

**DECEMBER 18, 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

MONDAY – DECEMBER 19 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:10 A.M. Communion Service
7:30 A.M. Rita Bradley

TUESDAY – DECEMBER 20 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:10 A.M. Communion Service
7:30 A.M. Harry Robben

WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 21 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:10 A.M. Communion Service
7:30 A.M. Mary Jean Schutte
8:00 A.M.-NOON Adoration

THURSDAY – DECEMBER 22 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:10 A.M. Communion Service
7:30 A.M. Jerome Larsen

FRIDAY – DECEMBER 23 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:10 A.M. Communion Service
7:30 A.M. Mary Backscheider
8:15 A.M. NO MASS

SATURDAY – DECEMBER 24 – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:10 A.M. Communion Service
8:15 A.M. NO MASS
3:00 P.M. For Our Parishioners
5:00 P.M. For Our Parishioners
11:00 P.M. For Our Parishioners

SUNDAY – DECEMBER 25 – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

7:30 A.M. For Our Parishioners
9:30 A.M. For Our Parishioners
11:30 A.M. For Our Parishioners
7:00 P.M. NO MASS

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the soul of John Ristas who died this past week. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

BAPTISMS

Mollie Ann Fenbers, daughter of Michael and Kathleen Fenbers.
Finlay James Keith, son of Benjamin and Adrienne Keith.
Josephine Mae Keith, daughter of Benjamin and Adrienne Keith.

EARLY BULLETIN AND TORCH DEADLINES

Due to the holiday season, we will have the following early deadline: information for the January 1 bulletin should be submitted by noon on Wednesday, December 21. THANK YOU.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Sick is a healing sacrament of the Church. Anyone who is sick or elderly and in need of physical or emotional healing can come to this sacrament which will be communally celebrated annually. Those who would like to receive the sacrament before a hospital stay or surgery are invited to call the Parish Office to make arrangements. The sacrament is also available to those who may be near death. Please call the parish emergency line. Someone will respond to your call. Please inform the Parish Office when a member of the parish is hospitalized.

Considering Entering the Catholic Church?

RCIA is the process through which adults are fully initiated into the Catholic faith community. The process provides for different levels of entry. To obtain more information, call Deacon Mark Bardonaro at 471-7741.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

It is not the carols, nor the displays of lights, nor the shopping ads that get me into the Christmas spirit. Each year the Christmas spirit catches me with the return of the gifts from the Giving Tree! The Christmas spirit came to me again last Sunday as I watched you come to church with the gifts from the Giving Tree. You and your gifts are God's way of inspiring me. They will also be God's way of loving those who receive them. Your generosity with the Giving Tree always makes me proud to be a member of this parish faith community.

Next Sunday is the Feast of Christmas. Please note our Christmas Mass schedule. Next Saturday, Christmas Eve, the Masses are at 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m., (Carols begin at 10:30 p.m.). On Christmas Day, Masses are at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. There is no 7:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas evening. The 3:00 p.m. Mass is our most crowded Mass on Christmas Eve. I am asking you again to please be considerate of one another when it comes to saving places in the pew. I think it is reasonable for each person to save a place for one other person. I ask you to please not send two people ahead to save a whole section of a pew. Such a practice has been known to kill the Christmas spirit before the Mass begins.

Next weekend we celebrate a remarkable gift....God's gift of self to us in the person of Jesus born of Mary in a stable in Bethlehem. The Gift of Christmas is God's personal embrace of each one of us. May you experience that embrace this Christmas!

Fr. Jim

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE

Confessions will not be heard on Saturday, December 24.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE**CHRISTMAS EVE**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. – Children's Mass

11:00 p.m. – Final Mass on Christmas Eve

(Carols begin at 10:30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

NO 7:00 P.M. Mass on Christmas Day

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

VIGIL – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Infant Baptisms**

Attendance at a Parent Pre-Baptism Session is required. Call Theresa Eagan at 471-7741, ext. 481.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday, 8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., or by appointment.

Sacrament of Matrimony

One of the engaged or his/her parents must be a registered and active parishioner for six months prior to scheduling a wedding. Scheduling must take place at least six months in advance of the wedding. Weddings are not scheduled during Advent or Lenten Seasons. A marriage preparation program is required.

Communion for the Sick and Homebound

Please call the Parish Office to request this service.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will have reduced hours during the holiday season. Please note these times so you can plan your business accordingly.

Friday, December 23	8:00 a.m.-noon
Monday, December 26	Closed
Tuesday, December 27-Friday, December 30	8:00 a.m.-noon
Monday, January 2	Closed

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Attention PSR Families: There will be NO CLASSES for students in Grades 1-5 on Sunday, December 25 and January 1. Classes resume on January 8 at 10:30 a.m. Students in Grades 6-8 will not have class on Tuesday, December 27. Classes resume Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00 p.m. Thanks for your support of our PSR Program. The PSR Staff wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and Blessings in the New Year. Contact Theresa Eagan at 471-7741, ext. 481 with any PSR questions.

PARENTAL PREPARATION FOR THEIR INFANT'S BAPTISM

Baptisms take place on the first two Sundays of each month at 1:00 p.m. Parents requesting Baptism of their first child are asked to attend a preparation session. During this time, we will look at the history and theology of the sacrament, reflect on our own Baptism, and look at ways to pass the Catholic faith on to our children. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. **Our next session is scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 2017 after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in church.** Contact Theresa Eagan at 471-7741, ext. 481 with questions about Baptism or to let us know that you will join us on January 15.

ADVENT CONCERT

Mike Davis Advent Concert
with Scripture and Prayer
Wednesday, December 21
7:00 p.m. in Church

**SAVE THE DATE!!****HOLY HOUR FOR THE DYING**

Join us for the Holy Hour for the Dying on the last Tuesday of each month. We will meet this month on December 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2 of the Parish Center.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need several people to help us put Las Vegas ticket sheets in the January TORCH. This would be a good opportunity for a retired person, a Boy or Girl Scout, or a Confirmation student to do some community service. If we get several people, it can be done in a few hours. We will need you to be available one morning right after Christmas, depending upon when the TORCH is returned to the Parish Office. If you can help, please call the Parish Office at 471-7741 or Bob Murphy at 451-5047. THANKS IN ADVANCE! (Those people who have helped in the past do not have to respond. They will receive a call asking for their help as soon as we know when the TORCH will be ready.)

ST. DOMINIC'S BLOOD DRIVE

St. Dominic will be hosting a Blood Drive in O'Connor Hall on Sunday, January 8, 2017. Donating blood is safe and easy. Donors must be at least 17 years old and be in general good health. In order to donate blood on January 8, you must first make an appointment by calling the Parish Office at 471-7741, ext. 0. **DONATING BLOOD – WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO START THE NEW YEAR!**

ST. DOMINIC'S NEW ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Learn More About Your Faith through Adult Education! St. Dominic Parish announces the creation of its new Adult Education Program starting on Sunday, January 8. This is an informal, discussion-oriented program that is designed to offer answers to questions you always wanted to ask. Classes will meet in the Parish Center on Sunday mornings following the 9:30 a.m. Mass and will last approximately one hour. The program will run for ten weeks and you are free to attend as many of the meetings as you wish. Classes will be led by Joe Zalot. Joe earned his Ph.D. in systematic theology/ethics and is a St. Dominic parishioner. There is no charge for the Adult Education Program and all are welcome. Here's the schedule of the topics we will cover:

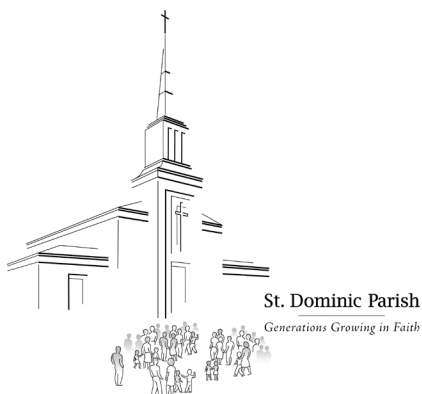
- Week 1: "Defining" the Catholic Church – it's more than just a building. The Church as one, holy (the Church is holy?), catholic, and apostolic
- Week 2: Structure of the Catholic Church – "What is the laity and what role does it play?" "What is a deacon, priest, bishop, archbishop, cardinal, and pope ... and what do they do?"
- Week 3: What happens when we die? – "Will I go to heaven, hell, or purgatory?"
- Week 4: "What do I believe?" (part 1) – The foundational beliefs of the Apostles Creed (we say this in church)
- Week 5: "What do I believe?" (part 2) – Heresy and how it influenced the Nicene/Constantinople Creed (what does consubstantial mean?)
- Week 6: Sacraments – "What is a sacrament and how are sacraments efficacious (what ??!?)?"
- Week 7: Sacrament of Baptism – "It's more than just the water ... and a party"
- Week 8: Sacrament of the Eucharist – "The bread and wine are really Jesus' body and blood?!?"
- Week 9: Sacrament of Marriage (part 1) – "What's marriage for, and why is it a lifetime commitment?"
- Week 10: Sacrament of Marriage (part 2) – "Why can't we just live together ... why is it one man and one woman?"

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Religious give thanks: "We cannot begin to repay all who contribute," writes a Catholic sister. "So we pray to God, who is never outdone in generosity, to reward you." Heartfelt thanks for your donation to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. May God bless you for your goodness!

**ST. DOMINIC BOY SCOUT TROOP 483
EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

My name is Michael Rosen and I am a member of St. Dominic's Boy Scout Troop 483. I have been diligently working on my Eagle Scout Project for the past six months. In November, a group of volunteers and I constructed an awning over the steps to the outside entrance of St. Dominic Hall (Pedretti side of Church). I have also restored and painted the handrail and the railing surrounding the steps, and will soon add lighting for the finishing touches. I believe that my project enhances the look of the entrance as well as safety for all those who use that entrance to St. Dominic Hall. At this time, I am asking for donations to help fund this expensive yet much needed project. If you would like to contribute to the funding of this project, you can write a check to St. Dominic Church and note on it "Eagle Scout project." Please put the check in a separate envelope marked "Eagle Scout Project" and send it to the Parish Office or place it in the collection basket. *Any excess funds raised will be donated to St. Dominic's general fund. Thank you for your support!*



Our future depends on you.

Please remember St. Dominic in your will and estate planning.
Our legal title is St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Offertory Collection Week of 12/11/16: \$ 20,159
Offertory Immaculate Conception: \$ 1,609

FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017

Actual Year to Date: \$ 433,053
Year-to-Date Budget: \$ 444,800
Under Budget by: -\$ 11,747

Retirement Fund for Religious \$ 4,995

Thank you for your support of our Parish.
May the Lord continue to bless you in your generosity!

ST. DOMINIC NEWS

THANK YOU – We would like to acknowledge and thank the Old Timers Softball team for their involvement in two fundraising events this past summer that benefited our Adopt-A-Student Program. The funds attributed to their efforts netted \$1,800.00. THANK YOU, Old Timers!

STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS – If you wish to receive a statement of your contributions for 2016, please drop the green card from the back of your 2016 envelopes in the collection on Sunday or bring it to the Parish Office. Statements will begin to be mailed out after all postings are finished for 2016.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2016 – Please remember that contributions for the 2016 tax year must be received in the Parish Office by Saturday, December 31, 2016 for them to be deductible for this tax year. We thank you for your ongoing support!

MISCELLANEOUS

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LESSONS IN CAROLS

Open your heart to the coming of Christ by attending Lessons in Carols on Monday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Antoninus Church. The special evening of music and prayer provides an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Music will be offered by the Giving Glory Contemporary Music Group, directed by Peg Delaney.

DELHI TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK – GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!

Don't miss out on this cookbook that contains over 500 recipes submitted by Delhi residents and friends. All proceeds go to a Delhi Bicentennial project to benefit the Delhi community. Price is \$15.00 plus tax (\$16.05). Order online at www.delhihistoricalsociety.org or by mail (Delhi Historical Society, 468 Anderson Ferry Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45238). Make checks payable to: Bicentennial Committee – Delhi Historical Society. If you would like the book/books shipped to you, add \$5.00 shipping/handling for up to 4 books or \$10.00 shipping/handling for 5 or more books. If you would like the books delivered to you for free or you have questions, please call Rose at 708-0160.

THE ART CENTER AT DUNHAM – Free Family Fun Series –

Dancers from Cincinnati Ballet will provide an exciting peek into the typical day in the life of a professional dancer on January 7 at 2:00 p.m. Reservation can be made online 3 weeks prior to the event at www.sunsetplayers.org or by calling 588-4988.

DAY OF REFLECTION FOR CATHOLIC MEN – In God We Trust:

Navigating your Family through Today's Challenges with Fr. Nathan Cromley. Sponsored by St. Ignatius of Loyola Father's Group at Ruah Woods on Saturday, January 28 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, go to www.tinyurl.com/fathersretreat.



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 24 & 25

	SERVERS SCHEDULE	GIFT BEARERS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS (Captains names are listed first.)
3:00 p.m. Saturday				
5:00 p.m. Saturday				
11:00 p.m. Saturday				
7:30 a.m. Sunday				
9:30 a.m. Sunday				
11:30 a.m. Sunday				

**See sign-up sheets in
Priests' Sacristy**

GIVING TREE



THANK YOU to all who participated in our Giving Tree program this year! Because of your help, we were able to provide added joy to recipients from St. Leo Parish, Holy Family Parish and our own St. Dominic Parish. Our gratitude extends to those who helped make and write gift tags, those who took a tag and fulfilled the wishes of an individual, those who donated money to this worthy cause, the Girl Scouts and their families who organized the gifts in the Gathering Space, those who helped load the trucks and those who helped unload the truck at St. Leo Parish and last but not least, those who helped organize the gifts in the basement of St. Leo Church. May God bless you for all you do to show the world what a great and generous community St. Dominic is.

