

Strengthen Your Hearts

How good is good enough? Do you have to be perfect to get to heaven? In the second reading this Sunday, Paul seems to think so when he tells us to be "blameless in holiness" (1 Thess 3:13.) In fact, he tells the Thessalonians who are pleasing God, to do even more. (4:1) Now Paul never considered himself as perfect: "I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me." (2 Cor 12:7-9) But even with his weakness, Paul always did the best he could. So what should we strive for? Maybe we can take a hint from his phrase "strengthen your hearts."

Think of athletes who try to do their best. A great ball player takes batting practice every day to improve his average. A tennis player will practice her serve to get more aces. A hockey player will keep skating during the summer to get faster. Good athletes are always looking for ways to improve themselves. The keep in shape so they can be stronger, faster, smarter. So what about good Christians? That same attitude is what Paul means by "strengthen your hearts." And Advent is a good time to start.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord, we can get ourselves in spiritual shape. Spiritual reading can give us a stronger prayer life. But like the athlete who can read about the rules or strategies of the sport, we get a stronger prayer life by actually praying. If our spiritual reading just makes us feel good, we may be wasting our time. Hopefully, it will lead us to try praying more often and more seriously. Likewise, we can read about volunteering to feed the poor, but making the commitment and doing it is what strengthens the heart. And how can we be "blameless in holiness. . . at the coming of Our Lord?" Not by bragging about our goodness, but confessing what we have done wrong. Only God's forgiveness can make us blameless. Then as the Gospel says, we may have "the strength. . .to stand before the Son of Man." (Lk 21:36)

RECONCILIATION: See Mass Schedule or anytime by appt.Church Secretary: Kelly PaxtonBAPTISM: During weekend Masses by appt. Must be a regis-
tered member and attend baptismal preparation session.Maintenance: Tony KellermanMARRIAGE: At least six months prior notification to the pastor.Parish Council President:HOLY MASS: See Mass ScheduleImmaculate Conception: Jamie Schrader 318-3900

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SACRED HEART

Mass & Intentions

Saturday, November 27; Weekday 4:00 - 4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Mass Intention Emerenciana Calderron by The Calderon Family Jon Max Olinger by Betty & Brenda

Sunday, November 28; FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:00 am Rosary 8:00 - 8:15 am Confession

8:30 am Mass Intention Ralph Hemmer by Sacred Heart Choir John Alongi by The Family Rita Harsy by Cyrilla & Family

Monday, November 29; Advent Weekday 7:00 am Prayer Service

Tuesday, November 30: SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE 7:00 am Mass Intention Jenny Fronek by Betty & Brenda

Wednesday, December 1; Advent Weekday 5:30 pm Mass Intention Anna Banico by The Calderon Family

Thursday, December 2; Advent Weekday 7:00 am Mass Intention Val & Sally Fontana by The Fontana Children

Friday, December 3: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest 7:00 am Mass Intention Francis McLuckie by Al & Sharon Martin

Saturday, December 4; Advent Weekday; Saint John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church 10:00 am - Noon - Confession 3:00 - 4:30 pm Confession 5:00 pm Mass Intention Vito Riggio

Sunday, December 5; SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:00 am Rosary 8:00 - 8:15 am Confession 8:30 am Mass Intention Mary Lynn Szperra by Joe & Mary Beth Lane

KEEP THE FAITH GROWING

The Sacred Heart Capital Campaign (Keep The Faith Growing) is coming to a close at the end of the year. At that time there will be a full accounting and explanation. Please remember to honor your pledge. L

LITURGICAL MINISTERS Sacred Heart

Ushers for month of December Saturday: Harold Calderon, Allen Reaves, Tony Jones Sunday: Tim Cobin, Joe Lane, Rockne Berg

Saturday December 4th Lector: St. Bruno Sturdent Extraordinary Ministers: Priest, Cyrilla Prusacki

Sunday, December 5th *Lector:* Vianney Sanchez Extraordinary Ministers: Priest, Henry Born

Weekly Happenings Sunday, November 28 PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Monday, November 29 8:00 am - noon Quilting at Haffner Hall 9-11 am & 5 - 7 pm drop off at St. Joseph Thrift Store 4-5 pm Movement to Music at Haffner Hall

Tuesday, November 30 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Quilting at Haffner Hall

Wednesday, December 1 7:00 am - 5:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 am Pickleball at gym 6:00 - 7:30 pm PSR Class - Advent

Thursday, December 2 9:00 am - 4:00 pm St. Joseph Thrift Store open

4-5 pm Movement to Music at Haffner Hall 6:00 pm RCIA - Mary & The Saints 6:00 pm Choir

Friday, December 3 3:30 pm - Sacred Heart dessert drop off at American Legion Fish Fry - proceeds for the Clothes Closet

Saturday, December 4 Second Collection: Social Justice 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Salvation Army Bell Ringers 9:00 am Movement to Music at

Sunday, December 5 Second Collection: Social Justice

Sacred Heart Weekly Collections November 20th & 21st

Totals will be in next weeks bulletin due to early submission for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thank You for your generosity!

THE NEW BREAKING BREAD MISSALS ARE IN THE PEWS. PLEASE LEAVE THEM IN THE PEWS. THANK YOU!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mass & Intentions

Sunday, November 28; FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00 am Mass Intention John Pestka by Randall & Luanne Waring

Monday, November 29; Advent Weekday

Tuesday, November 30: SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE

Wednesday, December 1; Advent Weekday

Thursday, December 2; Advent Weekday

Friday, December 3: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Saturday, December 4; Advent Weekday;

Sunday, December 5; SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Second Collection: Maintenance Collection 10:00 am Mass Intention

Chris Kujawa by Don & Jania Hoffman

Roman Rojek by The Family

LITURGICAL MINISTERS Immaculate Conception Ushers for the Month of December: Jim Majewski & Steve Harris

Sunday, December 5th Lector: Tiffany Kujawa Sweet Treats: Jamie Schrader

Wednesday, December 8th Lector: Krista Piotrowski

> Immaculate Conception Weekly Collections November 21st

Totals will be in next weeks bulletin due to early submission for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanks for your generosity! CSMA 2021 - \$2,542 of \$2,585 goal We have met our 2021 goal!!!

Confession at Immaculate Conception

Confessions will be heard in the flower room west of the altar either before mass or after mass. Please wait in the room for Fr. Carl. If he does not see you, please alert him that you are there for confession.

THE NEW BREAKING BREAD MISSALS ARE IN THE PEWS. PLEASE LEAVE THEM IN THE PEWS. THANK YOU!



<u>Nursing</u> Home: Lynn Finn, Connie Horst, Shirley Forys, Marie Dubravek, Rosalea Prusacki, Anna Roberts, George Ciganovich.

Sick: Juanita Ray, John Dale, Jim Getzie, Joan Kowalski, Terry Chastain, James Feger, Gary Brock, Brynlee Brewer, George Ciganovich, Dorothy Bailey, Addi Darnell, Dorothy Alongi, Steve Porter, Rhonda Gilliam, Carl Giacomo, Matilda Harsy, Chris Kelley, Mary Iffert, April Muilenburg, Holly Eastman, Lorraine Cutler, Adriana Nixon, Thomas Huggins, Larry Hutson, Xenia Restoff, Debbie Olinger, Eileen Koenegstein, Leonard Rybacki, Paulette Jackson, David Martin, Aaron Sizemore, Bob Stewart, Linda Doerr, Helen Polcznski. *Names will remain in bulletin for 1 month.*

Military Personnel: Col. Aaron S. Cowley, SSgt. Jordan Keller, MGSgt (ret.) Thomas D. Sims , Sgt. Derek S. Sims, ITS1(SS/AW) John Kelley, SPC Mark Yanez, PV2 Jared Albers, Lt. Col. Carly Sims , Sgt. 1st. Cl. Caleb VanVoorhis, SSgt Tyler Jeffers, Lance Corporal Noah Mabry U.S.M.C., Major Andrew Martin, USAF Airman E-1 Hunter Hill, Master Sergeant & Medical Intel. NCOIC Terry E. Chastain Jr., Nick Depyatic (Airforce), Garrison Alvis (Marines), QMSN Patrick Buza. **Du Bois Knights of Columbus Council #4476 Educational Scholarship Forms** are available at the entrances to the church. Deadline to apply is December 9th. Return the application to the Du Bois KC Hall or through a member.



Sympathy is extended to the Family of **Jenny Harris** Who passed away Saturday, November 13th *May she rest in peace*. Please keep her family in your prayers

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I name a person or group of people whom I now realize I have overlooked? How can I seek out Jesus in my neighbor?

Copies of *The Messenger*, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Belleville, are available free in the back of church. If you haven't read *The Messenger* in a while, check out the regular column by Bishop McGovern and other important news, school features, and event information about your diocese.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" Our sanctuaries and our homes ring with these ancient words of invitation and welcome as we embrace the season of Advent. Quieting ourselves, much as the coming of winter stills and quiets the natural world, we seek to prepare a place for Christ to come again and to be born anew - for his come or "advent" - in our hearts and in our world.

-- 2018 Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays - Liturgy Training Publications Advent - The Meaning p. 1

Are you searching for personal time with God? Time to talk, pray or just listen to Our Lord. If so, we encourage you to come experience <u>Eucharistic Adoration</u>. Eucharistic Adoration is every other Wednesday at Sacred Heart Church. Some parishioners sign up for an hour time slot, or you can come and spend time - as little or as much as you prefer - between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. If you are looking for more information or you would like to set up a time, please call Lisa Mohr @ 542-4635. Everyone is welcome!

SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE DRIVE

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive will again be located in front of the Du Quoin WalMart Store this Christmas season. Sacred Heart will be ringing the bells on Saturday, December 4th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm and December 18th from 1 to 6 pm and we are looking for volunteers! Please call Henry Born at 542-3668 and get on the list to spread some joy!

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection fo the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! This collection supports those on the margins who live in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to Give" under "Resources."

Are you looking for that perfect Christmas gift?

How about remembering your loved one(s) with a personalized brick in *Sacred Heart's Remembrance Garden* (located between the church and the school). It is a gift that will last more than a lifetime! Please contact Kelly at the rectory office for more details.

Don't Forget, Gift to Sacred Heart & Immaculate Conception Are Tax-Deductible

If you are considering making a tax-deductible gift before the end of the year, consider funding our ministries at Sacred Heart and Immaculate Conception. We appreciate the generosity of our members, and we even have ParishSOFT Giving, a safe and secure way for you to contribute via the web. Funds are transferred directly form your account to ours, and when you login, you'll be able to view a repost of your transactions that shows your total tax-deductible contributions. Look for the link on our parish website www.sacredheart-duquoin.org

HOLY WATER

The Holy water vessels will be available to anyone who would like to fill their containers for their homes. At Sacred Heart it will be placed by the handicap door at the west side of the church. And at Immaculate Conception container will be at the northwest corner of the church.

Catholic Daughter Quilt Raffle Tickets

CDA quilt raffle tickets can be purchased now through early-December, with drawing to be held December 12th. Several other \$25 cash prizes will also be given away. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 & will be available in both churches and/or from any CDA member. Completed raffle tickets, with checks made out to CDA Ct. #795 or cash, can be dropped in the collection baskets - envelopes have been provided. Thanks in advance for your support!

WEEKEND WARRIOR SCHEDULE

December 6th - The Manns December 13th - JOY Cursillo December 20th - Reaves

ST JOSEPH THRIFT STORE

We are in need of large totes for storage in our thrift store donation areas. If you have any that you would like to get rid of, please consider donating them to the store. Thank you for your continued support!

Schedule:

Monday November 29th 9-11 am Drop off: 9-11 am Theresa Swain & Patty Reaves 5-7 pm Darrie & George Purcell

Thursday December 2nd - Store Workers 9 am - 4 pm Sondra Kuberski

Saturday December 4th - Store Workers 9 am - Noon - Joann Isom, Tony Haner, Mary Riggio If you are interested in volunteering to help please contact Shawn Kellerman at 318-6164.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to make this work of charity a success!

St. Joseph Thrift Store 110 W. Main St. parish office 542-3423



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

For those of you making plans for Christmas, here is this year's Christmas schedule:

December 24th: 4:00 pm - Immaculate Conception 6:00 pm - Sacred Heart 10 pm Sacred Heart December 25th: 9:00 am - Sacred Heart

Additional confession times at Sacred Heart: Saturday, December 4th 10 am - Noon Friday, December 10th 5:00 - 7:00 pm Wednesday, December 15th 6:00 - 7:30 pm

The 2021 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do... -John 14:12

The ministries and programs that rely on The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal ensure the healing, teaching and redemptive presence of Jesus Christ for the people of our Belleville Diocese. <u>Yet, their work cannot</u> <u>continue without YOUR help and support</u>. We ask for your continued prayers for the success of The Appeal and, if you are able, please consider making a gift. No amount is too large or small and donations are accepted throughout the year. Thank you and God bless!

UPDATED GUIDANCE ON MASKS DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

Based on the new State of Illinois mask mandate taking effect Monday, August 30, 2021, all individuals, regardless of their vaccination status, age two and older, are required to wear a mask while indoors. This includes weekday and weekend Masses, Eucharistic adoration, PSR, etc. Masking is also required at all indoor parish social events. Please remember to leave a 6 foot social distance when proceeding to communion.

Layered mitigation approaches have proven to be most successful in minimizing Covid transmission in our churches. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we strive to continue to keep our people safe and our churches open.



Vocation Corner November 28th

"I was raised in a loving Catholic family, yet it wasn't until I joined the local parish youth group that my faith came alive. Led by our youth minister to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, I encountered a God who knew and love me intimately, and I dreamed about becoming his bride and serving him in the poor. In high school, my life was filled with studies, sports and friends. After graduating from Villanova University, I worked as an oncology nurse while also dating man I could see myself marrying. I seemed to have it all, but I couldn't forget what God had placed deep in my heart as a 15-year-old. The immense joy and peace I experienced contemplating a religious vocations led me to leave everything and follow in our Lord's footsteps. God's dream for me came true on June 6, 2016 when I professed my final vows.

Sister Chara Rose Fedele; Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal; Columbia Magazine – April 2019

Diocese of Belleville PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious God, You have called us through Baptism to discipleship, believing in your Son, Jesus Christ, who has sent us to bring the Good News of salvation to the world.

> We pray to you, asking that you grant us more priests and religious who will help us build up your Church in the Diocese of Belleville and the world.

Stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many of our youth. Grant to them the willingness and generosity to give of themselves in service to our Lord Jesus and his people.

May a new generation of priests, deacons, sisters and brothers be a sign of your presence among us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world." - Pope Francis, Angelus, 2018