

**MASS INTENTIONS: December 14 & December 15; The 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Saturday, December 14	5:30 p.m.	<b>Reginald Wirick+ ~ Lynne Rotruck; Parishioners</b>
Sunday, December 15	9:30 a.m.	<b>Elvira Schell+ ~ The Schell Family</b>
Tuesday, December 17	9:00 a.m.	<b>Raymond &amp; Juanita Shumaker+ ~ Family</b>
Wednesday, December 18	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Thursday, December 19	9:00 a.m.	<b>Anita Shipp+ ~ Eugene C. Ney</b>
Friday, December 20	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, December 21	5:30 p.m.	<b>Douglas Gordon+ ~ Rosemary Gordon</b> <b>Sara Niggemeyer+ ~ John &amp; Sharon Niggemeyer,</b> <b>Debbie Gilligan, Ginger Libby</b>
Sunday, December 22	9:30 a.m.	<b>Sara Niggemeyer+ ~ Alice Vermillion; Parishioners</b>

**ST. LEONARD PARISH CONFERENCE of the SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:**

Monthly Meeting ~ 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

**ST. LEONARD WOMEN'S GUILD**

Monthly Meeting ~ 2nd Thursday in the Social Hall at 11:00 a.m.

**NO DECEMBER MEETING**

Vicki Annarino ~ 740-403-2576

Shelley Wilson ~ 740-323-3849

**Altar Flowers ~ Teresa Grigsby (740) 366-3892**

**Scheduler ~ Anna Sikora (740) 745-2044**

**Money Counters**

December 16: Chris May & Nello Allori

December 23: Don Hobbs & Sherron Hamm

**Dusters**

December 16: Elizabeth Orend

December 23: Greg & Gini Johnson

**Lay Ministers Schedule for December 14th & 15th**

(EMHC – Minister of Sacred Body/Precious Blood)

**Ushers:** Jan & Les Waldren, Joan Kefeli, Bill Scholl,

Frank Flynn, Gene Hill, Bill Gress, Gary Childers

**Lectors:** Mary Gillespie, Leigh Ann Lutz

**Altar Servers:** Ron & Dee Jones, Volunteer,

Keira Haynes, Mason May, Volunteer

**E.M.H.C.:** Deacon Larry, Sonny Del Matto, Don Hobbs,

Deacon Larry, Kathy Smith, Marc Toskin

**Cantors:** Diane Reef, Suzanne Baker

**Lay Ministers Schedule for December 21st & 22nd**

(EMHC – Minister of Sacred Body/Precious Blood)

**Ushers:** Jan & Les Waldren, Joan Kefeli, Bill Scholl,

Frank Flynn, Gene Hill, Bill Gress, Gary Childers

**Lectors:** VOLUNTEERS

**Altar Servers:** VOLUNTEERS

**E.M.H.C.:** VOLUNTEERS

**Cantors:** Suzanne Baker, Tom Held

**2020 AUCTION NEWS**

Raffle tickets to win \$500.00 are on sale now after weekend Masses. A planning meeting for the auction is after Mass on December 29. Sonny and Bonnie were in the emergency room for the previous meeting.

**EARLY BULLETIN NEWS**

Our bulletins need to be submitted early for December 28 and 29, and January 4 and 5.

**Please submit announcements for December 28 and 29 by noon on Monday, December 16.**

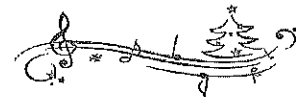
**Please submit announcements for January 4 and 5 by noon on Monday, December 23.**

**Knights of Columbus News**

Corporate communion and Rosary is December 22, 2019. Pennies from Heaven collection for Seminarians will be after Mass.

**Help Decorate for Christmas**

**Volunteers Needed** to beautify our church for Christmas. Most of the help is needed after the Mass on December 22nd. See Teresa Grigsby for details.

**Christmas Music Rehearsals**

Parishioners are needed to sing in the choir only one time – on Christmas Eve. There will be two rehearsals, On Sunday, December 15 and 22 for the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Won't you please share your talent and make joyful music to the Lord this season?

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord; Come before His presence with singing."*

*Psalm 100*



**FROM YOUR PASTOR**

*Dear fellow parishioners,*

We are in the Third Week of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday. It is called that, as I have mentioned in previous years, because it is the first line of the Introit (Entrance Antiphon) for the day. It is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians (4:4-6): "Rejoice in the Lord always, I say it again, Rejoice!..." I think we need to look at rejoicing...

Recently, I was listening to one of the Christian stations (not the Catholic one... I don't get it very well in my car, even my new one) and the person was commenting on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (15:6) how "...with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ." He said St. Paul meant "God doesn't want our worship if we don't offer it with one mind, heart and voice. That we should all be one, with no tension or dissention. If we weren't of one mind and voice then the worship was worthless..." I was driving and almost ran off the road (well, a bit of an exaggeration)! That statement brought to mind some weird Stepford Wives thing! And that didn't turn out very well!

I wondered where he got that! If worship, when we are not in "full and complete accord" was worthless, and is not acceptable to God, then there has never been worship ever accepted by God - EVER! Even when Christ was with His apostles and disciples there was dissention and tension. Look in the Gospels and you see a number of examples of it. He went on to say, if this little group over here was fighting with this group over there and then with that group over there... then we don't have unity and God doesn't want our offering of praise. Again, I thought and said out loud "WHAT!!!!!!?"

I found in my research that St. Paul meant we are to come together in unity of intention and *strive* for unity of mind and voice as we worship God to the best of our abilities and limits. Why still worship even if we aren't of one mind and voice? Because St. Paul says in the next verse: "Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring glory to God!" Now that makes more sense. If our intentions are unified - the other parts will follow and God accepts *all* worship as perfect or imperfect as it might be if it our best.

So rejoice! God loves you where you are and brings you up to where He knows you can be. So rejoice! The Lord love you so completely that you can't even fathom it. So rejoice - in your imperfections and/or weakness - God loves the weak; God loves those who strive and might not always make it... He makes all things wonderful and blesses attempts if they are of the right intention. Offer your best and He will love it. So - Rejoice!

Let us pray for each other. Know that you are in mine always.

*Peace and blessings,  
Fr. Bill*



**ST. LEONARD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
COUNCIL #12641**



**Next Meeting: December 29 after Mass**  
**Sonny Del Matto - Grand Knight ~ (727) 320-3676**  
 sdelmatto@stleonard-heath.com  
 Join us at KofC.org and click the "JOIN US" button.

**STEWARDSHIP ACTIVE REGISTERED FAMILIES: 234**  
**PARISH OFFERINGS NEEDED PER WEEK: \$4,100.00**

PARISH OFFERINGS: \$3,992.02	CATHOLIC EDUCATION: \$ 58.00
CANDLES: \$ 17.00	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: \$ 265.00
ONLINE GIVING: \$ 650.00	RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT: \$ 478.00
AUCTION: \$ 100.00	IMMACULATE CONCEPT: \$ 140.00
ONLINE GIVING: \$ 20.00	CAPITAL MAINTENANCE: \$ 100.00

**OPERATING BUDGET YEAR JULY 1, 2019-DECEMBER 13, 2019**  
 INCOME: \$122,750.99 EXPENSE: \$122,413.30 NET: \$ 337.69

**GIFTS FROM GOD**

*2nd Collection: December 21 & 22 ~ Bereavement Ministry  
 December 25 ~ Catholic Charities*



**Mass and Holy Day Schedule**

- December 15 Penance Service at OLMC - 4:00 p.m.**
- December 24 Christmas Eve Mass - 4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**
- December 25 Christmas Day Mass - 10:00 a.m.**
- December 31 Holy Mary Mother of God - 5:00 p.m.**
- January 1 New Year's Day Mass - 10:00 a.m.**

**Prayer List**

Please check the prayer list. Do you know of anyone on the list who is no longer ill (or is deceased) and should be removed from the list? Please contact the church office with any changes to the prayer list. Thank you.



**You are Invited to Rita Wimer's 90th Birthday Party** on December 22, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the St. Leonard Social Hall. No gifts, but cards are welcome.



**Coats for Kids final tally:** 57 coats; 108 hats; 105 pairs of mittens. Your gifts were donated to the Salvation Army for children in need in Licking County. St. Leonard's Knights of Columbus and Women's Guild thank you for your support.

*"Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to distant lands: Behold our Savior will come; you need no longer fear." Jer 31:10; Is 35:4*

**Giving Tree** gifts must be returned no later than Sunday, December 15.

## *Around the Diocese & St. Leonard's*

### *Memorial Christmas Flowers*



If you would like to donate a Christmas poinsettia for the church during the Christmas season, please put your envelope in the collection basket by December 15. The list of flower donors will be in the bulletin on December 22.

### **Wedding Congratulations to Kevin Ragno and Amy Edwards,**

who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage on December 7th.

May you have many years together!



## *Women's* RETREAT

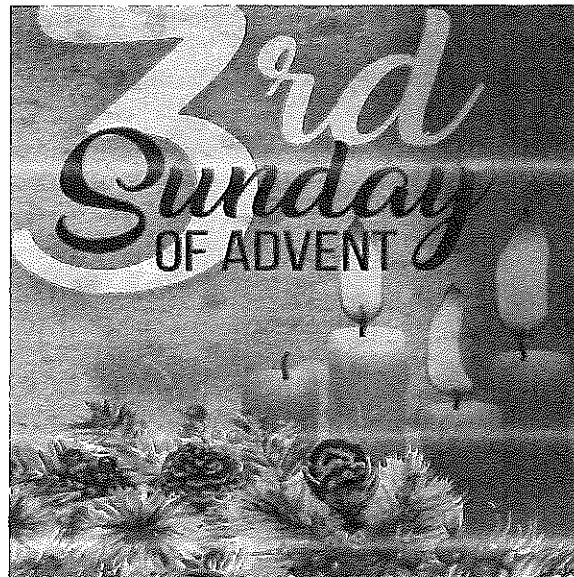
### *January 11, Women's Retreat at St. Francis de Sales*

What if you witnessed the events of the last days of Jesus? Using six universal gifts through the eyes of women in the Gospels, you will be guided on a prayerful journey through the days of Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. This retreat will help you go deeper in your relationship with Jesus. Want more info? Call Tina Burtch at 740-345-9874, ext. 206.

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

COST: \$35.00 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Register at <https://bit.ly/2QB7lrL>.



### *A Prayer for Advent*

*"Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your Kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence. We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To You we say, Come Lord Jesus!"*

*~ Father Henri Nouwen*

**OUR PARISH AT PRAYER****Pray For our Military Families**

SrA. Therin Brown, USAF  
 Pvt. Kaleb Hoffer, USMC  
 Evan Andrew Hammond, US Navy  
 Sgt. Matthew Mills, USMC



Sgt. Donald R. Hoffer II, US Army  
 Pvt. Andre Manning, US Army  
 Pvt. Kaitlin Hanks, US Navy

**Pray for St. Leonard Parishioners**

Roy Atkinson; Joe Beckman; Mary Beckman; Kim Boring; Kecha Brodsky; Anna & John Cooperrider; Walter Crowe; Carl DiBlasio; Mary Jo DiGiandomenico; Tina Floyd; Doug Gill; Gloria Gill; Dale Grigsby, Gary & Teresa Grigsby; Sissy Goodin; Rosemary Gordon; Matt Gulick; Ruth Hottinger; George Jackson; Dale Keeler; Carol Luciotti; Frank Luciotti; Philip Miller; Robert Neumeyer; Mollie Overbey; Beth Prichard; Jason Reed; Joe Reed; Fr. Michael Reis; Cindy Riesbeck; Bill Scholl; Benjamin Sheets; Susie Sherrard; Carol Watercutter; Kathy Wildermuth; Rita Wimer.

**Pray for Our Family and Friends**

Christopher Allen; Father Allen; Rick & Ruth D'Amico; Chris Bailey; Kay Baker; Sr. Sharon Baldy; Mike Barrett; Liam Barry; Nancy Bell; Megan Boley & family; Marilyn Booze; Amy Brown; Betty Burchfield; Karen Burns; Bruce Campbell; Chris & Gracias Cannon; James Cannon; Cardoza Family; Brooke Chute; Deborah Cockran; Jeffery J. Connor; Karis M. Crosmer; Sam De Matteo; Ashley Deck; Glenn DeBona; Sue Denison; D.H.; E.B.; Jim Durda; Beth Eckels; Albert Eyth; Dr. Robert Finley, Jr.; Richard Flynn; Evelyn France; Debbie Frazee; David Froberg; Doug Froberg; Christine DeSerio Gatehouse; Pat Goodin; Phil Gregg; Steven Gress; Doug Grimm; Ann Hathaway; Linda Henry; Carol Herr; Dennis Hoffman; Beau, Gina, Jill, Matt Jago; Sheryl Johnson; Terry Jones; Darla Jurden; Nevin Keim; Hope Klaus; Mary Klass; L.B.; Richard Koch; Isaac Storm Lazo; Richard Lieson; Sharon Luft; Lombardo Family; Trinity Langwasser; Fr. Michael Lumpke; Ashley M.; Andrew Madrid; Bernie Madrid; Richard Mayhew; Holden McFann; Bill McCluggage; Bill McNamara; Ed Moats; Fr. Dick Metzger; Flint Morgan; Bridgette Morgan; Claire Elizabeth Morgan; Josh Morgan; Sean Morris; Jackie Newman; Norman/Collins Family; Jeanette Price; Sean O'Hara; Sally Orend; Colton Phillips-Huffman; Richard Patellos; Don Powell; Eric, Ashley & Tristan Riesbeck, Paul R.; Hannah Roberts; Sammy Roszman; Anderson R. Trinity Russell; Kristen Ryan; Ohmson Schroeder; Carol Diane Smith; Marie & Ken Smith; Barry Spurr; Kyle Stowers; Kathleen Thomas; Philip Vogelmeier 5th; Mary Wade; Jane Walters; John Walters; David Walton; Carla Watson; Roberta Widman; Dave Wilson; Iona Wilson; Roger Wimer; Michael White; Hunter Wise; Dee Wright; Russ Yahn.

**Deepest Sympathy to John and Gina LaBelle, on the passing of their nephew, Bryan LaBelle, of Virginia.**

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

**IS 35:1-6A, 10; PS146:6-10; JAS 5:7-10; MT 11:2-11**

**Good news, Christian stewards** – we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah seems to shout out good cheer as he paints a picture of what the long-awaited Savior will usher in: "the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag... the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the Lord has ransomed (that's us!) will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness. Sorrow and mourning will flee."

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged." This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas, when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life.

In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain. We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.