

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANKS FROM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**—Last week \$118 was collected for needy children. Thanks so much..

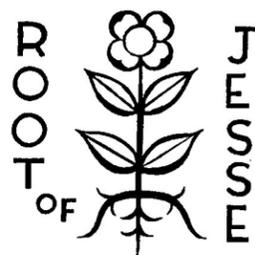
**GIVING TREE**—The giving tree is up in the gathering space. There are only a few ornaments left on the tree. Don't miss your opportunity to help a needy child have a nice Christmas. Gifts are due back by Dec. 16.

**ANNUAL SOCK COLLECTION**—We are collecting socks for the homeless again this year. Please have all sock donations in by December 13 when they will be picked up,

**COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS**—This collection to support our elderly religious brothers and sisters will be Dec. 12 & 13. Please be as generous as possible.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**—Mass for this holy day of obligation will be December 8th at 6:30 PM.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**—Dec. 24: 6:00 PM & 10:00 PM; Dec. 25: 9:00 AM



### FROM THE PRIEST – TWO CHRISTMASSES

This time of year seems to bring out the best and the worst in people anymore. We certainly hear of wonderful stories of giving and reuniting and cheer. However, we have all heard or seen stories about people who seem to bicker over everything in this season. Starbucks not using “Christmas” cups but “holiday” cups, the greetings wars (“Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays?”), and what some commentators call the “War on Christmas.” While this struggle can seem rather pointless, it does outline the growing divide in our country which produces two separate Christmases.

The first Christmas is the traditional Christian Christmas. This is the culture that has brought us everything we know and treasure about this time of year: Christmas trees and decorations, gift giving, caroling and feasting. This Christian celebration reaches its peak with the religious celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th, though the celebration does not end there. This is the culture in which everything is closed on Christmas not merely for being together with family, but for worshipping as a community of faith the birth of the Savior of the world.

Yet there is a more modern Christmas that has emerged in our day. While this one may look similar to the Christmas we know and treasure, it has begun to empty many of these customs and patterns of their greater and more religious meaning. Why should we give gifts if we are not celebrating the gift of salvation and mercy that the Christ Child offers? What is there to carol about if not the tidings of comfort and joy which Jesus' birth brings to us? What is the purpose of feasting if there is no consideration of our own unworthiness of this gift of Christ and an offering of our thanks to God for this unmerited gift?

This new holiday is the sappy and sentimental Christmas which has become saturated more with obtaining bargains and gifts rather than comfort and joy. This is the Christmas more concerned with manufacturing a false, “magical,” bourgeoisie gift-giver which has increasingly become a cause for doubt and skepticism in our young people instead of rejoicing in the godly witness of a saintly bishop supporting the poor and spreading the gift of the Gospel. This is the Christmas which begins at the latest on Black Friday and comes to a screeching halt on December 25th, as can even be heard with the absence of Christmas music on Christmas night (as I have sadly discovered from the radio the past few years).

We must not lose the reason for the season. Without Christ, these celebrations are vacuous attempts to fill the emptiness of this life. Let us heed the example of St. John the Baptist and prepare the way for the Lord to come on Christmas. Let us especially prepare ourselves through the reception of confession, cleansing ourselves of our sins to be truly prepared and eager for the Christmas celebrations to begin in earnest so soon.

*Fr. Jacob Straub*



### SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

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#### MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY ANTICIPATED MASS: 5:00 PM

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM

WEEKDAYS: See schedule inside bulletin

#### CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY: 4:00-4:50 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00-8:50 AM

WEDNESDAY: 5:30-6:20 PM

#### STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Jacob Straub (859) 445-2436

Religious Education: Roseanne Rawe (859) 635-1572

Bulletin/Prayer List: Linda Fryman (859) 240-2377

Parish History/Cemetery Info: Patty Neuspickel (859) 472-2508

## SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Nov. 22	\$973.00
Nov. 29	\$514.00
Seminarian Ed.	\$200.00

Please do not forget to mail or drop off your weekly offerings for our collection.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat. Dec. 5	5:00 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Sun. Dec. 6	9:00 AM	For Patricia Groeschel
Mon. Dec. 7		No Public Mass
Tue. Dec. 8	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> For Jerome & Elizaabeth Groeschel
Wed Dec. 9	6:30 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Thur Dec. 10	8:30 AM	For the Health of Jeffery Huffman
Fri Dec. 11		No Public Mass
<i>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>		
Sat. Dec. 12	5:00 PM	For Edward Stephany
Sun. Dec. 13	9:00 AM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish

**Prayer List**—Jerry Ehlman, Eileen Ehlman, Sherri Moffett, Kenny Neuspickel, Kathy Barth, Charles Taylor, Ed Gripshover, Joy Sowder, Kathy Proctor, Steve Elmlinger, Sarah Hoffman, Mary Louise Cross, Ken Steffen, Cotton Teegarden, Mike Newcomb, Fr. Mario Tizziani, Jeffery Huffman, Ed Grant, Don Bornhorst, Tom Geiman, John Hofstetter, Vernon Dixon, Bill Schneider, Chris Rauf, Katie Davis, Barry Bergman, Andrew Lauck, Bradley Franzen, and everyone who has been touched by the Corona virus.

**BIRTHDAYS** – Dec. 2- Andrea Huffman, Dec. 24-Patty Neuspickel, Dec. 26-Imogene Fisk, Dec. 29-Megan Oldiges, Dec. 30-Michael Ryan, Jan. 1-Mary Cross

**ANNIVERSARIES** – Dec. 7- Howard and Penny Kluesener, Dec. 13 -Rosanne and Bernie Rawe, Dec. 13 – Jason and Julie Feinauer



*The Immaculate Conception of Mary*

Feast: December 8

The celebration of the singular privilege given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in preparation for her role as the Mother of God; solemnly defined by Bl. Pope Pius IX in 1854

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### READINGS & HYMNS

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

O come, O Wisdom from on high  
Who ordered all things might-i-ly.  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

#### FIRST READING (Isaiah 40:1-11)

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings, cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (85)

R: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.  
R: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.  
Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

#### SECOND READING (2 PT 3:8-14)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

**Alleluia, alleluia.** Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

#### GOSPEL (Mark 1:1-8)

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going

out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

#### HYMN OF COMMUNION

*Christ, Be Our Light*

**Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness, Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

**Refrain**

#### CONCLUDING HYMN

*Ready the Way*

Ready the way of the Lord! Ready the way of the Lord! A voice cries out in the wilderness; Ready the way of the Lord! Let every valley be filled. Let every mountain be humbled; let every valley be filled.

**Refrain:**

Here is your God, coming with your vindication, Look and behold the saving power of God.

Desert and wasteland will bloom. Desert and wasteland will bloom. Glory and splendor will fill the land. Desert and wasteland will bloom.

Refrain

Here is your God, coming with your vindication, Look and behold the saving power of God.