

Ministers of the Liturgy December 5 & 6, 2015

Saturday - 4 P.M.

Intention: Karen Hebert (L), Hubert LaBorde, Marian Quigley, Joyce Sirgo, George Spaulding, Madeline Gohres Grunewald, Joseph Segari, Patrick C. McKinney, Frank Anthony Federico, Flora Maria Be, Merle & Charles Dittmer, Marie O'Malley, Rose Marie Greco Federico, Augustine Borrás, Maria Mercedes Cabrera
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
K. Hartdegan, D. Martin
Cantor: Trish Foti

Sunday - 9 A.M.

Intention: Paul Fleming III
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
R. Meche, P. Manfre, M. Evola, P. Fleming
Song Leaders: Traditional Choir

Sunday - 11 A.M.

Intention: Dianne Z. Harrison, Adela Jimenez, Frank E. Golemi, Melvin Ducote, Kelvin Ducote, Hilton Daigle, Jr., Joseph Donald Bernard, Hilda Thibodaux, Patti & Ed Curry, Sr. (L), Poor Souls, Margaret & Larry Pregeant, Rita Burch, Melvin Volz
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
K. Robertson, R. Meece, J. Hutchinson, R. Oleksik
Song Leaders: Contemporary Choir

Sunday - 6 P.M.

Intention: Parishioners
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
A. Calongne, T. Keller
Cantor: Lauren Gisclair
Pianist: Beth Kettenring

Weekday Masses (12/7-11)

Monday	7:00 a.m.	Don Rowan, Sr.
	5:30 p.m.	Marie O'Malley
Tuesday	7:00 a.m.	Special Intention
	8:20 a.m.	Juan de Dios Iriarte, Sr.
	12 Noon	Our Blessed Mother's Intentions
	6:00 p.m.	Rita Burch
Wednesday	7:00 a.m.	Maxine Nicaud
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Marie O'Malley
	5:30 p.m.	Mary Comberrel
Friday	7:00 a.m.	Bill C. Johnson

Christmas Memorial Greenery and Flowers

The beautiful poinsettias and greenery that adorn our altar and sanctuary are a special part of the celebration of Christmas at St. Benilde Catholic Church. We invite all parishioners to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by using the **Christmas Flowers Memorial Envelopes** found in the vestibule of Church.

Donations toward the cost of Christmas decorations in the Church may be made in memory or honor of your family members and friends. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones, honor friends, and offer thanksgiving to God for prayers answered and blessings received during this past year. *The suggested donation is \$10 per remembrance.* Please place your envelopes in the collection basket, the Poor Box or bring it to the Parish Office before December 23. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Memorial Envelopes will be placed on the altar throughout the Christmas Season and names will be printed in the bulletin.

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 8, in observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. We will reopen on Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Dec. 12/13

4 p.m. J. Rodosta, L. Segari
9 a.m. C. Frederick, L. Whitman, K. Klapatch, R. Theriot
11 a.m. P. & R. Serio, N. Bostick, L. Frey
6 p.m. L. Daigle, B. David



Adoration Chapel Sanctuary
Light in memory of
Stuart and Gloria Fourroux

Altar Flowers in
memory of
Daryl Paul Sanchez



**Altar
Care**

Altar Ladies

Week of December 6
M. Curry, G. Boling

Linens

Large - C. Ayers Small - E. Beyer

Last Week's Collection

Envelopes	\$4,059.00
Loose	2,576.20
Repairs and Maintenance	575.00
Totalling	\$7,210.20
Thanksgiving Day.....	\$2,415.22

Fr. Cooper's Corner

Xmas and Christmas

More than 50 years ago, C.S. Lewis published an ironic little essay called, "Xmas and Christmas: A Lost Chapter from Herodotus." In it, he reverses the letters of his home country, "Britain." Then he writes about the strange winter customs of a barbarian nation called Niatirb. It's worth reading in these early days of Advent. I'll share with you just one passage.

"In the middle of winter when fogs and rains most abound, [the Niatirbians] have a great festival called Exmas, and for 50 days they prepare for it in the manner which is called, in their barbarian speech, the Exmas Rush.

"When the day of the festival comes, most of the citizens, being exhausted from the [frenzies of the] Rush, lie in bed till noon. But in the evening they eat five times as much as on other days, and crowning themselves with crowns of paper, they become intoxicated. And on the day after Exmas, they are very grave, being internally disordered by the supper and the drinking and the reckoning of how much they have spent on gifts and on the wine.

"[Now a] few among the Niatirbians have also a festival, separate and to themselves, called Crissmas, which is on the same day as Exmas. And those who keep Crissmas, doing the opposite to the majority of Niatirbians, rise early on that day with shining faces and go before sunrise to certain temples where they partake of a sacred feast.

"But [as for] what Hecataeus says, that Exmas and Crissmas are the same, [this] is not credible. It is not likely that men, even being barbarians, should suffer so many and so great things [as those involved in the Exmas Rush], in honor of a god they do not believe in."

What Lewis wrote about in Britain more than half a century ago is increasingly true about our own country today. As we continue our annual pilgrimage through Advent to the birth of Jesus, what will we do to really *live* this sacred season? The world has an ingenious ability to attach itself to what Christians believe; tame it; subvert it — and then turn it against the very people who continue to believe. Too many Americans don't really celebrate Christmas. They may think they do, but they don't. They celebrate Exmas.

The world — left to its own devices — has no room and no use for the birth of Jesus Christ. It has contempt for Christians who seriously strive to be His disciples. So we have nothing to lose and everything to gain by being the saints God

intended us to be. We can at least *seek* to be holy by tithing our time to sit quietly with God; allowing Him to fill our actions and our choices with His Son; and letting Him shape us into the men and women He needs. We can get up and experience the dawn in silence on these December mornings as a reminder of what Advent and Christmas mean. We can prepare ourselves to be alert for the voice of God and to receive God's Word afresh and proclaim it anew.

For our own sake, and the sake of the people we hold dear, we need to pray that our love for God and for the suffering and needy persons around us, will truly reflect God's love for us. And when it does, then the world *will* be a different place. (Full article on frcooper.info).

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Vigil Mass will be celebrated at **5:30pm on Monday, December 7**. Masses on **Tuesday, December 8** will be at **7am, 8:20am (School Mass), 12 Noon, and 6 pm. Due to the Holy Day of Obligation, there will be no 6pm Holy Hour and Confessions on Monday, December 7.**

Bless the Baby Jesus

The Bless the Baby Jesus devotion will be held with Fr. Cooper on **Sunday, December 20, as part of the 11 a.m. Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**. This is an excellent opportunity for families to grow in faith as the "domestic church." **All Children are invited to bring a figurine of the baby Jesus, particularly from their family Nativity Crèche to be blessed by Fr. Cooper during Mass.** Fr. Cooper will invite the children to sit at the foot of the step of the sanctuary for the homily and then to come forward to have their figurines blessed. Please come and enjoy this beautiful Advent Mass and devotion. Donuts and milk will be served after Mass.

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to following winners at the St. Benilde Foodie Fest: \$1000 - Anthony Asbill; Television - Connie Casente; BBQ Grill Combo - Dewey Roberts; Smoker - Fallon Delancy. Rosary & Altar Society Raffle Winners: Ice Chest of Fun - Julie Periou; Basket - Gina Hartdegen; Basket - Muriel Surcouf; Step-stool - Fr. H. L.; Step-stool - Steve Borne.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is now up in the church foyer. Please help us to help the less fortunate in our parish by taking an angel ornament. **Please return the wrapped gifts with the ornament attached. If you are giving a gift certificate, please include the amount of the certificate.** In order to deliver the gifts in time for Christmas, the deadline to return the gifts to Church or the Parish Office is **December 14**. May God bless your generous heart!