

THE LITURGICAL WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 29

4:30pm - For St. John Parishioners

Sunday, November 30

1st Sunday of Advent

8:30am - Errie Ball†

11:00am - Michael Simmons†

12:30pm - Lindsey Layfield

Monday, December 1

8:30am - Special Intention

Tuesday, December 2

8:30am - Priest's Intention

Wednesday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier

5:15pm - Joseph Demeranville†

Thursday, December 4

St. John Damascene

8:30am - Raiford Hyde

Friday, December 5

First Friday

8:30am - Deacon Jos. Fugere†

Saturday, December 6

St. Nicholas

8:30am - Pat Vann†

4:30pm - Kipp Newton

Sunday, December 7

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30am - Jerry McMahon†

11:00am - For St. John Parishioners

12:30pm - For St. John Parishioners

**“Behold the Lamb of God
who takes away
the sin of the world.”**

~St. John the Baptist (John 1:29)

CONFESSION

Mondays 7:30 - 8:15am

Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00pm

Fridays 7:30 - 8:15am

Saturdays 3:30 - 4:15pm

DEVOTIONS

ADORATION

Wednesday at 5:45pm

MORNING PRAYER

After Mass on Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

After Morning Prayer on Monday

THE SANCTUARY LIGHTS

are lit this week in memory of
Gilbert & Delores Wandtke††

PRAYERS

FOR OUR SICK & SHUT-INS

Please remember the infirmed of our parish, especially those who, by request, have been placed on our parish prayer intention list.

If you would like to be added to this list, please call the parish office. You may also call for a copy of the prayer list.

SPIRITUAL READING & REFLECTION

Dear Parishioners,

Today we begin the new year of Grace 2015 with the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of penance and at the same time joyful anticipation. Anticipation is not celebration. If we enter into Advent as a time of anticipation by careful preparation and reflection, it leads us to experience the virtue of hope - hope for the salvation Christ has offered us.

As we enter this Holy Season of Advent we realize this liturgical season, like every liturgical season, has its own special graces. The Christmas Season will begin on Christmas and close on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which will be January 11, 2015, and it has its own special graces for us. But if we celebrate the Christmas Season during Advent, we will miss the special graces given during the Christmas Season.

I have a priest friend who speaks of the “next thing syndrome.” He suggests that people sometimes miss the enjoyment of the things they do because they are constantly looking to the “next thing” to do rather than enjoying “this” thing they are doing now. It is as if we check off an activity once we begin and then focus on the “next thing.” We then lose the specific enjoyment of “this thing” we are doing. Some unfortunately do this with Sunday Mass. They feel good that they began the activity, but are in a hurry to get to the next thing. (Some may even be tempted to leave Mass before the priest leaves the Church at the end of Mass; they don’t stay and make an act of thanksgiving. Of course, that would not happen at St. John’s.) The present activity loses its importance as we begin to focus on the “next thing.”

Don’t fall victim to this “next thing syndrome” in any part of your life; enjoy each activity to its finish and reflect upon the joy which came from the experience. Otherwise, we may succumb to the dreary practice of looking at our lives as a series of dull jobs. We just need to get them done. In particular, be sure with your Sunday and Holy Day Masses, your regular confessions, daily prayers and in the liturgical seasons (like this Advent) and Feasts of the Church not to just “get them done.” Enjoy the “practice” of the Faith; and this is a good concept – we are “practicing” our Faith. We are not perfect at our religion yet but as we discipline ourselves by “practicing,” we come to appreciate and enjoy the Faith at an ever deepening level.



Enter Advent with calm and reflection. The following may help:

- Go to Sunday and Holy Day Mass as a family rather than just getting it in as an obligation.
- Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Sunday Mass readings together Saturday night.
- Go to bed early on Saturday so you can get up rested on Sunday and ready for Mass.
- If possible, go to daily Mass during Advent; or at least one extra day during the week.
- Choose specific penances during the season personally and as a family.
- Have an Advent wreath and say the prayers each day at the dinner table.
- Have at least one meal a day together as a family and talk about the coming of Christmas.
- Read a good spiritual reading book perhaps on the prophecies and the Nativity.
- Slow down in your decorating, shopping and Christmas preparations.
- Pledge to keep your Christmas decorations up until the close of the Christmas Season on January 11. Remember that there are two parts to the *Season of Advent*:
Season of Advent - part 1: First Sunday of Advent until December 16
 -focuses on the Second Coming of Jesus, the King who fulfills the Old Testament prophecies and our preparation for it.
Season of Advent - part 2: December 17 through 24: these are called "late Advent days."
 -focuses on the First Coming of Jesus at Christmas and our celebration of it.

Let us be leaders in keeping the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. We will have to be careful of the temptation to an unbridled materialism so that we don’t make Advent and Christmas into a material financial feast. The external celebrations should lead us to the heart of Christmas – God appearing in the flesh to invite us to salvation. Pace yourselves in these holy days; enjoy the richness of the Advent days. They should be days of calm reflection on the Mystery of the Incarnation, God taking on human nature. Decorate slowly and deliberately, not putting everything up at once. Slow down.

Enjoy the waiting and meditating on the Old Testament prophecies in this sacred time of Advent. God bless and may our Lady keep you in her tender care. –With prayers, Father Arnsperger

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

For sacramental emergencies, please call 828-859-9574, ext. 6

If you or anyone you know is homebound or hospitalized, even temporarily, please call the office so that we may arrange for them to be visited by one of our Extraordinary Ministers.

DAILY MASS READINGS



YEAR B

November 30 Sun

1st Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

December 1 Mon

Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

December 2 Tue

Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

December 3 Wed

Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

December 4 Thu

Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

December 5 Fri

Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

December 6 Sat

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

December 7 Sun

2nd Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

FINANCIAL FACTS

	This Week	Y.T.D.
Actual	\$ 5,210	\$142,544
Budgeted	\$7,038	\$147,808
Variance	(\$1,828)	(\$ 5,264)
(unfavorable)		

Campaign for Human Development \$1,421

This is the collection report for the Sunday Masses of November 22 & 23, 2014

Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry

ANGEL TREE GIFTS

FOR THE NEEDY

The Angel Tree is now in the Church vestibule. If you would like to purchase a gift for the needy, please attach your tree Angel to your wrapped gift. You may bring your gift to the parish office between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm, no later than December 3rd. Or, you can take your gift to the 4-H Center on Locust Street in Columbus, between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm on December 6th. Thank you for your kindness.



RIDE NEEDED TO MASS

Ride needed for parishioner Tish Jaccard, to Church from White Oak/Benson Hall for Sunday and weekday 8:30am Masses. Her sister Betsy, who has been providing rides, is moving to Michigan in 2 weeks. Please contact Rosemary Kingsley at 828-713-4341.

CONGRATULATION TO JOCELYN AND CHRISTIAN ROMAN

...recently baptized and now called children of God. That their parents, Godparents, family, and the whole parish community may help them to grow in their love of Christ by proclaiming the Gospel in all they say and do.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

9am to 5pm

Friday, December 5th

Please sign up in the Church vestibule



“ADVENT AND OUR LIVES”

CIRCLE OF MARY

Saturday, Dec. 6th

Rosary: 8:05am

Mass 8:30am

Breakfast to Follow



All women of the parish are invited.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

is Dec. 6 & 7

Please bring your canned goods and/or donate by way of the Second Collection at Masses.

Items needed: jelly, syrup, soup, instant potatoes, soap.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUP SAMPLER SUPPER

Just around the corner!

Monday, December 8th at 7:30pm

Join us on Monday, December 8th, for a simple evening meal with delicious homemade soups and breads, crackers and light desserts shared in the warmth of parish fellowship. The Soup Supper will begin directly after the Holy Day Mass—Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 6:30pm.

Soup makers, we are calling on you to bring your favorite pot of soup to share. We currently have nine (9) cooks and are seeking a couple more soup chefs to round out the number needed. Bread makers, we need you to make a loaf or two of homemade bread. Currently, we have two cornbreads and three breads. We look forward to hearing from all of you. Please contact Palma to confirm you are preparing a soup or bread. Thank you!

Palma Davis: riverhillfarmcmd@gmail.com / 828-817-4430
Send recipes for sharing to Theresa Fitch: stjohnff@windstream.net

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CDS

Catholic Lighthouse Media CDs in the Church vestibule
Suggested Donation is \$4

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A Journey Through Advent, Prepare the Way of the King, The True Meaning of Christmas, Glory to the New Born King Christmas Carols & Hymns, The Mystery of Christmas, God Made Man, The Christmas & Easter Story.

PARISH LIFE AT A GLANCE

Mon	Dec 1	9:00am 5:30pm 7:00pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet Schola Choir Rehearsal, Church RCIA, Parish Center
Tue	Dec 2	6:30pm	Women's Group, Parish Center
Wed	Dec 3	5:30pm 6:00pm	Mixed Sacramental Class, Parish Center Faith Formation Classes, Parish Center
Thur	Dec 4	9:30am 7:00pm	Patriotic Rosary, Church Men's Group, Social Hall
Fri	Dec 5	9am - 5pm 5:30pm	First Friday Adoration, Church Children's Choir Rehearsal, Church
Sat	Dec 6	9:00am	Circle of Mary, Social Hall
Sun	Dec 7	9:45am	Children's Choir Rehearsal, Parish Center

COFFEE & DONUTS / DONUTS & DOGMA

Coffee and Donuts has a new face and name: Donuts and Dogma. Starting in December, Fr. Arnsparger will be offering a new opportunity to learn more about our rich and beautiful Catholic faith. On the first Sunday of each month, hot coffee and various donuts will still be offered by the gracious generosity of our Family Life Commission members; however, we will now have Fr. Arnsparger sharing and teaching on various faith topics. We hope you will join Fr. Arnsparger for Donuts & Dogma on Sunday, December 7th in the parish social hall after the 8:30am Mass

ATTENTION LECTORS

Lector Workbooks have arrived for 2015. The 2015 Liturgical Year B begins on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014. Lectors, who serve the Sunday Mass schedule, are asked to come by the office during office hours: 9:00am to 3:00pm to pick up their copy. Please be sure to speak with someone in the office before taking a Workbook. Also, if your family has more than one lector, we ask that you pick up only ONE copy per family. Thank you.

NOTE: These notebooks do not contain Daily Weekday Readings.

K OF C

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual Christmas Dinner on December 14th. The dinner is open to parishioners; but tickets are limited. Tickets will be on sale after Masses on the next few weekends, or until sold out. This year's dinner will be held at Links O'Tryon in Campobello, S.C.



**YOUTH CAROLING
AUTUMN CARE
SUNDAY, DEC. 7TH AT 5:30PM**

FAITH FORMATION / OTHER

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA Classes meet this Monday evening, December 1st at 7:00pm in the parish center.

MEN'S GROUP — THURSDAY EVENINGS

7:00pm to 8:30pm • Parish Social Hall

All men of the parish are invited to join the Men's Group this Thursday, December 4th at 7:00pm. Fr. Arnsperger will be the guest speaker and will be sharing about his trip to Rome. The St. John the Baptist Men's Group will meet again next Thursday evening, December 11th.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Tuesday, December 2nd • 6:30pm to 8:00pm

All ladies of the parish are invited to join us this Tuesday evening, December 2nd for *The Eucharist*—Fr. Robert Barron's compelling commentary on the Eucharist as Sacred Meal, Sacrifice and Real Presence. We will gather at 6:30pm in the parish center. We are enjoying revisiting this three-part series as we are able to explore it more deeply with reflection and discussion groups. We invite you to join us—even if you have not made the other classes—your faith will be enriched and our group will be enriched by your presence.

"We cannot adequately understand any aspect of the Church's life until we see its intimate connection with Christ in the Eucharist."

—Fr. Richard John Neuhaus

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS & EVENTS



Youth,
Fr. Arnsperger will be offering "Donuts and Dogma" the first Sunday of each month. Family Life will provide the coffee and donuts and Fr. will provide the "Dogma!" Don't miss this great opportunity to enrich your faith. Make plans now to attend Donuts & Dogma. Next Sunday morning, December 7th after the 8:30 Sunday Mass, will be the first session. Then, meet that evening for 5:00pm prayer in the church before leaving for Autumn Care.

- Sunday, December 7th
- Monday, December 8th
- Friday, December 19th
- Sunday, December 21st

Youth Christmas Caroling

Prayer at 5:00pm. Arrive at Autumn Care at 5:30pm

Youth serve at Soup Sampler Supper

Arrive at 7:15pm or come down directly after the 6:30pm Mass.

Youth Christmas Party

Parish Center—6:30 to 9:00pm

Youth Group Sunday Morning

Social Hall at 9:45am



UPCOMING OFFERTORIES

Please remember to drop your Immaculate Conception offertory envelope for December 8th, and your Christmas Flower offertory envelope, in the collection baskets.

THE MAGNIFICAT ADVENT COMPANION

St. John Parishioners: *Advent Companion Booklets* are now available in the church vestibule. "This rich spiritual companion will accompany you like a beloved friend through the four weeks of Advent with poignant scriptural reflections for each day of the season." We kindly ask that you refrain from taking "extras" as this is a limited supply for the parish. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PARISH / DIOCESE / OTHER

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2015

World Meeting of Families: Love is Our Mission, The Family Fully Alive

Registration is now open for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, September 22-27, 2015! Families can look forward to speakers, celebrations, kids' activities, and prayer, all of which will bring renewal and transformation for you, your loved ones and the world. To reserve your spot at the World Meeting, visit the official website WorldMeeting2015.org and select Register. Multiple packages are available for adults and children (Ages 6-17). Jesus is the source for the hope, faith, love and joy that should animate Catholic family life. During the month of November, spread the JOY!



Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive is a preparatory catechesis for the World Meeting of Families. Our hope is that these books will help each of you, as a family, to 'reflect upon the beauty and joy of God's plan for marriage and family life. These books are in the vestibule of the church and we ask that you take one book per family. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Simply place in an envelope marked accordingly and place in the regular collection basket at Mass.

It's Official: Pope Francis will be joining the faithful in Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families in 2015!

PRO LIFE

"[T]he courage and grace shown by those women who choose life—in the face of fear, uncertainty, parental or partner intimidation, seemingly insurmountable odds—make them today's heroes. They are joined by the many who counsel, support and nurture them both before and after the birth of their child. Such self-giving love...is powerfully transformative of mother, of child, of families, of cultures."

— 2013-2014 Respect Life Program (USCCB), Erika Bachiochi, Esq., "Life Matters: Roe Plus 40"



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church SAVE THE DATE

Dec 7	9:30am	Donuts & Dogma, Social Hall
Dec 8	8:30am 6:30pm 7:30pm	Parish Office Closed for Holy Day Mass for Immaculate Conception Mass for Immaculate Conception Soup Sampler Supper, Social Hall
Dec 11	10:00pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass & Celebration
Dec 14	4:00pm 5:30pm	Advent Program "Lessons & Carols," Church K of C Christmas Dinner, Links O'Tryon
Dec 24 – 26		Parish Office Closed for Christmas
Jan 1		Solemnity of Mary, Masses at 8:30am & 11am Parish Office Closed, Holy day of Obligation
Jan 19		Parish Office Closed, Martin Luther King Jr Day
Jan 22		March for Life in Washington DC
Jan 31 /Feb 1		All Masses, Souper Bowl of Caring, Church Steps
Feb 14	5:30pm	Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Social Hall
Feb 18		Ash Wednesday, Masses to be announced

"HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD"

The Tryon Fine Arts Center requests 5 or 6 grade school children on December 12th from 6:00 – 6:30pm to greet guests and hand out sweets. Children will stand outside lobby doors around a warming fire with mini donkeys and musicians as part of a Portugal themed Christmas party. Treats and warm drinks will be provided. Adult supervision is also requested. For more information contact Marybeth Trunk at 864-895-3249.