



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Thursday, December 24
4:00 p.m. (Children's Mass)
7:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.
Friday, December 25
9:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m. (Spanish Mass)

NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES:

Thursday, December 31: 6:00 p.m.
Friday, January 1: 9:00 a.m.



JOHN ANSWERED THEM ALL, SAYING,
"I AM BAPTIZING YOU WITH WATER,
BUT ONE MIGHTIER THAN I IS COMING.
I AM NOT WORTHY TO LOOSEN THE THONGS OF HIS SANDALS.
HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE."

{ LUKE 3:16 }

BREAD to Offer



WHY POPE FRANCIS' YEAR OF MERCY IS SO IMPORTANT

By Fr. Barnabas Eichor, OFM, Cap.

Last Sunday marked the beginning of Advent, a time that popular culture usually depicts as the beginning of the Christmas season: full of gifts, holiday parties, and halls decked with holly. But Advent holds a deeper meaning for Catholics: It is the beginning of the new liturgical year. And this one is particularly special.

Named the Jubilee Year of Mercy, this year is a time when all Catholics are called to reflect upon and to practice one of the most important ideas in Christianity. The Pope is asking all of us to reflect upon the importance of mercy and practice mercy towards others in a deeper way.

Mercy is an idea woven throughout the message of the Christian Gospel. In Catholicism, the pillars of the Christian life—prayer and good works—are called “spiritual works of mercy” and “corporal works of mercy” respectively. In prayer we bear wrongs patiently, pray for the living and the dead, admonish sinners, counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, forgive offenses, and comfort the afflicted. Our relationship with the Lord also leads to the corporal works of mercy such as giving drink to the thirsty, sharing food, visiting those in jail, provided shelter to the homeless, giving the naked clothing, and so on.

In the pagan world in which Christianity emerged, that was the most striking thing about Christians. The pagan world was not amoral—far from it—but its morality emphasized justice, which can be in tension with mercy. Justice is about getting what you are owed. It is about getting a break not just when you deserve it, but when you don't.

Man, because of the fall, deserves nothing from God, but God sought man out and offered reconciliation and the forgiveness of sins anyway. Our salvation is the result of God's mercy towards us. We as Christians are to show, live, and offer that same mercy to others. Mercy is part of the nature of God himself and it needs to become a part of us and our lives as well.

Pope Francis is asking us to find and practice one of the works of mercy in this coming year as a way of revealing God's love and mercy to others.

—Fr. Barnabas

You can find resources for learning about and participating in the Jubilee Year of Mercy on our website: www.saint-johns.net

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE A CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING, INCLUDING:

Michael & Patricia Ahern	<i>in memory of</i>	Mabel Levins, Annie McEwen
Ann Brill	<i>in memory of</i>	Larry Schmitz, Mildred Brill, Marian Brown
Theresa & Randy Brown		
Kenneth & Mary Davin	<i>in memory of</i>	Glenn & Teresa Richling, Walter & Lucile Davin
Joyce Halderman	<i>in memory of</i>	Clem Zillner, Paul Zillner, Virginia Grob
	<i>in honor of</i>	Edna Zillner
Marvin & Judy Hauschild	<i>in memory of</i>	Marvin & Marie Trybom
Genevieve Hunsinger	<i>in memory of</i>	George E Hunsinger, Josephine Miller, Howard Miller, Robert Miller
Marie Ice		
Mary Jackson	<i>in memory of</i>	Mollie & Archie Hawkins, Louise Hall, Ben Hawkins
Bernie & Judy Kish	<i>in memory of</i>	Andrew & Anna Kish, Christa Stinson
Kevin & Karen Lister		
Robert & Billie Mitchell	<i>in memory of</i>	Donald Mitchell
Michael Munjak		
James & Nora Murphy-Beach		
John Oberzan	<i>in memory of</i>	Rudy & Agnes Oberzan, David Oberzan
Teresa Schwartz	<i>in memory of</i>	Leo Schwartz
Mick Schurer	<i>in memory of</i>	Pat Schurer, Mary Schurer
Loretta Scott	<i>in memory of</i>	Joe Ferraro, Pete & Lauretta Ferraro, Clara & Mike Parise
Pam Smith	<i>in memory of</i>	Jim Smith
Edna Zillner	<i>in memory of</i>	Clem Zillner, Paul Zillner, Virginia Grob, John & Anna Sommer

PARISH BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus will host a Parish Breakfast **Sunday, December 20th** after both the 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Masses. Join us for a yummy breakfast of Pancakes, Sausage, Breakfast Potatoes, Eggs, Biscuits and Gravy, Juice, & Coffee.

There will be a free will offering collected. Proceeds from the breakfast go towards the many charitable works that our parish's Knights of Columbus Council supports over the course of the year. Bring your family and friends to this upcoming Sunday's breakfast ... you won't want to miss it!

TAMALES FOR SALE!

The Spanish committee will be selling tamales after all Masses on the weekend of December 19-20. Proceeds will benefit the St. John Capital Campaign.

ADVENT TAIZÉ SERVICE

Friday, December 18, 6:00 p.m.

St. John the Evangelist Church

All are welcome to these ecumenical moments of simple song, scripture, seasonal readings, candlelight, and brief moments of silence.

MIKE DEBUS ART RAFFLE

Enter for a chance to win one of the paintings created by performance artist Mike Debus during our Night of Art and Prayer last Wednesday in the church!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

***Our winner will be contacted on Wednesday, December 16.
Must be 21 to purchase.
Suggested Donation \$50 per ticket***

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ROAD TO ROME RAFFLE

Please help the Capuchin's reach their goal for the Road to Rome Raffle. Take a chance at a vacation of a lifetime. San Diego, Costa Rico, and Rome for 7 nights. The winner will have the choice of either in the city overlooking the Vatican or in the countryside in a castle suite.

The Capuchins walk the journey with the Poor, homeless, and marginalized. Proceeds from the Road to Rome Raffle benefit the lives and ministries of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the Province of St. Conrad who are dedicated to ministering to people from all walks of life, especially to the poor and diminished. Thank you for helping to sustain this meaningful work! The Road to Rome Raffle is made possible thanks to the generosity of friends who are committed to the charitable mission of the friars.



Daughter of Amy Mintz, 2014 Grand Prize Winner

Watch Amy's once in a lifetime experience at roadtoromeraffle.com

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 each. Tickets can be attained by the website roadtoromeraffle.com, by mail 3613 Wyandot St. Denver, Colorado 80211, and or by phone 303-433-0296 x 105. **Last day of purchase is December 15th.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL ACTION

By Julie and Marlee Coleman

Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend is a joint effort of nearly 50 religious denominations and faith-based organizations to reflect and act on the issue of gun violence. Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend is from December 10-14. During the Sabbath, consider taking time to remember those who have lost their lives to gun violence, to pray for their families and friends, and to educate yourself on strategies that prevent gun violence.

Here are some gun violence statistics that you can reflect upon during Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend:

- Every day 297 people are shot in America;
- 89 deaths occur every day in America as a result of gun violence;
- About 30,000 people in the U.S. die every year from guns;
- Over 2,000 gun deaths in America each year are children and teens;
- The annual economic cost of gun violence is at least \$100 billion (medical costs, the court system, jails and prisons, decimated families, security precautions, schools, etc.);
- Since John F. Kennedy was killed, more Americans have died by guns within our country than American servicemen who were killed in all 20th century wars.

Here are some suggested actions you can take during the Weekend to show your support for the victims of gun violence and their families:

- Each day, light a candle in memory of the victims;
- Offer one simple act of kindness each day to honor victims' families;
- Pray that elected officials and advocacy groups work together to write laws and policies that prevent gun violence;
- Educate yourself about gun violence and prevention strategies by visiting websites like gunviolencearchive.org or bradycampaign.org.

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER 2016 DATES

Prayer and Action Atchison: June 19-24 - \$200*

Registration forms will be released in February. Sign up quick—this experience will fill up fast! We will leave Lawrence at 4pm on Sunday, June 19, and return on Friday, June 24 at around 1:30pm. Rising freshmen through graduated seniors welcome!

Steubenville – Rochester and Hiking: July 15-19 - \$375*

The theme for this year's conference? "I Thirst." Leave at 5:30am on July 15. First, enter into an amazing three day conference at Steubenville in Rochester, Minnesota, and then head to the wilderness for an awesome outdoor excursion! We return on Tuesday evening. This will be an experience you never forget! Look for registration forms in February! Only students who have been to high school already will go to this year's Steubenville Conference—check out Prayer and Action if you are a rising freshman student!

* **Scholarships available!** Contact Jen for information.

HIGH SCHOOL DISCERNMENT RETREAT

All young men who are high school seniors or older and are open to finding God's will in their life are invited to the annual Archdiocesan Quo Vadis Discernment Retreat. It takes place at Savior of the World Pastoral Center in Kansas City, KS from the evening of **December 19th** to the morning of **December 21st**.

The weekend will include talks from a spiritual master, Msgr. Stuart Swetland; time with Archbishop Naumann; interaction with priests, seminarians, and other men open to God's call; food; fun; and, most importantly, time with our Lord. It is totally free and a great way to begin the week of Christmas.

Even if you aren't deep in the discernment process, you are very welcome to join us. Guys always find this to be a worthwhile few days!! You can find out more and register at:

kckvocations.com/discernment/events/archbishops-vocation-retreat

Contact Fr. Scott Wallisch at frscott@archkck.org if you have questions.

Earth Care Committee

Give the Gift of Water

The Christmas story is one of love, hope, redemption, and relationship. So, what happened? How did it turn into stuff, stress, and debt? This Christmas, choose to spend less anxiety, energy, and money, and instead, give simply and meaningfully.

Since 2006, the Advent Conspiracy has raised nearly \$10 million for safe water projects in Jesus' name.

This year, consider giving the lasting gift of safe drinking water. Waterborne diseases, carried by unsafe water, have killed more people than all wars and other diseases combined. At least 663 million people live without access to safe water, vulnerable to these waterborne diseases, but we can change that by changing the way we celebrate! Choose to be a part of a Christmas story that changes the world.

Learn more at: <http://water.cc/advent>

ST. JOHN SERVES LINK DECEMBER 31

Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen (LINK) provides nutritious meals to 150 people in need. Our parish helps LINK by rotating with other Lawrence churches to furnish food and volunteers.

Look for sign-up forms by the church entrances and in next week's bulletin, and email mcmurray@sunflower.com if you can help...Chili is on the menu!

PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Simon Parish Center to request someone for the "Prayer List" and be sure to update the Parish Center monthly regarding their condition or the name will be removed.

Matthew Arellano

Abel Ayala

Remi Brown

Donald Erker

Gene Hieman

Bob Holek

Tim Maniez

Marianne Fabac Means

Pam Hadl

Mary Helt

Logan Hemles, nephew of Mick Schurer

Jenny Hernandez

John Hite

Nancy Hubble, wife of Tom Kellogg

Pete James

Susan Jones

Dan Menke, son of Steve & Barb Menke

Julie Patterson, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter

Ernie Potts

Dorothy Purdy

Marlene Richard

Mark Salmans

Ethan Schuh, son of Jason & Cassie Schuh

Mary Kay Seidl

Ruth Theising

MINISTERS: DEC. 19-20

Lectors

Contact: Sean Smith
seanj@ku.edu

Cantors

Saturday

4:30pm J Krones

Sunday

7am K Colson & B Ennis

8:30am K Colson & B Ennis

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday

4:30pm J Koster, J McGraw, L Reimond
..... MA Roesner, L Seidl, D Weigel

Sunday

7am B Harmon, M Heath, B Menke

8:30am T Kempf, B Kessler, K Kohnke

..... K Ostrander, Y Ruder,

..... L Scott, M Steichen

11:00am D, J & T Gunselman,

..... J Mercier, C Nieto-Boor, J & N Otter

5pm N Albrecht, L Brey, S File

..... N Jones, M LaGresley, C Malone

Altar Servers

Contact: Sue Ohlmacher
skohlmac@sunflower.com

MASSES: DECEMBER 14-20

Monday

7:30am Nancy Krischet†

Tuesday

7:30am Ramona Mata Martinez†

Wednesday

7:30am Cristobal & Angel Galarza†

Thursday

7:30am Steve Wehmeier†

Friday

7:30am Clarence Nolan

Saturday

8:00am Joe Ellenbeckert†

4:30pm Jim Hanet†

Sunday

7:00am St. John Parish

8:30am Ramon Romero†

11:00am Bonnie Nabower†

2:00pm (Spanish) Esperanza Marquez†

5:00pm Don Erker

WEEKLY GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2015
through June 30, 2016

Information below
reflects donations received

July 1, 2015 through December 6, 2015.

Budgeted weekly amount \$30,692.31

Average weekly amount **\$26,689.36**

Budgeted YTD \$675,230.82

Actual YTD **\$587,165.98**

Net Shortage **\$88,064.84**

MEALS FOR THE FRIARS

The Capuchins are looking for volunteers who can cook meals for the six friars in Lawrence. If interested, please contact Veronica Hamer at (785) 843-0109. Meals needed for Wednesdays in December.

Bring meals to the Simon Parish Center at St. John by 4:00pm. Fr. Jeff will take the dinner home to the friary.

RESERVING SPACE

Parishioners, if you would like to reserve a location in St. John Church for an event or meeting, you must contact Ellen Sickinger:

(785) 843-0109 esickinger@saint-johns.net

To inquire about space in St. John School, contact Linda Alexander:

(785) 843-9511 alexander@saint-johns.net

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

The next Knights of Columbus Meeting will be Thursday, January 14. Social and dinner, provided by the Knights, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Location is the basement of St. John Church. Our council meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Anybody interested in becoming a Knight should contact Grand Knight Kevin Oneslager at (785) 840-9406.

On the first Friday of each month, the Knights host a rosary in St. John Church at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend!



POSADAS, POSADAS, POSADAS

Este año tendremos las posadas en la parroquia o en la oficina; para prepararnos al nacimiento de Jesús nuestro salvador. Serán a las 7 de la tarde, empezando el 16 y terminando el 24 de diciembre. Si quieres coger una posada anotarse con María J Mota lo más pronto que puedas, cuatro ya están escogidas.

RECICLAGE

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al (785) 218-1511.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR

Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE. Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

Lecturas para la semana del 13 de diciembre de 2015

Domingo: Sof 3, 14-18/Is 12, 2-6/Flp 4, 4-7/Lc 3, 10-18
 Lunes: Nm 24, 2-7. 15-17/Sal 25, 4-9/Mt 21, 23-27
 Martes: Sof 3, 1-2. 9-13/Sal 34, 2-3. 6-7. 17-19. 23/Mt 21, 28-32
 Miércoles: Is 45, 6-8. 18. 21-25/Sal 85, 9-14/Lc 7, 18-23
 Jueves: Gn 49, 2. 8-10/Sal 72, 1-4. 7-8. 17/Mt 1, 1-17
 Viernes: Jr 23, 5-8/Sal 72, 1-2. 12-13. 18-19/Mt 1, 18-25
 Sábado: Jue 13, 2-7. 24-25/Sal 71, 3-6. 16-17/Lc 1, 5-25
 Domingo siguiente: Miq 5, 1-4/Sal 80, 2-3. 15-16. 18-19/
 Heb 10, 5-10/Lc 1, 39-45

13 de diciembre de 2015

3er Domingo de Adviento

Yo he escuchado personas que dicen que la Navidad trae tristeza que ya no es como antes, que en su país de origen es diferente la forma de celebrar, que la gente no participa igual, en fin muchas opiniones y poca acción. Fijémonos que el punto clave de la liturgia de este Tercer Domingo de Adviento es mostrar lo contrario, llamar la atención en la alegría. La primera lectura del profeta Sofonías nos indica cual debe ser la actitud al ya casi llegar al nacimiento del Salvador. "¡Gózate y regocíjate de todo corazón!" (Sof 3, 14). Sí, nuestra alegría debe ser inmensa, de paz y tranquilidad, de tener todo listo, de no andar en carrera y retrasados en lo más importante: ¡Jesús! La alegría de la que habla el Evangelio es la que abre el camino a aquel que es la felicidad que no se acaba, la alegría que nos sostiene en el camino.

¿Qué alegría pedimos? ¿Qué relación tiene la Navidad con la alegría? ¿De qué forma vivo yo la alegría? La Virgen María nos da la respuesta claramente: Vivir la Navidad como gozo de salvación en nuestra vida de familia y comunidad. San Pablo nos da otra parte de la respuesta cuando les dice a los filipenses. "Alérgense siempre en el Señor; se lo repito: ¡alérgense! Que la benevolencia de ustedes sea conocida por todos" (Flp 4, 4). La respuesta de Juan Bautista, también vale para todos los tiempos. Nuestra respuesta, ante esta realidad, es el cómo nos preparamos durante el Adviento. Que la espera del Niño Jesús sea de compartir lo que somos y tenemos con un corazón sincero y generoso capaz de dar.

3er Domingo de Adviento

Abrirnos al camino de la gracia, de la alegría, del gozo de la espera en este tercer domingo de Adviento, no es cosa fácil ya que todos estamos atareados en hacer nuestras compras navideñas. El consumismo nos atrapa, poniendo nuestro cuerpo y mente agotados. Pensamos ya casi es 25 de diciembre y no estoy preparado para la Navidad. ¡Qué confusión! La Navidad no debe ser correr de un lado a otro viendo ofertas de las tiendas. Navidad es lo contrario, paz y alegría entre la familia y comunidad. El Profeta Sofonías nos lo dice en la primera lectura. "Canta, hija de Sión, da gritos de júbilo, Israel, gózate y regocíjate de todo corazón, Jerusalén".

El corazón de esta aventura de aprender a gozar en Dios consiste en el seguimiento de Cristo. ¿Cómo? Sirviendo a los demás vaciando nuestro amor en la familia y comunidad. San Pablo nos llama a vivir en la santidad. La Virgen María nos lo demuestra con sus hechos. Nuestra tarea es decir no al miedo. A ese miedo que nos consume en este tiempo, al nerviosismo acumulado de no poder comprar como está demandado. No tengamos miedo a ser felices, a vivir en la alegría de la lucha constante por ser mejores a tratar de disipar todas las dudas que nos asaltan. ¿Dónde está Dios en este Adviento? Está en nosotros mismos, en el espacio que le demos. Es entonces que estaremos listos para dar la túnica, la comida, el techo y el amor que Jesús está dispuesto a dar por medio de mí.



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