

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent
Weekly Mass Schedule

Wednesday 7-9 p.m. Adoration
 Sunday 3:00 p.m. Cluster Penance Service
 4:30 p.m. Over 50 Christmas Party

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS
Nov.25-26, 2017

Saturday Dec 02 5:00 p.m. Marie Mueth
 Sunday Dec 03 8:00 a.m. Margie Crain
 10:00 a.m. Gigi Sauzek
 Monday Dec 04 8:00 a.m. -----
 Tuesday Dec 05 8:00 a.m. Joseph & Johanna
 Hankammer
 Wednesday Dec 06 8:20 a.m. Melvin Ehrstein
 Thursday Dec 07 8:00 a.m. Maurice Hoeffken
 Friday Dec 08 **8:20 a.m.** Brian & Margaret
 Ruiz & Family
12:10 p.m. George Orlet
 and Family
7:00 p.m. Jerry Gomric
 Saturday Dec 09 5:00 p.m. Walter Friedrich
 Sunday Dec 10 8:00 a.m. Paul Reinke
 10:00 a.m. Hilda Schaefer

Loose	293.00
Adult	4704.00
CCHD	105.00
Christmas	10.00
Christmas Flowers	200.00
Solemnity of Mary	10.00
Immaculate Conception	10.00
Rel. Retirement Fund	100.00
Sister Parish	40.00
Building Fund	120.00
Debt Reduction	115.00
School Endowment	10.00
Votive Candles	30.00

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is the same Jesus, born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, who not only healed human bodies, but raised people from the dead. He still performs miracles provided we believe. *Therealpresence.org*

Wednesday, Dec. 6. 7-9 p.m. Rosary at 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNAL Penance SERVICE

Immaculate Conception, Columbia will host the Communal Penance Service on Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 p.m. There will be a scripture service followed by confession. Several priests will be available. All are invited to attend.

SERVERS

Dec. 08 8:20 a.m. St. James Students
 12:10 p.m. Volunteers
 7:00 p.m. Volunteers
 Dec. 09 5:00 a.m. Ellie Grossman, Andrew Tyler,
 Tatum Stapf
 Dec. 10 8:00 a.m. Aubrey & Bryce Schaltenbrand
 10:00 a.m. Gwen Keeven, Gavin Sanders,
 Shannon Westhoff

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday 6:00 p.m. CCW Christmas Party
 Tuesday 4:30 p.m. Quilting
 6:20 p.m. PSR
 Wednesday 8:30 a.m. Quilting

STANDING WATCH. ALWAYS READY.

We are challenged not to slide easily into this new liturgical year. We must be on guard. We must be ready to act in the ways St. Matthew laid out last Sunday. Simply stated, Christ the King says heaven-worthy acts are works of mercy. These spiritual and corporal works offer needed guidance for weekly behavior.

- *What work of mercy needs doing?
- *What will I do this week to work on it?
- *How can I engage others to help?

PARISH NEWS

Friday, December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 8:20 a.m. (All School), 12:10 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Jillian Elise Potter, the daughter of Justin and Chelsea Schumacher Potter, was baptized on November 26, 2017.

The 2018 Lector workbooks beginning with Advent are available in the vesting sacristy.

Next weekend the process of nominating two St. James Parish Council members will begin.

Help Care for Elders. "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs.

Please give generously to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. An envelope is provided in your packet. Thank you.

A special thank you to all who contributed to the Retired Diocesan Priests Collection. Total proceeds as of November 20, 2017 are \$70,502.54

DEACON FORMATION: If you are interested in learning about becoming a deacon, you are invited to attend two upcoming informational meetings on December 9th 10:00 a.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center and on January 6th 10:00 a.m. at the same location. For more information, call the rectory.

If anyone is purchasing Christmas flowers, please use the Christmas Flower envelope provided in your packet. Print clearly the name of the persons you would like to remember or honor and return to the rectory by December 17th.

Thank you for taking an ornament and purchasing a gift to benefit children who participate in the Griffin Center Programs in East St. Louis. There are a few left. Bring the wrapped gift, with the paper ornament attached to church and place under the tree by Sunday, December 17. The St. Vincent de Paul Society has gift card requests to help those in need. Please read the insert. A box is provided for the gift cards under the Christmas tree. Thank you.

SCHOOL NEWS

The Student Council will hold their Winter Dance on Friday, December 8 from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

PSR NEWS

This Tuesday, December 5, the students in grades 3-7 will have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The St. James Perpetual Help CCW Christmas Party will be held this Monday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish center. Cost is \$10.00. Household items and/or cash donations will be accepted for the Millstadt Food Pantry the night of the party.



OVER 50 CLUB

The Over 50 Club is having their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10th at the parish center.

Gathering is at 4:30 with a catered buffet dinner at 5:00 PM. To make reservations call Rich & Alice Betlach 476-1404. Cost is \$14.00 per person. In lieu of a gift exchange, monetary donations will be accepted for St. Vincent de Paul

The members will be going to the Senior Center on Dec. 5 (Beef Stew) and on Dec. 7 (Pork Sausage). If you plan to attend, call Darleen 476-1542.

BIRTHDAY PARTY TO HONOR JOE HUBBARD

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Belleville Council will host a special party to celebrate the 75th birthday of its Belleville Council Past President, Joe Hubbard. The event will be held on Sunday, December 10 at Holy Trinity Parish Gym at 6:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30). The cost is \$25 per person. For ticket information contact Judy Phillips, 618-567-6876 or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126. Joe would be honored to accept donations for the renovation of the SVDP Soup Kitchen and Thrift Store. Send donations to Happy Birthday, Joe, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 3415, East St. Louis, IL 62203 Thank you.

SPIRITUAL/ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Jesus and His Strange Relatives-Matt. Chapter 1* Presenter Fr. Tom Ovalle, OMI. Shrine. Dec. 7 & 14. 10 AM-Noon. To register call 618-397-6700.
*Exhibit of *Nativity Sets from Around the World*. Over 50 nativity scenes from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and U.S. Cathedral. Dec. 8-12.

SOCIALS, FESTIVALS AND MORE

*Weihnachtfest. St. James Parish Center. Dec. 3 10AM-5PM. St. Nikolaus Parade at noon.
*Christmas Concert. Gibault High School. Dec. 3 7-9PM. Featuring concert band, jazz band, chorus.
*Assorted Christmas Cookies for Sale. St. Michael, Paderborn. Cookies sold in 1lb or 7lb quantities. Order by Dec. 3. Cookie order pick up Dec. 9, 2-5PM, Dec. 10, 11AM-2PM
*Noon Luncheon. St. Luke, Belleville. Dec. 5. Turkey, Dressing, Apple Salad, Cake, Drinks. \$7. Cards and Bingo with prizes.
*Cookie Walk. Trinity Lutheran, Millstadt. Dec. 9. 9:00-Noon. Cookies sold by the pound
*Christmas Concert by Millstadt Community Choir. Zion Evangelical Church. Dec. 17. 7PM.

HAVE A BLESSED ADVENT