

PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN HOME!

Sunday, December 11 ♦ Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 11:00 a.m. Brian Loe (Rob Janes)
 – Is 35:1-6, 1; Jas5: 7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Monday, December 12 ♦ NO MASS

Tuesday, December 13 ♦ St. Lucy

6:15 p.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 – Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 14 ♦ St. John the Cross

11:30 a.m. Anna-Ludvigovna Vasilieva
 (Bill & Inna Gould)
 – Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Lk 7:18-23

Thursday, December 15 ♦ Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 – Is 54:1-10; Lk 7; 24-30

Friday, December 16 ♦ Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Cullinan Family
 (Jeanne C. Brown)
 – Is 56:1-3, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36

Saturday, December 17 ♦ Late Advent Weekday

11:30 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 – Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Sunday, December 18 ♦ Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Nicholas Aleksandrovich Vasiliev
 (Bill & Inna Gould)
 11:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 – Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

+ Please remember in your prayers our home-bound parishioners, and those who are ill: Michael Baker, Betty Cockran, Richard Deneski, Herbert Froesch, Sr. Sally Groom, Robert Hackett, Dr. Glenn Haninger, Julie Litsinberger, Susan Luck, Ellen McMillen, Mary McNellis, Marilyn Scott.

Memorial Service for Deceased Homeless

The annual interfaith Memorial Service for the homeless of Columbus who have died this past year will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 3rd and Broad Street, on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m.



Reminder: All Christmas Angels

Calling all Angels. Remember to purchase the item written on the tag (from the Angel Tree), then bring the *unwrapped* item with the tag attached to it back to church with you on or before next Sunday, December 18th.

Christmas Flower Donations

Donations toward the altar flowers for the Christmas season in the memory of deceased family members or friends can be put in upcoming Sunday collections with the person's name you wish to remember. A donation of \$10.00 is suggested. Please utilize the special envelopes available for this purpose.

Repair Fund Collection Results

Thank you for the generosity and support of the Repair Fund collection held last week. \$693.00 was contributed.



Mass Intentions

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Mass intentions will be listed in the bulletin. **We are in need of daily Mass intentions.** Please contact Mike Agriesti by regular mail, or drop a note into the collection basket on Sundays or email admmike@columbus.rr.com to schedule a Mass.



Sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven

Once a month Holy Cross parishioners and friends gather in the old school building (north of the church) first floor kitchen and assemble two slices of bread, lunchmeat and cheese into a sandwich (called "Lil Larry" after long-time resident of Holy Cross Church – deceased Msgr. Lawrence Corcoran). This occurs on Sunday after 9:00 a.m. Mass for one hour. This activity is open to anyone in the parish and helps St. Lawrence Haven feed the poor and homeless one day during their Monday through Friday schedule. The next opportunity is January 8, 2017. Please join us.

THANKS!

DECEMBER 4, 2016 OFFERINGS

Designated Collections

(Funds forwarded directly to the Diocese)

Mass Attendance

9:00 a.m. = 111
 11:00 a.m. = 74

Offertory.....	\$2,207.30
Mail-in	\$ 256.00
Repair Collection	\$ 693.00
Mail-in Repair.....	\$ 5.00
less 6% Diocese tax ..	(\$ 189.68)
Net To Parish	\$2,971.62

THE WORD

The traditional name of this Sunday, *Gaudete*, derives from the text of the official entrance chant for this day: "Rejoice in the Lord always." This theme is also reflected in the first reading, which speaks of the earth itself rejoicing as the desert blooms forth. But this reading also speaks of the earth waiting to rejoice. The redemption of God, which is the cause of our rejoicing, lies still in the future: the eyes of the blind will be opened, the tongue of the mute will sing, sorrow and mourning will flee. We do rejoice, but it is the particular kind of joy that is to be found in waiting for the source of our joy.

One of the tensions we experience in celebrating the season of Advent today is the tendency of the modern secular world to turn it into Christmas, with decorations going up the day after Thanksgiving – if not well before – and a busy round of Christmas parties. I have even seen an advertisement for an "after Christmas" sale that began on December 23! Rather than a season of joyful waiting, Advent becomes the season of immediate Christmas gratification. Those of us who want to keep Advent as a season of expectation might be tempted to adopt a "Bah! Humbug!" Attitude toward the festivities of December. But perhaps we should be more forgiving of those who tend to rush the Christmas season. After all, the joy-in-waiting of Advent is rooted in our faith that Jesus is the one who is to come; we do not have to wait for another. The Lord is at hand; indeed, in Jesus Christ our redeemer is already here. While it is important that Advent be a season of waiting, it is also a season of joy, and when we encounter Christmas decorations in the midst of Advent, we should probably recall the words of James in the second reading: "Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another."

– *What has brought me joy thus far in this Advent season?*

– *How do I try to keep Advent a season of waiting? How do I react to those who do not make the same choices that I do?*

– *"Living the Word"*



Religious Retirement Collection – Today!

The special collection today will be for Retirement Fund for Religious. There are more than 13,000 Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests that need skilled care or help with tasks of daily living. Please be generous.



Special Parish Dates

Mark your calendars for the following important dates for the parish:

- 1) **Saturday, December 24, 2016, Christmas Eve, 3:30 p.m. – Carols/Mass at 4:00 p.m.**
- 2) **Sunday, December 25, 2016, Christmas Day, Mass at 10:00 a.m.**

LATE CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

If you or someone you know is seeking a late Sunday Mass on Christmas Day because of work or other obligations, Saint Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad Street, Columbus, will be offering a late Christmas Day Mass at 5:15 p.m. as part of their regular Sunday Mass schedule. For more information, call the Cathedral at (614) 224-1295, or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.

Vehicle Donations To The Josephinum

The Pontifical College Josephinum is a Roman Catholic Seminary located in Columbus. Seminarians at the Josephinum that are studying for the priesthood need transportation from time to time for a variety of local needs. The Josephinum has a fleet of vehicles that seminarians utilize for transportation and could use additional vans. If you have a used van that you would like to donate to the Josephinum and obtain an income tax deduction for 2016, please contact the business office at 985-2230 so that arrangements can be made to deliver the van before December 31, 2016. The Josephinum is a nonprofit charitable organization and will provide you with the appropriate documentation for the donation of a vehicle.

Blue Christmas Mass

St. Thomas More Newman Center will offer a Blue Christmas Mass at 7:00 p.m. on December 24. This Christmas Eve Mass is intended especially for people who may not feel joyful during the holiday season or who may be experiencing life challenges. The music and entire tone of Blue Christmas is quiet and reflective. While this is a Roman Catholic Mass, we welcome all who are seeking a place of comfort and healing. For more information, call (614) 291-4674 or email mailbox@buckeyecatholic.com. The Newman Center is located at 64 W. Lane Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201.