



Catholic MUSKEGON PAGE

December 2, 2018 ~ First Sunday of Advent ~ A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

At this time of year, we are very conscious of our family as we prepare for Christmas. Today's Gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent, appreciate the gift of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.

Immaculate Conception Holy Day Masses

December 7 Vigil

5:00 p.m. Prince of Peace

5:00 p.m. St. Michael

6:00 p.m. St. Thomas

6:30 p.m. St. Mary (Spanish)

December 8

8:30 a.m. St. Francis

8:30 a.m. St. Mary of the Woods Chapel

9:00 a.m. Our Lady of Grace

9:00 a.m. Sacred Heart

10:30 a.m. Prince of Peace

10:30 a.m. St. Mary

Centering Prayer Group is practiced on Wednesday evenings at St. Francis McCabe Center Conference Room 1 at 6:45 p.m.

Beginners, seasoned practitioners and everyone in between is welcome. *Add more peace and joy to your Advent season with 'hands on' experience of the centuries-old spiritual direction of Centering Prayer!*

Due to a staffing shortage at the Red Cross, Muskegon Catholic Central NHS Blood Drive scheduled for December 14 has been postponed until February. If you are looking for a blood drive before Christmas visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=49441>

"Defend Christ" Rosary Rally on Saturday, December 15 starting at Noon at Seyferth Park (2250 Sherman Blvd ~ between Lincoln & McCracken). Questions? Call Kathy Tuttle 759-8793

Join us for **Psalms: the School of Prayer** beginning Thursday, January 3 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Francis for 11 weeks. Cost is \$25 (check or cash to St. Francis) To register for the study, call 755-1953. Facilitator: Christine Amante. **All are welcome!**

St. Mary's Cemetery news: Remember St. Mary Cemetery in your funeral planning or in your will. Call us for your burial needs and options that are available (231) 722-3956.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.
www.retiredreligious.org



NATIONAL
COLLECTION

DECEMBER 9, 2018

BISHOP DAVID J. WALKOWIAK ASKS US TO PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

Dear God,
Bless your Church with love. Raise up dedicated and generous leaders to serve as priests, deacons, sisters, brothers and members of secular institute, and lay ministers. Send your spirit to strengthen them to serve your people, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Did you know if you are visiting another Catholic Church for weekend Mass, you can use your parish offering envelope and it will be mailed to your parish. Thank you!

Prayers for Advent

Lord God,

Only you can see into my heart and know that under all the busy-ness of my life, there is a deep longing to make this Advent one that welcomes you more deeply into my own life.

My heart desires the warmth of your love and my mind searches for your Light in the midst of the darkness.

Help me to be a peacemaker this Advent and to give special love to those who disagree with me. Give me strength and courage to forgive those who have hurt me. Help me to free my heart from the prison of my anger and hurt. Amen.

Taken from www.onlineministries.creighton.edu

Catholic Charities West Michigan (CCWM) (231)726-5341 or www.ccwestmi.org

•**Food Pantry current needs** are peanut butter, canned meats, canned fruits, all toiletries and any non-perishable food items.

•**Muskegon Food & Baby Pantry are in need of volunteers** to shop with clients in both our pantries **Tuesday, Thursdays and/or Fridays** from **9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.** For more information, contact Holly Salas, Volunteer Coordinator 726-4735 or hsalas@ccwestmi.org

•**Baby Pantry is in URGENT need of winter clothes (new or gently used) for boys and girls size 24 months—6, socks, and boots.** Other needs include: children's books, baby wash, baby lotion, wipes, diapers LARGE SIZES 4-6, all size pull ups, baby food all stages, and baby formula. ****WE CANNOT accept adult clothing or Baby/Toddler car seats.****

Come to Bethlehem and See Live, Indoor Christmas Nativity Walk at Trinity Lutheran Church (3225 Roosevelt Rd) Come and experience what it would have been like to witness the first Christmas! 50 minute tours take you to 8 scenes portrayed by actors. Come Friday, December 14 & Saturday Dec.15 any time between 6-8:30 PM or Sunday, Dec. 16 any time between 2-4 PM.

Kids' Food Basket currently provides sack suppers to 5 area elementary schools, feeding 1,100 students every school day. During Christmas vacation we provide the students with 'break bags'. Break bags are gallon size zip-loc bags filled with nonperishable food items to provide nutrition to the students during vacation. ***We are asking participating parishes to help by donating the 1 ounce size of individual raisin packs*** to fit in these break bags, by Dec. 2. Look for drop boxes at your parish. Contact Sue Allore (231)578-1622 for more information.

Cherish Marriage news: Registration is now open for our annual event on Saturday, February 2 at Frederick Meijer Gardens from 6:00—11:00 p.m. Couples will enjoy an evening of dinner, inspiration, and dancing to strengthen their marriage. Register by January 20 at cherishmarriage.net

Shrines of Italy Pilgrimage April 23—May 3, 2019! Join Euro Pilgrimage Tours to see some of the most religious sites in all of Italy; including Rome, Assisi, Padre Pio's San Giovanni Rotondo, Loreto, Pompeii and so much more! For detailed information or to book, call Erika Piotrowski (231)720-8378 or email erikap.euro@hotmail.com. Check out this weblink for all the finest details <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/899614>

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