

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

November 26-27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent

Mass times: Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 10:45am

Confession: Saturday at 4:30pm

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

ST PATRICK INCREASED OFFERTORY PROGRAM

In the weeks ahead, you will be reading more about a new Increased Offertory Program taking place at our parish. This program is an opportunity for all of us to address the most pressing needs in our parish through increased giving. Our hope is to increase our weekly collection by at least 20%. **Please pray about and consider increasing your weekly offertory by 20%. If you normally give \$10 per week, please consider increasing to \$12; if you normally give \$50 per week, please consider increasing to \$60.** Families will receive an Announcement Letter from Fr. Rossi about the program in the mail this week. Each week, this space in the bulletin will be devoted to reminders and important announcements concerning the Increased Offertory Program. Please be on the lookout for more information about this exciting opportunity.

Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your produce."

Message from our Pastor:

Good day all! I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We have tons to be grateful for.

Today I want to tell you, as you heard in the homily, about an increased offertory campaign we are kicking off here at St Patrick. As you know, we struggle each year (and usually fail) to make budget.

In recent years we have run a deficit of about \$40k-\$45k and, unlike the government, we cannot simply print money to cover our shortfall. To cover our shortfall, we have been using our savings that we acquired when we sold the school building a few years back. But this will not last. Also remember, the Irish Festival that we have each spring very generously supports community outreach, social work, and capital improvements at the parish, but is a separate legal entity and does not help cover the daily operating expenses (such as providing for the priests, utilities for the building, etc).

The good news is that we don't have far to go to cover our deficit. We have already saved by making a few shifts related to the cost of music which are saving us over \$20k per year, and, based on the feedback I have received, we still have great music.

That said, I am asking that you give God a raise. Has God received a raise lately?

We are starting an increased offertory campaign here and are asking everyone to increase their giving by 20%. I am asking that you give God a raise of 20% more than you are currently giving.

That may seem like a lot, but when you think about it, it's not too bad. If you normally give \$10 a week, then try giving \$12 a week. If you normally give \$50 a week, try \$60. And so forth...

For most people the difference is giving up a cup of coffee at Starbucks, or sacrificing a lunch out vs packing for the day.

Also, I would like to make an appeal to folks, especially younger folks, who may be new to the parish and are considering making this your permanent home and have not yet begun contributing. We are very blessed to have you and pray your spiritual needs will be met here. We consider you as part of the family. That said, as part of the family, we would like everyone to do their part. If you are a member here then this is YOUR parish. If it shines, it's because of you!

The theme for our increased offertory campaign is from scripture, Proverbs 3:9 "honor the Lord with your wealth." Money these days is hard earned. Most of us work very hard for the salary we are blessed to receive. But one of the ways we can honor God, one of the ways we can pray, is with our money (our wealth). Ever since the Garden of Eden, with Cain and Abel, we as people have honored God by giving Him a portion of what we worked to earn. And not just some pittance of leftovers, but we gift him the "first fruits," right off the top.

When we give of our wealth, we "put our money where our mouth is." We testify with our actions that, although for most people they cannot spend countless hours doing charity work because of job and family obligations, they can give something they prize and value, namely wealth, directly to God. That's what we do when we take up the weekly collection at St Patrick and set it in front of the altar. That money, along with our prayers, rise up to God. God is certainly not money-grubbing, but he does receive our sacrifices and takes them as a sign of our love. He gets the first, the best of our lives, because He is our number one priority. Remember, love = sacrifice. Love without sacrifice is shallow.

There will be more information to follow, including a letter you should be receiving in the mail if you have not already. Please pray for the success of our increased offertory campaign. The benefits are endless: increasing our love for God, helping us become separated, in a healthy way, from an overdependence on material items, helping those who have less than us, caring for our parish, and ensuring that St Patrick Catholic Church is around for another 150 years and beyond.

God is good to us. He deserves a raise.

Have a great week everyone!!! - Fr Rossi

"Holy Communion - this is a reminder that Holy Communion in the Catholic Church is reserved to actively practicing Catholics. If you are not Catholic or have been actively practicing your faith, then please refrain from receiving Communion. If you would like to learn how to be welcomed to full Communion we would love to help. All you need to do is contact a priest. Our contact info is in this bulletin."

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

Christmas Concert: Dec. 9th

Please join us for the 2017 Christmas Concert, which will be held at St. Patrick Church on Friday, December 9th, at 7:30 pm. The concert will highlight a combined choir with vocalists and instrumentalists from St. John, St. Patrick, and St. Peter. Several solos and ensembles will also perform along with a children's choir. You and your families are invited to join us for a night of Christmas music as we prepare to welcome our infant Savior. For more information, please contact Angie Pometto at apometto@gmail.com.

Calling our Parish Bakers: We are going to host a dessert reception after the 12/9 Christmas Concert. Please consider donating a baked good to be enjoyed. Please let Michelle Dawson or Eddie Baird know what you are bringing.

Christmas Time Tradition: Just a reminder if you took a tag from the Christmas tree for the families of Appalachia, gifts need to be returned by 12/11. The Knights will also be accepting checks made out to KoC Council 6936 or to the Christian Center Inc. Donations will go to buying a nice Christmas dinner for the families, and the remainder to year-round needs for the children.

Neighborhood Holiday Happenings: So many things happening in our community up in Church Hill for the holidays the Church Hill Association wanted us to share with our parish community so we could take part in and enjoy. The weekend of December 9-11th there will be a Candlelit Walk, Holiday Party, and Home Tour. More information can be found on their website at www.Churchill.org.

Communal Advent Penance Service will be at St. John's on 12/6/16 at 6:30pm.

Calling all middle school girl basketball players & parents: Coaches Mallory McCune and Julianne McLellan want YOU (or your daughter) to try out for Saint Gertrude Middies Basketball this season We are hosting open tryouts on 11/29 at 7:30 in the SGHS gym 🏀 More info can be found here https://saintgertrude.myschoolapp.com/ftpimages/338/download/download_2072667.pdf See y'all at tryouts on 11/29.

Senior Trip: Trolley Light Tour Tuesday Dec. 13th leaving the church at 6:30 PM. If you would like to go on this trip please contact Heather Coleman by Sunday Dec 4th to reserve your seat. Thanks!

Church Support as of 11/20/2016:

Weekly

Actual	\$2,072.00
Budgeted	<u>\$4,107.00</u>
Difference	(\$2,035.00)

Year to Date

Actual	\$70,770.05
Budgeted	<u>\$86,310.00</u>
Difference	(\$15,539.95)

Attendance for 11/19 & 20/2016: 32/145

Children's Religious Education - Donna Baird

After Sunday Mass: Our religious education kids will be selling candy bars after 10:45 mass for \$1.00. They have chosen to donate the money this year to the Poor Clares and Little Sisters of the Poor.

We have some great news to share. As you may be aware, on Sundays before Mass we have a growing number of children learning about their faith. For that reason, we are using more space in the basement. We are also happy that all parishioners can gather downstairs before Mass, but in order for our children to focus on their lessons, please be conscious of the presence of the religious education classes. The children are amazing learners but they get distracted by outside conversations. We thank you in advance for helping us in this matter. Thank you! - Religious Education Team

Contact & Follow Us at:

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BULLETIN: All bulletin submissions must be in to Michelle Dawson the Tuesday at noon before the bulletin goes out.

SPC Emergency #: 804-402-1221 - If someone is dying or has died and you would like to talk with a priest, please call the emergency number at any time.

Baptisms: Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month during Mass. Baptism class for new parents is held at 1 p.m. in the parish hall. The next class will be held on 1/8/17. If you are interested in attending a class and scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner. Baptism information is on our website under the Sacraments tab.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): is the process where the Catholic Church welcomes new adult members into the Church. Adults wishing to learn more should please contact the SPC office or email Fred Powell: fmpjr2009@aol.com or Ryland Paxton: paxtonrl8229@marybaldwin.edu.

Visitation to the sick and homebound – If you or someone you know would like a visit and Holy Communion at their home. Please call the office at 737-8028. Office staff will ensure the information will be relayed to Visitation Ministry individuals.