

Thirty-Fourth Sunday
In Ordinary Time
November 26, 2017

MASSES THIS WEEK:

Monday	November 27
8:05 a.m. -- +John McGreevy	
Tuesday	November 28
5:15 p.m. -- +Anna Zink	
Wednesday	November 29
8:05 a.m. -- +Joseph O'Grady	
Thursday	November 30
5:15 p.m. -- +Norman & Marge Becker	
Friday	December 1
8:05 a.m. -- +Det Van Tran	
Saturday	December 2
5:00 p.m. -- People of St. Mary's Parish	
6:30 p.m. -- +Thomaso Pham Quang Than	
Sunday	December 3
8:00 a.m. -- +Victor Urban	
9:30 a.m. -- +Jerry Short	
11:00 a.m. -- +Maria Tran Thi Nhu	

CONFESSIONS

Monday, November 27th at 8:30 am
Thursday, November 30th at 8:15 am
Saturday, December 2nd at 4:00 pm

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS

Sunday, November 19 th :	\$16,647.00
November to date:	\$60,924.00
Needed weekly:	\$17,500.00
Needed for month:	\$78,833.00

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

PLEASE PRAY for Elmer Zerr, Paul Schneider, Dolly Riedel, Greg Streit, Cindy Curran, and all those who are disabled, in rest homes and hospitals, and service personnel serving overseas. (Names will be on this list for 1 month and then removed unless notified otherwise.)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday	November 26th
No CYO	
Monday	November 27th
Faithful Families/9 am/Meeting Room #1	
Spiritual Reading Group/12 noon/2712 Deborah Dr.	
SMGS Council of Education/5:30 pm/Meeting Room A	
Adult Education/7 pm/Meeting Room #1	
Tuesday	November 28th
Cub Scout Committee/7 pm/Scout Center	
Wednesday	November 29th
P.R.E./6:45-8 pm	
Thursday	November 30th
One Stitch at a Time/6:30 pm/Meeting Room #2	
Finance Council/7 pm/Meeting Room #1	
Parish Choir Practice/7:45 pm/Church	
Saturday	December 2nd
Catholic Daughters/9 am/Sacred Heart Hall of Bishops	
1 st Reconciliation for 2 nd graders/10 am/Church	
Sunday	December 3rd
Knights of Columbus Christmas Party/2 pm/Parish Hall	
C.Y.O./6:00-7:30 pm/Youth Center	

Notes from the Pastor

Liturgically we have reached the end of our church year. The feast of Christ the King is the last Sunday prior to the First Sunday of Advent, and that is the beginning of a new church year. Why do we end and begin our church year at such an odd time? It all has to do with Christmas. December 25th was set up as the day when we would celebrate Christ's birth into the world because in the Northern Hemisphere this is relatively close to the Winter Solstice. The winter Solstice is the day when the sun is at its southernmost point on the horizon and thus it is the day when we have the least amount of sunlight during the day. From this point on it will appear the sun is moving back northward on the horizon and our daylight will increase. Early on the church wanted to use this to make a point. Darkness is threatening to cover the land, but the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, is born and Light begins to push back the darkness. That accounts for Christmas. The Church believed there needed to be a period of preparation time for the Feast of Christmas. A time to fast and pray in recognition that our sinfulness is what made it necessary for Christ to be born into the world in the first place. It started out fairly short, only several days, but over time more days were added, at one time as much as six weeks were observed. St. Gregory the Great in the late 500's defined that the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas would be the set period of time for preparation. Some years, like this year the 4th Sunday of Advent also happens to be Christmas Eve thus we have 4 Sundays of Advent but essentially only three weeks of advent.

Peace and Prayers, Fr. Kevin

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT WREATHS in the gathering area of the church contain tags with items that are needed during this holiday season for the families that we have adopted through Catholic Charities. If you wish to help, please remove a tag from the wreath, purchase **and wrap** the gift item, and bring the gift back **with the tag attached** by December 17th. Cash and gift cards should be left at the parish office. If you have any questions, please call Anne Jung at 23-6456. Thank you for your generosity. The **Birthingright wreath** will be placed in the gathering area beginning December 16/17.

LECTORS can pick up your copy of the new lector workbook in the Ministries Room after Masses this weekend. They will begin with the first Sunday of Advent which is December 3rd.

The PARISH CHOIR meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 pm in the church for rehearsals. They welcome new members for Advent and for the Christmas Eve Mass. For more information, please contact Larry Goscha at 825-5647.

ATTENTION K OF C MEMBERS: The Tri-Council Christmas Party for members and family will be Sunday, December 3rd. They will begin with caroling at 2:00 pm and then back to the parish hall for children's games and dinner. Meat and potatoes provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Please RSVP with number attending to grandknight@kofc8196.org.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: There is a sign-up sheet in the Ministries Room for the December 8th Holy Day Masses. We would appreciate your help by signing up for whichever Mass you may be attending.

MASS SCHEDULE for the December 8 HOLY DAY is as follows: Thursday, December 7th at 5:15 pm; Friday, December 8th at 8:05 am (SMGS students attending), 10:15 am (SHJSHS students attending), and 5:30 pm.

The PARISH OFFICE will be closed on December 8th in observance of the Holy Day.

SCHOOL NEWS

FAST CASH CALENDAR WINNERS:

Sunday, November 19 – Jeff Ehrlich
Tuesday, November 21 – Pat & Sarah Torrey
Thursday, November 23 – Albertha Adam

SHJSHS MUSIC BOOSTERS still have **BIEROCKS** for sale. They will be available to purchase after all Masses this weekend (Nov. 25/26) in the parish hall. Prices 6 for \$20. Proceeds will go to help fund the upcoming trip to Chicago.

FIRST FRIDAYS: Each month St. Mary's School commemorates First Friday with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:05 am liturgy. The student body says a rosary together led by the 6th grade class. Parents and friends are invited to attend. The next day they will have adoration is Friday, December 1.

EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION



BEST ADVENT EVER is a free email program to help you prepare for Christmas in a different way. Each day during Advent (beginning December 3) you will receive short inspirational videos, practical tips, or free Christmas music to help you slow down during the busy Christmas season to focus on what's really important. Sign up at: DynamicCatholic.com/SignUp.

AROUND THE CITY & THE DIOCESE



JOIN OTHERS in PRAYER AND ADORATION: On the last Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm, beginning November 26th, you are invited to join others to pray that our diocese will be blessed with a holy, loving, capable new bishop, and that we will all work together under his guidance as true disciples in the vineyard of the Lord. All are invited and most welcome to join!