

December
2023



Debbie Breckenridge—DRE
Todd Ripley—Youth Director

Rev. John Hourican — Pastor

Lisa Schmidt—RCIA
Angela Moore—Women's Club
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SAINT WILLIAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Mission Statement

We the people of St. William Parish, accept as our mission: to love God with all our heart and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves. We seek to know our faith, to live our faith, and to authentically teach our faith by word and example. We carry out this mission by lovingly promoting the traditions and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and through prayer, evangelization, and service to others; while always remembering that the primary mission of the Church is the salvation of souls.



St. William Council 6321

December 2023 News



With Thanksgiving under our belt and on our waist, it's on to Christmas. November was great throughout for the Knights. We served a good Thanksgiving meal at our monthly St. Patrick's homeless meal which we do on the second Sunday of each month. The turkey and other fixings were supplied by the Knights except for the stuffing which was handcrafted by Teresa Elliott. Thank you, Teresa!



It was also our turn to staff the Millington Food Pantry. This is a great outreach program St. William supports with our friends at Millington First United Methodist Church. If you know someone with food insecurity in the 3805 zip code, they can call the pantry every Tuesday and the third Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 901-872-2771. The pantry is located at 8029 Wilkinsville Road.



In November the Knights of Columbus reached a milestone, over 1 million coats distributed in the US and Canada since 2009. Here are Brother Knights Joe Halko and Bill Beckmann contributing to this effort at Drummonds Elementary. We also received a sizeable donation of used coats that went to St. Patrick's coat closet to hand out to those in need. Thank you!

On December 2nd there will be a blood drive in the FLC from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come by and give the gift of life if you are able to. My soon to be 5-year-old granddaughter often says sharing is caring. Thank you all for sharing your blessings with the Knights throughout the year and supporting our efforts to show we care about those who need our help. Vivat Jesus, and **Merry Christmas**



The Nicene Creed, Part 3

I Believe in One God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.....

This is the first affirmation of the Apostle's Creed and also the most fundamental. God is the creator, he is our creator. Through God and by God we have our world – the grass under our feet, the trees that provide shade or fruit to eat, the birds and animals and the air that we breath. Without God, there is no life.

The confession of the oneness of God is rooted in scripture and the Old Covenant. God revealed himself to Israel as the Only God: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and will all your soul, and with all your might" (Deut 6:4-5).

In the first two chapters of Genesis, the story of creation is laid before us. We read and meditate on God creating the world and us from nothing. God then continues to reveal himself starting with Adam and Eve. He makes himself known to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He continues to reveal himself through Moses and the prophets.

God is also Truth and Love. In all his works, God displays not only his kindness and goodness, but also that his trustworthiness, constancy, faithfulness and truth. The 1st letter of John tells us "God is light and in him there is no darkness" and again "God is Love". God's truth is his wisdom, which command the whole created order and governs the world (Wis 13:1-9). God is also truthful when he reveals himself – through Scripture and through Jesus. God shows he is love throughout history, starting with Israel and throughout the current age. We know through Scripture how God continually guides and forgives our shortcomings and our turning away from him – he always welcomes us back to him when we seek his forgiveness.

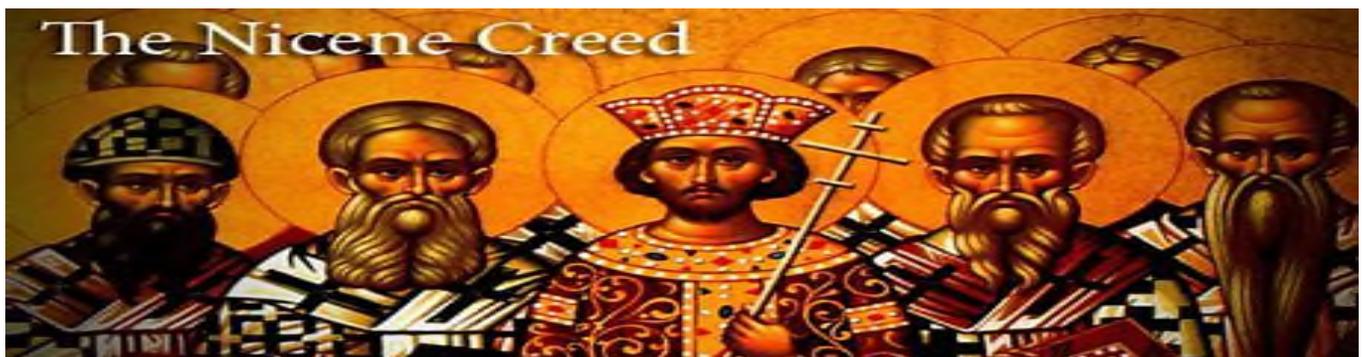
From the Catechism....

229: Faith in God leads us to turn to him alone as our first origin and our ultimate goal, and neither to prefer anything to him nor to substitute anything for him.

230: Even when he reveals himself, God remains a mystery beyond words: "If you understand him, it would not be God" (St. Augustine)

231: The God of our faith has revealed himself as He who is; and has made himself know as "abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex 34:6). God's very being is Truth and Love.

Next month, we will focus on our One Lord, Jesus Christ.



The Season of Advent

Well, it has come upon us – the Advent Season. With the end of the year, there is so much activity that we can lose sight of the importance and meaning of our faith. Fortunately for us, the Church, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has provided us a way to keep the importance of end of the year in perspective. We are blessed with Advent.



Advent always begins 4 Sundays before Christmas. This means that the date for the 1st Sunday in Advent can begin anywhere between November 27th and December 3rd. – this year Advent begins on November 28th. So, advent can be either slightly longer or less than 4 weeks. The first Sunday of Advent is also the beginning of the liturgical year within the Church.

You may wonder what Advent is about and why it is important to celebrate liturgically and in our homes. During this time, the Church allows us to take a step back from our busy lives in anticipation of the coming of Christ – not only at Christmas with his birth, but his coming and presence in our lives and looking forward to his second coming. The Advent season is penitential as well as joyful. During this time we prepare ourselves for Christ coming through the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist as well as the joyful expectation of him coming.

The word "advent," from the Latin *adventus* (Greek *parousia*), means "coming" or "arrival." The **Advent Season** is focused on the "coming" of Jesus as Messiah (Christ or King). Christian worship, Bible readings, and prayers not only prepare us spiritually for Christmas (his first coming), but also for his eventual second coming. This is why the Bible readings during Advent include both Old Testament passages related to the expected Messiah, and New Testament passages concerning Jesus' second coming as judge of all. Also, passages about John the Baptist, the precursor who prepared the way for the Messiah, are read. All of these themes are present in Catholic worship during Advent, which The [Catechism](#) succinctly describes:

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (524).

Since Advent looks forward to Christ's birth and Incarnation, it is an appropriate way to begin the Church Year. However, Advent is *not* part of the Christmas season itself, but a preparation for it. Thus, Catholics do not sing Christmas hymns, or use Christmas readings, in Mass until December 25th, the first day of the Christmas season.

The liturgical color for Advent is violet (except for the Third Week of Advent, often called *Gaudete Sunday*, in which rose may be used), and the season is somewhat penitential, although not so explicit and emphatic. The character of worship during Advent is more solemn, quiet, and less festive than during other times of the year. In the Catholic Church, for example, the *Gloria* is not used. The use of violet reflects the general themes of Advent: penitence (generally expressed more in terms of expectant hope) and royalty. Some prominent feasts fall within the Season of Advent, including the [Feast of the Immaculate Conception](#) and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Advent Wreath



December 3, 2023 begins the Advent Season. During the Mass, the candles of the Advent wreath will be lit each week. So, what is an Advent wreath and why do we use this sacramental both at Church and in our homes?

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing [eternity](#). On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged. During the [season of Advent](#) one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, [Jesus Christ](#).

Set on the branches of the wreath are [four candles](#): three purple candles and one pink candle. In the center of the wreath sits a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the [light of Christ](#) into the world.

The first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "[Prophecy Candle](#)" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily [Isaiah](#), who foretold the [birth of Christ](#). This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah. Each week on Sunday, an additional candle is lit.

The second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents [love](#). Some traditions call this the "[Bethlehem Candle](#)" symbolizing Christ's [manger](#).

The third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "[Shepherds Candle](#)" and it represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "[Angels Candle](#)" represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Also, those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and [made whiter than snow](#).

[Celebrating with an Advent wreath](#) during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way for [Christian families](#) to [keep Christ at the center of Christmas](#), and for parents to teach their children the [true meaning of Christmas](#).

Making a wreath as a family is a great way to prepare for the Advent season and Christmas. They can be made from round Styrofoam and decorated with items and candles. Just cut four holes the size of your candles around the edge and one in the middle. Place your candles in the holes and then stick greenery in the Styrofoam to make it nice and green – There, you have an Advent wreath that holds meaning to your family. While creating, you can share with your children why we have this to remind us of our waiting for Jesus.

Women's Club News

December 2023

As we come to the end of 2023 we would like to thank you all for helping make our annual Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction a success. The food was delicious and thanks to your donations we had a record number of auction items. Special thanks to this year's Confirmation class, the Youth group, and all our family members that pitched in to help. We could not have done it without you.

Our annual six gifts exchange was attended by 38 women. There was a great spread of food and a terrific assortment of gifts to choose from. If you have not attended this event, please watch for it next year. We are certain you will not be disappointed.

One last "thank you" to all who supported our holiday bake sale. We hope you found something to satisfy your sweet tooth and holiday dessert needs.

If you have not nominated someone for Woman of the Year the deadline to do so is Nov 27th. Send your vote to Theresa Cook, Tcookmj@gmail.com. The winner will be announced at our end of year party, which all women of the parish are invited to attend. We will have a pot luck lunch and gift exchange, dirty Santa style. Bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift and join us for a lot of laughs and fun!



This month's spotlight is on Albina Castro. Albina has been a member of St. William parish since 2009 and has two sons, one daughter, and one grandson. She is employed at our church and does a wonderful job keeping the campus buildings clean. Albina is always willing to help our club whenever she is needed and she was our expert advisor for our first Cinco de Mayo fiesta. You are likely to see Albina in the FLC after 8:30 mass enjoying fellowship. Be sure to stop by and say hello.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas! Please join us in the New Year for our meeting on January 10, 2024. We will have a small social at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. All women of the parish are welcome!





Religious Education

Please join me in thanking our 5th and 6th-grade PRE classes for an unbelievable job handling the youth Mass in November. We will be having a parent's night out on Friday, December 8th in the game room of the school building. This should be great fun and I hope that you will be able to join us! Sunday, December 17th will be our last PRE class for the year and we will be doing our annual Santa Shop and Christmas fun day sponsored by the High School Youth Group. There will be no PRE classes on December 24th or December 31st.



ATTENTION ONE & ALL....December 15th we will have our infamous Christmas Bunco Night along with our annual Dirty Santa Sock Exchange. If you have ever been on the fence about coming to Bunco, December is the month to do so. Bring a **wrapped** pair of Christmas socks or slippers to play Dirty Santa, along with a finger food to share. Come dressed in your favorite Christmas attire and get ready to have a great time! We meet at 6:00 p.m. and start playing at 6:30 p.m. Call Debbie Breckenridge if you have any questions at 901-359-7063.





P.R.E. ANNUAL SANTA SHOP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
DURING PRE

SEND YOUR STUDENT WITH SOME
MONEY TO CHRISTMAS SHOP FOR THE
FAMILY...ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**DROP OFF IN PRE CLASS
PICK UP IN FLC**



CALL DEBBIE WITH QUESTIONS 901-359-7063



PARENTS NIGHT

Out!

St. William Kids Fun Night In!

Friday, 12/8

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Gameroom School Building

Please RSVP to Debbie At 901-359-7063 for a headcount on dinner, snacks and activities

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Choose the correct answers.

1 Where did Mary and Joseph have to sleep?



- a) in a house
- b) in a stable
- c) in a castle

2 Where did the baby Jesus sleep?



- a) in a manger
- b) in a cradle
- c) in a bed

3 What did the wise men follow?



- a) a cart
- b) a shepherd
- c) a star

4 What was Joseph's job?



- a) a shepherd
- b) a carpenter
- c) a king

5 What place did Joseph and Mary go to?

- a) Nazareth
- b) Jerusalem
- c) Bethlehem



6 Did Joseph and Mary see an angel?



- a) yes
- b) no
- c) maybe

7 What did the wise men bring?

- a) gold, silver, wheat
- b) gold, incense, myrrh
- c) gold, water, wheat



8 What was the evil king's name?



- a) Augustus
- b) Caesar
- c) Herod

9 What colour is Santa's suit?



- a) red
- b) green
- c) white

10 What is Santa's lead reindeer called?

- a) Vixen
- b) Rudolph
- c) Donner



11 What night does Santa come?

- a) 24 December
- b) 25 December
- c) 26 December



12 How does Santa get into the house?

- a) through the window
- b) through the door
- c) through the chimney



13 What does Santa carry the toys in?

- a) in a sack
- b) in a box
- c) in a pocket



14 What do children hang up for Santa to put the toys in?

- a) a coat
- b) a bag
- c) a stocking



15 Who helps Santa to make toys at the North Pole?

- a) reindeer
- b) elves
- c) witches



16 What do reindeer pull?

- a) a sleigh
- b) a cart
- c) a boat



17 What bird is cooked for Christmas dinner?

- a) duck
- b) chicken
- c) turkey



18 Where are the presents kept before opening them?

- a) in the window
- b) under the trees
- c) behind the door



19 What is hung outside on the door?

- a) a wreath
- b) a bell
- c) a star



20 What kind of songs are sung?

- a) carols
- b) pop songs
- c) gospels



21 Before electricity, these were put on the trees.

- a) lamps
- b) torches
- c) candles



22 What is common four-letter abbreviation of Christmas?

- a) Ymas
- b) Wmas
- c) Xmas



23 What kind of calendar is opened by children leading up to Christmas?

- a) Advent
- b) Year
- c) Month



24 What's a popular Christmas dessert?

- a) chocolate
- b) pancake
- c) pudding

