by all, God wished to be born. God isn't into bling.

Look at the Vatican painting Annunciation by Gentile da Fabriano. A ray of light in the painting shines from the upper left window directly down onto Mary's womb. She carries in her the Light of the World, but it happened in a way unbeknownst to anyone. He is the Light of the World, shining to catch our attention, but he does so in silence, humility, and intimacy.

There is a second aspect of the Incarnation to learn here. Christmas was about a real sacrifice. Mary and Jesus offered their very selves. Hebrews says it wasn't an animal or a wheat offering but Jesus' very body and blood. The same for Mary, as it was her life, her virginity, her very intimacy, that she was opening to God when she agreed to be the mother of the Lord. It's easy to be generous when it doesn't touch too close to home.

So, try not to look for glitz and externals this Christmas but for God's hidden presence. And imitate Jesus and Mary by giving of your very self. It's not about a fast, a donation, or extra prayers—as good as those Advent practices are. But all of this prepares us to give our very selves to him in trust through the hidden acts of love of every day. + Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



JOY AMID SUFFERING

“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 us himself.” ~ Sigrid Undset

SANCTUARY LIGHT

December 19 – Jim and Glenna Schuler
December 26 – Harry and Loretta Simon
January 2 – Rosemary Schroeder

MASS INTENTIONS

December 18 – Glenna and Trina Schuler
December 19 – Charles Simon
December 24 – Al and Myrna Kohlman
December 25 – Wayne Schutte
December 26 – Ada Meister

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Friday – December 31 at 4:00 PM

Lectors: Amy Kinker, Ron Bauerle
Gifts: Volunteers
Eucharist Minister: Terry Harmeyer

Saturday – January 1 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Judy Steuri
Gifts: Dennis and Flo Wagner
Eucharist Minister: Roseann Wirth

Sunday – January 2 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Julie Stephens, Cindy Weisenbach
Gifts: Greg and Amy Kinker
Eucharist Minister: Leslie Hicks

Saturday – January 8 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Jack Ferkinhoff
Gifts: Mark and Rosie Lunsford
Eucharist Minister: Roseann Wirth

Sunday – January 9 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Arlene Gehl, Amy Kinker
Gifts: Mike and Katie Spreckelson
Eucharist Minister: Cindy Weisenbach

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$2406.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 9.46
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 279.75</u>
Total Collection	\$2695.21
Capital Improvement	\$115.00
Christmas Offering	\$50.00
Christmas Flowers	\$147.00
Religious Retirement	\$1380.00
Immaculate Conception	\$522.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Mass on Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM.

Mass on Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day: 8:30 AM. NO Saturday evening Mass.

Fr. Bill will celebrate the Christmas Eve Mass and the Mass on Sunday the 26th. Fr. Binu will celebrate our Christmas Day Mass.

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

NEW YEAR SCHEDULE – Friday, December 31, 4:00 PM, Feast of Mary, Mother of God and New Year's Eve.

Saturday, January 1, 4:00 PM, Epiphany of the Lord.

Sunday, January 2, 10:00 AM, Epiphany of the Lord.

REST IN PEACE – St. Maurice parishioners extend sympathy to David Hardesty and his family upon the death of his mother, Evelyn Hardesty. May she know the fullness of God's love for her.

GIVING TREE – If you forgot to bring your gifts today, please place them on the back porch of the parish home by this Wednesday.

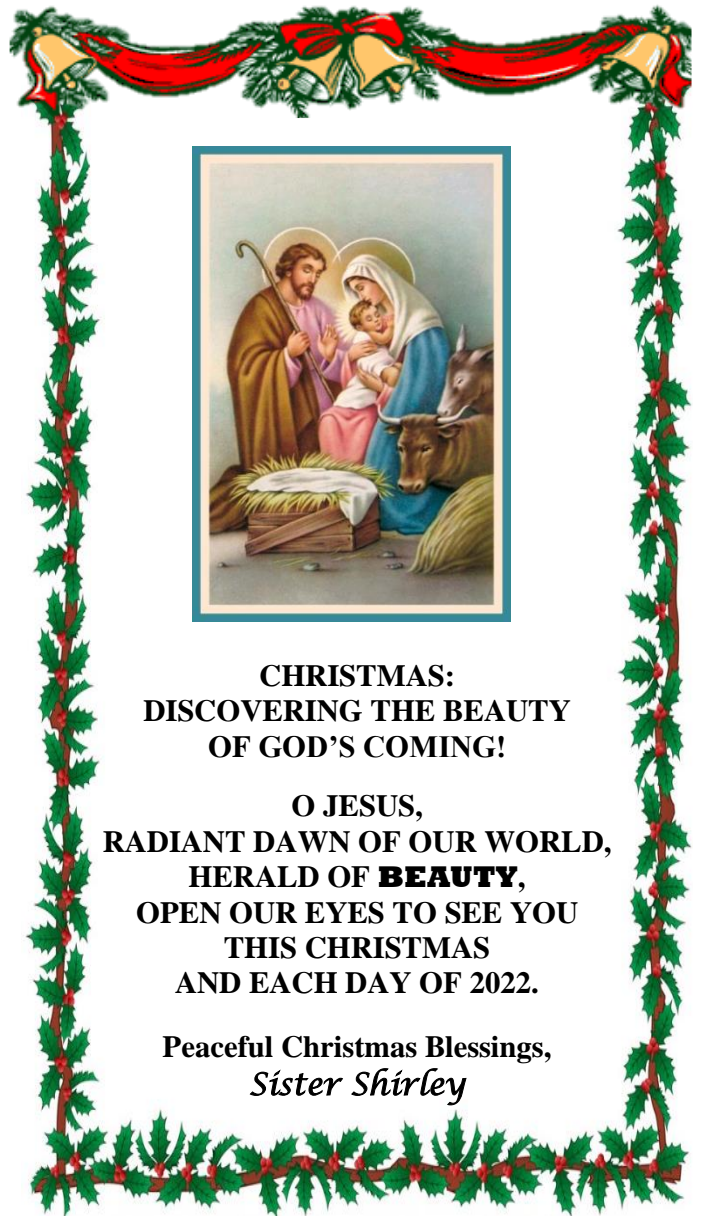
PRE-CHRISTMAS GATHERING – A huge thanks to our Faith Formation Committee for their wonderful Pre-Christmas Gathering this past weekend which brought many young children and parishioners together...definitely in love!

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL – 49 gifts have been given to the United Catholic Appeal for a total of \$7,235.00. Our parish goal is \$13,683.00. Please consider giving if you have not done so.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – NO class for Preschool through Grade 5 on Wednesday, December 22.

Junior High and High School – Your next class will be Sunday, January 9th.

MEMORIALS – \$2,500 was given to the Capital Improvement Fund in memory of Dolores Wagner. We give thanks to God for this gift. May Dolores rest in Eternal Joy!



**CHRISTMAS:
DISCOVERING THE BEAUTY
OF GOD'S COMING!**

**O JESUS,
RADIANT DAWN OF OUR WORLD,
HERALD OF **BEAUTY**,
OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE YOU
THIS CHRISTMAS
AND EACH DAY OF 2022.**

**Peaceful Christmas Blessings,
*Sister Shirley***

REJOICE AND BE GLAD – We do rejoice and are grateful for the gift of **\$10,000.00** that the ladies of the parish (Mary and Martha Circle) donated to our Capital Improvement Fund. How grateful we are for this donation. Their gift symbolizes many hours of fundraising they have accomplished. We also thank them for their weekly cleaning of our church.

A NOTE OF THANKS – God bless everyone for all the cards I received. I wish you all a Blessed Holiday. (Rosemary Mistler)

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER – When a pastor asked the class, "Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?" a boy raised his hand and replied, "Because his mother was there." (Rev. William Armstrong, S.J., 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	