



November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

| <u>Our Lady of the Holy Spirit</u> | <u>Mass Intention</u> |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Monday, Nov. 30 8:00 am | Robert Howard (D) |
| Wednesday, Dec. 2 5:30 pm | Steve Vahlkamp |
| Thursday, Dec. 3 8:00 am | All Souls |
| Friday, Dec. 4 8:00 am | Special Intention |
| Sunday, Dec. 6 10:30 am 5:30 pm | Marie Scales (D) Michael Scales |
| <u>St. Isidore</u> | <u>Mass Intention</u> |
| Tuesday, Dec. 1 8:00 am | All Souls |
| Saturday, Dec. 5 8:00 am | Special Intention |
| Sunday, Dec. 6 8:00 am | All Parishioners |

Upcoming Holy Day ~ Immaculate Conception ~
 Tuesday, December 8th. Mass schedule is: 8am St. Isidore,
 Noon at OLHS.

| Offerings | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| Our Lady of the Holy Spirit 11/22/2020 | | |
| | 10:30 | 5:30 |
| General collections | \$1,179. | \$1,297. |
| Capital Campaign | \$190. | \$20. |
| Diocesan Collection | 209. | \$162. |
| <u>Attendance</u> | | |
| 10:30 am | 80 | |
| 5:30 pm | 33 | |
| *Phase 3 began in Illinois | | |
| St. Isidore | | |
| General collections | \$ 744. | |
| Cemetery Fund | 50. | |
| Diocesan | 156. | |
| <u>Attendance</u> | | |
| 8:00 am | 35 | |
| Thank you for your dedication to our parishes | | |



Parish Connections and Suggestions
Mobile App: Our Lady of the Holy Spirit
Website: www.mtzolhs.org
Facebook: Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church and St. Isidore Catholic Church – Bethany
Email: pastor@mtzolhs.org secretary@mtzolhs.org
faithformation@mtzolhs.org youthministry@mtzolhs.org

ONLINE GIVING Go to www.mtzolhs.org and set up online giving. Or go to OLGapp.com and click on the app store for your device. There is a video that walks you through how to set up one-time or recurring online giving. The link address is: <https://youtu.be/kWIs4AvfMo4>
FORMED.org The Catholic Faith on Demand. Go to www.mtzolhs.formed.org

Are you new and need to fill out parishioner forms? Call the office at 864-3467.
Life threatening emergencies please call 217-264-2868.
Make your church an “extra child” in your will.
Parish Council A parish council is a consultative body that serves to advise the parish about pastoral/parish issues. Call the office to reach a member of parish council.

A locked dropbox is located by the parish office door for 24/7 drop off of paperwork, registrations, collection envelopes, etc.



Please pray for the sick: Shannon Barker, Edie Cox, Sandy Nicholson.
 Sick list procedure: Please call the office at 864-3467 to add or remove names. Or email to secretary@mtzolhs.org

Thinking ahead to year end contributions? Consider a year end donation to Our Lady of the Holy Spirit, St. Isidore or Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Capital Campaign. Year- end donations need to be in the collection by December 27th

Miss seeing someone at Mass? Contact them and invite them back, let's keep growing.

Now is the time to continue to support your parish. Thank you all for your dedication. Mail in or drop off your envelopes.





The Pastor's Corner

Twelve Days

Have you noticed that Christmas lasts twelve days, but Advent lasts for almost four weeks? In the same way, it takes longer to fix Christmas dinner than to eat it. As an organist myself, I can assure you that it takes an organist longer to prepare for Sunday Mass than to play it.

We mortals cannot handle too much joy for too long. It is not that we will "O.D." on joy. Quite the opposite: any earthly joy is going to lose its "sparkle" over time, until it becomes downright burdensome to keep being happy about Christmas on February 9. We might attribute this to our limited attention spans, but there is a deeper reason.

Any earthly joy, even spiritual joys, do not last because they cannot fully satisfy the longing in our hearts. St. Augustine writes in his *Confessions*, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee." But even an earthly joy needs to be prepared for. The hours the organist spends at his practice show up in his work. Christmas dinner tastes better because Grandma prepared it.

Our celebration of—and our *understanding of*—Christmas will be enhanced by our being careful to take the time during Advent to prepare for Christ's coming. With no preparation, we will be like the pianist who just sits down at the piano, opens the book, and plays something. For a pianist, this is a pleasant way to while away the hours, but the joy, the excitement, of playing music comes when we have prepared something well enough to be able to play it in public. The world does not "prepare" for Christmas; its "preparations" are, in fact the main event. They leave us spent and wearied, because the fleeting joy of the preparations has already soured. The world's "preparations" leave us not ready for Christmas, but sick of it. I cannot think that this is entirely accidental.

Our whole life is an Advent, in a manner of speaking. We are given the opportunity to prepare for the joys of heaven by sharpening our appreciation of the things of God and deepening our longing for him. Because the joy of heaven—the possession of God—is the one joy for which our hearts were made, it is the one joy that will not fade away. To possess Jesus in a Bethlehem manger and to possess him on our tongues in Holy Communion help to prepare us to possess him forever in heaven.

you are awesome

The 'food basket' gift cards for Catholic Charities this year was a big success. At last count, we received over 45 cards. Thank you for donations.

The CASA tree was wiped out of tags again this year after 10:30 mass. Thank you for your kindness.



Envelopes for Christmas Flower Offerings are in the back of OLHS. You are welcome to note on it- in memory of, in honor of, or just give a general donation. Please return envelopes BY Dec. 16th. You are welcome to drop them into the Sunday basket or the locked brown box outside the parish office. *Note: If you are not attending at this time but wish to fill one out and drop it in the parish office locked brown box. There are some in a plastic sleeve on the brown box. Thank you in advance for your contribution to beautifying our church for Christmas.

Looking for Advent resources or some 'at home' reading?

FORMED: Simply put, it's a "Catholic Netflix". www.mtzolhs.formed.org

CatholicTV: Watch online virtual retreats, prayers, Mass, news, and a lot more. <http://www.catholicTV.org/>

Catholic Answers: "Search the world's largest database of answers about the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith." <https://www.catholic.com/>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: Includes the full text of the Catechism and the daily readings for the whole liturgical year. <http://www.usccb.org/>

4 :40

Be Not Afraid to PRAY BIG! - We currently have 16 seminarians, which is great! But wouldn't 40 be better?? YES!!! We invite you to pray a Hail Mary EVERY DAY at 4:40 for our diocese to have 40 seminarians. 4:40 for 40 Seminarians!