

November 29, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. Joseph Church,

I hope that your Thanksgiving Day feasting prepared you well for the Season of Advent. We tend to overlook the Church's liturgical season in the face of our culture's emphasis on Christmas as an economic event. We are constantly bombarded with messages that urge us to buy, buy, and buy! Through the readings and prayers of Advent we are reminded to prepare, prepare, prepare! This preparation focuses on the return of Christ in triumph in the first part of the season, and only after Dec. 16 does our attention turn to the Nativity, or birth, of our Lord Jesus. To help with our preparation for what is ultimately important, here are the activities I will highlight.



- The Knights of Columbus will have the annual display of Nativity Sets in the Social Hall Dec. 1-2.
- The Advent Sunday Scripture Readings Class will meet on Dec. 4, 11, and 18. During these sessions, we will take an in-depth look at the upcoming Sunday Readings for Advent. These sessions are open to all interested persons.
- The Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8th) is a Holy Day of obligation. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 6:00 pm on Friday, Dec. 7 at St. Joseph. I will also preside at the 9:00 am Mass at IHM on the Holy Day. The Mass at 4:30 pm on Saturday is for the 2nd Sunday of Advent.
- At Noon on Dec. 8, the Confirmation Candidates will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance here at St. Joseph.
- The Parish Life Committee is sponsoring a Movie Night on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 pm
- The CCD classes will display Religious Symbols of Christmas after the Masses the weekend of December 8-9.
- In preparing for the return of Christ and the celebration of Christmas, Confession is literally good for the soul. All parishioners will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance at a Communal Celebration held in conjunction with our neighboring parishes at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Sunday, December 16, at 2:00 pm. There will also be a Penance Service at St. Catherine Church in Lake Milton on Thursday, December 20, at 7:00 pm.
- The Eucharist will be celebrated at St. Joseph at 4:00 pm on **Christmas Eve**, Monday, Dec. 24. I will preside at IHM at 5:30 pm. Fr. Arambasick will preside at the 10:30 pm Mass at IHM. St. Joseph will have Mass at 9:00 am on **Christmas Day**. I also have the 10:30 am Mass at IHM.
- The Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Dec. 31) will be at 4:00 pm here at St. Joseph and at 5:30 pm at IHM. The Holy Day Mass will be on Tuesday, Jan. 1, at 9:00 am at St. Joseph and 10:30 at IHM.

Due to information released by the Diocese of Youngstown, we will rename our small parish hall/meeting room. The new name is Mercy Hall.

I am eager to celebrate the holidays with all of you this year. Praying that God continues to bless and keep you, I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Gregory Fedor, VF, Pastor