



DECEMBER 2019

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### *The Chalice*

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**Publisher:**  
The Rev. Alfred Jewson

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# The Chalice

## Advent through a camera lens

by Father Al Jewson

Some cameras automatically zoom in on distant objects, still others require some digital manipulation, and for the aficionados, everything about the camera takes skilled digits to make the photograph turn out just right. Whatever type of camera is used, we are attempting to make a distant object appear to be right in front of us, enabling us to view that object with greater clarity and sharpness. The object still remains distant, out there beyond our grasp, and yet, it is also right in front of us. In one sense, the Season of Advent is like a camera lens. Bear with me as I explain what I mean.

Our word, *Advent*, is derived from a Latin phrase, *ad venire*, which translated literally means, *to come to*. The sense of the phrase is that a journey is in process, that is, it has begun but is not yet finished. That is exactly the nature of the Advent Season, for it reminds us that our journey is still in process. This season has a twofold theme: first, the end time, *eschaton*, the Second Coming of Christ; and second, the memorial celebration of the Incarnation - God thrust into human history in the humanity of Jesus Christ. The early part of Advent examines the *eschaton*. The journey of the Church is progressing ever closer to the end time, but the journey is still in process. So the first part of Ad-

vent is like that zooming camera lens, for it brings something distant up close so that we can examine it carefully, enabling us to view it as fully as we are capable of in this time of our lives. But why would we want to look at it at all?

We live in the time between. The end time, *eschaton*, began with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. That birth of the God-man was the first coming of the Word of God. We live between that time and the second coming of the Word of God, the final consummation of all that Sacred Scripture has promised, taught, and prophesied about fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.

The Old Testament looks to the distant future, sort of like that zoom lens, in preparation for the fullness of time when God will visit God's people. God will teach them a new way to live and will protect them and watch over them, in other words, the time of the New Covenant. The prophet Zechariah wrote, *When that Day comes, living waters will issue from Jerusalem, half towards the eastern sea, half towards the western sea; they will flow summer and winter. Then Yahweh will become king of the whole world.* (Jerusalem Bible, 14:8-9a) For Zechariah, living waters meant ongoing life in an agricultural society. For us, liv-

ing waters means the water of life flowing from Jesus Christ. The Old Testament people of God were waiting in anticipation of the coming of the reign of God.

For the New Testament people of God, the reign of God has been established in the Incarnation: the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the promised one, the Messiah, the righteous one, God with us. And now, we live in that long period of time between. We would not want to go back to the Old Testament times of longing; however, we are not eagerly anticipating the fulfillment in the Second Coming of Christ. Yet the New Testament is filled with longing for this. *Maranatha-come Lord Jesus*. For most of the early history of the church, these first Christians were anticipating the Second Coming of Jesus. They longed for that coming, for that fulfillment. They wanted God's Kingdom to be completely and everlastingly established, and for this they were willing to suffer persecution and hardship.

Why is it important for us to look at this Second Coming now, especially if we really do not anticipate it to be soon, at least in our life time? When we first knew Jesus, not head knowledge, but really knew him, a flood of grace welled up in us. We were exhilarated, on top of the mountain. But lives go on, and that first fervor tends to wane, and we get busy with other things. Our spiritual lives can become like a river flowing. The river starts at a tiny

source and grows into a mighty force. Baptism is our tiny source and our spiritual river ends in fulfillment in the Kingdom of Christ. But the river is not clean - it gets filled with flotsam, debris that can clog up the river and impede its progress.

By taking the time to examine our spiritual rivers through the camera lens of Advent, perhaps we will be able to more clearly see the flotsam, those things that get in the way of our spiritual river flowing more fully into Jesus Christ. Our theme too is *marantha*! Come Lord Jesus, come! But we are not waiting for the birth of the Messiah for that has already happened in history. Instead, we are waiting for the more perfect coming of the Lord Jesus in our spiritual lives.

Where is the flotsam in your life? In other words, what is preventing the living water that has its source in your baptism from flowing freely and completely? During the days of Advent, take some time out of your hectic schedules, just a little each day, and ask the Lord Jesus to come into your life more fully. Ask the Lord Jesus to rid your spiritual river of the flotsam that clogs your spiritual life. Ask the Lord Jesus to come. *Maranatha*, come Lord Jesus, come!

## Deacon Rebecca Away

Deacon Rebecca will be away from Saturday, December 28, 2019, through Friday, January 3, 2020. She will be in Ohio visiting family for the Holidays.



### Discernment Team Members

**Paul Jokerst, Chair**  
**Mike Rohan, Liaison to the BC**  
**Jackie Selle, Secretary**  
**Michael Booker Barb Sacco**  
**Suzanne Jones Jack Laules**  
**Marsha Smith Jerry Smith**

## From the Deacon's Desk

by Archdeacon Rebecca Barger

The focus of the Adult Forum on Sunday, November 17, was to make an Advent wreath to take and use at home. This was the second year for having this event. Even while our participation this year was low, I believe it was a good and beneficial time for our community as individuals inquired about Advent wreaths and what purpose they serve. Since I wasn't able to offer information as to the importance of Advent wreaths at the Forum I decided this article would best serve that purpose.

Advent marks the first season of the liturgical year that begins the fourth Sunday *before* Christmas and last through Christmas Eve. The word "Advent" is a derivative for the Latin word "*adventus*", which means "coming." In this sense, "coming" refers to Christ's second coming, as in "*Parousia*," which is a Greek word meaning "arrival" (Armentrout, Don, & Slocum, Robert. *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*. Church Publishing Inc., N.Y., N.Y., 2000.) A deeper look into Advent reveals its meaning as well. By celebrating Advent each year, the Church acknowledges the ancient expectancy of the promised Messiah. And by participating in this time of preparation, we renew our hope and desire for Christ's second coming.

Part of helping us in preparing ourselves can be to utilize the tradition of the Advent wreath. The idea of the Advent wreath began with German Lutherans during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, however, several hundred years would pass before the contemporary wreath would take form. It was Johann Hinrich Wichern (1808-81), a Protestant minister in Germany, who is credited with the "modern Advent wreath." In 1839, he worked at a mission school where the children would anxiously ask him if Christmas had yet arrived. In order to nurture the children's anticipation of Christmas, Wichern took a wooden ring, which was a wheel taken from a cart, and on it he placed 24 candles, 20 were small red ones and 4 were larger white ones. During the weeks of Advent, a red candle was lit Monday through Sat-

urday, while on Sundays a white candle would be lit. The tradition then grew further amongst other Protestant churches throughout Germany and from there it would evolve into the smaller wreath with four or five candles with which we are so familiar today. It is believed that the tradition did not take hold in the United States until the 1930s.

The Advent wreath is a round continuous circle that represents God's endless love for humanity. The adorning evergreen branches signify the hope of eternal life in the midst of winter and death. The four candles on the wreath characterize the four weeks in the Advent Season. The candles when lit represent the light of God breaking through the darkness of the world and with that light, each individual candle has its own meaning, too. Week one embodies hope, week two—peace, week three—joy, and week four—love. These weekly candles are typically purple or blue in color—think liturgical seasonal colors, with the exception of one, which is rose. The fifth candle that we speak of is the center one, which is white, is referred to as the "Christ candle" that we light on the eve of Christ's birth or the day of.

The colors of the candles are significant because they correspond to the liturgical seasons of the church. The Serum blue color that is being more widely used throughout our denomination and others corresponds with hope and waiting, which is associated with the meaning of Advent. As mentioned above, one candle is the color rose and this one relates to the third week of Advent. This particular Sunday is known as "*Gaudete*" Sunday, which means to rejoice or to be joyful. (<https://www.christiantiy.com/christmas/what-is-advent.html>)

And so with that, I extend this wish to you, that you may have a spiritual Advent, that you observe a watchful and holy Advent. Be creative in your hopefulness and waiting so that the meaning of the birth of the Messiah becomes refreshed within you. Look to a spiritual Advent to dampen the rush and intensity of our commerce-fed, anxiety-provoking "holiday" season. Dust off your old Advent wreath, purchase new candles, get an Advent devotions booklet, and allow the traditions held within the Advent wreath take hold and cultivate a spiritual Advent for you.

# From the Senior Warden

by Herb Smith, Bishop's Warden

It seems like things are pretty rough out there in the "real world." Social media has provided a platform for many more people to express their thoughts and opinions to huge audiences in a way that was never thought possible until recently. People are "connected" in ways that seem to boggle the mind sometimes. These connections can extend nationally and even internationally. We receive almost instant reporting on events from places around the world that many people may not have even known existed.

This can be a tremendous force for good in our world. It can also, however, be a real force for meanness and hate. Some social media applications provide a level of anonymity that seems to encourage the release of some really ugly stuff. Stuff that you would not expect most people would be willing to say out loud. Our young people are subjected to a lot of bullying through some of these social media applications. There has always been peer pressure growing up, but the intensity of things these days has got to be really difficult for adolescents and young adults as they seek to discover who they are.

Our national politics seems to be laden with an extra layer of meanness and vitriol these days as well. While people in politics always have, and likely always will, disagree about some topics, it seems that it's hard to find places where differences are discussed in a way that maintains respect for the individuals and doesn't devolve into personal attacks.

Worldly norms can creep into the life of the Church if we let our guard down. As the Church, however, we are called to a different standard. I'm sure that there are many, many scriptures that could be pointed to with regard to this. Perhaps you have a favorite. I was struck by a couple. Proverbs 3:3 "Do not let **kindness** and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart." This is from the New American Standard version. Some versions translate kindness and truth a bit differently. I really

liked this pairing of kindness and truth. Something bound around your neck is going to be pretty prominent to others as well as to yourself. But it's more than just external. We are to write them on the tablet of our heart. These attributes of kindness and truth should be part of our innermost selves.

Our son, Micah, was named after the Prophet Micah as a result of our fondness for his writings and in particular the well-known verse Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love **kindness**, And to walk humbly with your God?" I try to keep in mind what that would look like on me if I were successful in being kind, just, and walking humbly with God. In some ways our community of believers is no different than any other gathering of people. We aren't always going to agree about everything, but it's important to remember that there is a whole lot more that we have in common than what we disagree about. But even in our disagreements we must not let kindness and truth leave us. We are brothers and sisters in God's family and there is a bond there that goes well beyond any disagreements we might have.

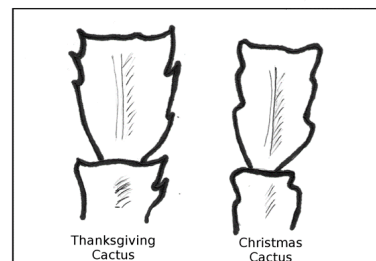
Last night we had our first parking lot music party. It was well-attended and a good time was had by all. Gianna was there with Kathy for a while and she had a REALLY good time. She danced to the music and played some wild air guitar. She got totally into it. It was very cool to see that even though she was the only youngster among this group of boomers she felt comfortable just being herself. I think that there is a foundation of love and kindness that pervades St. Francis' and I'm sure she feels it as she is among us. I'm glad about that and I hope it never changes. We need to be careful that we don't let some of the attitudes of "the world" have influence and cause us to give in to our "lesser angels." The Apostle Paul writes to the Colossians, "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience." It sounds like good advice.

# Garden Talk: Holiday Cacti

by Marsha Smith

Growing holiday cacti is a great way to enjoy flowers at this time of year after the blooms in our gardens have finished. These cacti have quite beautiful and distinctive blooms in shades of yellow, pink, white, fuchsia, and red.

If you are wondering why your Christmas cactus blooms at Thanksgiving time, perhaps you have a Thanksgiving cactus instead. These two plants are named based on the time of year they bloom here in the northern hemisphere. The Christmas cactus typically blooms about a month later than the Thanksgiving cactus. It can be confusing because they are both often labeled as either Holiday cacti or Christmas cacti by sellers. So, how do you tell the difference between a Thanksgiving cactus, *Schlumbergera truncata*, and a Christmas cactus, *S. russelliana*? The easiest way to distinguish between them is the shape of their stems. Both plants have flattened, segmented stems but the segments of the Thanksgiving cactus have 2 to 4 points on each segment while the Christmas cactus has segments that are better described as notched.



Both plants originate from the forests of Brazil and require similar care. They need relatively short hours of light in order to induce blooming. Both plants like to be rootbound so don't move them to

an overly large pot. It is not uncommon for these plants to drop unopened buds. This is most commonly caused by a sudden change in temperature, light, or other environmental factors, so it is best not to move them after buds have formed.

If you would like to have a longer period of blooms during the holiday season, you can get one of each type of holiday cactus. I currently have a Thanksgiving cactus that is in full bloom as I write this and I'm going to be looking for a Christmas cactus soon – no points on the stem segments!





## ECM Holiday Gift Program

*by Mary Ann Kinder*

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is an agency that offers hope and healing for children in the St Louis Juvenile Justice System. Through spiritual programs, guidance, support, and the ministry of presence the chaplains make God visible to the children they serve and show them that they are worthy of love.

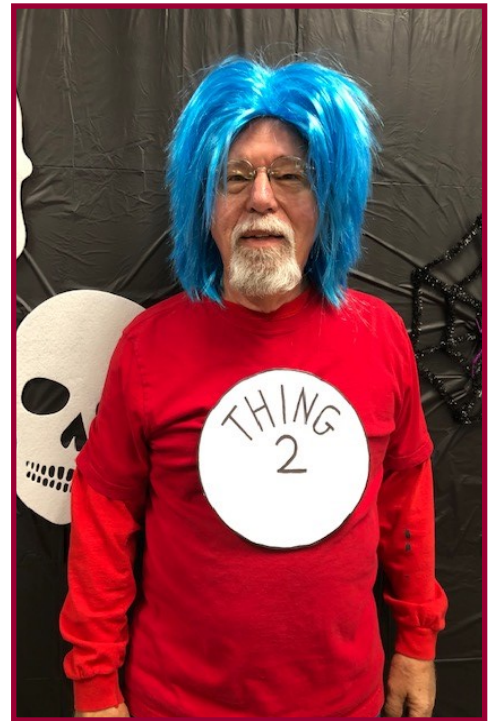
The holiday gift program is one of ECM's greatest traditions and is now in full swing. St. Francis' is once again participating in this program as we help ECM make sure that each child has at least one gift to unwrap. The message they receive is the true gift: someone cares about them and believes that they can change their life paths. ECM has requested gift cards and a variety of games and recreational items. The chaplains use the gift cards to purchase gifts for the children and the other items are used as group gifts for each unit in the detention center and division of youth services houses that they serve.

If you would like to participate, choose a "gift ornament" from the tree in the Community Room and return your UNWRAPPED gift to the collection box by Sunday, December 8. Furthermore, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Webster Groves, is hosting their annual gift-wrapping party on Monday, December 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping wrap gifts, please RSVP to 314-436-3545 or [ecmdirectorstl@gmail.com](mailto:ecmdirectorstl@gmail.com).

## Blue Christmas Service

*by Archdeacon Rebecca Barger*

Advent and Christmas are seasons of joy and celebration for many people as we prepare and remember the birth of Jesus. But we also know that these celebrations can ring hollow in our hearts if we are experiencing grief, depression, or pain. We may not feel like joining in the celebration if we are walking in sadness or distress. There are many kinds of losses that trouble us in these days of darkness. Blue Christmas is a special service especially designed to give voice and encouragement to those who are grieving, or who are experiencing other types of losses, or feelings of exclusion or despondence. You are invited to join us as we seek God's hope-giving comfort, healing, and restoration. Our Blue Christmas service with Holy Eucharist will be held on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 7:00 pm.



*Senior Warden Herb Smith was one of many parishioners who helped make our first Trunk-or-Treat event on Halloween a resounding success. One of the stations was a photo booth complete with backdrops and props so visitors could take pictures in costume.*

## Advent Season

***Shh! It's Advent – slow down – spend time in quiet – let the Holy Spirit in!***

The Sunday closest to November 30, Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, marks the first Sunday of Advent. This year Advent begins on December 1 and ends at sundown on December 24. Don't let the hustle and bustle of the season prevent you from taking time to spend a prayerful and thoughtful Advent Season.

### Feast Days in December

- December 6 – St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra
- December 8 – Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- December 21 – St. Thomas, Apostle
- December 26 – St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
- December 27 – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- December 28 – Holy Innocents

**Blue Christmas Service – December 12 at 7:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve Worship – December 24**

- Family Worship 5:00 pm Christmas Carols
- 5:30 pm Christ's Mass
- 10:00 pm Christmas Carols
- 10:30 pm Christ's Mass with Incense

**No worship scheduled for December 25**

## Nominations for BC and Convention Delegates

Fr. Jewson has appointed the outgoing senior class of the Bishop's Committee Paul Becker, Joe O'Reilly, and Brenda Russell to be the nominating committee for candidates for the bishop's committee and delegates to the diocesan convention positions, each to serve a three-year term. The elections will take place at our annual parish meeting to be held at the end of January 2020. The deadline for nominations to appear on the slate of candidates is January 1, 2020.

A total of three positions for Bishop's Committee and one position for Delegate to the Diocesan Convention will be open. According to diocesan canons, candidates for these positions must be adult communicants (at least 16 years of age) in good and regular standing (faithful in corporate worship and working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom and not under the censure of the Bishop of the Diocese or the Rector/Vicar of the Congregation to which the person belongs), have contributed regularly (contributor of record) to the support of the parish at least six months immediately prior to the election, and has pledged to the support of the church, and candidates must be conscientiously attached to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church. Please see the nominating committee for further information or with questions.

## A Prayer for God's Will

*Loving God, we pray that your will for us and for St. Francis' Church be done. Rid our minds of personal goals and expectations, doubts and fears so that we may be vessels for your will and your expectations. We pray that your will for St. Francis' Church be made manifest to us; and give us the courage to carry out your will whatever it is. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who always lived out your will in his life. Amen.*

## Advent Sermon Series

*by Fr. Al Jewson*

We spend a great part of our lives waiting. Whether it is waiting out of frustration, in fear, or for something wonderful to happen, waiting should not be passive but active and spiritual. During Advent, I would like to examine with you the spirituality of waiting. We will explore among other things: how we wait for God, and how God waits for his people; that our response to the waiting situation should be to be present to the moment; and how our waiting time can become more active, more productive, and more spiritual. My thoughts are taken from a lecture given by the late Henri Nouwen, renowned theologian and author.

## Bishop's Committee Members

Herb Smith, Bishop's Warden  
Donna Bernert, Jr. Warden  
Caitlin Selle, Clerk

### Class of 2020

Paul Becker  
Joe O'Reilly  
Brenda Russell

### Class of 2021

Mike Rohan  
Barb Sacco  
Bob Smith

### Class of 2022

Sylvia Ahmad  
Donna Bernert  
Jackie Selle  
Herb Smith

### Delegates

Bob Schaefer (2020)  
Max Starbuck (2021)  
Michael Booker (2022),  
alternate



## Greening of the Church

*Greening of the Church will take place on Sunday, December 22 immediately following the 10:15 Holy Eucharist. All are invited to stay after worship to help decorate.*

*Greening of the Church will be in place of the Adult Forum.*



*Music Director Cheryl Foster works with Jackie Selle and Ida Nordlien as they prepare special handbell choir music for Christmas Eve.*

## Christmas Bells

*by Kathleen McDonald*

For a special treat this year, be sure to come to one of the Christmas Eve services to hear the St. Francis' Handbell Choir. Music Director Cheryl Foster, who secured our bells from another church when they no longer needed them, will direct this season's efforts. The bell choir's repertoire this season will include traditional congregational hymns. Singing also with the bells will be especially fun and festive. Rehearsals will continue through most of December.

***The Prayer List***  
Please check the  
Sunday bulletin and  
weekly email an-  
nouncements for the  
list of those who  
have requested  
prayers.

## Pony Express Success!

*by Tracey Oswald*

Our Pony Express campaign is a HUGE SUCCESS! Thank you to everyone for participating. Our 2020 pledges, I believe, are the result of prayerful consideration, thoughtfulness about our St. Francis' community, and our individual and collective intentions to live more fully into the Kingdom.

We have increased the number of pledges over the current year from 52 to 57 (10% increase) and the amount of pledges



from \$117,878 to \$158,771. This is a 34.7% increase in dollar amount!

Please continue to pray for the Finance Committee and Bishop's Committee members as we work toward forming our budget for 2020 and plan for the future of our church community.

Thank you again and God bless you all.

## Women's Group Dinners

*by Kathleen McDonald*

St. Francis' Women's Group will meet at Donna Bernert's home off Highway FF on Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30. If you would like to bring a dish to share, please do. There is always plenty to eat, and not everyone brings a dish every time. First timers, guests, and out-of-town sisters are always welcome.

Then, as has become tradition, we will avoid icy driveways by moving our monthly dinners to local restaurants. On January 14 we will meet at China Wok in the Legends Plaza at around 6:00. At that dinner we can decide on locations for February and March meetings and perhaps plan ahead for the new year.



## Book Group

*by Kathleen McDonald*

St. Francis' Book Group will not meet in December of this year. The month's schedule does not allow most of us to read for pleasure!

We will resume on Monday, January 13, 2020, with a discussion about the novel *Copperhead* by Alexi Leniter. The January *Chalice* Newsletter will have a more detailed review, but if you have a few quiet minutes to get started ahead of time, this is a book you will really like. It's available through St. Louis County Library as well as amazon.com in both print and electronic formats.

## Friends of St. Francis

*by Kathy Regnier*

Our little ones find it hard to contain themselves this time of year! The season of Advent is upon us and the children are learning about the advent wreath and the candles, as they countdown to Christmas.

Friends of St. Francis had their first snow day of the year! We follow Rockwood School District's inclement weather policy. If the district closes or has an early release due to weather conditions, then we will follow. Since Rockwood had not made an early call that morning, Herb and Marsha came out at 5:30 a.m. to salt the parking lot and sidewalks to make sure everyone would be safe. Friends of St. Francis closure will be on Channels 2, 4 and 5. It will also be posted on our website under the tab SCHOOL CLOSINGS.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers! Donna, Joe, Sally, Michael, Doris, Kathleen, Herb, Marsha, Sue, Paddy, Mike and Pat. We are grateful to Arlene who donated pumpkins so that each child could go home with one for Halloween.



## Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to dedicate a Poinsettia as a thank offering or as a memorial for someone please use the form provided and send it to the business office or place it in the offering basket on Sunday. Memorials and thank offerings will be remembered in our Christmas worship. Please submit your request by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. A donation of **\$15.00** for each poinsettia is suggested. Any monies remaining will be placed in the Flower Fund.

### Adult Forum Offerings

Dec. 1—Vicar's Forum (Father Al)

Dec. 8—Thomas Merton  
(Herb Smith)

Dec. 15—Joseph, Father of Jesus  
(Vernon Alexander)

Dec. 22—Greening of the Church (all parishioners)

Dec. 29—No Adult Forum

## Centering Prayer: Quiet Time with God

Centering Prayer takes place at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays in the church. Our quiet time together will last about 20 minutes.

*One of the goals of Centering Prayer is to be totally open to God: totally available, all the way down to that innermost point of your being; deeper than your thinking, feelings, memories, and desires.*



Visit us on  
**Facebook**



## Discernment Team Update

*By Paul Jokerst*

The Discernment Team is optimistic as our search continues. We continue to meet roughly every two-weeks as we now work to build our Church Profile. We thank you for your patience and prayers as we continue on this journey for the search of our new Vicar.

We all recognized that God often uses a journey to grow our faith and we are on that journey today. We called on our congregation to pray and give their input into what they would like to see in our next Vicar. The Coffee & Conversations have been completed, all the surveys have been reviewed, and we now work to construct our Church Profile. It is the hope the rough draft profile will be sent to the Bishop's Office in December with the final version being completed in January.

As the Search Committee completes the profile and then goes into the next phase of accepting notice of those desiring to serve our congregation, we ask for your continued prayers. It is our plan to keep you updated as much and as often as we can.



## Low-Carb Twice-Baked Cauliflower (submitted by Jackie Selle)

### Ingredients:

1 large head cauliflower  
4 oz. cream cheese, cut into cubes  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1/4 cup green onions, minced  
1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese (or more to taste)  
6 slices bacon, cooked until very crisp and blotted, then crumbled  
1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese



Instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a glass casserole dish with non-stick spray. Cut out stem and core from cauliflower and then cut into small pieces. Cook in a large pot of boiling salted water until cauliflower is tender but not overly soft. Drain well and mash with potato masher, leaving some chunks.

Mix cream cheese, sour cream, green onion, Parmesan, and 3/4 of the crumbled bacon into the drained cauliflower. Spread evenly in a 1.5 qt casserole dish. Sprinkle with cheddar cheese and reserved bacon. Bake covered 20-25 minutes until hot and bubbly. Remove the cover and bake about 10 minutes more or until the cheese is slightly browned. Serve hot.



# Holy Baptism

On Sunday, November 24, [REDACTED] (son of [REDACTED]) was baptized at St. Francis' Episcopal Church. Congratulations, [REDACTED] and family! (photos by Donna Bernert)





# Adopt-A-Family

by Kathleen O'Reilly

The Adopt-A-Family program is in full swing, and thank you to everyone who is helping give Christmas to the community of kids in need. Just a few reminders for a successful program--no gifts need be wrapped. All of the families that were contacted expressed the wish to wrap the presents themselves. The paper, tape, ribbons, and tags will be given to each family. Gifts can be brought to church any time but must be in by Dec. 13 so that they can be given to the families that week before Christmas. Kathleen O'Reilly will be delivering them personally. Make sure that the name of the child is with the presents....the ornament tag is just fine. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Kathleen at 706-2330. If anyone is willing to help deliver the presents, please contact her as well. Thank you, again, for helping make this a blessed Christmas.

*(Left) Children enrolled at Friends of St. Francis' Child-care Center enjoyed trick-or-treating in their costumes for Halloween. Volunteers lined the hall by the Community Room and handed out treats to some very excited kids!*

## Volunteers Needed to Help Clean

Instead of having one cleaning day each month volunteers may sign up for any day this month on which they are available. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Simply sign up for a task, come in on the day you are available, and mark the date you completed your task. Thank you to those who have already helped!



## A Prayer for Evangelism

**A**lmighty God, by your grace you have given us new life in Jesus Christ, and by your Spirit you have called us to proclaim his Name throughout all the nations. Awaken in us such a love for you, and for your word and deed, that all people may come to know him as Savior, and follow him as Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## DECEMBER WEEKLY SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

2018	SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	2019
69	All Saints	74
69	Proper 27	62
58	Proper 28	55
54	Christ the King	78

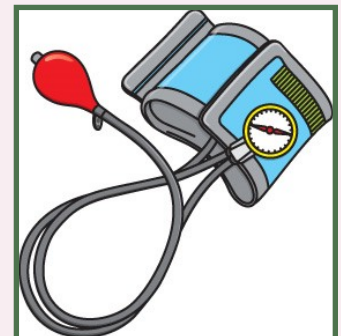
## Calling all cooks!

*Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share in **The Chalice**? Please send it to the business office at [stfranch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stfranch@sbcglobal.net).*



## Vitals Check

Bill Thompson, RN, will be available in the Community Room between services on the second Sunday of every month to check and record blood pressures and heart rates. Be sure to stop in to see him for this valuable ministry!





## DECEMBER 2019 Worship Participants Schedule

	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kathleen O'Reilly	Jeff Veenstra	Jerry Smith	Linda Doolittle	Doris Schaefer

### Worship Participants for 8:00 a.m. Service

<b>Acolyte</b>	Tatum McCart	Amanda B-M	Tatum McCart	Lydia B-M	
<b>Lector/ Intercessor</b>	Tracey Oswald	Jackie Selle	Sheila McCart	Della Thompson	
<b>Announcements</b>	Tracey Oswald	Jackie Selle	Brenda Russell	Paul Becker	

### Worship Participants for 10:15 a.m. Service

<b>Greeter</b>	Linda Doolittle	Doris Schaefer	Mary Ann Kinder	Sue Schmidt	Linda Doolittle
<b>Usher</b>	Chris Kinder	Bob Smith	Joe Bernert	Rich Mayfield	Joe Bernert
<b>Acolyte</b>	Paul Jokerst	Aundrea Bach	Katie Jones	Jeff Veenstra	Rich Mayfield
<b>Lectors</b>	M. Booker (1) K. McDonald (2)	B. Schaefer (1) B. Sacco (2)	B. Smith (1) S. Schmidt (2)	K. McDonald (1) M. Booker (2)	P. Jokerst (1) J. O'Reilly (2)
<b>Intercessor</b>	Paddy Wrob	Sally Hader	Joe O'Reilly	Bob Schaefer	Kathleen O'Reilly
<b>Torch Bearers</b>	Laurie Dailey A. Underwood	Paul Jokerst Jeff Veenstra	Doris Schaefer Bob Schaefer	Bob Smith Jerry Smith	Laurie Dailey Jack Laules
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Suzanne Jones	Marsha Smith	Michael Booker	Barb Sacco	Bob Schaefer
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	Paddy Wrob	Jeff Veenstra	Tracey Oswald	Paul Jokerst	(To be filled)
<b>Tellers</b>	Joe O'Reilly Brenda Russell	Chris Kinder Bob Smith	Joe Bernert Suzanne Jones	Marsha Smith A. Underwood	Joe Bernert Rich Mayfield
<b>Announcements</b>	Joe O'Reilly	Jerry Smith	Donna Bernert	Herb Smith	Max Starbuck

# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:15 Worship 10:15 Worship 11:55 am Adult Forum 1pm Finance Comm <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>2</b> 5pm Evening Prayer 6pm Worship and Music	<b>3</b> 8:30am Morning Prayer	<b>4</b> 1:30pm Crafter-nooners 5pm Bell Rehearsal 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 6:30pm Tutoring	<b>5</b> 8:30am Morning Prayer 1pm Staff Meeting 2 pm Marketing & Communications 6pm FoSF Board Mtg	<b>6</b> 10am Bible Study 10am Open OA <b>St. Nicholas of Myra</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:15 Worship 10:15 Worship 11:55 am Adult Forum <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>9</b> 5pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm Book Group <b>Conception of BVM</b>	<b>10</b> 8:30am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Women's Group Dinner (Bernert)	<b>11</b> 1:30pm Crafter-nooners 5pm Bell Rehearsal 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 6:30pm Tutoring	<b>12</b> 3:30 pm <b>Chalice</b> Meeting 7 pm Blue Christmas Service	<b>13</b> 10am Bible Study 10am Open OA	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:15 Worship 10:15 Worship 11:55 am Adult Forum 12:30pm Bishop's Committee <b>Gaudete Sunday</b>	<b>16</b> 5pm Evening Prayer	<b>17</b> 8:30am Morning Prayer	<b>18</b> 1:30pm Crafter-nooners 5pm Bell Rehearsal 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 6:30pm Tutoring	<b>19</b> 8:30am Morning Prayer 1pm Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 10am Bible Study 10am Open OA <b>Chalice Deadline</b>	<b>21</b> <b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b>
<b>22</b> 8:15 Worship 10:15 Worship Greening of the Church <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>23</b> 5pm Evening Prayer	<b>24</b> 8:30am Morning Prayer 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service w/ Potluck 10pm Christmas Carols 10:30pm Christmas Eve Mass w/ incense	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Christ's Mass Day</b> (office closed)	<b>26</b> <b>St. Stephen the First Martyr</b>	<b>27</b> 10am Bible Study 10am Open OA <b>St. John Apostle and Evangelist</b>	<b>28</b> <b>The Holy Innocents</b>
<b>29</b> 10:15 Lessons and Carols (no 8am service) 1pm Trinity Hot Lunch <b>1st Sunday After Christmas</b>	<b>30</b> 5pm Evening Prayer	<b>31</b>				