

Notes from Barb!

- ✘ This week's special collection is for the Religious Retirement Fund. Envelopes are at the church entrance and can be put in the regular collection.
- ✘ This Sunday is the last chance to order gift cards that we don't normally carry in stock. Be sure to get your orders in!
- ✘ We will be decorating for Christmas after mass next Sunday. All help is appreciated!

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Paving a Direct Route

Whenever a highway changes from two lanes to four, you can often see the improvements. The old highway follows the dips and curves of the landscape. The new highway better controls the landscape. It is straighter and more level. The engineers have figured out how to improve the road, and citizens have supported the additional expense.

People like straight highways. They are quicker, safer and more pleasant.

In the prophecy of Isaiah, a voice cries out, "In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!" John the Baptist quoted this passage to prepare people for the coming of Jesus.

Make a straight highway in the wasteland. Fill in the valleys and lower the mountains. Make a smooth, direct road in your spiritual life.

During Advent we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in our lives. In the past we formed habits as sturdy as two-lane roads. They get us where we want to go, but sometimes not by the most direct route.

We have only a few weeks till Christmas. It is time to move the roadblocks and detours that keep us from encountering Christ. Hardness of heart, stinginess of time, or unbending habits—Which of these need repair on your highway toward Christ?

Written by Paul Turner. Copyright © 2008, Resource Publications, Inc., 888-273-7782, www.rpinet.com. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission from *Lectionary Bulletin Inserts, Year B: First and Second Readings.*

Saint Mary's Village Church
P.O. Box 155
St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876
812-535-1261
www.saintmarysvillagechurch.org

December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent



Parish Life Coordinator
Barbara Black
plc@shjth.org
812-240-8092

Coordinator of Religious Education
Jena Robertson
jenaleerobertson@gmail.com
812-243-5070

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 10	December 17
Lector	Caleb Fleschner	Steve Norris
Server	Owen Ramsey	Dallas Thralls
Gift Bearers	Scully Family	Sereno Family
Ushers	Nick Savant & Tom McKinney	Jody Stafford & Owen Ramsey
Eucharistic Ministers	Bonnie Warn & Kelly Stafford	Kris Toney & Pam Norris
Counters	Jim & Flo Callahan	Kay & Terry Jatczak
Cleaners	Off week	Kelly & Jody Stafford



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 10 Bob Heck
 December 17 The Holy Souls in Purgatory

Prayers Please for:
 Mavis Barbour Russell, David Auterson, Dick Stultz, Joe Mangia, John Kirkham, Jonnie Hooper, Ray Edwards, Mary Ann Whalton, Lou Ann Wake, John Heck, Terry Jatczak, Sr. Jane Iannaccone, Regina Crowell, Jane Frazier, John Finley, Ray Veit, Dorene Rude, Clara Maywell.
 Patrick O'Sullivan (Saudi Arabia)




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

Birthday Blessing to:



Isaiah Thralls 12-12
 Gene Rohrbach 12-14
 Richard Hiller 12-14
 Richard Schmidt 12-16

Faith Formation
 Parts assigned for Christmas pageant today!
 Practice next week!



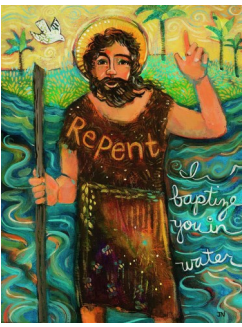
Finance Report

	Dec. 3	Budgeted	Additional Donations	
Sunday Collection	\$2482	\$2308	Christmas Flowers	\$25
Galvin Fund Donations	\$325	\$ 115		

Did You Know???

John the Baptist was Jesus's cousin. His father, Zechariah, was a priest in the Temple when an angel appeared and told him that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a son in their old age. They were to name him John. Zachary was hesitant to believe the angel and as a punishment, he was struck dumb until it came time to name his son.

We first hear of John as he leaps in the womb of his mother Elizabeth when Mary, who is pregnant with Jesus, arrives for a visit. It is believed that John spent much of his life in the desert in isolation before beginning his preaching ministry. Near the end of his ministry he baptized Jesus, pointing him out as the "Lamb of God".



John challenged the religious and secular authorities and was eventually beheaded.

Fundraising
 Thanks to all who participated in last week's auction!

Rocky's Flower Shop cards
 The fundraising committee is needing your help to sell flower cards. To make things a little interesting, 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!**

SCRIP
 Last chance to get special orders in to arrive before Christmas! Next week we will only be able to sell what we have in stock. We have Visa cards with no activation fee and a variety of other cards for shopping or gift giving! Catch Sarah or Robin Wyrick to get yours!