



# ALL SAINTS



## AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

ST. ANDREW'S  
FAIRFAX, MN



ST. WILLIBRORD'S  
GIBBON, MN



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES  
WINTHROP, MN

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**AFC Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm **AFC Address:** All Saints AFC, PO Box C, Fairfax MN 55332

**AFC Website:** [www.allsaintsaafc.org](http://www.allsaintsaafc.org)

**Diocese Website:** [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org)

**Join Flocknote** by visiting [flocknote.com/asafc](http://flocknote.com/asafc) or text allsaints4 to 84576

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATORS

St. Andrew – Karen Guggisberg 507-426-7348

St. Willibrord – Genny Neyers 507-834-6659

St. Francis – Kellie Sloom 320-583-6755

**National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453**

#### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION:**

Please contact Fr. Bruno at least six months ahead of time to plan and prepare for your wedding. No wedding date is final until approved by Fr. Bruno.

**BAPTISMS:** Please make arrangements for attending a baptism session with Father Bruno anywhere from one to two months prior to the date of the baptism of a child.

#### **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm:**

1-866-670-5163  
(Confidential Counseling Services and Referral Information)

**LITURGY SCHEDULE:** In case of a funeral a regular scheduled morning Mass will be canceled that day.

Monday, December 12	NO MASS	Private	+Marie Nelson
Tuesday, December 13	8:30 AM	Fairfax	+Asteria Hinderman
Wednesday, December 14	8:30 AM	Gibbon	+Francis Moldan
Thursday, December 15	8:30 AM	Fairfax	+Marian Zollner
Friday, December 16	9:30 AM	Winthrop	Spec Int-Marge Nelson
Saturday, December 17	4:30 PM	<i>Reconciliation prior to Mass</i>	
	5:00 PM	Gibbon	People of the All Saints Area Faith Community
Sunday, December 18	8:00 AM	Winthrop	+Mark Mattes
	10:00 AM	Fairfax	+Kathy Bianchi
	12:30 PM	Fairfax-Spanish Mass	

#### **Reflection Question for Third Sunday of Advent**

Have others recognized Christ's presence in me? What can I do during Advent and Christmas to witness to Christ's presence in the world?



#### **Readings for the Week of December 11, 2022**

**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

**Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36

**Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

**Next Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/

Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Jesus applies the words of Isaiah to himself. He proclaims the good news of salvation, freedom, and joy.

Jesus is pretty straightforward in his response to John the Baptist's disciples. They were sent to ask if Jesus was the One. **His reply lists the results of his ministry: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, etc.** A similar question might well be asked of any of us who profess our faith in Christ. In these weeks before Christmas, do we give witness by our actions **that we truly understand what we are about to celebrate?** Does God's presence among us in the flesh help us see that the men and women around us share in divine life?

**"Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." ~St. Thomas More**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** in the Catholic tradition, after making an examination of conscience that often involves review of the Ten Commandments and/or the Seven Deadly Sins and/or the Beatitudes, the penitent confesses his/her sins to receive the fullness of God's grace. The intent of this sacrament is to provide healing for the soul as well as to restore one's relationship to God, lost by sin.

**Mark your calendars** for the All Saints AFC Penance Services  
Sunday, December 18th at 2:00 p.m. - St. Willibrord, Gibbon

Fr. Bruno OSB

**PLEASE NOTE:** We have had some issues with our old email so we have set up a new email. Please use this new email immediately. It is [allsaints7739@gmail.com](mailto:allsaints7739@gmail.com). I have set up the group emails for sending out the bulletin each week. If you don't receive one, please let me know. If you get these bulletins by email and don't want to be sent one, also, please let me know. You can always go on our website at [allsaintsafc.org](http://allsaintsafc.org) to look at the bulletin. Sorry for the inconvenience.

**THERE ARE FEW MASS INTENTIONS SCHEDULED ON THE CALENDAR** Infinite graces flow from prayers offered at Mass. Intentions can be offered for a variety of reasons: thanksgiving, birthday or anniversaries of the living and most commonly for the repose of the soul of a deceased loved one. If you have been thinking you would like to have a Mass intention offered, you can put the request in the collection basket with the name of the person/persons to be prayed for and make a note of whether the person is deceased or living; or list the reason of the intention (e.g. thanksgiving, peace, living family members, etc.) If you have a specific date in mind, please make note of that as well. Include your financial gift (typically \$10 per Mass). Or call the All Saints AFC office or email the office and get the intention scheduled and send in your donation. Thank you!

## AREA CALENDAR

### AREA PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**Dec 11** Erica Bock, Alene Poss, Dale & Paulette Messerli Anniv.

**Dec 12** Tom Jandl, Issac Valdez Jr, Stacy Jutz

**Dec 13** Karen M Borth, Keegan Lorang, Greg Olson, Megan Howe, Lucille Stelzer

**Dec 14** Donn Fahey, Maurice Bleess, Kalley Koupal, Jan Forst, Phil Dummer

**Dec 15** Brian VanEpps, Emily & Adam Nunez Anniv., Dolores Kokesch

**Dec 16** Kevin Roiger, Nora Herrera, Sydney Kerkhoff, Stephanie Sievert

**Dec 17** Samuel Sullivan

### **Liturgy Matters #6**

While the assembly is still singing, the priest circles the altar with incense as a sign of reverencing the holy table around which and on which all that is about to happen is concentrated. "Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones, on the gold altar that was before the throne. The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel" (Rev. 8:3-4).

After the song has ended and all are gathered in their places, the first thing the priest does and says is the sign of the cross, signing his body with the cross and saying the words "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." All of the people likewise sign themselves and answer, "Amen." The sign expresses in one summary gesture the central event of Christian faith. We trace it over our bodies as a way of indicating that that event shall make its force felt on our very bodies. The phrase "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" comes from the risen Lord himself who commanded his 11 disciples to make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." He adds the promise, "And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19-20). As the centuries advanced and Christians continued to reflect on the tremendous mystery hidden in this deceptively simple formula, some theologians could not help but marvel at and enjoy the paradox of the word *name* in the singular and the three names Father, Son, Holy Spirit. The one God has only one name, but that name is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the full name of God. To place this sign and the holy name of God at the beginning of the Mass is actually the only possible way to begin.



*Please Remember in Prayer*

**Frank Ziegler**  
St. Andrew's  
**Casey O'Brien**  
St. Francis de Sales  
**Arvina Schweiss**  
St. Andrew's  
**Judy Farrell**  
St. Andrew's  
**Elsie Linsmeier**  
St. Andrew  
**Mary Schweiss**  
St. Andrew's  
**Millie Forst**  
St. Willibrord's  
**Lorraine Ravnaas**  
St. Francis de Sales  
**Adeline Roiger**  
St. Andrew  
**Pat Fahey**  
St. Andrew's  
**Dory Schreiner**  
St. Andrew's

**JOIN US EACH WEEK ON WEDNESDAY AT 9:00 PM** as we pray the Rosary live on Facebook on the All Saints Area Faith Community page!

**Topic for THAT MAN IS YOU men’s program** – Week 11 – Why Jesus Christ? All men 18 and older are welcome. We meet on Thursdays at 5:45 am at CODE3 Bowling in Gibbon.

**HELP AGING RELIGIOUS** Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously.

**ALL PARISHIONERS AND FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH CHILDREN**, are invited to attend an Advent Prayer Service with Bishop Chad W. Zielinski on Sunday, December 18. The service is at 1:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Philip, Litchfield. This service is designed to help us focus on Advent and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, centered on the birth of Jesus. Families are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their home nativity set. The figure will be blessed by Bishop Zielinski individually as families come forward in procession. There will be a blessing on families and expectant mothers as they prepare for Jesus’ birth in their hearts. A “swaddling clothes” collection (blankets, sleepers, layette items, etc.) and cash donations will be taken for babies in need. For more information, contact the diocesan Office of Schools at 507-233-5302.

**YEAR-END GIVING**

The end of the year is not far away, and it is time to start thinking of strategies to maximize the tax benefits of year-end giving. Federal tax laws and many state laws make it possible to reduce or eliminate taxes on gifts to charities like your parish, diocese, schools and other ministries. Remember that only gifts made by December 31st can help reduce the amount of taxes you owe next April. Please consult your professional tax advisor for tax strategies for your personal situation.

**Gift of Grain**

Farmers can qualify for income and self-employment tax savings on raised grain if the unsold grain is gifted to your parish. The grain must be delivered to an elevator and the actual storage ticket should be given to the parish. In order to qualify for the tax savings, it’s critical that the parish sells the grain and not the person gifting the grain.

**FRIENDS OF SAN LUCAS:** Support our friends of the San Lucas Mission in Guatemala with your monetary gifts, or thru active missionary work or thru the purchase of the new products in varieties of coffee. San Lucas Mission coffee is a perfect **Christmas Gift** for those coffee lovers on your list. These new varieties of coffee are available at St. Willibrord’s church (table in the entry) or Chuck Spaeth Ford in New Ulm and Sleepy Eye or order directly from [juananacoffee.org](http://juananacoffee.org) . The coffee sales alone support 150 families in the mission with housing, and a quality lifestyle. STOP and take a look at the quarterly Newsletters available or lookup online [sanlucasmision.org](http://sanlucasmision.org). Monetary donations can be sent to: Friends of San Lucas, 3459 Washington Dr., #207, Eagan, Mn. 55122

**SIBLEY COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY TO PERFORM** The Sibley County Choral Society will be performing at St Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Winthrop on Sunday, December 11th at 2pm. Please join us! Refreshments will be served after the concert.

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:** Please continue to pray for the following military personnel who are members of our parish families and are serving full time or active duty in the military: MSG William R. Schmidt, SSG Jeff Ziegler, Ryan E Lawrenz, SGT, Sgt. Chris Levinske, Amber Lindberg, Sgt Kenneth Coleman, SFC Timothy R. Green, Spc Adam Nosbush, Lt. Col. Steven Weber, Jackie Rieke and Pvt Jordan Lindmeyer, SGT Colin Jackson, CSM Rebecca (Zitzmann) Booker

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

	St. Andrew’s	St. Francis’s	St. Willibrord’s
Adult	1,373.00	2,710.00	1,740.00
Loose/Youth Plate	86.00	37.00	33.00
Fuel Collection	50.00		20.00
Religious Ed	30.00		
Fall Collection	50.00		
Immaculate Conception	50.00		
Christmas	40.00		40.00
Christmas Flowers	125.00	60.00	150.00
Maintenance/Building		312.00	70.00
Votive Lights			8.00
Reimbursement for TV			50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,804.00</b>	<b>\$3,119.00</b>	<b>\$2,111.00</b>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Wednesday, Dec 11, 2022:** Student Christmas programs at St. Francis & St. Andrew's following mass

**Wednesday, Dec 14, 2022:** Class & Student Christmas program at St. Willibrord's, 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, Dec 21, 2022:** No Class

**Wednesday, Dec 28, 2022:** No Class

**STEBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE & FUNDRAISING** – Registration is now open for the Steubenville Youth Conference being held next summer in Rochester (July 14-16). Steubenville is an *extraordinary*, and affordable youth conference opportunity! Come and experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is always faithful and will never abandon us! Flyers are being sent home with 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and older students at religion classes. Early Bird registration is due by January 15<sup>th</sup> but sign up should be sooner. Contact Kellie Slood, Anita Wier or Berny Berger for more information held.

## ST. WILLIBRORD'S – GIBBON

Saturday, **December 17th**-5:00 PM

**Lector:** Melvin Neyers **Dist:** Rose Forst **Servers:** Jennifer Guzman, Melody Exum, Taylor Haas **Ushers:** Ron Bastian, Joey Bastian, Jim Dingles **Gifts:** Bruce Bastian, Lorraine Bastian **Sacristan:** Charlene Forst

Saturday, **December 24th**-4:30 PM (Christmas Eve)

**Lector:** Jerome Petersen **Dist:** Steve Grosam **Servers:** Abby & Kelly Willegal **Ushers:** Ron Bastian, Joey Bastian, Jim Dingles **Gifts:** Ron & Barb Bastian **Sacristan:** Jeannine Grosam

Sunday, **January 1st**-10:00 AM (**Notice Day & Time Change**)

**Lector:** Chuck/Ann Southworth **Dist:** Connie Tautges **Servers:** Sofia & Ella Nachreiner **Ushers:** Ron Bastian, Joey Bastian, Jim Dingles **Gifts:** Brad & Kjersti Bastian **Sacristan:** Rose Forst

**St. Willibrord's Catholic United Financial "Calendar Raffle Winner"** of \$100 for Week #37, goes to **Jeff Kolodjski**, of Forest Lake, MN. Congratulations, and thank you for your support!

**DO YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF A LIGHT LUNCH AFTER SATURDAY MASS?** Gathering together is such a blessing. Would you take a turn serving? Sign nu sheet is in the kitchen. Thank you!!

**COME JOIN US FOR OUR STUDENTS** Christmas program on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm followed by cookies and punch.

**BLOODMOBILE AT GIBBON COMMUNITY CENTER** on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 to 5:30 pm. To make an appointment, please call Sue Bentz, 507-381-3685.

**THANK YOU** to all the members of the parish that helped in making the CCW 2022 Fall Bazaar a success! Thank you to all the chair people for your work before, during and after the event. To all those who donated to the Bake Sale, Raffle of the Day and those who donated or prepared food, and all the workers who donated their time, the bazaar was a success because of you. A special thank you to Kay Klement for making and donating the beautiful quilt for the large raffle your talent and donation are very much appreciated.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** If you are able and willing, please join us as we decorate the Christmas tree, manger and altar of St. Willibrord's church on **Monday, December 19, 2022, at 5:00 PM**. Many hands make the job easier, go quickly, and merry. Men are needed to carry totes from the basement upstairs and women and families are needed to set out the decorations and manger scene. Thank you!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022, FROM 9:00 AM TO 7:00 PM, ST. WILLIBRORD'S WILL BE HAVING ADORATION.** There should always be someone present in the church during adoration. If you would be willing to come and stay for an hour, please sign up on the sheet on the table at the entrance by **Saturday, December 17**. This is a wonderful opportunity for men, women, and families to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament to pray, read scripture, and reflect in silence during this Advent season. Individual confessions will be offered from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Thank you to those who are willing to sign up to help and stay for an hour!

**CHOIR** will sing Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at the 5 p.m. Mass, meeting to practice at 4:30 p.m. We will also practice for a half hour after that Mass for Christmas eve. Choir sings for Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at the 4:30 p.m. Mass, meeting to practice at 3:45 p.m. that afternoon. New members welcome and needed!

### **STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING – ST. WILLIBRORD'S CHURCH**

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

Giving July 1st, 2022-December 7th, 2022

Income \$47,466.83

Expenses \$42,389.08

**Net Gain/Loss \$ 5,077.75**

## ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – WINTHROP

Sunday, **December 18th**-8:00 AM

**Lector:** Mary Nelson **Eucharistic Ministers:** Dennis Dording **Servers:** Jose Farias, Jossue Farias, Alan Banda **Gifts:** Donovan & Susi Steele Family **Ushers:** Bill & Che May, Gary & Vicki Neid **Money Counters:** Gary Neid, Bill May **Sacristan:** Sue Lauwagie

Saturday, **December 24th**-3:00 PM (Christmas Eve)

**Lector:** Harry Sloom **Eucharistic Ministers:** Tom Witucki **Servers:** Will Lang, Quinn Schmidt, Brynn Busse **Gifts:** Tom & Sam Langhoff **Ushers:** Bill & Che May, Gary & Vicki Neid **Money Counters:** Gary Neid, Bill May **Sacristan:** Sue Lauwagie

Saturday, **December 31st**-5:00 PM (**Day & Time Change**)

**Lector:** Bob & Laurie Kaukola **Eucharistic Ministers:** Tyler & Emilee Stehr **Servers:** Lincoln McCue, Emilee Krueger, Blaise Krueger **Gifts:** Matt & Kristin McCue **Ushers:** Dave & Lorie Schauer, Leon Lang, Phil Dummer **Money Counters:** Phil Dummer, Tom Witucki **Sacristan:** Dave & Lorie Schauer

**2023 ENVELOPES** are on table in narthex and parishioners should pick them up.

**ST FRANCIS IS HAVING A COOKIE SALE** with proceeds to Fr Bruno's water project. We are asking for your donation of cookies on Sunday, December 11th. Any amount is appreciated. Suggested donation is \$4/dozen. Please bring containers for the cookies you purchase. The cookies will be available following Mass and the children's Christmas program.

**SIBLEY COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY TO PERFORM** The Sibley County Choral Society will be performing at St Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Winthrop on Sunday, December 11th at 2pm. Please join us! Refreshments will be served after the concert.

**LAFAYETTE FIRST LUTHERAN WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM** on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm for the Annual Carol Sing. The evening consists of singing familiar Christmas carols, along with numbers by local choirs or individuals (vocal or instrumental). If you have a choir or members that would like to share their talent, we invite them to take part. Just come and tell the people in charge that you'd like to be on the program. Refreshments to follow. If you have any questions, please send Ruth Klossner an email or call her at [cowladyruth@gmail.com](mailto:cowladyruth@gmail.com) or 507-240-0048. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

## ST. ANDREW'S – FAIRFAX

Sunday, **December 18th**-10:00 AM

**Lector:** Jody Busch **Dist:** Agnes Wendinger **Servers:** Ashley, Isabelle, Isaac & Alex Vos **Ushers:** Frank Ziegler, Kevin Roiger, David Runck, Leander Nachreiner **Gifts:** Jason & Kelly Weinzelt **Sacristan:** Chuck Marlowe/Carol Gregory

Saturday, **December 24th**-6:30 PM (Christmas Eve)

**Lector:** Pat Buboltz **Dist:** George Wendinger **Servers:** Elyiana & Kayln Hellendrung, Hailey Weinzelt **Ushers:** Gilbert Borth, Ron Marlowe, Tom Palmer, Paul Simonsen **Gifts:** Michael & Barbara Beranek **Sacristan:** Chuck Marlowe/Carol Gregory

Sunday, **December 25th**-10:00 AM (Christmas Day)

**Lector:** Anita Weir **Dist:** Desiree Ziegler **Servers:** Nathan & Zach Sandgren, Nico Nosbush **Ushers:** Gerald Jandl, Myron Schweiss, Jerry Pelzel, Tom P Borth **Gifts:** Dave & Jody Busch **Sacristan:** Agnes Wendinger

Sunday, **January 1st**-8:00 AM (**Time Change**)

**Lector:** Jan Simonsen **Dist:** Karen Bastian **Servers:** Annika Nosbush, Keyden Buboltz, Micahl Nachreiner **Ushers:** Joe Nachreiner, John Rieke, Brian Marquardt, LeRoy Schweiss **Gifts:** Mary & Melvin Eckstein **Sacristan:** Chuck Marlowe/Carol Gregory

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022, FROM 9:00 AM TO 7:00 PM, ST. ANDREW'S WILL BE HAVING ADORATION.**

There is a sign-up sheet in church to please take advantage of this opportunity and spend an hour in silent adoration. Someone should be in the church at all times throughout the day. Individual confessions will be offered from 5:50 to 7:00 pm.

**FREE 3 TV'S ON TALL METAL STANDS** (one with VCR) that were used for religious ed. If anyone is interested in taking one, please call Karen Guggisberg at (507) 426-7348.

**ST. ANN'S FUNERAL GROUP 5:** Denine Hellendrung, Desiree Ziegler

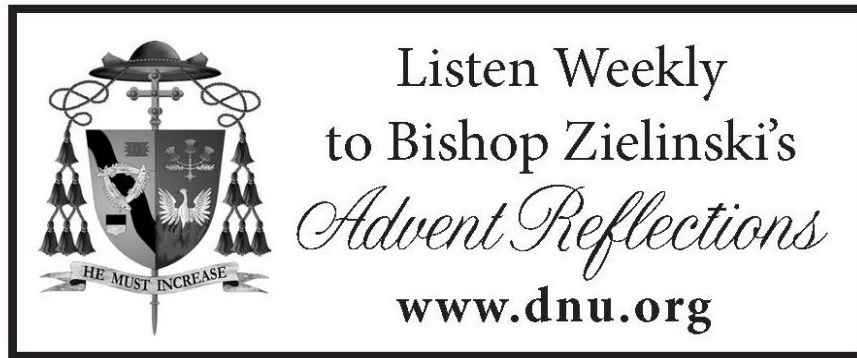
### **STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING – ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

Giving July 1st, 2022 – December 7th, 2022

Income	\$ 73,517.27	Donations to Maintenance Fund	\$20,140.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 67,129.62</u>	Roof Payment	<u>93,578.75</u>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>\$ 6,387.65</b>	Shortfall	(\$73,438.75)





**REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT BY BISHOP CHAD ZIELINSKI DECEMBER 11, 2022**

As we continue our Advent journey, we make room in our hearts, minds, and souls for the light of Christ to be born anew. The third Sunday in Advent is referred to as Gaudete Sunday (“rejoice” in Latin). This Sunday Mass is a time for rejoicing as we await the celebration of Christ’s birth and his coming again at the end of time. The priest can opt to wear a rose-colored vestment to indicate a joyful feast day. In the Mass’s first reading of the Prophet Isaiah, we hear of a hopeful message of a return to Jerusalem for those exiled. The imagery reflects sharp contrasts of a desert and parched land blooming with flowers. The mighty Lord of justice and healing will bring change: “Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing,” (Is. 35: 5-6). In the Gospel reading, our Lord and Savior is the promised hope of our exile. It is he who brings forth healing and hope with his compassionate touch. As I prayed with these readings, I recalled how, over the past 26 years of serving in priestly ministry, I would sometimes be approached by an individual going through the 12-Step Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) program. They request that I do step five of the program with them: "admit to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs." However, the first four steps of AA are essential actions that lead to step five: 1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable. 2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him, and 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. I am no expert in this rehabilitation program, but I have witnessed it bring incredible changes of healing and hope to people. As I walked this most intense journey with various individuals, I was deeply moved by the seriousness of their accountability for their past sins. I profoundly sensed the healing presence of the Holy Spirit at work as I observed heavy burdens lifted and a sister or brother walk away a new woman, a new man filled with hope. Often I hear from those in recovery; how they regularly attend the 12-Step meetings and continue to take an inventory of their life as they accompany their counterparts on the journey. They do not focus on their past sins or failures but on getting back up, surrendering to God, and trusting in him as they continue to move forward. As we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, we are given a message of hope as we prepare a room in the House of God - our interior home, our family home, and our parish home where God dwells. Preparing takes personal time, prayer, reflection, and sometimes some gut-wrenching soul-searching. I urge you, like our sisters and brothers in the 12-Step program, to take inventory of your life. Go to confession trusting in a merciful God. The parched land and desert will bloom, and you will see the light of Christ shining brightly as you move toward the celebration of his birth. Thanks for the opportunity to “rejoice in the Lord” with you on this third Sunday of Advent. Be that companion on the journey, the source of encouragement and support to a sister or brother who feels exiled and cries out. Together we proclaim in our responsorial psalm with great joy and trust, "Lord, come and save us.



**Christmas Flower Donation Form**

If you wish to make a donation for Christmas flowers, you may use this form. Fill out the form, place in an envelope and drop in the collection basket or Parish office by Wednesday, December 21st. Names will be printed in the December 25th bulletin. Thanks!

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_