

PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN HOME!

Sunday, December 24 ♦ Fourth Sunday in Advent
 10:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 – 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
**** Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)**
 4:00 p.m. Betty Morbitzer Family (Betty Morbitzer)
 – Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 18-25

Monday, December 25 ♦ Christmas Day
 10:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 – Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday, December 26 ♦ NO MASS

Wednesday, December 27 ♦ NO MASS

Thursday, December 28 ♦ NO MASS

Friday, December 29 ♦
5th Day within Octave of Nativity of the Lord
 11:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of Cullinan Family
 (Jeanne C. Brown)
 – 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30 ♦
6th Day within Octave of Nativity of the Lord
 11:30 a.m. Cassucio Family (Ben Cassucio)
 – 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31 ♦ Holy Family Sunday
 9:00 a.m. Bonnie J. Henry (Ben-Dora-Noah Henry)
 11:00 a.m. Living/Deceased of the Holy Cross Family
 – Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 or
 Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

+ Please remember in your prayers our home-bound parishioners, and those who are ill: Michael Baker, Betty Cockran, Richard Deneski, Ann Froesch, Bernadette Froesch, Sr. Sally Groom, Robert Hackett, Ted Igel, Louise Knapp, Julie Litsinberger, Ellen McMillen, Mary McNellis, Andy Piaskowy, Marilyn Scott.

St. Lawrence Haven – January 14, 2018

Attention, all our “Lil Larry” sandwich makers. Sunday, January 14, 2018, is your next opportunity to support St. Lawrence Haven is following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross School.



Merry Christmas!
 Special Christmas Blessings to our
 Holy Cross Family, Guests and Visitors
from
 Fr. Dwayne, Mary Anne ,
 Sr. Ruth Ann & Mike

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

We have arrived at one of my favorite celebrations in the Church year. Christmas captures the imagination and transports us – back to our youth, and back to the beginning of our salvation. To ransom us from our sin, the Savior humbled Himself throughout His life, and in a very special and beautiful way at the time of His birth. He did it for our salvation, of course; but may we never allow ourselves to forget this: He did it as well for our imitation.

What is Christmas all about? It is about many things – the first is humility. The Son of God redeemed us with humility, and He came to teach humility to us.

As we gather in church on Christmas, meditating on the birth of the humble and loving Savior, can we think of any individuals or groups whom we do not wish well – to whom we refuse understanding and respect? If such situations exist, this is the time to set things aright.

This is the night of love and forgiveness – a lesson of love and humility. At this holy Christmas time, we gaze into the crèche, and this is what we see – *humility* – beyond all imagining, and *love* – beyond all boundaries. With the grace of God, we focus on it. With trust in God, we courageously embrace it. This is what Christmas is meant to achieve in us. This is its lesson. This is its message: Believe in God. Come to church and be excited about our Catholic faith that gives us hope for the future, as well as bringing us back in touch with our childhood memories.

Merry Christmas!

Thank You.

ALL CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Thank you for supporting this year’s Angel Tree. JOIN was so excited about the number of gifts that we provided to the poor families that were in need. May our Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones throughout the New Year.

THANKS!	
DECEMBER 17, 2017	
Designated Collections (Funds forwarded directly to the Diocese)	Offertory..... \$2,359.30 Mail-in..... \$ 295.00 Repair Collection \$ 0.00 Mail-in Repair \$ 30.00 Less 6% Diocese Tax (\$ 166.06)
Mass Attendance 9:00 a.m. = 88 11:00 a.m. = 113	Net To Parish \$2,523.24

THE WORD

Promises made are empty words unless there is evidence that they are kept. When we say, "I'll call you, do we? When we say, "I'll visit you," do we? It's only after the call is made or the visit takes place that it is clear our words had meaning. The same is true for marriage or religious vows, priestly promises, and the other commitments we make. When we see that vows and promises are kept and commitments are lived, we know that the words were true and not empty.

David wants to build a house for the Lord, but God has other plans. God will establish a house, a lineage that will last longer than any house David could build. God will be a father to David. David will be a son to God. When Gabriel visits Mary, the angel announces the fulfillment of that promise: "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son... the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father... and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:31a, 32b, 33b). The letter to the Romans affirms this: The mystery that was kept secret, God's promise to David, is made manifest through Jesus Christ.

Advent reminds us of God's promise to share this everlasting reign with us. All we need to do is reflect on Mary's "yes" and say with her, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38) – then fulfill those words by how we give birth to Jesus each and every day. Our tongues are powerful. They can speak truth or empty promises. Will our actions make clear that we are the servants of the Lord, who live in ways that continue to fulfill God's promises by how we live our faith in Jesus every day?

- *How do your preparations for Christmas put Christ in Christmas by the ways you live your faith each day?*
- *What promises have we made and kept? What empowers us to keep those promises?*

"Living the Word"

Bethesda Healing Ministry

In the fullness of time, Christ came as our infant King. He invites each of us to come to Him for healing and hope, even from an abortion of long ago. He is waiting! Bethesda Healing Ministry invites you to come to share in the graces of a journey with those who have been there, contact Bethesda Healing Ministry confidential lines at 614-309-2651 or 614-309-0157 or visit our website at bethesdahealing.org. Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BethesdaHealing.

Special Parish Dates

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

1) MASS SCHEDULES – New Years

Monday, January 1, 2018: NO MASS (Not a Holyday)

Tuesday, January 2, 2018: NO MASS

2) Sunday, January 7, 2018 Donut Sunday after 9:00 a.m.

Mass at the Holy Cross School Building



LOVED ONES REMEMBERED BY POINSETTIAS DONATIONS (as of December 17, 2016)

The usual listing has been made into an insert page reflecting the loved ones remembered and who made the request.

NEW YEARS BLESSING

God of the ages and God of now, give us what we need to undertake new things – new trials and new triumphs, new blessings and new burdens, but also a new year that might bring more of the same. God of the new covenant and a new commandment, help us take new directions in our lives without losing our appreciation for the old. Help us not to seek new for newness' sake – new friends, new clothes, new jobs – but as the next right step in fulfilling your timeless plan for us. God who forever creates and renews, let us honor your example by giving people second chances, reclaiming our right to hope, and looking for you in unexpected places. Let us never forget what you did through Jesus, the new promise of your ancient love.

DIOCESAN CHARITIES COLLECTION

A second collection will be taken for the Diocesan Charities during the Christmas Masses. This collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations, including J.O.I.N., St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center & St. Vincent de Paul Society.



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