

Liturgies and Mass Intentions ~ Week of December 6, 2015

Sunday, December 6

9:00 am—Joan Randolph (Jack Randolph)
11:00 am—Parishioners of St Francis of Assisi Parish

Monday, December 7

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 8 – Feast of Immaculate Conception

6:00 pm—Parishioners of St Francis of Assisi Parish

Wednesday, December 9

6:00 pm—Marlene Palencar (Palencar Family)

Thursday, December 10

6:00 pm—Moscardino Family (Toni Moscardino)

Friday, December 11

6:00 pm—For Peace In Our World

Saturday, December 12

NO MASS

Sunday, December 13

9:00 am—Mary E Garrity (Tom and Veronica Garrity)
11:00 am—Parishioners of St Francis of Assisi Parish

Schedule of Sunday Liturgical Ministries

Ministers of Hospitality (Greeters)

Dec 6—9 am—Megan Murphy, Lorri Kuczynski

11 am—Susie Sarwark, Sophia Brown

Dec 13—9 am—Susan Kyanko, Katherine Kriedermann

11 am—Sandy Glasner, Marilyn Smith

Servers

Dec 6—9 am—Susan Kyanko; 11 am—Pat Cassidy

Dec 13—9 am—Chris Paisley; 11 am—Nolan Rothrock

Crucifers (Cross Bearers)

Dec 6—9 am—Skip Camerucci; 11 am—Julie Byrne

Dec 13—9 am—Frank Conway; 11 am—Julie Byrne

Lectors

Dec 6—9 am—Joe Dallacqua, Cecilia McAdams

11 am—Gary Snyder, Larry Charles

Dec 13—9 am—Lorri Kuczynski, Elise Ryan

11 am—Sue Cruickshank, Gary Snyder

Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 6—9 am—J Capestany, Frank Conway, K Kriedermann

11 am—Sandy Glasner, Marilyn Smith, Diane LeMay

Dec 13—9 am—Frank Schneider, J Schneider, Sister Sharen

11 am—Diane LeMay, Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, M Coleman

Special Items for your calendar!

Mass for **Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary** will be celebrated at 6 pm on Tuesday, December 8
This is a Holy Day of Obligation, and the Patronal Feast of the United States.

We will have **ONE Mass only** on Christmas Eve at 5 pm (NO midnight Mass) and one Mass on Christmas Day at 10 am.

Calendar of Events at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

TODAY ... Sunday, December 6

- ▶ Hospitality Sunday, following each Mass, hall
SALE of SFA CHRISTMAS ornaments!

Tuesday, December 8

- ▶ Holy Day Mass at 6 pm (no Holy Hour this month)

Wednesday, December 9

- ▶ RCIA Inquiry Sessions, 7 pm, hall

Thursday, December 10

- ▶ Bible Study at Westminster Thurber, 10:30 am

Saturday, December 12

- ▶ Morning of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers

LOOKING AHEAD ... Sunday, December 13

- ▶ St Francis Seniors monthly meeting, hall, 2 pm

Parish News and Information

Morning of Reflection for Liturgical Ministers. There will be a morning of reflection for all new and continuing liturgical ministers from **9:00 am – 11:00 am Saturday, December 12.**

The morning will be a time to join together to pray and reflect on the important service provided by our greeters, crucifers, servers, lectors, choir members, Eucharistic Ministers and others who contribute to our parish liturgies. **Even if you have not previously signed up, please join us if you are interested in serving in one of the liturgical ministries.** After the meeting, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and to get info on training. Questions? or if you are not able to attend the reflection, please contact one of our Mass Coordinators, **Pat Cassidy**, (614.625.5271), cassidy.jpatrick@yahoo.com or **Linda Wolfe** (614.879.6734), greywolfetracks@gmail.com.

Around Town ... Local and Diocesan News



AN ADVENT AFTERNOON OF MUSIC at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus. Sunday, **December 13, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.** The choir, accompanied by an orchestra, will perform Advent and Christmas music beginning with the simplicity of the 15th century melody "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and concluding with the joyful chorus "And the Glory of the Lord" from Messiah. Music of various traditions and styles will be sung: a beautiful 16th century Advent anthem, rhythmic African and Spanish songs, and a lovely arrangement of Silent Night. A free-will offering will be taken.

December 6 - Feast of St Nicholas

St. Nicholas (270 to 343) is the origin of our Santa Claus. He is also called Nicholas the Wonderworker because of all the miracles that were attributed to him.

Above all, St. Nicholas gave gifts secretly to poor people in great need. The good bishop St. Nicholas became the model for the Santa Claus imagery used by today's consumer culture. But we Catholics hold true to our memory of Nicholas and his passion to **spread the faith in charity.**

Pastoral Reflection for December 6, 2015

On this second week of Advent, we are taking another step toward Christmas. John the Baptist appears on the scene and screams to his people: "Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand. Make straight his paths, fill up the valleys, lower the hills, and prepare the ways of the Savior." For God has commanded so over 500 years before the birth of Jesus Christ (Baruch 5:1-9). This strident appeal is addressed to us as well during this holy season of Advent, in which we are waiting on a new return of the Lord.

The Advent of the mercy of the Lord, which became a reality to the Israelites, is upon us in this very challenging time in our history. The hatred, the misery, the loneliness, the tension of this perverse world will be transformed by the mercy of God in Jesus Christ "the Face of his Father's Mercy."

Pope Francis challenges us with a special opportunity to receive mercy and to give mercy throughout this Holy Year of Mercy, which begins with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception this Tuesday. We all need mercy to make this world the place it is meant to be. With that in mind, an Advent action or an act of Mercy such this following is suggested: "Forgive people in our life, even those who are not sorry for their actions. Holding on to anger only hurts you, not them" (Spirit Science).

In Christ ~ Fr Fritz

Prayers

Please keep **Ron Atwood** in your prayers as he continues with chemo (periodically at The James at OSU) and then receives rehab treatment. Currently, he is at the James. When he moves back to First Community for rehabilitation, we will update you. Thank you. **P.S. You can also send messages of support to Ron's Caring Bridge website at www.caringbridge.org/visit/ronatwood**

Prayers are requested for parishioner **Dorothy Spiva**, who was recently hospitalized (after recuperating from a long illness this summer, she had a relapse last month). She is now resting at home.

A report from Marti Damm, on her mother **Catherine Damm**, who suffered a devastating accident and hospitalization this summer ... "I brought mom home on Monday and she is getting acclimated to being in her house and her own bed again. She will have home health care with a nurse, physical therapist and an occupational therapist coming in to continue her rehabilitation.

Her goal is to be back in her gardens by Spring. At the moment, she says she doesn't want to go anywhere for the holidays. That may change, if she feels more secure physically by the time Christmas gets here. Right now she is still nervous being "on her own" even though I am with her. **Thanks to all of you for your prayers, good wishes and positive thoughts. They made all the difference in the world, and I am very grateful. Many blessings to each of you!** ~ Marti Damm

Coming soon! An update of the 10-week offertory enhancement program, as we near its completion. Thank you for your generosity and participation!

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ADVENT MOMENTS OF MERCY



we will know the full grace of the season.

God's sending of Jesus is an act of mercy for the world, and so the season of Advent is a perfect time for reflection on themes of mercy and hope. Visit the link below to sign up to receive a daily message via email from the Loyola Press. Each message explores the Scripture and feast days of Advent, especially paying attention to themes of mercy and incorporating the words of Pope Francis each day. By embracing the Pope's call to mercy,

<http://www.loyolapress.com/advent-moments-of-mercy.htm>

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference is collecting gift cards for teens to be taken to JOIN, where they will be



distributed to those in need. We have a Christmas tree at the back of the church, and it has ornaments with suggestions of gift cards. Please consider giving a gift card to help make someone's Christmas a bit nicer this year. Please have your gift cards (box will be under the tree) to us by **December 13** so that they may be taken to JOIN for distribution. Thank you!

At this time, **we will NOT be baking cookies** and preparing cookie tins during the Christmas holidays for those in nursing homes. In recent years, we needed to supplement the cookies baked by parishioners with purchased store-bought items, in order to fill the tins. Our pastoral council is considering different options for outreach to these homebound persons.

SFA Christmas Ornaments ... will be on sale today (Hospitality Sunday) and throughout the month for \$10 each, as a fundraiser for the parish. Thanks to the Meves-Rothrock family, who produced the ornaments.

A note from the parish office ... earlier this week, I sent the following letter to parish leadership ...

I am writing today -- with mixed emotions -- to tell you that I have been offered a full time position at the Grove City Public Library as a Reference / Information Assistant in the Adult Services department, and after careful thought and much consideration, I have decided to accept it.

So after 15 years here at SFA, it is not easy for me to write and tell you that I have decided to resign my position as office manager. But after 15 years of meeting weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly deadlines, I am ready to move to something less deadline-driven, as I near my retirement years.

As it is a busy time of the liturgical year, I tried to negotiate a start date with the library which would allow me to complete December and Christmas deadlines. My first day of full time work there will be Dec 28, and please know I am willing to help with transition duties (recruiting, training, consulting) if needed.

I am very grateful for all the blessings I have received during my tenure here, especially during the time my husband was ill. I wish **all good things** for the people of this parish!

Respectfully yours ~ Therese Phillips, office manager
P.S. And I would love to stay connected to this wonderful place!!!