

MASS INTENTIONS

Thurs., Dec. 3rd, 8 a.m.: Emily Kueker, by Jim & Diane Buch; Welda DeRousse, by the Staff of Weis Comfort Systems
Fri., Dec. 4th, 8 a.m.: Bud Cowell, by Adele & Susan; Berniece Hahn, by Betty Deterding
Sat., Dec. 5th, 4 p.m.: Marlene Cowell, by Walter Gregson, Jr.; For the Parish
Sun., Dec. 6th, 10 a.m.: Joyce DuFrenne, by Mickey; Ruth Ann Minemann, by David & Debbie Hahn
Mon., Dec. 7th, Immaculate Conception Vigil, 6:30 p.m.: Leroy Wiegard, by Tom & Jolene Heine; Pat Falkenhein, by St. Anne CCW

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Attitudes are contagious.
Is yours a good thing to catch?

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Out of the mouths of children: Sue went to visit a friend. When she came to her house Mary was in a panic trying to find her cordless phone. After several minutes of searching, her young daughter said, "You know what they should invent? A phone that stays connected to its base so it never gets lost."

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

Barb Niermann, Nursing Home Residents,
Homebound Parishioners
Names remains for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.

ST. ANNE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: POSTPONED

Party Postponed: St. Anne's CCW Christmas party which was scheduled for December 1st has been postponed. Due to the current issues with the COVID 19 mandates we cannot meet. We are hoping to have the party at our January meeting. We will keep you posted, and all who made reservations will be notified.

LIVE-STREAM MASS

Live-stream Mass link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaNKnmagngdtCFh07WAMyBg> It will take you to the YouTube page; click on the live video stream. Beginning the weekend after Thanksgiving.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

David M. Holder - Certified Public Accountant

MEMORIAL RECEIVED

Patricia Falkenhein Memorial to SJB Church: \$85.00.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

It's time for SJB Church's annual Christmas Raffle! Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100! Tickets are re-entered each time; you could win all twelve prizes! Prizes: Day 1: Lotto Ticket Board; Day 2: Hand-made Quilt (Queen); Day 3: \$25.00; Day 4: Lotto Ticket Board; Day 5: Hand-made Quilt (Queen); Day 6: \$25.00; Day 7: Lotto Ticket Board; Day 8: Hand-made Quilt (Queen); Day 9: \$25.00; Day 10: Lotto Ticket Board; Day 11: Hand-made Quilt (Queen); Day 12: \$2,020.00. Prizes drawn the first 12 days of December. Tickets must be returned by November 29, 2020. Pick up tickets at the main entrance or contact the rectory.

READINGS

1st Reading:

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3 - 9

We wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Mark 13:33 - 37

Be watchful! You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.

FROM THE DESK OF FR. DENNIS

This first Sunday of Advent is the Church's official "New Year's Day." Today's reading from the Gospel suggests a good new year's resolution: develop one good habit for keeping alert to God's saving action. When we look around, what do we see? Lights, tinsel, carols, frantic holiday shopping. How can we find a center or focal point in this distracting world? Perhaps keeping a spiritual journal could help. Make time each day to write your thoughts and questions about where God is leading you at this moment. Growth in the spiritual life depends not on occasional inspirations and good feelings but on ingrained practices that see us through the hard times. Jesus says, "Be watchful! Be Alert!" By paying attention to the quiet, hidden things God is already doing in your life every day, you will see that you already live as God's beloved. Happy New Year!!!

Before you leave Church, please stop and pick up some Advent reading material on the table by the cry room, it is free for the taking. Also, did you sign up for the free E-Mail program from Dynamic Catholic? It is called the Best Advent Ever. Go to www.BestAdventEver.com. Get ready for the best Christmas of your life!!!

A reminder to our Confirmation Candidates, their sponsors and parents that we have next Sunday at the 10 a.m. Mass the Commitment Ceremony. Don't forget to call in for a reservation. Pews will be reserved for you. There will be a meeting for the sponsors after the Mass in Church.

Have a blest First Week of Advent! Remember, don't worry so much, and know that you are loved!

~ Fr. Dennis

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS TO OUR HEARTS

(Reading About Faith is Not Enough) When we seek Jesus, we discover that he is waiting to welcome us, to offer us his love. And this fills your heart with such wonder that you can hardly believe it, and this is how your faith grows—through encounters with a person, through encounters with the Lord. Some people will say, "No, I prefer to read about faith in books!" It is important to read about faith, but look, on its own, this is not enough! What is important is our encounter with Jesus, our encounter with him, and this what gives you faith, because he is the One who gives it to you!

DECORATE A CHURCH LAMP POST AT CHRISTMAS!

There are 4 light poles still available to decorate! Any SJB parishioner or group can participate. Call the rectory with your name and contact info. For all decorating guidelines and information, please pick up a flyer at the main entrance or see the info on our parish Facebook page.

CHRISTMAS EVE WATCH KIT

New this year, we are offering free Christmas Eve Watch Kits. A watch kit is for those who wish to host a watch party in their home by live streaming our Christmas Eve Church service on your TV or computer for everyone gathering in their home for Christmas. Your kit will include instructions needed to host a memorable church event in your home including a few surprises. Please call the rectory beginning December 1st to reserve your watch kit and then pick yours up at the church Dec. 12th & 13th, the rectory Dec. 14th-18th, or at church Dec. 19th & 20th. Keep checking our church website, social media, and bulletin for watch kit updates!

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

- Sun.: First Sunday of Advent; Liturgy Committee mtg. after Mass
- Mon.: Re-open committee mtg. at 9 a.m. in Church
- Tues.: Morning Mass with school students; St. Anne CCW Christmas party postponed
- Wed.: PSR Classes at 6:45 p.m. in school; Reconciliation is celebrated in school
- Thurs: 8 a.m. Morning Mass – sign in at the breeze way, sanitize your hands etc.; No evening Mass at 6:30 p.m.
- Fri.: First Friday of December: Mass at 8 a.m. followed by Adoration till 9:30 a.m. Please come and join us.
- Sat.: Confessions from 2:30 -3:30 p.m. in the sacristy
- Sun.: Confirmation Commitment Ceremony during the 10 a.m. Mass

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAIL

Dec. 1 or Dec. 2nd we will be putting in the mail a letter to all parishioners about the coming celebration of Christmas, the Masses we will have, opportunities for Confession, etc. During this most challenging time, we need to work together to keep everyone safe. Please read the letter and what we are asking you to do for the coming celebrations we will be having, how they will be live-streamed, and most important that you will need to **CALL AND MAKE A RESERVATION FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. REMEMBER, WE ARE ONLY ALLOWED 100 PEOPLE IN CHURCH.** Thank you for working with us, being patient and understanding with all we are trying to do to make you feel safe when you come to Church.

FOOD COLLECTION DRIVE

This year we are not in competition with anyone but ourselves. Last year the school and parish collected 3,546 items for the food drive. That was fantastic! Because of the pandemic and other situations that have changed, we have set our goal at 1,773 items. Help us reach our goal by December 11th. Bring your items and put them in the bins in the entrance of the Church. Thank you for your help in this outreach project.

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

Congratulations to Stephen and Holly Brewer on the baptism of their daughter, Ella Rose, last Sunday.

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sat., Nov. 21st, 42 people attended the 4 p.m. Mass.
 Sun., Nov. 22nd, 100 people attended the 10 a.m. Mass.
 We have plenty of room for you to attend! Please join us!

MATTRESS SALE!

Fundraiser to support SJB Athletic Dept. - if you need a new mattress, now is the time to buy! During the entire month of November, head to Red Bud Mattress, purchase a mattress and mention SJB Athletics so the department is credited. Pick up, delivery, layaway available. Cash, check or credit cards accepted. New mattresses in all sizes, luxury top, memory foams, latex & more; up to 70% off retail!

SCHEDULE FOR CONFESSION

Sat. Dec. 5th from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.; Sat. Dec. 12th from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.; Mon. Dec. 14th from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. Dec. 19th from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Mon. Dec. 21st, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Enter the Church from Locust Street. You can also call for an appointment.

NEW BREAKING BREAD BOOKS

As we begin the new church year this weekend with the first Sunday of Advent, we have at the entrance a box with the **NEW COPIES** of the Breaking Bread Books. Feel free to take one home or use it here in Church, but you need to take it home with you.

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD & PARISH

Sunday.....	\$2,142.00
Loose.....	\$835.00
Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....	\$2,977.00
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$4.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$100.00
School Support.....	\$45.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$280.00
All Saints.....	\$15.00
CCHD.....	\$95.00
Community Thanksgiving Service	
Total.....	\$194.00

FROM OUR SISTER PARISH

I greet you on behalf of your sister parish in Jutiapa. You may have heard that recently a hurricane has caused flooding and damage in Guatemala. Fortunately, Jutiapa did not receive much damage from the storm. Your sister parish may be suffering in other ways though. You may want to reach out and check on your sister parish, if you have not already. Covid-19 has not allowed our sister parishes to have Mass with the public for over 7 months now. You can imagine how difficult this has been on the priests and people of your sister parish. You must also realize that the priests of Jutiapa do not get paid and rely on their parishioners for support. It is truly a struggle for our brothers and sisters in Jutiapa. I realize that many are going through difficult times, but it is in our shared faith that we can find peace. I ask that you remember your sister parish in your prayers, as they remember us.

REFLECTION

Be Alert! Watch! We begin this new liturgical year as the old one ends: alert, on the watch, looking to the end time (that is, the return of Jesus Christ) while still living in this middle time of grace. In our watching, we make the words at the center of the Isaiah reading our own: "Would that you might meet us doing right." Let us be faithful gatekeepers – of our thoughts and of our acts – actively looking for the face of the Lord. How will I maintain hope as I wait for Jesus Christ? What will I say? What will I do?

VOCATIONS CORNER

Not long ago, a friend asked me an intense question: "What has been your most profound encounter with the mercy of God?" I had an answer – even a specific date: Oct. 24, 2010. On that day, I wasn't expecting anything dramatic as I walked into the confessional in St. Mary Magdalene Church in St. Louis. But I had a profound experience of God's mercy that changed everything. The personal holiness embodied by the priest who heard my confessions awakened in my soul the desire to stake everything on Jesus. How could I not? Through this encounter, He invited me to the priesthood. I was all in. On that day in the confessional, the priest 'won me for Christ'. Through my priesthood, Jesus wants me to win souls for him." Dcn Jonathan Ruzicka, Seminarian of Archdiocese of St. Louis; *Columbia Magazine* Feb. 2020

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION

Confession will be heard in the priest sacristy. There will be three pews on each side in the back of Church for you to be seated. **When you come to the sacristy for confession** there will be hand sanitizer on the corner of the table; please use it and then close the door. You will see a glass type screen. I will be seated on the other side of it. **There will be no kneeler or chair for you to use.** You just walk up to the screen and stand there and I will begin by giving you a blessing. When you finish your confession, you can open the door and go back to your pew. **Remember, you must also wear a mask!**

GIBAULT NEWS

Advent Service Project benefitting Monroe County House of Neighborly Service, now-Dec. 9. We are collecting holiday gifts for teenagers in need: curling irons, blow dryers, nail polish, make-up, bath sets, combs & brushes, pillows, blankets, gloves, scarves, and small gift cards. Donations of non-perishable food items are also being accepted. Donations may be dropped off at Gibault office during school hours.

Gibault Spirit Wear: Ship to school for free or to your home at an additional cost. <https://gibaultcatholicapparel.itemorder.com/sale>

Raffle-Mania time! Tickets \$25 each. Prizes: \$100 Early Bird Christmas Drawing (ticket must be purchased by December 15 to qualify). \$30 Daily Drawings on Monday-Friday from January 1 - May 31, 2021. \$100 Bonus Winner the last day of each month (January - April). GRAND PRIZES in May for \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250! If your ticket is pulled for a prize, it goes right back in, so you have the chance to win again! You can buy your ticket online at www.GibaultRaffle.givesmart.com or contact the school office at 939-3883.

Enrollment News: Applications for 2021-2022 are being processed. If you did not receive one, but would like to apply, contact our enrollment office at 939-3883.

For more information about Gibault, contact Director of Enrollment Kelly Day at 939-3883 or kday@gibaulthawks.com

We're #gibaultproud of: our boy's golfers who were named to the Metro East Golf Coaches' Association's All-Area Teams: Ian Bollinger & Ryan Bollinger (St. John the Baptist Parish –Red Bud).