



THE MESSENGER

Second Sunday of Advent, Year C
December 5, 2021

Serving the Catholic Parishes of
*Sacred Heart, Villa Grove, Illinois &
St. Michael's, Hume, Illinois*



*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Luke 3:4-6

CHURCH CENTRAL OFFICE

206 N. Pine Street
Villa Grove, IL 61956
Phone Number: (217) 832-8352
Fax Number: (217) 832-8354
E-mail: villagrove.hume@gmail.com
Web Site: www.sacredheartandstmichael.com

Pastor: Father Aloysius Okey Ndeanaefo

PASTORAL STAFF

Secretary: Amy Walch
DRE/Youth Coordinator: Mike Stauder
Custodial Care: Jim Balmer
Maintenance: Scott & Matthew Albin & Jim Balmer

OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Friday: 8:30 am — 1:30pm
(Closed on Holidays and Holy days)

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass at Sacred Heart
Tuesday—Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Vigil at Sacred Heart: 4:00 p.m.

In person Mass + Online Streaming

Sunday Mass at St. Michael's: 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart: 10:00 a.m.

CONFESSION

Saturday at Sacred Heart: 3:15 p.m.

Or by appointment

HOLY DAY MASSES

6:30pm: Vigil Mass at St. Michael's

8am & 6:30pm Holy Day Masses at Sacred Heart.

Pastoral Reflections

Scripture Reflection (2nd, Sun in Advent. Year C)

As Jeremiah's close associate, Baruch would have witnessed first-hand the collapse of Jerusalem and the exile of many of its citizens to Babylon. But in this brief book, he addresses a people who have grown wiser for that experience. And in this reading he relates God's response to their plea for forgiveness (2:1-3:8). In Luke's Gospel, the function of John the Baptist is to prepare the way for the advent of Jesus the Messiah. To do this, Luke configures the character of John the Baptist to fit that of an Old Testament prophet. John's work is twofold. First, he ushers out the old age; then he announces the new one.

John the Baptist is a part of history. The first two verses of this section of Luke's Gospel are filled with the names of political and religious leaders (3:1-2). A careful scrutiny of the names reveals that they were real people, but the dates and positions they held are far from accurate. However, Luke is not interested in political and religious accuracy but instead in rooting his message about Jesus in the real world, with real people, doing real things. For Luke, all of this is the real stuff of history. John the Baptist's prophetic call. Luke frames the message of John the Baptist within a tradi-

tional Old Testament call of a prophet (Jeremiah 1:1-5; Isaiah 6:1; Hosea 1:1). John is summoned by the word of God in the desert. According to Luke, John is the last of the great Old Testament prophets. As such, he is not part of the new age, but his preaching clearly points to it and prepares people for its advent. A baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John preached a message urging people to be prepared for the coming of the Messiah. He grounded his proclamation in the words of Isaiah 40:3-5, meant to prepare the Israelites for their return home after being freed from exile. John reconfigures these words so that they are aimed at preparing for the advent of Jesus the Messiah. Technically, this was a Jewish baptism intended originally to ritually signify a person's commitment to change one's life and be prepared for the new age. The final verse of this section is important because it emphasizes Luke's theme of universal salvation: "All flesh shall see the salvation of God" (3:6). The same theme runs throughout this entire Gospel. Both John the Baptist and Jesus include it in their preaching. Throughout his entire prophetic ministry, John the Baptist never loses sight of his purpose. He prepares the way of the Lord.

Excerpts from "Sunday Homily Helps", is used by permission of Franciscan Media. www.FranciscanMedia.org. ©2021. All rights reserved

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity. In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching. Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset. This day of solemnity is observed on December 8th.

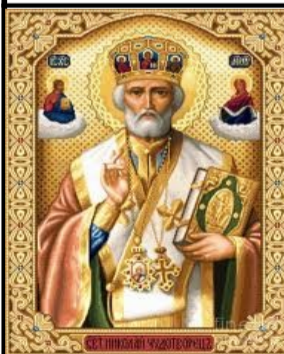
Coming Soon ~12, December, 2021~

Zep 3:14-18a. Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6. Phil 4:4-7. Lk 3:10-18.

Exhorting and Expecting. Even in these troubled times, we are urged to rejoice this day, this week, this season. The question posed by nearly everyone to John the Baptist: "What should we do?" is also our question. Saint Paul reminds us that the Lord is near. While we actively wait for Jesus Christ to come again, we are told to be merciful and just.

- *What in my closet can be given to clothe someone in need?*
- *What actions in my job or my retirement can be fairer and more just?*
- *What words from my mouth will speak only truth?*

Saint Nicholas ~March 15, 270-December 6, 343~










The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves.

*~Saint Nicholas~
Feast Day: December 6th*

	<h2>THE MESSENGER</h2> <p>Serving the Catholic Parishes of</p> <p><i>Sacred Heart - Villa Grove, IL and St. Michael's - Hume, IL</i></p>	
<p>Sacred Heart Catholic Church Villa Grove, IL</p>	<p>Please Patronize Our Local Businesses</p>	<p>St Michael Catholic Church Hume, IL</p>
<p>Advertise your business to hundreds of families in your area</p>	 <p>Villa Grove State Bank <i>Your Hometown Community Bank Since 1919</i></p> <p>10 N. Main St. Villa Grove, Illinois 61956 (217) 832-2631 www.villagrovestatebank.com</p>	<p>85% of those receiving a bulletin, refer to it during every week</p>
 <p>GILLES TRUE VALUE "Best In Hardware Since 1985" <i>The Gilles Family</i> 7 N. Sycamore St - Villa Grove, IL 61956 217-832-8123</p>		 <p>First Mid Insurance Group Thomas L. Schuett Senior Account Manager tschuett@firstmid.com Office 217-684-2277 www.firstmid.com Call Tom for help with your Medicare plans</p> <p>113 W. Washington St Philo, IL 61864</p>
 <p>PAUL'S We Build Solutions</p> <p>650 N. Sycamore St., Villa Grove, IL 61956 OFFICE 800.642.2541 FAX 217.832.3311 PAULSMACHINE.COM</p>	<p>THE WORLD TELLS US TO SEEK SUCCESS, POWER AND MONEY; <i>God</i> TELLS US TO SEEK HUMILITY <i>Service</i> <i>Love</i> - Pope Francis</p> 	
 <p>DAVID FROST, OWNER (217) 202-8188 FROSTELECTRIC16@ICLOUD.COM RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURAL</p>	<p>Shaw Law Firm, LLC Kylie S. Shaw, Attorney at Law 206 N. Randolph St, Suite 108 - Champaign, IL Phone: 217-363-2432 Services & information go to: Shawlawllc.com</p>	<p>Honey FOR SALE Sullivan & Juscus Contact: Terry at 217-251-2324</p>
<p>Contact the Parish Office to advertise today!</p> <p>217.832.8352 villagrove.hume@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Sugar Creek DENTAL CARE 701 S. Main Street -- Paris, IL 61944 Phone: (217) 463-4155</p>	

Announcements, Events and Activities

December Birthdays & Anniversaries	Reminders
<p>Birthdays</p> <p>12/1 Bob Jones 12/1 Jim Kremitzki 12/3 Karen Schweighart 12/4 Tom Cler 12/6 Cora Shirley 12/7 Kiela Martin 12/8 Barb Cler 12/9 Kathy Hettinger 12/11 Carson Kappes 12/12 Nicholas Wilkey 12/13 Cory Kappes 12/14 Malea Fonner 12/18 Brandon Mitsdarfer 12/18 Pat Bales 12/25 Nick Barrett 12/28 Mary Hildreth 12/30 Pam Wax 12/31 Laura Wilhelm-Barr</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Birthday!</i></p> <p>Anniversaries</p> <p>12/3 Rusty & Kim Keske 12/20 Marvin & Pam Cler</p> 	<p>SH Altar Society will meet Wednesday Jan 19th at 6:30 pm in the hall</p> <p>SH: Finance Council : Thursday Jan 13, 2022 , 6:30 pm</p> <p>SH Pastoral Council: Tuesday December 14, 6:30 pm</p> <p>SM: Finance Council : Sunday Nov 14, 7:00 am</p> <p>SM: Pastoral Council: Sunday December 5, 7:00 am</p> <p>SH: Adult Faith Formation on Wednesdays during Advent 6: 30 pm in the church hall.</p> <p><i>Don't forget to check the bulletin board in the church vestibule for flyers about events at local area church etc. that bulletin space limitations prevent it's posting.</i></p> 
Operation G.I.F.T	PSR Updates for Advent & Christmas
<p>Villa Grove Churches are preparing for their 19th annual Christmas Shopping Night called Operation G.I.F.T. (Giving In Faith Together) Over the past years they have provided toys for hundreds of children in our community, in past years churches were able to serve 200 children in the area. With additional donations also been able to help families pay utilities and given certificates for food. If you would like to donate, then make checks payable to "Operation Gift". There is a box in the vestibule of the church or you can mail checks to the Villa Grove State Bank at 10 N. Main St. Villa Grove, IL.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No child should have to go without on Christmas morning!</p> 	<p>~~ The Hat and Mitten tree is once again in the church vestibule for donations of both adult and child sized gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves. After Christmas these will be donated locally to those in need.</p>  <p>~~ The red wagon is also set up in the church vestibule for the Annual youth group food drive. Our young parishioners are asking that donations of nonperishable food items be placed in the little red wagon located in the vestibule of the church. Items collected will then be sorted, placed in baskets and distributed to needy families within the community.</p>  <p>~~~ Finally, Save The Date of December 19th following the 10 am Mass (the 4th Sunday of Advent) for an early parish wide Christmas party in conjunction with the PSR program. More details will be announced soon!!</p> 
Retirement Fund for the Religious	Formed
<p>Next weekend we will be participating in the Annual Retirement Fund for the Religious within the Springfield Diocese. Today, many of our retired religious serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world. Most senior religious worked for little pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders. Please remember these dedicated men and women next weekend !!</p>	<p>Just a reminder that Formed has some really excellent resources for Advent. You just need to go to formed.org, provide an email and choose your parish. It is that simple as well as free to every parishioner!</p>
	St Michael PSR Project
	<p>The PSR classes at St Michael are collecting items this season of Advent, to donate to a homeless shelter . Any donations of adult socks, hats, mittens and gloves would be greatly appreciated . A box for donations can be found in the back of the church. Thank you, in advance, for helping us to make this a successful project for our PSR students.</p> 

December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> StM 8a MI: Jodi Bosch SH 10a MI: Louise Schmidt	29  Feast of St Nicholas	30 SH Mass 8a MI: Ursula Calvert	1 SH Mass 8a MI: Ruth Schweighart	2 SH Mass 8a MI: Brigit Pegeen	3 SH Mass 8a MI: Mike Pangburn	4 SH: Confess 3:15p Mass 4p MI: Jim & Connie Metford
5 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> StM - 8a MI John Sullivan SH - 10a MI: Bud Kappes PSR SM 8:45 - 9:30 am SH 9 - 9:45 am	6  Feast of St Nicholas	7 SH - Mass 8a MI: Ruth Schweighart	8 SH - Mass 8a MI: Ursula Calvert SH Advent Adult Formation 6:30 pm	9 SH - Mass 8a MI Brigit Pegeen Kelly	10 SH - Mass 8a MI: Loise Schmidt	11 SH: Confess 3:15p Mass 4p MI: Rose Marie Marlatt
12 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> StM - 8a MI Harold Stone SH - 10a MI: Ruth Schweighart PSR: SM 8:45 - 9:30 am SH 9 - 9:45 am	13  Jesus	14 SH Mass 8a MI: John Schumacher	15 SH Mass 8a MI: Brigit Pegeen Kelly SH Advent Adult Formation 6:30 pm	16 SH Mass 8a MI: Ursula Calvert	17 SH Mass 8a MI: Barbara Legner	18 SH Confess 3:15p Mass 4p MI: Rolland Sprague
19 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> StM - 8a MI: Charles & Ciella Barrett SH - 10a MI: John Dee Hawkins PSR: SM 8:45 - 9:30am SH 9 - 9:45 am	20 	21 SH - Mass 8a MI: Ursula Calvert	22 SH Mass 8a MI: Pat & Martha Carr SH Advent Adult Formation 6:30 pm	23 SH - Mass 8a MI: Mary & Henry Kramer	24 Christmas Eve Vigil 4:30 pm SH MI: Mike Pangburn SM 6:30 pm MI: Gloria Secore	25 Christmas Day Mass SH 9 am MI: All Parish Families Merry Christmas 
26 <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i> StM - 8a MI: George Carroll SH - 10a MI:	27 	28 SH - Mass 8a MI: Ursula Calvert	29 SH Mass 8a MI: Ruth Schweighart	30 SH - Mass 8a MI: Anicia Kramer	31 SH Mass 8a MI: Harry & Louise Schmidt	







Diving into the beauty of the Faith has never been easier: at home, on the go, or from any internet connected device.

Discover thousands of books, audio talks, movies, documentaries, and studies... there is something for every member of the family to help them grow closer to Christ and His Church.



Over 4,000 titles - now available on almost any device!

Dozens of new features - all to help you enjoy the best in Catholic content

Already have a FORMED Account?

1. Visit FORMED.org
2. Click Sign In
3. Enter your email
4. Click the link in your email
5. You're in! No more passwords!

Registering on FORMED is easier than ever!

1. Go to FORMED.org/signup
2. Enter your parish zip code or name to select your parish
3. Enter your name and email

Visit FORMED.org or search for "Formed" on your favorite app store