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NOVEMBER 28, 2021 – 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



NOVEMBER 21ST OFFERTORY - \$2,443.00
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - \$268.00

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- There will be a **Christmas Celebration** following 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass in the Swinkey gym. All are welcome. More details to come!
- **The next Pastoral Council meeting** will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 16th in the gym.
- **The next Finance Council meeting** will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 13th at the HR parish office.
- **A Weekly Rosary** is prayed each Monday at 12:00 p.m. at St. Stephen. All are welcome to join and share their intentions, both spoken and unspoken.

~ HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL NEWS ~

- **Basketball Games** - the teams will participate in the S. Shelby Tournament this week. Girls play Monday at 4:00 p.m. and the boys play at 5:30 p.m.
- **Mass at 8:20 a.m.** on Friday, December 3rd, will be led by the first grade students.
- **As the season of Advent begins**, students will participate in activities and prayer to prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

~ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS ~

The December KC meeting will be held on Thursday, December 2nd with the rosary at 7:00 p.m., followed by the meeting. All are welcome to join with the Knights praying the rosary.

~ BLOOD DRIVE ~

The Monroe City Community Blood Drive sponsored by St. Stephen Catholic Church will be held at the KC Hall on Monday, November 29th from 12:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk in donors will be accepted! To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

~ CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL ~

James O'Donnell Life Celebration Home will hold a candlelight ceremony led by Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger and Pastor Olivia Earlywine on Sunday, December 12th at 3 p.m. to remember our loved ones who have passed. Call 573-735-1800 to reserve your place and receive a keepsake ornament.

~ CHRISTMAS IS CARING ~

Gift tags are available at church entrances. All donations need to be in by December 10th. Gifts do not need to be wrapped and may be dropped in the baskets at either church with tags firmly attached. Monetary donations can be mailed to Shannon Quinn, 622 James Lane, Monroe City or dropped in the collection basket and marked Christmas is Caring. For more information, contact Shannon at 573-289-6894.

~ DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS ~

Bishop McKnight: "For our children and youth: that the example of parents and other adults of the parish may foster a sense of openness to the Holy Spirit in their lives."

Pope Francis: "Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit."

MASS SCHEDULE AT ST. STEPHEN & HOLY ROSARY

DAY	LOCATION	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday November 28	St. Stephen* Holy Rosary	8:00 AM 9:30 AM	Bichsel Family Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
Tuesday November 30	Holy Rosary	7:30 AM	Gerry Spalding
Wednesday December 1	Holy Rosary	7:30 AM	Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary - living and deceased
Thursday December 2	Holy Rosary	7:30 AM	Joe Ralph Buckman
Friday December 3	Holy Rosary	8:20 AM	Patricia Mudd Yates
Saturday December 4	Holy Rosary*	5:30 PM	Tim Mudd
Sunday December 5	St. Stephen* Holy Rosary	8:00 AM 9:30 AM	Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary Harry Kendrick & Family

*Mass will be live streamed on Facebook @ "Greg Oligschlaeger"
<https://facebook.com/frgregolig>

RECONCILIATION

4:00-5:00 PM Saturdays at Holy Rosary
7:15-7:45 AM Sundays at St. Stephen or by appointment 735-4718

~ PASTOR'S NOTES ~

Dear Parishioners,

"Thank God!" This exclamation has often been uttered from my lips when a difficult task has been accomplished, when I finally get to talk to someone after waiting on "hold", or when one of my favorite sports teams wins a game that they were seemingly trying so hard to lose. I often utter these words in exasperation. Isn't that a shame?

Although I am truly thankful to God, gratitude needs to lead us to a sense of joy and appreciation. Because I am truly thankful for the gift of Faith and the freedom to practice our Catholic faith. I am grateful for the support other Christian brothers and sisters give me as we make up one Church that goes forth to meet the challenges of a materialistic society. I am thankful for both my immediate family and our parish family for helping me experience the love of God through their love and guidance. I am so thankful and more mindful this year for my good health and the blessings of modern medicine.

On this Thanksgiving weekend, I thank you for all you do to make our parishes an example of God's presence in our communities and workplaces. I thank you for your giving of time and resources to the ministry of our parishes. I thank you for your prayers and continued support of me as your pastor.

Today we begin the new liturgical year with the Advent Season.

The candles we light on the Advent wreath in church and in our homes are an important Advent symbol. Light builds and becomes brighter each week as we approach Christmas. The imagery of light is found in many places in our Advent scripture readings. In particular, from Isaiah, "a people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..." (Isaiah 9:2)

What does light do? It helps us to see; it points the way; and it scatters the darkness. We all know people who are in darkness. Many of us have gone through periods of darkness ourselves. Some of you may be going through a period of darkness right now. Advent announces the light that is to come; and that Light of Christ gives us Faith, Hope, Joy and Peace.

Not only is Advent a time to reflect on the Light that is to come (and that has already come), but it is an opportunity for us to be light in a world that is so often in darkness. This is the Light that guides toward Christmas just as profoundly as the Magi were guided by the star. Come, Lord Jesus, be our Light!

Prayers and Blessings,
Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger



PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER ~

Father, we lift up those today that are fighting disease and ailments, whether in mind or body. When they want to give up, give them fresh strength and courage. Comfort them in times of pain, give them peace in times of fear and bless them with your healing touch. Come Lord Jesus!

Caitlin Shively	Dorothy Ritter	Phyllis Campbell
Geoffrey Preckshot	Trent Zeiger	Kayla McAndrews
Jeff Thomas	Phyllis Taylor	Lakian Lehenbauer
Janice Kendrick	Richard Elliott	Rusty Adam
Regina Hays	Tim Quinn	John Kendrick
Dcn Mike Long	Hazel Smith	Sue Gilbert
Natalee Amos	Rosemary Evans	Deanna Buckman
Jackie Ryan	Logan Maher	Mark Leake
Bonnie Ess	Barbara Kendrick	Connie Kendrick
Nick Mudd	Michael Kellerman	Bill Smith
Teresa Ritter Toland	Frankie Maddox	

FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD along with Donna

As we begin this Advent season – “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 NAB

PSR – December 2021 Class dates:

- Grades K-6 – December 1, 8, & 15
- Grades 7-12 – December 5, 12, & 19

RCIA Sessions – next session will be December 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Holy Rosary Church basement. Our topic will be *The RCIA Process and Rites*.

“Prepare Ye” Advent Booklets – This is the weekly Advent preparation developed for our diocese. If you didn’t pick up a copy and would like one, please call me or stop by my office. I have a pdf copy that I can print for you.

FORMED.org – The Advent season begins today. If you are looking for an Advent study, try *Advent* on FORMED. There are 4 episodes and it also includes a downloadable leader guide and study guide. <https://watch.formed.org/advent-1>. If you need help downloading and printing, please stop in and see me.

To inquire about faith formation/religious education contact me, Donna Long, anytime at donnalong.hrss@gmail.com or call me at the rectory at 735-4718. My office hours are 8:00 a.m. to Noon, Monday through Friday.



All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":


O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind; bid ev'ry sad division cease and be thyself our Prince of peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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- November 28 - No PSR Classes
- November 29 - Swinkey rosary at Noon / Blood Drive
- December 1 - No HS Youth Group
- December 2 - KC meeting
- December 10 - Last day to turn in Christmas is Caring gifts
- December 12 - Candlelight Memorial at O'Donnell Funeral Home
- December 21 - Advent Penance Service at Holy Rosary 6:30 p.m.

Adoration Hours Available

Sunday: 2-3pm
Monday: 2-3am
Tuesday: 1-2am, 2-3am, 11-noon, 3-4pm, 10-11pm, 11-midnight
Wednesday: 1-2am, 2-3am
Thursday: 3-4am
Friday: 8-9pm, 9-10pm
Saturday: 7-8am



"Do you want our Lord to give you many graces? Visit Him often."
St. John Boscoe

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 5, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: *Baruch 5:1-9:* Rejoice, Jerusalem, and be glad! The glory of God will shine upon you. The mountains and valleys will become a level plain. "God is leading Israel in joy."

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6:* "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."

Second Reading: *Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11:* Paul prayed for the Philippians that the good work begun in them may be "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ."

Gospel: *Luke 3:1-6:* The word of God was spoken to John the Baptizer. From that time on he went about proclaiming a baptism of repentance, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Liturgical Assignments

November 28 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Sacristan	Dwayne & Madeline Williams
Greeter	Robert Keller
Rosary	Nancy Shively
Music	Jan Adam & Debby Quinn
Song Leader	Beth Whelan
Servers	Keaton Mudd & Tyler Hays
Cross Bearer	Steve Yates
Lector	Greg Maher
Offertory	Keith Hays
Communion	Madeline Williams, Kathy Anderson, Deanna
Ministers	Buckman, Mark Leake, Sally Lemongelli
Counters	Eric Keller, Gena Maher

December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sacristan	Dan Adam
Greeter	John Jansen
Rosary	Kaye Spalding
Music	Debby Quinn & Jan Adam
Song Leader	Julienne Burns
Servers	Kate Willingham & Ella Hays
Cross Bearer	Aaron Whelan
Lector	Mark McNally
Offertory	Phil Hays
Communion	Rose McNally, Laura Mulvaney, Julie Orf, Doug
Ministers	Orf, Marie Puro
Counters	Danny Sims, Joe & Marie Puro

December 12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sacristan	Kathy Anderson
Greeter	Ted & Judy Irons
Rosary	Katie Underhill
Music	Beth Whelan & Julienne Burns
Song Leader	Lee Anderson
Servers	Karlee Mudd & Ben Lemongelli
Cross Bearer	Acacia Hagan
Lector	Desiree Mudd
Offertory	Matt & Jennifer Hays
Communion	Nancy Shively, Mary Sims, Amanda Spalding,
Ministers	Peggy Spalding, Kay Turnbull
Counters	Danny Sims, Norma Rubison

Ushers for November

Darin Underhill, John Watson, Phil Whelan, Dwayne Williams

Ushers for December

Tom Winking, Chuck Wunsch, David Yates, Jim Yates

Pastoral Council: Chair - Doug Orf, V. Chair - Eric Keller, Sec - Carol Hagan, Lee Anderson, Danny Sims, Matt Hays

Finance Committee: Sec - Tom Hagan, Phil Whelan, Susan Winking, Desiree Mudd
K of C's: Grand Knight - Ed Bom, Deputy Grand Knight - Kevin Long, Recording Sec - Michael Maher, Financial Sec - Shane Spalding

Altar Society Officers: Pres - Lynn Ogle, Treas - Julie Hays, Sec - Marie Puro

Picnic Committee: Coordinator, Lee Anderson, Treas - Darin Underhill

Cemetery Committee: Pres - Joe Puro, Treas - Marie Puro, Dwayne Williams, Matt Hays, Shane Spalding, Dan Buckman