

December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent



**A VIRGIN WOULD CONCEIVE
AND BEAR A SON
WHO WOULD BE CALLED
EMMANUEL.**

**IN THE BEGINNING
AND WITH US NOW,
AND EVER WILL BE WITH US.**

EMMANUEL.

**LORD,
GUIDE WITH YOUR SIGNS
THAT TELL US
YOU ARE WITH US NOW.**

(Anne M. Osdieck. Used with permission.)

BORN TODAY: LOVE INCARNATE

Today, Christmas, we rejoice! God has become one of us. He is a baby, born so we could be born into and share in God's own life. God's love greets us as equals, so we can, like Mary, freely say "yes" to this mysterious gift. If we accept this gift, we become children of God, members of the divine family, and full of grace like Mary. Baptism and Confirmation are the acts of our rebirth; the Eucharist is our nourishment to grow in God's family. When we are grown up, he will return for us. *Are you ready?*



PRAYER SERVICES

Wed., Dec. 25	7:45 AM	NO Morning Prayer
Fri., Dec. 27	7:45 AM	NO Morning Prayer

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 21	4 PM	Dale Young
Sun., Dec. 22	10 AM	Pat Hermesch
Sun., Dec. 24	4 PM	Al & Myrna Kohlman
Sun., Dec. 25	9 AM	Don Gilland
Sat., Dec. 28	4 PM	Anthony Hilbert
Sun., Dec. 29	10 AM	Ruth Gehl

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – December 28 at 4:00 PM

Greeters: Bill and Janet Deller

Mark and Rosie Lunsford

Server: Kara Merkel

Cantors: Joe Wagner, Sarah Wenning

Lectors: Terry Harmeyer, Teha Merkel

Euch. Ministers: John Wagner, Janet Wagner
Bill Deller, Janet Deller

Sunday – December 29 at 10:00 AM

Greeters: David and Jenny Hardesty

Jeff and Cindy Weisenbach

Servers: Seth Weisenbach, Brady Borgman

Cantor: Lauren Wagner

Lectors: Brooke Weisenbach, Amy Kinker

Euch. Ministers: Patty Simon, Dana Newhart
Rita Kress, Leslie Hicks

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$2346.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 22.74
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 344.00</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$2712.74

\$3,193.00 needed weekly to meet budget.

Special Collections	\$726.00
+ Capital Improvement - \$70.00	
+ Christmas Flowers - \$379.00	
+ Religious Retirement - \$277.00	

Thank You!

"He who later on called Himself 'the Living Bread descended from Heaven' was born in Bethlehem – which in Hebrew means 'house of bread.' And He was laid in a manger – a place of food – as if to show us that as we have bread for our bodies, so He would be the Bread of our souls." ~ Fulton Sheen

SANCTUARY LIGHT – The sanctuary light will burn December 22 through December 29 for Albert Schoettmer.

PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS – The children singing for Christmas will have practice at 11:00 AM today in church.

ETERNAL PEACE – Remember and pray for **Vera Wenning**, the mother of Paul Wenning, whose Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on Tuesday, December 17. May she join the angels in praising God!

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST – Congratulations to **Dawson Francis Niese** and **Everly Lyn Niese**, the children of Grant and Kara Niese, who were baptized Sunday, December 15. May they bring great joy to all who love them, especially Jesus!

THANK YOU – We are grateful to **Paul and Arlene Gehl** for donating two new carts for the round tables in the parish hall.

GIVING TREE – Did you forget to bring your gifts for the Giving Tree? If so, bring them to the back porch of the rectory this week, and they will be delivered.

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL – Help us strive toward our goal of **\$13,683.00**. The amount of **\$11,116.00** has been received thus far. That is **82%** of our goal from **63** pledges. We are much closer to reaching our goal.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER – If you are interested in assisting with the Hunter & Minta Ripley County Community Christmas Dinner, there is information about this happening on all three bulletin boards.

PIES – St. John Parish is asking our ladies to provide 10 pies for this dinner. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board or call Arlene (812-852-4394) if you can help with this.

CYO BASKETBALL – Our team lost to St. Mary's Team 2 this past Sunday. Their record is now 2-2. Their next game is Sunday, January 5, at 3:30 PM. They will play Holy Family Team at Batesville.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*May you give and receive
love generously.*

*May the hope of this
sacred season settle in
your soul.*

*May the wonder and awe
of this season
be awakened in you.*

*May the bonds of love for
one another*

*be strengthened as you
gather with family.*

*May you go often to the
Bethlehem of your heart
and visit the one who
offers you peace.*



**This is my prayer for you this Christmas
Day and Season. Blessed Christmas!**

Sister Shirley

CHRISTMAS MASSES – Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM and Christmas Day at 9:00 AM at St. Maurice.

TESTIMONIAL – “NCYC is indescribable. You meet over 20,000 people that have your same religion. You can talk to priests, nuns, and amazing speakers. One of my favorite parts of the weekend was adoration. Just imagine over 20,000 people in a stadium for adoration.”

RELIGIOUS ED – No class for Preschool through Grade 5 this week. Classes resume January 8.

No class for Grades 6 through 12 next week. Classes will resume January 5.

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER – At the Christmas service, the children gathered around the pastor at the altar.

The pastor asked, “Who was present at Jesus’s birth?”

“Mary,” a little girl replied.

“And who else?” the pastor asked.

“Joseph,” a little boy replied.

“And who else?” the pastor asked.

The boy raised his hand and said, “The German shepherds.”

The church exploded with laughter. (via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, Dover, DE)