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Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2014

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:30 AM Hannah Mattive
9:30 AM People of the Parish
12:30 PM Fr. Fanucci (Hispanic Mass)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00 AM Ann Dudasko
2:30 PM Frank Dull (Berwick Retirement Village)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00 AM Anna Kapuschinsky

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 AM Dr. Albert Kapsak

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 AM Anges Noroski

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

4:30 PM Edward Shalata

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:30 AM Benjamin Becker Sr.
9:30 AM People of the Parish

SANCTUARY CANDLE THIS WEEK: In memory of Jackie Christopher given by the Bible Study.

PEACE CANDLE: In memory of John Kertesz given by the Bible Study.

RESURRECTION CANDLE: In memory of Michael Caporaletti requested by Brenda

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE: In memory of Esther Pellegrino requested by Brenda.

THE ALTAR BREAD & ALTAR WINE that will be consecrated at all our Masses this week are in memory of Alec & Judy Decker given by daughter Valerie & family.



**IF YOU HAVE ORDERED
A COOKIE TRAY
YOU MAY PICK THEM UP IN THE
MEETING ROOM AFTER MASS
DECEMBER 13/14. THANK YOU!**

OPLAKY IS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

PARISH SUPPORT Offertory

December 7
Adults \$5511.00
Youth 21.00
Loose 414.00
Total \$5946.00

Meatball & Sauce Sale profit \$779.00

Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH DATEBOOK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL: 3:45 PM
NO BIBLE STUDY MONTH OF DECEMBER.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

DECORATE THE CHURCH 6:30 PM in the church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL at 7:00 PM.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

CCW BAKE SALE after all Masses. Parish Center.

CCD: Classes in session 10:40 AM to 11:55 PM

CHRISTMAS PLAY & PARTY DURING CLASS

SERVICE FOR THE LORD

Next Sunday, December 21

Saturday, 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Marston, Panzak, Eroh
Lector: Troiani
Altar Servers: 2
Greeters: Kubitsky

Sunday, 7:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Wolfe, Monatesti, Czajkowski
Lector: Ferentz
Altar Servers: 3
Greeters: M & W Andrzejewski

Sunday, 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: B & D DeLuca, Yalch
Lector: Kalie
Altar Servers: 1
Greeters: Reimiller & Thomas

Have you heard about the Mission Mall?

It is being held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Fifth and Race Street, Mifflinville. The dates are December 7th and 14th from noon until 3:00 PM. The mall will provide shoppers with a different kind of shopping experience. Instead of department stores, you will find charities. There are gifts of hope, love and comfort. Enjoy a hearty lunch and the big homemade "Cookie Sale." Hope you can check it out!

Volunteer Tutor: CSIU is in need of Volunteer Tutors. A minimum of a four year undergraduate degree is required. Please call Rhonda Gilliom at 570-523-1155 ext. 2327 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE



The **Epiphany dinner** sponsored by the **Ladies Council** will be held **Sunday, January 18, 2015** in St. Mary's Parish Center. It is a wonderful time of fellowship! The cost is \$14.00 and will be available in the Parish Office after the New Year

MORE THAN DISCIPLES

Each of today's four scriptural roles—disciple, prophet, apostle, herald—forms a facet of our life in Christ as we live it day by day. Isaiah tells us that a prophet is anointed, as we were anointed at our baptism in water and the Spirit, to bring glad tidings and to promote God's reign of healing, justice, and peace. An apostle, like Paul, is one who is "sent." Each of us, in his or her own way, is sent by Christ to be a voice of rejoicing, to encourage prophetic voices in the world, and to make sure that the work of the Spirit thrives. John the Baptist shows us the job of the herald, making the Lord's way straight, announcing the coming of the Light of the world.

Today we also hear from Mary, model disciple. Her song, the Magnificat, shows us the world we must believe in and work for: one in which God is praised, where God's favor is bestowed on the humble, where the hungry are filled and the rich are sent away empty, a world that continues to know and rejoice in the mercy of God that lasts for all ages.

"PINK CANDLE SUNDAY"

Deep purple is the liturgical color for Advent—except for the third Sunday, which is Gaudete Sunday. This week the liturgical vestments and the candle in the Advent wreath are a rosy tint to highlight the joy that the Lord's coming is almost here. The name derives from the Latin words of the Introit to the Mass:

"Gaudete in Domino semper; iterum dico, gaudete";
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: *Las Posadas* begins;
Hanukkah begins at sunset

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The tradition of anointing the sick with blessed oil is very old, but developed slowly and unevenly in the first eight centuries of the church's life. St. Augustine, who wrote volumes of homilies from his thriving church in North Africa, plus pastoral directives, letters, and memoirs, never mentions it at all. We know from ancient prayers that it did happen in Rome, Milan, Gaul, and the British Isles. In Rome the bishop blessed the oil of the sick, but it could be applied by a priest, deacon, or a layperson. It seems that sick persons could even anoint themselves. St. Genevieve of Paris was known for anointing the sick in her care.

Perhaps inevitably, complaints of abuses, and even trickery by sorcerers, brought an end to this consoling practice. In a dangerous world with a dispersed population, clerics may have preferred that this hands-on care was a lay privilege. The purpose of anointing, however, was not simply healing, but forgiveness of sin and an experience of saving power of Christ. By the year 800, dioceses everywhere were organizing rituals for priestly anointing. Although anointing of the sick is reserved to priests today, perhaps this treasured memory will enrich the future of the sacrament.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday, December 20.....2:00 – 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES
Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24
Children's Mass.....5:00 PM
Festival of Carols and
Blessing of the Crèche.....10:30 PM
Vigil Mass.....11:00 PM
Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25..... 9:30 AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Wednesday, December 31.....5:00 PM
Thursday, January 1.....9:00 AM