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**Sharing God's Blessings**

Date	Collection
Dec 3 & 4	\$ 1778

**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 13 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 Dec 7 —Mass at 5:00 p.m**  
*For Beata P's intention*  
**SUNDAY DEC 8TH**

**FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS**  
**Dec 9 – The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Mass at 6: p.m**  
*For Beata's Intentions*

**Dec 10 \_ Will be No Adoration & Mass**  
Since Fr. Thien will attend a meeting in Morgantown

**Dec 11—Mass at 6: p.m**  
*for GERALD L Young Rq by Elizabeth*  
**Dec 12—**For Benefactor  
*And For Beata's Intentions*  
**Dec 13—** For Beata's Intentions



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY of November**

**Matthew Peters Dec. 9**  
**Fred Friend Dec. 11**  
**Candice Teubert Dec. 12**  
**Allison Evans Dec. 13**

**Wishing you all Happy and**

**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**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord!  
Greetings on this Second Sunday of Advent!*

The word “advent” has a trifold connotation as I mentioned last week. It means the arrival of a new liturgical season, the preparatory time for Christmas, and the coming of Our Lord as a Child on earth. But it also means another “coming”—the Second Coming of Christ, in glory, at the end of the world. That is an advent which our hearts should long for and expect as well. We hope it will happen in our lifetime, but, even if it doesn't, we rejoice that it will happen in someone else's lifetime. The third “advent,” however, is less thought about—it's the coming of Christ in our midst now—principally through his Sacraments. Emmanuel means “**God is with us.**” He is most with us right now through His Sacraments, particularly the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. *Let's enter into these three “Advents.” to welcome Jesus.*

*The story is told about Jesus and Santa Claus once meeting each other in heaven before Christmas. Jesus said: “You know, Santa, I am jealous of you.” Whereupon Santa asked: “Why so, dear Lord?” And Jesus answered: “Soon it will be my birthday, but, it is you the people are preparing and waiting for.”*

**Keep Christ in Christmas!**

Let us ask, as did Alexander Pope, the challenging question, “**What do I profit, if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world ... but is not born in my heart and in my life?**” We also need to allow Jesus to be reborn in our lives. Advent is about beginning anew, after all.

In Luke's Gospel today, John the Baptist's call to “*prepare the way of the Lord*” echoes Isaiah words “*that every lofty mountain be made low, and that age-old depths and gorges, be filled to level ground.*”

What better way to do that then to experience Christ's Advent in His Sacrament of Reconciliation? **Let us make the very best use of our Advent times.** Make sure to get to the Sacrament of Christ's mercy during this Advent. **Please join us for Advent Penance Service at 12:30 p.m at St. Thomas on Dec 8.** Have a Blessed Advent. ~ Fr. Thien

**Future Event**

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.

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 at 8:30 a.m**

**MONDAY MASS AT 6:00 P.M**

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is December 8th, but since that day is the Second Sunday of Advent, the solemnity moves to Monday, December 9th.** On this day we honor Mary for she was conceived without sin. All others are born with original sin – the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. (Both Adam and Eve used their free will to disobey God, thus giving into sin – a mark that would be upon all generations.) However, by the grace of God, Mary was conceived with original innocence and holiness.

**The title of the Immaculate Conception recognizes Mary's privilege of coming into the world free from original sin.** Through the power of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, every human being can be freed from sin at Baptism. Through that same power, Mary was always free from sin, even from that very first moment of life. *"No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and the birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin."* USCCB (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, 142-143*)

*In 1846, the bishops of the United States asked Mary to watch over our country and its people in a special way. They also chose one particular title and feast of Mary—her Immaculate Conception.*

**On December 9,** the Church celebrates this special privilege given to Mary. At the liturgy we thank God for all his blessings he has given to the people of our country. And we can thank Mary for watching over and protecting God's people. **Please join us to pray for our nation at Mass at 6:00 p.m at St. Thomas.**

**Food Pantry-Help Wanted!**

**On Dec 11**  
**Make boxes+ Unload + Prepacked**  
At 1:00 p.m.

**Distribute on Nov 14**  
from 9:00 a.m. —noon

**Please let Fr. Thien or Connie know if you will be coming to help. You can sign up on the sign-up list. We need 10 people to help on Wednesday and 5 people on Thursday. Also, please come at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday to help make boxes.**  
**Thank you!"**

**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)  
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!**  
*"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." –Mother Teresa*



At Risen Lord church in Clay, On Dec. 7, 2024 Charleston Catholic High School (CCHS) students along with the Risen Lord church sponsored the annual Christmas party for about 280 kids who had their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoyed hot chocolate and homemade cookies, and picked up stockings, presents, and food boxes. CCHS students distributed about 280 presents along with more than 200 food boxes, "bring so much joy for the kids in Clay County," Thank you CCHS for bringing many smiles to the kids' faces. They make someone's Christmas more blessed this year again! Also Thanks Appalachian Christmas Project for giving us 1200 presents for those who come to Food Pantries at St. Thomas and Risen Lord.

