Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2015

MASSES THIS WEEK:
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7
5:30pm Vigil Elma Garber, Vernice Bueltel

HOLYDAY – FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - DECEMBER 8
7:00am Betty Williams, Janice Klocke
8:15am Bette Snyder, Katherine Bueltel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
7:00am Myron & Betty Klocke, Katherine Bueltel
10:30am HCC Tony Riesberg, Kaye Riddle

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
7:00am Frances A. Connors, Gene Bretey
8:15am Rose Dailer, Ed & DeEtta Bueltel

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
7:00am Leroy Kruse
10:30am SH Herman & Ann Rath

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
4:00pm Kelly & Pat Goins Family, Don & Leona McCaffrey, Joe Vanderheiden, Ann Lappe, Kevin Meiners, Wayne Schelle, Arby & Helen Neppel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
8:00am St. Lawrence Parish Family, Brandon Bruggeman, Walter Gross, Joe Determan Family, Alvy & Helene Schoenherr, Janice Klocke, Melvin & Darlene Clark Family, Virgil Dalhoff
10:00am Lawrence & Melvina Hahn, John J. Janning, Leonard & Darlene Halbur Family, Bernie Wells, James & Marcella Kanne, Karen Lohman, Bill & Bertha Lohman


STEWARDSHIP as of 11-29-15:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Income:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>132 Out of 889 Adult Envelopes</td>
<td>$16,133.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Automatic Withdrawal Envelopes</td>
<td>$1,375.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Out of 232 Youth Envelopes</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose Change</td>
<td>413.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>1,155.85</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$19,097.17</td>
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$ Needed per week $ 22,500.00

Difference $ -3,402.83

$ Needed Each Week – YTD ($22,500 x 22 wk) $ 495,000.00

Receipts to Date (Fair Share, Investment Income, Event Income, Misc. Contributions, Other Income) $ 441,137.75

Difference 2015-2016 $ -53,862.25

Tuesday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Masses at St. Lawrence will be Mon Dec 7 at 5:30 p.m. Tues. Dec 8 at 8 a.m.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:

Holiday Cookie Walk after all Masses December 5 & 6
Containers provided....$10.00/field your container with your favorite cookies, candies & bars!
in the St. Lawrence Church Narthex
**We are asking for 2-3 dozen cookies, decorated cookies or candy. We also need raffle items. If you have something to donate please contact Kris Boeckman 792-8199 or Karen Gehling 792-5009
**Bake Sale items may be brought to the St. Lawrence narthex on Sat. Dec. 5 from 12-4pm.

Saint Lawrence Adult Advent Party
Sunday, December 6, 2015
5:30 pm Social/6:15 pm Dinner at Collison Hall
7:00pm Entertainment is a Sing-A-Long
What to Bring: You, Your Spouse, A Friend and a covered dish to serve 8-10 people (vegetable, salad or dessert)
What is Provided: Chicken, Ham, Potatoes, Rolls, Drink & Table Service; Raffle & Entertainment too!

MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR: Dec 12 4:00pm Acolyte: Jacob Schaefer, Max Lampe, Justin Schaefer; Dec 13 8:00am Acolyte: Noah Schulte, Eli Scharfenkamp, Brandon Gehling; 10:00am Acolyte: Sydney Macke, Carter Soppe, Kenna Soppe;

EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
Dec 7-11 7:00am Bonnie Danner, Stephana Kallemeyn; Dec 12 4:00pm Mark & Diane Hamilton, Dave & Deb Quandt, Twilla Hoffman, Mike McCaffrey, Mary Jo Wieland; Dec 13 8:00am Jim Berning, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Cheryl Stork, Earl & Stephana Kallemeyn, Larry & Vicki Reiling; 10:00am Jill Heiman, Pat Soppe, Lou Pottebaum, Jim Riesberg, Joleen Schulz, Bob & Joan Kidney,

LECTORS: Dec 7-11 7:00am Bonnie Danner; Dec 12 4:00pm Emily Beadmore, Pam Beadmore; Dec 13 8:00am Jeff Scharfenkamp, Cheryl Stork; 10:00am Luanne Kustra, Joleen Schulz

GIFT BEARERS: Dec 12 4:00pm Elva Bernholtz, Laura Wernimoint; Dec 13 8:00am Dave & Renee Anderson; 10:00am Bonnie Thein, Jolene Handlos;

GREETERS: Dec 12 4:00pm Elva Bernholtz, Joyce Best, Mark & Diane Hamilton; Dec 13 8:00am Dave & Renee Anderson, Dick & Jeannine Muhlbauer; 10:00am George & Jeannine Harnack, Mike & Pat Soppe;

CHILDREN LITURGY OF THE WORD: Dec 6-Deeanne Drees; Dec 13 – Allison Schoonover.

SUNDAY COMMUNION MINISTERS CHC: 1st Sunday-Dave & Becky Snyder, Angie Anderson, Deb McCarty; 2nd Sunday-Deacon Gary & Shari Schon, Phil & Michele Phillips;


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COMING EVENTS:
Dec 8: Catholic Daughters “Hour of Grace” 12noon-1pm at Holy Spirit Church. Prayer service commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Mother to Sister Pierina. Everyone is welcome!
HOLIDAY SCRIP: *Beginning the week after Thanksgiving, SCRIP orders will be placed twice per week until Christmas! December 7, 14 - Orders placed by 9:00 AM Monday will be available for pickup on Thursday or sent home with a student on Friday. Orders placed by 9:00 AM Tuesday will be available for pickup on Friday or sent home with a student on Friday. December 23 & 30 – Christmas break! No SCRIP orders.

Sacristans Needed! Can you spend a few minutes before a weekend Mass making preparations for the Mass? If so, contact Ann Phillips at 712-775-2475 with your name, telephone number and your Mass of choice. Training will be provided.

KUEMPER CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM:
Dec 6 Diocesan Youth Rally, St Joseph, Salix 12 noon
Dec 8 K-5/9-12 Mass at Holy Spirit, 8:20 a.m.
6-8 Mass at St. Lawrence, 8:20 a.m.
Grades 1 & 3 Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. Holy Spirit Church
Dec 9 KHS Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. in Gym
Dec 10 KHS Reconciliation, Holy Spirit, 10:30 a.m.
Grades K & 2 Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. Holy Spirit Church
Dec 12 ACT Test @ Carroll Community Schools 8 a.m. – 12 noon

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READINGS:
Israel’s exile in Babylon left the people hopeless, questioning their identity. Had they taken their privileged relationship with God for granted? How could God so utterly abandon them? How could the covenant be voided and their holy city and temple be destroyed? In the midst of such disorientation and soul-searching the prophet Baruch, the scribe of the great prophet Jeremiah, utters a glorious promise of restoration. He offers hope by painting compelling images of the impossible that make it seem assured. Baruch’s initial image – removing garments of gloom and replacing them with a “cloak of justice” portray a divine love we can touch and feel, a love that wraps itself around us. Baruch urges Israel to pay attention. A great miracle is unfolding: those who were “led away on foot” will be brought back “as on royal thrones.” The words “remembered by God” really draw on the emotions. Those who thought themselves forgotten realize that the eternal God is mindful of them at every moment. In the last lines, God commands nature to express the outpouring of divine mercy.

Turning to the Gospel, by deliberately listing the power players of Jesus’ day, Luke sets the context for the unfolding of Jesus’ ministry and the dawning of the Kingdom of God. The sequence of royal, religious, and political people leads from the centers of power (palace, fortress, and Temple), from which one might expect an announcement of the Messiah’s advent, to a wilderness place were a strange hermit proclaims a centuries-old prophecy as if it were about himself and his own time. That the “word of God” comes to the animal skin-clad loner in the “desert” rather than to one of the powerful is consistent with the reversals typical of the Gospel.

John announces the dawn of a new world order, the coming of an invisible kingdom that will permeate and leaven the world of human affairs, changing them forever. He quotes Isaiah’s ancient promise of a coming salvation. Such a promise we would want fulfilled in moments, but in God’s plan it comes to fruition through centuries of seeming silence. Isaiah speaks of a transformation of the physical order that will make rough paths smooth and winding roads straight. But poetry such as this speaks on many levels and from John’s lips it tells us that the world of the Messiah will bring the strengthening of human ways of interacting, the filling of empty, wounded hearts, the removal of obstacles to healing and wholeness. The sun of reconciliation will dawn on that day and the Good news will tolerate no obstacles. “All flesh” will see the salvation John announces.

Though the Gospel text is divided into two parts today, the tone should be joyful throughout. As you name those who will antagonize Jesus, there is no need to color their names negatively. An even tone will suggest that these are ultimately players in a divine drama in which even their best efforts to obstruct will ultimately yield to God’s loving plan for humanity. 

Fr. Collins

Trying to figure out what to give someone that has everything? Here’s an easy one: give to someone that has almost nothing. Consider a gift to our sister parish in Haiti. Designate your donation for general aid Haiti; or specify Chapel or Scholarship. You can let that hard to buy for person know you did it their honor.