

# December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**COMFORT, O  
COMFORT MY PEOPLE,  
SAYS YOUR GOD.**

On this second week of Advent, God speaks a reassuring word of comfort in the midst of your discontent and longing. In this quiet season – a season we tend to fill up with a lot of noise and frantic activity – make time daily to listen for the comforting words of God in your life. A good way to begin is by remembering and giving thanks for all the gifts that you have. With a heart full of gratitude, everything else in your lives will change. You will begin to see the real purpose of Christmas – celebrating the Lord's arrival in your life and the lives of those you love.

God speaks words of comfort to us today. They are words that come to us in the midst of pain and confusion, or joy and hope. They will lead us to an even greater sense of God's presence in our lives and in our families.

## SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

In the last four lines of today's Gospel, John the Baptist announces that Jesus will soon come with "His winnowing fan in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

John is using a wheat farmer imagery that was familiar to first century people. Today most of us are more familiar with spam filters than we are with winnowing fans. When the harvest comes, the wheat needs to be separated from the straw husks or chaff that still clings to the grains. A good way of removing this chaff is to use a *winnowing fan* to scoop up and toss the grains into the air. The wind carries away the lighter chaff, and like dust, it blows away with weevils and other pests. The heavier, good grain then falls to the floor.

What a great image for us to ponder in trying to live good lives. We offer ourselves up and God's merciful winds carry away our sins. We fall, cleansed and forgiven onto the threshing floor, ready to be gathered into God's barn. (Deacon Dick Folger, *Celebration*)

## PRAYER SERVICES

Wednesday, Dec. 7	7:45 AM	NO Morning Prayer
Thursday, Dec. 8	5:45 PM	Evening Prayer
Friday, Dec. 9	7:45 AM	Morning Prayer

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. December 3	4 PM	Kenny Walke
Sun. December 4	10 AM	Richard Wagner
Wed. December 7	7 PM	Alma Schwering
Sat. December 10	4 PM	Mark Eckstein
Sun. December 11	10 AM	Don Gilland

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

### Wednesday – December 7 at 7:00 PM

Greeters:	Ray and Mary Merkel, Duke & Keri Johnson
Servers:	Jodie Muckerheide, Macey Moorman
Cantor:	Sharon Miller
Lectors:	Paul Gehl, Arlene Gehl
Eucharistic Ministers:	Ray Merkel, Mary Merkel Dana Newhart, Judy Steuri

### Saturday – December 10 at 4:00 PM

Greeters:	Charlie Kohlman, Ken & Terry Harmeyer
Servers:	Ben Miller, Nick Miller
Cantor:	Joe Wagner, Sarah Wenning
Lectors:	Dottie Hellmich, Teha Merkel
Eucharistic Ministers:	Eric Wirth, Gene Moorman Beth Simon, Terry Harmeyer

### Sunday – December 11 at 10:00 AM

Greeters:	Mark and Lorrie Gilland - <i>back</i> David and Jenny Hardesty - <i>back</i> Nick and Jenny Simon - <i>side</i>
Servers:	Lilly Simon, Caleb Simon
Cantor:	Sharon Miller
Lectors:	Brooke Weisenbach, Cindy Weisenbach
Eucharistic Ministers:	Emma Spreckelson, Patty Simon Katie Spreckelson, Scott Simon

## PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$2209.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 31.10
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 295.00</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$2535.10
Campaign for Human Development	\$990.00

**SANCTUARY LIGHT** – The sanctuary light will burn December 4 through December 11 for Mary Gerth.

**ADVENT GIVING TREE** – All gifts for the "Giving Tree", wrapped or unwrapped, need to be under the tree by Sunday, December 18. The Pregnancy Care Center and Safe Passages will be gifted with these items.

**ADVENT BOOKLET** – It's not too late to pick up an advent booklet at the entrances of church for your spiritual reading at home.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE** – Our Merciful God waits for you at our Advent Penance Service today, 1:30 PM, at Immaculate Conception Church.

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES** – The 2017 collection envelopes are in the vestibule of Church in alphabetical order. Let's have them all gone before Christmas, and **thank you** for your faithful, regular financial giving.

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT** – Next weekend, December 10-11, a second collection will be taken up for retired religious. Monies from this provide support for thousands of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Envelopes are in your box.

**BLOOD PRESSURE** – You can get your blood pressure checked this weekend after the Masses in the St. Anne Room. Vicki Wagner and Courtney Wagner will be there to assist you.

**RELIGIOUS ED** – Classes for Preschool through Grade 5 on Wednesday, December 7, 6:45 PM. Because of the children attending Mass this evening, the meal will be served at 6:00 PM.

Classes for Grades 6 through 11 next Sunday, December 11, 8:30 AM.



**LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY** – Ladies of the parish will gather for their Christmas meal and party this Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 PM. The meal will be catered, so come and enjoy!



**FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

This Feast of Mary, celebrating her being conceived without original sin, is celebrated this week, December 8. Mass for St. Maurice and St. John will be celebrated the evening before, Dec. 7, 7:00 PM. Mass at Immaculate Conception is on Dec. 8 at 5:30 PM.

*"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee."*

**CYO BASKETBALL** – St. Maurice plays St. Mary today at 1:00 PM at Greensburg. On December 11, they will play St. Louis's team at 2:15 PM at Batesville.

**UCA** – As of today, very few pledge cards have been returned. Please make your commitment soon. There are pledge cards in the vestibule of church. Let's do our part as one parish of the Archdiocese.

**CRITERION** – Do notice in the Criterion the ad from our cohort parishes congratulating Cardinal Joseph Tobin on becoming cardinal and blessings upon him as he leaves for his new diocese.

**NURSES** – Two employment positions are available at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis for Nurses. These are positions for NA/CNA/QMA Nurses. There is need for an Evening Full Time (40 hours a week), includes every other weekend and two holidays.

A second position is also an evening position for 16 hours first week and 8 hours the second week of the pay period. If there is an interest in either position, call Diana Schutte at 812/933-6402.

**THE LORD'S LAUGHTER** – After the Advent church service, eight-year-old Lee said to the preacher: "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money."

"Well, thank you," the preacher replied, "but why?"

"Because my father says that you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had." (Guy Thomas)