



Dear Parishioners,

Please be aware that this coming Saturday, December 8, is the holy day of obligation of the Immaculate Conception. This is the patronal feast day for the United States as our bishops from the beginning of our nation entrusted us to the protection of our Lady under her title of the Immaculate Conception. It is a day on which we especially pray for the material, moral, and spiritual well-being of our nation through the intercession of our Lady. We will have holy day Masses at 6:00 PM on the eve of the holy day, Friday, December 7, and at 9:00 AM on Saturday. The 5:00 PM Saturday Mass will only fulfill our obligation for Sunday Mass not for the holy day. Sorry! No two-for-ones! So, we need to attend Mass on Friday evening or Saturday morning here at St. Joseph or another parish. Remember that, just as for Sundays, we have a serious obligation to attend Mass on holy days. Only such things as illness or extreme weather conditions excuse us from the obligation.

As we begin Advent this weekend, it is important that we do especially two things in preparation for Christmas. First, we need to find time for quiet prayer, whether we do this at home or stop by the Church. From before morning Mass each day until at least 9:00 PM the church is open, so I encourage stopping by once a week during Advent for some quiet prayer time in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Second, the best preparation for Christmas is to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, i.e., to go to confession. As you will see in the insert in this week's bulletin, in addition to the regular confession time on Saturdays (4:00 to 4:45 PM), that on the weekdays and weekend just before Christmas that I have scheduled extra times

for confessions.

Also, please note on the insert the schedule of Masses for the holy day of obligation of Christmas. Since we are back in the church this year, the schedule will revert back to what it usually has been. Remember, too, that January 1 is the holy day of obligation of Mary, the Mother of God, so we need to attend Mass on either New Year's eve or day.

Happy Advent! Have a grace-filled and blessed week.

God bless,
Fr. Gutowski



MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 3 THRU DECEMBER 9

Monday	Priest's Intention
Tuesday	Robert Masters, Jr.
Wednesday	Ann Boro
Thursday	Priest's Intention
Friday	Gilbert Kralikowski
Saturday	Leonard Herman
Sunday	People of St. Joseph



Next parent seminar is December 5 at 6:00 & 7:00 in the chapel

K OF C & LADIES' GUILD SOCIAL

"The Knights of Columbus/Ladies Guild will be having their annual social hour and dinner December 2 at the residence of Phil White, 16612 South 111th Street, starting at 5 p.m. The meat, potatoes, gravy, stuffing and refreshments will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. If needed, you will find a map in the back of the church."



December Month of The Immaculate Conception

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Remember that December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be on Friday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m.

SERVERS, LECTORS & EME'S- NOTE!!

Father has decided to say Mass on Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, at 9 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. as listed in your schedules. If you are scheduled, please note the change.

Also Mass times for the January 1st Holy Day, Mary Mother of God, have been changed. There will be a 6:00 p.m. mass on December 31 instead of 7:00 p.m. and a 9:00 a.m. Mass on January 1 instead of an 8 a.m. Mass. Also there will be NO mass the evening of Jan. 1. Please note these changes if you are schedules to read, serve or be an EMHC.

Be a Blood Donor

The Springfield Community Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday Dec. 9th at the Springfield Fire Hall from 8:00 A.M. till 1:00 P.M. To sign-up call Ralph @ [402-253-8301](tel:402-253-8301) or go online @ www.redcrossblood.org , sponsor code: 009111. What a wonderful gift by donating Blood in this season of giving! Walk-ins are always welcome and needed. Hope to see you there.



RECONCILIATION & CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Please keep the enclosed schedule listing all Reconciliation times as well as mass schedules for Christmas and New Years. There should be ample opportunities for everyone to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

2013 CATHOLIC CALENDARS

The calendars for the new year have arrived and are on the counter at the rear of the church. There are plenty of calendars for everyone. Please help yourself.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

There are also booklets called *New King For A New Kingdom*, a daily reflection for Advent, on the small bookcase at the rear of the church. Each family, please take one and use it throughout the Advent season.



COATS FOR KIDS

Once again the Springfield Knights of Columbus are giving away NEW Winter Coats, Hats and Gloves to children in need. If your child is in need or if you know of someone in need call [402 707-8426](tel:402-707-8426). Sizes range from Pre School to Middle School/ Junior High. This is a strictly confidential project