



Any questions – call Ann at 570-752-7309.

# Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2014

Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill  
shall be made low.

— Isaiah 40:4

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:30 AM Gerri Oleksick  
9:30 AM Dr. & Mrs. Robert Brennan

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory  
7:00 PM Catherine Sosky

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:00 AM Anthony Tyler Cicerchia

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00 AM Elizabeth Pirnick

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00 AM Rebecca "Betty" Lurowist

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00 AM JoAnna Ursi

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

4:30 PM Paula Robsock

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

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**SANCTUARY CANDLE THIS WEEK:** In memory of Salome & Joseph Zukas requested by the Kutza's.

**PEACE CANDLE:** In memory of Francis D. Ambrose requested by Joselle Kinney.

**RESURRECTION CANDLE:** In memory of Dorothy Troiani requested by her family.

**BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE:** In memory of Joseph Gurns requested by Joselle Kinney.

**THE ALTAR BREAD & ALTAR WINE** that will be consecrated at all our Masses this week are in memory of Anna & Steve Caporaletti requested by their daughter.

**CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES** to Kallie Grasley and Mitchell Briggs who were married here last weekend.

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### 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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!

## PARISH SUPPORT

November 23		November 30	
Adults	\$4696.00	Adults	\$4283.00
Youth	34.00	Youth	24.00
Loose	471.00	Loose	337.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5201.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4644.00</b>

Matthew 25 Collection: \$1023.00

The additional collection next week is a diocesan offering for the Retired Religious Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

**LENTEN APPEAL** payment for December is now due. For proper credit please send payment & coupon to Diocese of Harrisburg, HCAS-LA, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710. This will be the last coupon payment; if you do not make your payments it is taken out of church funds. Thank you for your faithfulness to this appeal!

## PARISH DATEBOOK

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

**MEATBALL & SAUCE SALE** – parish center  
After all Masses. \$8.00 meatballs/\$4.00 sauce

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will meet 7:00 PM at their home, 1416 W. Front Street.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL** at 7:00 PM.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

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## SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, December 16**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Decorate the church**

**MANY HANDS NEEDED**

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD**

**Next Sunday, December 14**

**Saturday, 4:30 PM**

Eucharistic Ministers: B & D DeLuca, Eroh  
Lector: Woodeshick, K  
Altar Servers: 6  
Greeters: N & D Whitko

**Sunday, 7:30 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers: Edwards, Kilcullen, Curry  
Lector: Wark  
Altar Servers: 4  
Greeters: R & M Crake

**Sunday, 9:30 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers: Samsel, Wharton, Canouse  
Lector: Belford  
Altar Servers: 5  
Greeters: P & J Kachurka

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**THANK YOU** to everyone who responded to the Thanksgiving Food Drive! Your generosity fed many families who depend on the food cupboard! May you be blessed in abundance.  
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**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent;  
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Tuesday: St. Juan Diego  
Wednesday: International Human Rights Day  
Thursday: St. Damasus I  
Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Saturday: St. Lucy

**EXILE**

Both Isaiah and Peter had the task of comforting and encouraging their communities during times of exile. The Israelites were in geographic exile from Israel; to them this was, in effect, the same as being in exile from their God. The early Christians, following the Resurrection, expected an immediate return of Christ in glory; they, too, felt in "exile" as the delay of the Second Coming grew longer and longer. All four of scripture's authors today—Isaiah, the psalmist, Peter, and Mark—hasten to help us see things in God's terms, not ours. They want us to know that we can never truly be exiled from God, or from God-among-us, since we know that when the faithful are gathered, Christ has come into their midst. Instead, we are encouraged today to do what we can from our end to shorten the time of our exile: to repent of our sins, to return our lives to the Lord, to live as people who seek the coming day of the Lord, when "kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss" (Psalm 85:10).

**OPLAKY IS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Have you seen *Antiques Roadshow* on television? People bring attic treasures to experts for appraisal and possible cash. Catholic attics, or maybe Grandma's wall, often hold a "sick call crucifix." It is a curiously bulky crucifix hiding a sliding panel and a secret compartment. Two tiny candles, a squeeze bottle of holy water, a stringy purple mini-stole, a tube of prayers, and some cotton balls are all hidden inside. The cross folds up to form a mini-altar that can be propped up by a sick person's bed. All that is needed is a priest with the oil of the sick and Holy Communion. Forty years ago, when these crosses enjoyed great popularity, the sacrament of the sick was often an encounter between priest and sick person alone, and often only in a last crisis of illness.

Gradually, we are reclaiming the sacrament of anointing from this minimal, hidden expression. It is celebrated more richly and more often, even in the Sunday assembly, at every stage of illness and across a wide range of human suffering. The "sick call crucifix" is not a tradition, it is a curiosity from another time, but it reminds us of true tradition: we are a people who care for our sick, who accompany them in faith, and who sustain them with an experience of Christ's presence.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**  
**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**  
Thursday, December 11.....7:00 PM

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
Saturday, December 13.....2:00 - 4:00 PM  
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

**THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8  
IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

It commemorates Mary's conception without the stain of original sin; this feast is an ideal time to renew our baptismal promises and remember that through our baptism we, too, are brought into new life with Christ