

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Christianity: The Call to Love and Serve

Dear parishioners of Most Holy Trinity,

This Sunday, the last Sunday of Advent the Gospel reflects on St. Joseph's obedience to the Lord. On the 4th Sunday of Advent we normally reflect on Mary's ascent to the Angel Gabriel, but in this cycle of readings, taken from the Gospel of St. Matthew, the evangelist gives us St. Joseph, the just and righteous man as our preparation to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus our Savior.

This is so important because the Scriptures are reminding us that God came into the world, not in some sci-fi or mythic way, but in the midst of a family. The Word of God is reminding us of the centrality of the family of God; again, not just some biological agents, but people dedicated and set apart for God. In both Mary and Joseph's lives we see two people who have made difficult choices in order to obey God's plan. Doing God's will is rarely easy, it demands humility, surrender, dying to self and most of all, love for God and neighbor. We are reminded in the first epistle of St. John "if we say that we love God, whom we cannot see, and hate our brother or sister who we do see, then we are a liar." (*1 John 4:20*) Talk is cheap. Love is costly and sacrificial.

I've asked our seminarians, Brian, Josh and Randy along with Sr. Holy Family and Sr. Brianne Feldpausch, to share with us what happening in their journey to dedicate themselves to Christ and His Church. Pray for them and all those that are making sacrificial choices in order to love and serve the Lord.

God bless, Fr. Dennis



So far, this semester has been flying by and the Lord has been doing incredible things in my life. One of the biggest blessings of the semester is being able to go to a nursing home and bring the residents communion. They have such great faith and it is an incredible honor to be able to walk with them through the last stages of

life. Another blessing has been being able to start taking more of a leadership role within the seminary. I have been in seminary for three years, so I have the experience to be able to walk with the new guys and help them adjust to way of life of the seminary. I can remember when I was a new at the seminary and looking up to the older guys, so it is cool to be on the other side of that divide. This semester has also been challenging because I have been taking five classes instead of the normal four. But the Lord has even used this experience to draw me closer to him by teaching me to remain rooted in him especially when life is busy. This lesson has not always been easy to live out, but it has made a great difference in my life. The Lord has done a lot for me so far this semester and I am looking forward to seeing what else he has in store, especially next semester since I will be spending the semester studying abroad in Rome. Please pray for me and I will keep all of you in my prayers.

~Randy Koenigs knecht



Throughout the semester, the Lord has been showing me the little ways he is calling me to martyrdom. This process started when a priest at seminary gave a homily about this topic and encouraged us to accept the union that Christ desires for us through our suffering. I started to pray about this, and it has been in the

back of my mind ever since. At random times throughout the day, when something irritating or disappointing happens, I hear the Lord's invitation to me to pick up my cross and follow him. I have a greater sense of how Jesus wants to accompany me through my struggles and the joy my little crosses can bring when they are united to the Cross of Jesus Christ. Before this new perspective, I would simply see these situations as a useless burden and avoid them at all costs. Now when these situations present themselves, I do my best to embrace them as Jesus embraced his cross and thank God for my dependence on him. I do not do this perfectly by any means, but I have been blessed this semester to grow in my ability to see my crosses in a new way and enter into the union that Christ desires for me through them.

~Josh Luttig



Overall, this has been a difficult semester. One thing which has contributed to this is the academics. The four classes I'm taking this semester are among the hardest that I will take while at college seminary. A lot of the material is very abstract, which has been tough to comprehend at times. In addition to this, until

recently, I hadn't experienced much consolation in prayer this semester. Through these challenges, the Lord has been calling me to lean more on him, especially when I am

weak. A special grace I have recently received is simply knowing that God loves me. Yeah, I know, this sounds like some canned, overused sentiment, but for one of the first times in my life, the Lord has shown me not only the reality of his love for me, but also how much he has freely blessed me throughout my life without me earning any of it. It is amazing how far-reaching his love is for me, and how far it is beyond my understanding. This insight into God's love has definitely been the highlight of my semester. We want to thank everyone for all the ways you support us as we discern our vocations in the seminary, especially for those who pray for us!! Without people interceding for us, we could never grow to become the men God is calling us to be! Know of our prayers for you. God bless!

~Brian Arbrustmacher



Hello from the Motherhouse of the Religious Sisters of Mercy (RSM) of Alma, Michigan! Since entering the community on August 1st, I have met multiple priests and religious who know our Fowler faith community – one Sister referred to the area of Fowler, Pewamo, and Westphalia as the “trifecta Holy Land of Michigan!” There are ~100 RSMs in our community with seven

of us new Postulants (aka “first years”) – 3 from Michigan, 1 from Washington DC, 1 from Seattle area, 1 from Germany, and 1 from Australia. They are absolutely beautiful women, and I feel so blessed that the Lord chose the seven of us to enter together.

As RSMs, every moment is consecrated to our Lord as an expression of prayer and praise. We rise at 4:30am most mornings, so that we may pray the Liturgy of the Hours, meditate on Scripture, and have daily mass before breakfast. Many of the perpetually professed Sisters then depart for their apolostates, which is in healthcare and/or teaching for most RSMs. In the morning, we Postulants typically have a work project (i.e. cleaning, mowing, weeding, etc.), and then the Postulants and Canonical Novices (“second years”) have an additional silent Holy Hour. After lunch, we either have a work project or class on theology, philosophy, and/or Scripture – all of which I absolutely love! Stretching my mind to learn more about our Lord truly deepens my prayer life and relationship with Him. We then have a community Holy Hour, which includes Adoration, praying the rosary, and the Liturgy of the Hours. After dinner, we have community recreation, and then end the day with Compline (aka night prayer). Our time in prayer grounds and fuels us to live in complete surrender to God's Will each day.

I am amazed by how natural it feels to be here; it feels like this is what I was made for! So much strength comes from our prayer – it is the most important thing we do as brides of Christ. On Saturdays, we Postulants do not have our additional Holy Hour before lunch, and I definitely notice its absence – I long for that extra time with our Lord. Our lives are rooted in prayer, and everything else flows from that.

Before entering, I knew the amount of time we dedicate to prayer would be a jump for me, but I trusted that if this is where God is calling me, He would continually provide the graces needed and more. When we trust in the Lord, His plans are way more amazing than anything we could plan

for ourselves, and He is full of such great sweetness that nothing else compares. I recently read that our very pulse proclaims God's sustaining presence with us, and the beauty on earth is but a shadow of His glory and His beauty. God has been pouring His graces into my heart to grasp these as the truths they are.

There is so much joy in knowing, loving, and following our Lord – He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and He alone can satisfy the thirsting and longing in our hearts. A few weeks ago, I checked in on one of our elderly Sisters who was sleep-talking while napping – she was praying Hail Mary's aloud while sound asleep! That is how I hope to be someday. Our baptism as Catholic Christians is both a privilege and a responsibility – let us not waste this short and transitory life on earth. Thank you for your continued prayers, and please know that you remain in mine!

~Sister Brianne Feldpausch



Thanks be to God for all the young people entering religious life/seminary from our parish! In September I completed four years living in Europe as a missionary Sister in the Institute Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará. First I was in Italy, then in the Netherlands for two years, and I am about to start my third year in Ireland. It has truly been an adventure that I never dared to dream of even as a teenager when I was picturing myself back packing across Europe. Sitting in Fowler High senior year I would often find myself day dreaming of Old Europe and I wanted to get to know it from the inside. I knew that my desire was rather unrealistic and that, at most, I would be able to see it as a tourist if I could save up enough money. Little did I know that God was planning exactly how to fulfill my longings and I can attest that His plans are always better than ours. Not only have I gotten to know other cultures, languages, customs, and landscapes, but I have had the best lens to look through: the faith. In Christian Europe I have seen much of the unspeakable beauty that made St. Elizabeth Ann Seton abandon her American Protestantism and dedicate herself to God in His Catholic Church. Although Europe is suffering through a trial of faith right now I truly believe that Christ wants His Kingdom to have a renaissance in the hearts of these peoples. The Missionaries who have come here with Hope and Love are returning the favor done for us so many years ago when those holy missionaries came from Europe to bring the Good News to the New World. I am so blessed to have been called here to play my small part in the salvation of these beautiful souls. I thank you all for your prayers and support.

~Sr. Holy Family

Director of Music Ministry
Kayla Feldpausch - kayla.mhtmusic@gmail.com

4:30 Christmas Eve Mass:
Arrive in choir loft at 4:00 PM on Dec. 24.



Parents of newly trained servers:

MHT Students who recently trained as altar servers will begin appearing on the server schedule in January. Please check the schedule regularly so that your child is able to learn hands-on with experienced servers. Thank you!



Liturgical Needs

Would you like to remember a loved one? Would you like to do something in their memory? We regularly need to

repair and purchase new liturgical items. Our chalices for the distribution of the Precious Blood are in need of restoration, some of our altar server albs need to be replaced. There are also many other needs we have.

If you would be interested in donating towards our liturgical needs in memory of a loved one, please contact Fr. Dennis at fr_dennis@hotmail.com or call the parish office 989-593-2162.

Principal of Most Holy Trinity School
Anne Hufnagel—AnneH@mhtparish.com

By connecting our Catholic faith to life, we at Most Holy Trinity School seek to fulfill Christ's mandate to proclaim the Gospel, restore all things in Him, strive to lead our students to the Truth for the betterment of this world and prepare them for the age to come.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, January 6

Tuesday, January 7

Wednesday, January 8

Classes Resume

Mass @ 8:15 a.m.

Math Club 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee Winners: Our annual spelling bee sponsored by the Knights of Columbus was held on Friday, December 6, at 1:00 p.m. Two levels of competition were held. Level II included students in grades 4 – 6 and was won by 5th grade student Quinten Esch, son of Glenn & Mary Esch. Second place was earned by Isabella Halfmann, daughter of Greg & Katie Halfmann. Third place was awarded to Nicholas Smith, son of Terry & Michelle Smith. In the Level I competition, which consisted of students in grades 7 & 8, first place was earned by Mary Spitzley, daughter of Dan & Melissa Spitzley. Alexander Warnke, son of Al & Agnieska, earned 2nd place honors. And finally, Ben George, son of Chris & Kathy George, earned a third place finish.



Level II Winners: Isabella, Quinten & Nicholas



Level I Winners: Alexander, Mary & Ben

Baby Jesus: *In the face of the hatred and anger of the world we must bring the gentleness and the smile of the Infant Jesus of Bethlehem. In face of the pride of the world we must bring the littleness and powerlessness of the tiny new born baby of the crib. – Little Sister Magdeleine*



**Opportunities to grow in holiness:
Advent/Christmas 2019-2020**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions every Saturday from 3:00 till 4:00 pm.

The Holy Christmas Season

Christmas Vigil Masses

Tuesday, December 24th
4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm.

Christmas Day, December 25th

9:00 am.

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 28th at 4:30 pm.
Sunday, December 29th at 8:30 and 10:30 am.

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

**holy day of obligation*

Tues., Dec. 31st at 4:30 pm, Weds., Jan. 1st at 8:15 am.

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 4th at 4:30 pm.

Sunday, January 5th at 8:30 and 10:30 am.

**blessed chalk will be given out for the blessing of homes*

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 11th at 4:30 pm.

Sunday, January 12th at 8:30 and 10:30 am.

**water will be blessed at the liturgies for the faithful to use for devotional purposes – bring a container*

Returns for Vocations Reminder

If anyone wishes to donate returnables, including holiday and Christmas party returns, at any time they can be dropped off at the Koenigsknecht Farm or we will pick them up. Please call Kurt Koenigsknecht 224-4058 or Agnes Koenigsknecht 593-2614 to arrange for pickup.



Decorating for the Christmas season will take place on both **Sunday, December 22 at 11:30 am** and **Monday, December 23 at 9:00 am**. On Sunday, the trees will be assembled and decorated and other items accomplished depending upon the number of volunteers. On **Monday, December 23 at 9:00 am** we will clean and dust, tidy the pews, arrange the creche and poinsettias and accomplish other items based upon the number of volunteers. A listing of all that needs to be accomplished is posted on the pro-life bulletin board.

What goes up must also come down. Take down of all the décor will take place on **Sunday, January 12 at 11:30**. Many volunteers are also needed to accomplish much.

Please consider giving of your time and talent for helping on any or all of these days. If you have any questions, please contact Susie Koenigsknecht (593-2490). Thank you and may God bless!

ATTENTION READERS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS, AND USHERS

The three month schedules will no longer be mailed individually. They can now be found on our website, along with printed copies in the back of church. Please be sure to take one home for your reference. Thank you!

From the Parish Office

Early Bulletin Deadlines: All submissions for the January 5 bulletin are due Mon, Dec. 23 at 8am.

Holiday Office Hours: The parish office will be closed Tues., Dec. 24 - Fri, Dec. 27, & Dec. 31/Jan. 1.



Knights of Columbus Christmas Party

The KC's will be having their Christmas Party on Sat, Jan. 4th at 6:00 pm at the Fowler Hall on Main Street. All members and their families are invited to attend. The council will provide meat, potatoes, drinks, & place settings. We ask everyone to bring a dish to pass. If you are able to attend, please contact Bruce & Kathy Simon at 989-593-3642 or bsimon@4wbi.net with a count for your family.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, Dec. 23 in the MHT Activity Center.
Donate from 1:00 - 6:45pm.

Scrip that is kept on hand will be available in the parish office from 8am - 12pm, 1-3pm. the following dates: **Mon., Dec. 23 & 30, Thurs. Jan. 2, Fri. Jan. 3**



ScripNow and Reloads will still be available during Christmas break. Don't forget to stock up on Scrip for the all your holiday needs shopping, dining, entertainment and hotels. Scrip gift cards make great gifts. Visit shopwithscrip.com for a complete list. If you would like to learn more about the scrip program and how you can use it to help defray the cost of a Catholic Education visit the Parish website or contact the school



The Rosary is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is for the hope and anticipation of this Advent season to continue to fill hearts and families with gratitude to our Lord Jesus.

Sponsor of the Week

Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish.

Hengesbach's Processing



Wedding Banns

First Publication

Arthur Richardson, son of Char & Bill Richardson
Gabriella Horak, daughter of Paul & Vicki Horak



Aiden Frederick Epkey, son of Matt and Jenna (Bastianello) Epkey

We welcome **Aiden** to our parish family.

Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering, especially: Ardith Graham, Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Jeffrey Lee Thelen, Luke Martin, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulte, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Linda Rogala, Sarah Weber, Julie Wieber Schafer, Bill Barns, Bob Marshall, Dennis Smith, Sandy Herta, Dick Rehmann, Janet Simmon, Scott Kus, Steve Thelen, Tracy Schmitt, Frank Hufnagel, Marie Weber, Jenine Kloeckner, Jennifer Ledger, Josiah Ledger, Jordy Wohlscheid, Jennifer Grace Schrauben, Janet Simon, Dale Young, Richard Bushamp, Therese Kramer, Christopher Martin, Theresa Heeg, Jeff Wadell, Charles Wadell, Chuck Welch, Jeanne Alaga, Milo Platte, Timothy D. Thelen, Marilyn Dixon, Richard Rodgers, Carolee Smith, Charles Miller, Father Den Morrow, Gary Schueller, Ray Hamilton, Ralph Feldpausch, Dane VanElls, Jeff Shriver and a special intention.

Please contact the office to add or remove a name from the list. Thank you.

Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.

**Our Parish Stewardship
 God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity**

Dec 14 & 15 Collection \$11,653.00

Special Collections

Immaculate Conception \$178.00
 Flowers \$453.00
 Newspapers \$5.00
 Retirement for Religious \$650.00
 Christmas \$155.00
 All Saints \$5.00

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 22, 2019

Monday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1:6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Thursday Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22
Friday 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8



MASSES FOR THIS WEEK



Monday - December 23

8:15 a.m. + Dolores Schueller & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Tuesday - December 24

4:30 p.m. + Larry Klein (11th Anniversary) Including Carolyn & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

7:00 p.m. + Helen Frechen & Family

9:00 p.m. + Henry & Jeannette Howard

Wednesday - December 25 - Christmas

9:00 a.m. + Emily Goerge & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Thursday - December 26

8:15 a.m. No Mass

Friday - December 27

8:15 a.m. No Mass

Saturday - December 28

4:30 p.m. + Donna Piggott (40th Anniversary)

Sunday - December 29

8:30 a.m. People of the Parish

10:30 a.m. + Norbert & Marian Pohl & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

USHERS FOR DECEMBER 24 & 25

Tues., 4:30 p.m. - 4 Volunteers Needed

Tues., 7:00 p.m. - John Hufnagel, 3 Volunteers

Tues., 9:00 p.m. - Tony Schafer, 3 Volunteers

Weds., 9:00 a.m. - Bruce Schafer, Clare Thelen, 2 Volunteers

USHERS DECEMBER 28 & 29

4:30 p.m. - Gary Weber, Jerome Klein, Clare M. Thelen, Mike Koenigsknecht

8:30 a.m. - Tim Koenigsknecht, Paul Pung, Ryan Pung, Kurt Koenigsknecht

10:30 a.m. - Brent McCarty, Roy Witgen, Neil Feldpausch, Volunteer

SERVERS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Ella Hufnagel, Braxton Myers

Tues., 4:30 p.m. - Nate & Kate Spicer, Jonah Thelen, Jonathan Koenigsknecht

Tues., 7:00 p.m. - Collin Feldpausch, 3 Volunteers needed

Tues., 9:00 p.m. - 4 Volunteers needed

Weds., 9:00 a.m. - 4 Volunteers needed

Thurs., 8:15 a.m. - No Mass

Fri., 8:15 a.m. - No Mass

SERVERS FOR DECEMBER 28 & 29

4:30 p.m. - Volunteers needed

8:30 a.m. - Caiden & Chase Pung, Ella Hufnagel

10:30 a.m. - Christi, Mary, & Augustine Spitzley, Jonathan Fowler