

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:00 p.m. Sharen Scott by Jamie & Joe Crano  
**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 9:00 a.m. Mike Braidic by Bill Horning Family  
**Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> Immaculate Conception**  
 7:00 p.m. Fr. Jeff Mickler by St. Ann Parishioners  
**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 9:30 a.m. Communion Service  
**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:00 p.m. Keith & Marguerite Hess by Family  
**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 9:00 a.m. Harriet Carrier by Ruth Braidic

## Liturgical Ministers' Schedule: Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Mass	Lector	EM/Bread	EM/Cup	Servers
Saturday at 5:00 pm	Alan Barlis		Kathi Citino	Mary Matuszak
	Alan Barlis		Eloise Bradford	
Sunday at 9:00 am	Adam, Jude, Amelia	Sally Reed	Jeri Close	Jessica Sartor
	Corollo		James Foster	

## Parish Stewardship Weeks of December 1, 2019

**Collection 12/1/19** Envelopes: 111  
 Attendance: 192  
 Candles: \$ 19.00  
 Sunday Offertory \$ 3331.00  
 E-Offering \$ 224.00 Weekly Budget: \$ 3,050.00  
 Imm. Conception \$ 20.00  
 Cap. Expenditures \$ 10.00  
 Needy \$ 120.00  
 Christmas Flowers \$ 623.00  
 Catholic Schools \$ 10.00  
 Thanksgiving \$ 114.00  
**Total -- \$ 4471.00**



## IN THE PARISH

**Thursdays**, Adoration from 2:30 – 3:30, at the chapel on the second floor at Crandall.  
 • CCD on Sundays at 10:15 am  
 • Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm Mass for the Immaculate Conception  
 • Dec. 23 Decorate Church at 9:00 am ( Help Needed)

**Sharing our Blessings:** There are still stockings and tags left, please take a couple if you haven't gotten yours yet. A reminder, wrap gifts and securely attach the gift tags so we know who the gift is for. Return all gifts by the weekend of Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank You for supporting this giving tree project.

**We are in need of Mass intentions for next year. They are \$10/Mass. If you would like to have a mass said for your loved one, please send them into the office or drop in the collection basket with the name on it.**

**Please remember our parishioners in your prayers.**

**Decorating Help needed for Christmas:** Marcy and Pat Watt will be filling in for Rosemary Lamparty and are in need of help on **Monday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am.** Please mark your calendars!

**Retirement for the Religious – Brought in \$ 1,552.44 for our retired religious. Thanks to all who participated**

*John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. — Mt 3:4-6*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**If you are a new parishioner and haven't registered yet, please use the enclosed form this weekend.**

### Readings for this Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10  
 Second Reading: Romans 15: 4-9  
 Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

### Readings for next Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10  
 Second Reading: James 5:7-10  
 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



**Stewardship:** "Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10)

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent, and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter, and junk. Our time, our talent, and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

**Bulletin Sponsor of the Week**  
**Thank You for Your Support**  
*Brown - Gednetz-Ruzek Funeral Home*  
 126 W. Vermont Ave., Sebring  
 330-938-2526  
[www.grfuneralhome.com](http://www.grfuneralhome.com)

Blessed Advent to you all!

Today we continue the "joyful expectation" of the birth of Christ in history, the present, and the future. Today we hear the words of John the Baptist calling people of his time to repentance. Now, this baptism that John was calling people to is not the same baptism that we Christians celebrate. However, John's baptism is at the root of our Christian baptism. John's baptism had its roots in the "oblation washing" of the Jewish people before undertaking anything of great importance.

Christian baptism is a sacrament to wash away original sin so as to enter sinless into the Christian community. It is the one sacrament that is celebrated by all Christians, even those Christians who are not in communion with Rome.

Johns enjoins us to "prepare the way of the Lord." His call is to be taken in the widest sense. This preparation is a personal preparation, and is also a communal preparation. We are called to make sure we are ready to meet the Lord, and this means that we need to make a difference in the world to make it better, to make it more peaceful, and to make it more just. We are called to protect each other's dignity and share of our abundance with others so that each may live a life that is centered on helping others. Prepare the way!

### St. Nicholas Church "Ladies Auxiliary

2019 Christmas Sarmale Sale (Stuffed Cabbage Rolls) The St. Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church Ladies Auxiliary at 1621 S. Sawburg Rd., Alliance will be making stuffed cabbage rolls for a donation of \$15/Doz. **If you are interested, please call the Parish Office and place your order by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 330-843-0207.** Pickup is Dec. 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. "Do not resume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'" Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals." The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop? ©LPi



**Come celebrate with your Diocesan Family, as we honor all consecrated persons!** World Day for Consecrated Life will be observed on Sunday February 2, 2020. The universal Church has been celebrating World Day for Consecrated Life since 1997. Bishop George Murry, S.J. invites our diocesan church to celebrate the gift of Consecrated Life with him

and the religious of our diocese, on Sunday, February 2, 2020 at St. Columba Cathedral at the 10:30 a.m. liturgy. All are welcome. Please mark your calendar.

**Community Food & Fellowship:** CFF will have their next FREE dinner on December 9<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. at St. Ann Church.

**Birthdays**  
 December 9 – Carol Seruch  
 December 10 – Charles Case  
 December 13 – Beth Miller, Logan Miller  
 December 14 – Ronald McGarr  
 December 15 – Helen Frank, Burwell Baddeley