



Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation! *(Psalm 85:8)*

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The readings for the First Sunday of Advent in this new Cycle B exhort us to be watchful and alert. It is a theme that continues from the last few Sundays. We are exhorted to live our lives always in the Lord, being ready for his return at any moment. We should wait for the day of his return longingly, and when he comes for us, we should go out with joy to meet Christ the Lord.

Next weekend we will have a national collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. This goes to help all of the retired nuns, priests and brothers in our country for their past service to us and to the Church. Please do what you can to help.

This coming Friday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. It is a holyday of Obligation. The parish office will be closed. There will be two Masses, at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Please plan ahead to attend one of these two Masses.

Soon you will be receiving my annual Christmas appeal giving you a summary of our present financial situation. We are facing a few hurdles at this time of the year and I ask that you be as generous as possible to help us in our present financial challenges

As we begin the holy season of Advent, I wish you many graces and blessings from the Lord. May the Lord, with his grace, also change our hearts, that we may be ever more dedicated to him and to our faith!

May God's grace always grow in your hearts!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL: \$74,133.25 has been paid on our 2017 assessment of \$132,297. We still owe **\$59,989.58.**

ELEVATOR FUND

Current Donations.....\$ 668,403.90
Goal.....\$ 800,000.00



PRAYERS PLEASE: For the repose of the soul of *Sang Dinh, Mother of Vuong Dinh*, who recently passed away in Vietnam. Please also pray for her family & friends in their time of need.



ADVENT ANGEL TREE: The Advent Angel tree is now up in the ramp area of the church. If you take an angel from the tree, please wrap the gift you have selected and tape the angel to your gift. Please return the gifts to the parish hall by Thursday, December 14, 2017. If you have questions, please call Jenifer Parsons at 681-9368 or 244-3101 ext. 204. Thank you!



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2 TO DECEMBER 10

TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS

SAT 02	4:00PM	+Danny Papich
	6:00PM	Spanish Mass
SUN 03	8:30AM	+Hoa Nguyen (Peter)
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
MON 04	12:00PM	+Berenedene Castelline
TUE 05	12:00PM	+Elizabeth Brien
WED 06	12:00PM	+Carl & Florence Reelitz
THU 07	12:00PM	+Rachel Hanian
FRI 08	<i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception/Holy Day of Obligation</i>	
	12:00PM	+Kay Davis
	7:00PM	Friends/Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters, FEHJ
SAT 09	9:00AM	Living Deceased Members of Altar & Rosary Basilica Seminarians
	(Vigil Mass)	
	4:00PM	+Ron Weindel, Zach Walz, David Rachuy, & Andrew & Dorothy Wieberg
SUN 10	8:30AM	Intentions of Maria Nguyen Family
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors

THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:

www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn

<http://basilica.churchcastonline.com> *(live from your computer)*

PRAYER CHAIN: Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com or Terri at 321-2743 or sinc2@aol.com.

CATECHISM CORNER:

Last week's question:

Why is the Church called the "Bride of Christ"?

ANSWER: She is called the "Bride of Christ" because the Lord himself called himself her "Spouse" (Mark 2:19). The Lord has loved the Church and has joined her to himself in an everlasting covenant. He has given himself up for her in order to purify her with his blood and "sanctify her" (Ephesians 5:26), making her the fruitful mother of all the children of God. While the term "body" expresses the unity of the "head" with the members, the term "bride" emphasizes the distinction of the two in their personal relationship.



The Basilica of St. John
First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2017

Respect
Life



YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK DECEMBER 4 THRU DECEMBER 10		
MON 04	9:00AM 1:00PM 6:00PM 7:00PM 7:00PM	Adoration Begins@ Youth Choir Dress Rehearsal## Folk Group Practice## RCIA** KC Council Meeting+
TUE 05	12:45PM 4:30PM 6:00PM 7:00PM 7:00PM	Conference Room in use% NO Columbus Academy Class** Hispanic Room in use** Bible Study** Youth Choir Concert & Reception##+
WED 06	9:00AM 9:30AM 6:15PM	Adoration Begins@ Bible Study+ Religious Ed. **
THU 07	8:00AM 5:45PM 7:00PM	Organ Practice+++ Choir room in use+++ Choir Practice+
FRI 08	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception <i>(Parish Office Closed)</i> 9:00AM NO Adoration 9:00AM Columbus Academy Class**	
SAT 09	8:30AM 9:45AM 10:00AM	Chaplet of Divine Mercy## NO Altar & Rosary Meeting+ Communal Penance
SUN 10	8:00AM 12:00PM	Vietnamese Prayer Group+ Pro Life Meeting+
SIGN INDICATORS +++ = Choir Loft; ** = School; @ = Chapel; * = Rectory + = Church Hall; ## = Church; % = Conference Room; (N) = (North Hall); (S) = (South Hall)		
Daily Scripture Readings for the week of December 4, 2017: Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8		



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR THIS WEEKEND: The 2017 Parish Christmas Bazaar sponsored by the Altar & Rosary Society is this weekend—Saturday from 3-6pm and Sunday 8am-2pm. There will be homemade soups, tamales & beef sandwiches available for eat-in or carry out. Cinnamon rolls will be served on Sunday. There will also be crafts and vendor tables, quilt raffle and white elephant sale. Proceeds benefit the parish.



CATHOLIC YOUTH CHOIR OF CENTRAL IOWA: Will present its annual Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00 pm at the Basilica of St. John. Please come and enter into the beauty of this sacred season with a joyful song!



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL: Advent services will be held each Monday morning at 8:15 in the school gym during the season of Advent. Families are welcome to attend as we prepare for Christmas. Christmas break is December 13 (1:00 dismissal) – January 2. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3. Please make sure you make arrangements for the 1:00 dismissal. A.C.E.S. will be open the afternoon of December 13.

The Knights of Columbus meet this Monday, December 4 at 7pm in the parish hall. All current members and anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome to attend. The meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7pm.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: As you may know, our St. Benedict Mission recently closed. We have 3 freezers and 2 combination freezer/refrigerators for give away to Basilica of Saint John parishioners. Please call the Basilica and ask for Charles Stastny at (515) 244-3101, ext. 205 to set a time to come and take a look. We only ask that you arrange for moving and pickup. First come, first served. Thank you.



The Required Confirmation Retreat for second year Confirmation Students will be the weekend of February 23-25, 2018. Students will be responsible for raising the funds. All second year students must participate. If you have questions call Maria Walters at 515-953-9188.



LIFELINES: America's Deadly Silence! Abortion is the most common, least regulated medical procedure and the number one killer in America. More lives are lost each year through abortion than all deaths due to cancer, heart attacks, accidents, AIDS, natural disasters, wars, illness and diseases combined. The savagery of war, the atrocities of the Nazi holocaust, graphic violence, natural disasters and critical and bloody medical procedures are routinely shown on the media. But never an abortion! Women are denied critical information on the risks of an abortion, including increased risk of Breast Cancer, Post Abortion Syndrome, the sale of body parts etc. The truth about abortion has been censored by the media, silenced by our courts, politicized by our politicians and even silenced in our churches and schools. Babies in the womb have no voice except yours and mine. We cannot remain silent any longer! (Pro-Life Articles Author, pro-lifearticles.org).

The Advent Wreath represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the world. Each year in **Advent** people wait once again in darkness for the coming of the Lord, His historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem, His final coming at the end of time, and His special coming in every moment of grace. The rose candle is lit the third Sunday of Advent, for this color anticipates and symbolizes the Christmas joy announced in the first word of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice" (Latin, Gaudete). For this reason the Third Sunday is also called Gaudete Sunday, and rose color vestments are permitted. (EWTN/advent/adventdefinition.asp)

