

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT **November 29, 2015**

Mass Schedule

Monday	November 30
7:15 a.m.	Marian - Communion Service
Tuesday	December 1
6:00 p.m.	Marian - Foland Children
Wednesday	December 2
9:00 a.m.	PC Chapel - Rita Kusek
6:00 p.m.	Marian - Matt Morri
Thursday	December 3
7:15 a.m.	Marian - Leon & Garcia Families
Friday	December 4
7:15 a.m.	Marian - Dorothy Telles
Saturday	December 5
5:00 p.m.	Church - Jess Bliven
7:00 p.m.	St. Bridget's - Tracy Cullan
Sunday	December 6
8:00 a.m.	Church - Leona Reynolds
10:00 a.m.	Church - People of the Parish

ASSOCIATE PASTORS' NOTES

Advent is a season of true hope and of peaceful preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into the world. In the advent liturgy, we light a candle for the first week symbolizing hope for His presence. The readings of advent look forward to the "End Times" of the interim period marked by the coming of the Son of Man (Lk 21: 25-38). Jesus' apocalyptic words deter us from mere superficial curiosity about observable future phenomena (Lk 17:20). The living Word of God shows us the right path for daily living. For the Jews, their awesome Temple was a matter of national ethnic pride (Lk 21:5) and was a concentrated form of the essence of the cosmos-the totality of "heaven and earth." For Christians, the person of Jesus replaces this "cosmos in miniature." For naturalists, the mighty power of the immeasurable cosmos appears as the solid ground on which humanity can place its hope on. But today's readings remind us that these cosmic elements will pass away. Hope in the cosmic powers is to be relativized by focusing on the person of Jesus Christ. The readings remind us that Jesus Christ; the Word made flesh, alone holds the future in his hands. Responding to Him (1 Thes 3:12, 13) with love, faithfulness and justice enables us to stand erect before the Judge of the living and the dead.

REST IN PEACE Jess Bliven, brother of Karla Yeager. Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in Peace.

RCIA sessions meet **Thursday evenings at 7p.m. at the Parish Center Library, 1104 Cheyenne.** (Please use the west entrance from the parking lot.) All are welcome!

RCIA 12/3/15 Baptism; Presenter: Anna Dailey

RCIA 12/10/15 Eucharist; Presenter: Natalie Collins

RCIA 12/17/15 Confirmation; Presenter: Dan Kusek

For more information contact Natalie at 762-7135 or e-mail dncollins@centurylink.net.

Food collected in November/December will go to the annual Christmas boxes we will be filling on December 18 and distributing on December 19. We are in need of volunteers to take items to the Lyceum after 10 a.m. Masses and families to deliver the boxes on December 19 at 10 a.m. From the Lyceum. Please contact Theresa Dykes at 760-1122 for more information.

FRANCISCAN ASSOCIATES will not meet on December 7, 2015. We will instead have a retreat on December 12, 2015 starting at 9 a.m. At the Marian Residence.

Fr. Roy requests that anyone who had previously scheduled an appointment with Fr. John for sacramental preparation or any other detail to **PLEASE** contact Fr. Roy at the parish center office 762-2009 or his cell phone 308-390-9796 to reschedule this appointment.

There will be choir practice Saturday December 5 at 5pm in the Lyceum. This is for Our Lady of Guadalupe mass on the 13 of December.

Practica para el coro el sábado 5 de diciembre a las 5 de la tarde en el Lyceum. Es por la misa de La Virgen de Guadalupe de 13 de diciembre.

CONGRATULATIONS! Brett Anthony Sloggett and Karlene Marie Hougan who had their marriage blessed in the church this past Friday, November 27, 2015.

Lector/Commentator: Parishioners have the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the Mass by reading the Word. This ministry is open to all adult and high school aged parishioners. Training is provided. Contact Karen Kerschner at 762-7377



THIS WEEK!!!

MONDAY	9:30 am	Bible study - PC Chapel/Library
TUESDAY	6:45 pm	Prayer Leaders - PC Conf Room
	7:00 pm	Pre-baptismal Class - PC Library
WEDNESDAY	4:00 pm	K-5 Faith Formation Classes - PC
	7:00 pm	6-10 Faith Formation Classes - PC
THURSDAY	7:00 pm	RCIA
FRIDAY	1:00 pm	Magnificat Meeting - PC Conf Room
SATURDAY	9:00 am	"To Jesus Through Mary" Rosary Group - Marian Residence

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unending love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

Stewardship Renewal Weekends – We have completed our Stewardship Renewal weekends for this year. If you didn't get a chance to fill out a Time, Talent and Treasure survey, please pick up one in the entrance of the church, fill it out, and drop it in the collection or bring it to the parish center office. We are truly blessed to have so many people in our parish sharing their gifts that God has given them.

Thank you to those who donated candy for the bags for the children that will be distributed after the Christmas Pageant. Your generosity is amazing!

**2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal
(Goal \$50,101.00)**

AMOUNT PLEDGED TO DATE	\$24,980.00
AMOUNT RECEIVED TO DATE	\$24,341.52



COLLECTION OF NOVEMBER 22, 2015

ADULT	\$	8,819.00
YOUTH	\$	32.00
PLATE	\$	397.00
CANDLES	\$	23.00
BUILDING	\$	60.00
REP	\$	60.00
TOTAL	\$	9,391.00
CAMP FOR HUMAN DEVELOP HAITI/MISSIONS	\$	580.00 130.00
2014-2015 WEEKLY BUDGET	\$	12,684.00
AMOUNT NEEDED YTD	\$	266,364.00
ACTUAL AMOUNT RECEIVED YTD	\$	190,670.01