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Sharing God's Blessings

Date	Collection
Nov 23 & 24	\$ 575

By November 16, CSA 2024, we raised \$5460 (111%) of \$4920, Our Building insurance will be \$11,618; the sharing of CSA this year will use to pay for our building insurance. Please keep the bard raising. **Thanks for your support !**

**CCD Class
 Dec 1 & 8**

Parents, please bring your kids to the class
Next OCIA Class will be on Friday December 6 at 6:00 p.m
 All are welcome to join us.

MASS ETIQUETTE

1) Remember to **be silent, turn off, and put away your cell phones**, tablets, and gaming devices prior to the start of Mass.

2) **Keep in mind the Communion fast**—we are to fast from food and drink (water and medicine excluded) one hour before receiving Holy Communion. **This includes chewing gum.** Even you are not planning to receive the Holy Communion, chewing gum is generally not appropriate in a church, including during Mass, for Catholic teaching. Let us prepare our body and soul to worthily receive and worship our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

3) When we are in the church (specifically in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament), **we should keep our volume to a reverential whisper, if conversation is necessary. This is to promote prayer with Christ in the Eucharist and to prepare our hearts and minds for Mass and express our reverence to the present of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.** Community time is best for after Mass in the hall or outside the church. Thank you for your mindfulness!

LITURGY SCHEDULE
SATURDAY: 5:00 p.m
SUNDAY 11:00 a.m

WEEKDAY: Tue, Wed, Thu at 5:00 p.m.
 Friday at 8:00 a.m
Holy Day of Obligation at 6:00 p.m

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
 Every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m prior to Mass
RECONCILIATION: Any time 30 minutes before or after daily Mass, After Sunday Mass
Other days by appointment

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Nov 30 —Mass at 5:00 p.m
For Russell Carpenter Rq. By Altar Society

SUNDAY DEC 1ST
FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS

Dec 3— For Russell Carpenter
Rq. By Altar Society

Dec 4—For Russell Carpenter
Rq. By Altar Society

Dec 5— For Benefactors of parish
For Russell Carpenter
Rq. By Altar Society

Dec 6—For Russell Carpenter
Rq. By Altar Society

HAPPY BIRTHDAY of November
Kathy Bronkhurst Dec. 2

Elise Taylor Dec. 3

Annie Green Dec. 5

Rick Moss Dec. 6



Wishing you all Happy and Blessed Birthday

Angel Tree: All gifts for Angle Tree should be returned by **December 8th.** If you are not able to return the gift by that time, please call Marian (304- 364-2497) to make special arrangements. The ID numbers for the gifts will be placed on the tables in the parish hall. Please find the ID number for your gift and leave the gift by that number.

Thank you for making someone's Christmas a little more blessed this year.!"

Pastor pondering:
Greetings on this First Sunday of Advent
Dear brothers and sisters,

This **Sunday, we will begin our Advent season,** a great time of grace as we prepare ourselves to welcome the Lord. The USCCB states:

"Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no. 346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well."

At our parish, to prepare ourselves for the Christmas celebration, we will have **Advent Penance Service on December 8. After Sunday Mass,** the light lunch will be served and followed with Advent Penance Service. Fr. William Kuchinsky will give reflection and hear confessions for us.

3) December 15, **First Communion** and **Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner .**
 Dec 24 Christmas Eve – **Mass at 8:00 p.m**
 Dec 25 Christmas Day --- **Mass at 11:00 a.m**
Mass at Risen Lord - Dec 25 Christmas Day

Advent wreath meaning: The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green color beyond the season in which they are collected.



Advent candles:

Traditionally, Advent wreaths have four candles that represent the four weeks of the season. The subsequent lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope of our Lord's coming into the world at Christmas, as well as the anticipation of his second coming at the end of time.

The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they respectively symbolize **hope, peace, joy, and love.**

First Advent Candle/Sunday: Hope: It is only fitting that the first candle on the Advent wreath represents **Hope** – the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. The first candle is **purple**, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "**Prophecy Candle,**" the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus. This Advent, light the first candle on **Sunday, December 1, 2024.**

Christmas Flowers!

Donations are now being accepted for Christmas Flowers. You may donate flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of a living loved one. List the names of your love ones and return the envelope to the collection basket. Suggested donation: \$15 -\$20. Flower donations need to be received by Sunday, December 21st in order to be included in the Christmas bulletin. Thanks

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is December 3rd this year. It is a day set aside by the diocese to remind all Catholics to donate to the Catholic Sharing Appeal for this year. Any money donated to the CSA will come back 100% to our parish

THANK YOU

St. Thomas Food Panty Nov 14 & 15 served 120 turkeys,
and more than 10,000 lb of meat, food to 129 families (352 individuals)
Thanks all volunteers and Benefactors! **HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!**
"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." –Mother Teresa



THANK YOU

Risen Lord Food Panty Nov 20&21 served 349 families, with 300 turkeys,
plus more than 14,000 lb of meat. Many winter coats and blankets also was distributed!
Thanks all volunteers and Benefactors! **HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!**
*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)*

