

Notes from Barb!

† Congratulations to Jeanette Ellingsworth and Terry Jarvis on their marriage!

† Thanks to all who helped change out books and put up Advent decorations!



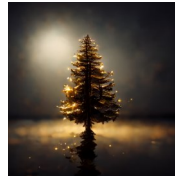
† The feast of the **Immaculate Conception** is Dec. 8. We will have the vigil mass here on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 5:30pm. If you can serve as lector or Eucharistic ministers, please let me know.

† Next week's special collection is for the Religious Retirement Fund. Envelopes are at the church entrance and can be put in the regular collection

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Boniface went as a missionary to Thuringia (now Germany) where they practiced infant sacrifices at the Oak Tree of Thor. On Christmas Eve he went to the tree to prevent the sacrifice. He took one swing at the tree and it fell! Behind it was a small evergreen. St. Boniface is remembered as saying:

“This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace... It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are ever green. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness.”



And that is why we have Christmas trees in our homes.

First Sunday of Advent **Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2b-7**

It Must Be God's Fault

It must be God's fault. That's the conclusion Isaiah reaches. And who of us hasn't thought the same? If things don't go our way, if someone hurts us, if someone leaves us—even if the mess is our own fault—we blame God.

People sin, but Isaiah asks God, “Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways?” People show no remorse, but Isaiah asks God, “Why do you harden our hearts so that we fear you not?” Must be God's fault.

Isaiah's prayer opens the season of Advent because of a specific request it makes. “Rend the heavens and come down.” In the midst of our misfortune, sorrow, and sin, when we realize our own strength fails to make life any better, to eliminate hurt, or to erase the past, we finally turn to God for a solution. Let there be no veil concealing heaven from earth. Let God rip it open, come down here, and save us from the messiness of life.

God did just that on the first Christmas Day.

As we stand on the threshold of another Advent, we ask God to do it again. Even if our mess isn't God's fault, we need God's help to set us free.

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Saint Mary's Village Church
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December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



Parish Life Coordinator
Barbara Black
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812-240-8092

Coordinator of Religious Education
Jena Robertson
jenaleerobertson@gmail.com
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Sacramental Minister: Fr. Darvin Winters

Sacramental Life

Weekend Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Fr. Darvin is available to hear confessions on Saturdays 4:00-4:20 at Sacred Heart or before Sunday Mass by appointment.

The sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony are arranged by calling the Parish Office to schedule preparation.

We welcome new members. To enroll call the Parish Office or contact Barb Black: plc@shjth.org or 812-240-8092.

Ministries		
Date	December 3	December 10
Lector	Flo Callahan	Caleb Fleschner
Server	Bronson Thralls	Owen Ramsay
Gift Bearers	Rohrbach Family	Scully Family
Ushers	Steve Norris & Waylon Robertson	Nick Savant & Tom McKinney
Eucharistic Ministers	Lana Thralls & Carol Cummins	Bonnie Warn & Kelly Stafford
Counters	Bob & Patty Kane	Jim & Flo Callahan
Cleaners	Marlene & Chris Smithson	Off week

Lector and Eucharistic Ministers needed for Dec. 7, 5:30pm. Let Barb know if you can help.



**TERRE HAUTE
CATHOLIC PARISHES/SCHOOL
COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
2:30PM-5:45PM
Give the gift of life!**

https://donate.indiana.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/157415


Mass Intentions:
December 3 John Sullivan
December 7 Tom Rogier
December 10 Bob Heck

Prayers Please for:
Mavis Barbour Russell, David Auterson, Dick Stultz, Joe Mangia, John Kirkham, Jonnie Hooper, Ray Edwards, Mary Ann Whal-lon, Lou Ann Wake, John Heck, Terry Jatczak, Sr. Jane Iannaccone, Regina Crow-ell, Jane Frazier, John Finley, Ray Veit, Dorene Rude, Clara Maywell.
Patrick O’Sullivan (Saudi Ara-bia)



Please let Barb know if any of these people can be removed from the list.

Birthday Blessing to:



Charleigh Stranahan 12-4
Caitlyn Wyrick 12-4
Patty Kane 12-6
Roseann Richey 12-7
Jody Stafford 12-9

Social Committee



TODAY Coffee & Donuts Basket &
Christmas Eve Pew Auction

Faith Formation
Classes as usual today.
Parts assigned for Christmas pageant next week!

Finance Report

	Nov. 26	Budgeted	Additional Donations	
Sunday Collection	\$1595	\$2308	Christmas Flowers	\$50
Galvin Fund Donations	\$	\$ 115		

Fundraising
Rocky’s Flower Shop cards
The fundraising committee is needing your help to sell flower cards. To make things a little in-teresting, the top 3 sellers will be given a prize which is dependent on how many cards as a whole are sold. We have 194 cards left. If we sell all of the cards, we will be making \$3810! You can take as many cards as you think you can sell. Any unsold cards can be returned.
Allergic to fresh flowers? You could bless someone else by donating your bouquet to a resident at a nursing home or assisted living.
Flower cards make great gifts, too!
We are hoping to sell all the cards by the end of the month to take advantage of a full year of flowers. **PLEASE HELP!**
Christmas Auction...We will be auctioning off several Christmas baskets as well as pews for the Christmas Eve Mass at Coffee & Donuts on Dec. 3.
SCRIP Get a head start on your holiday shopping! Amazon, Visa and a variety of other cards are available each week! Catch Sarah or Robin Wyrick!

Looking Ahead to Christmas...Be Aware!
This year, Christmas Eve falls on the 4th Sunday of Advent. We will be doing most of the decorating for Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 17 after mass. Flowers will be added later in the week. Your help is appreciated.
Since the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve, it was decided to not offer the morning mass. **THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASS ON SUNDAY Dec. 24!** There is still an obligation to attend mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent. Sacred Heart will offer that mass on Saturday at 4:30pm. Check with other parishes for their times.
The Christmas Eve Children’s Program will take place at 4pm with mass at 4:30pm.
THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT THE VILLAGE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.