

Shepherd's Thoughts

God is good all the time! All the time God is good!

Speaking of our own unique way of preparing ourselves this Season of Advent leading to Christmas, we also have to consider our personal and gradual conversion that the prophet Isaiah is telling us. "The voice cries out: "In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley."

The same message is conveyed upon us in the Gospel today, wherein John the Baptist appeared proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. "voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." This message also serves as a constant reminder for all of us that preparing the way of the Lord entails making our way of life smooth, taking our initiative for spiritual renewal and motivating ourselves for change.

There could be no total conversion without repentance for the forgiveness of sins. So, the best personal preparation ever comes from within. It must come from our hearts. If we are waiting for someone special, we must prepare inwardly and that includes our willingness to change, through the sacrament of reconciliation where repentance for forgiveness of sins happened.

Genuine conversion entails two directional movements: that is turning away from sin and turning towards God. When a person realizes the sense of sin and begins to repent with remorse, it indicates that he is already in a process of gradual conversion. God's grace is working to a person with a spiritual change of heart—"Metanoia". When we are in the state of sin, we also lose the sense of the sacred, the sense of the holy so we begin to lose the value of prayer, the value of doing good and the value of life to the extent that we no longer appreciate the highest value of God in our lives.

Without change of heart and total conversion, it is very hard for us to obtain his promise of a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. So St. Peter in his second letter reminds us "Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace."

John the Baptist, in his life with all his goodness and kindness still deemed himself unworthy before the Lord as he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

Yes! We are all unworthy before God, but it's something new that we take the initiative doing something good for our personal sanctification. Doing good for our personal growth is not only valid for one today, not only for this Christmas. Always remember that we are continuously awaiting for the second coming of Christ. No matter how unworthy servants we are, at least we did our best to always be ready to meet Christ on the last day when he comes again with his glory.

Fr. Antonio Rex M. Palaya

December 10, 2023 **2nd Sunday of Advent**

Mass Intentions

+Deceased

Saturday, 4:00 PM, Rosiere, Dec 9th, Mass

+ For the People

Saturday, 5:30 PM, Brussels, Dec 9th, Mass

Sunday, 8:30 AM, Brussels, Dec 10th, Mass

Sunday, 10:15 AM, Lincoln, Dec 10th, Mass

+ Nancy Fenendael, + Richard & Arlene Derenne,

+ Kenny Bader

Sunday, 11:15 AM, Lincoln, Dec 10th, Baptism

of Wren Frances Brunette, daughter of Alicia &

Trevor Brunette

Tuesday, 8:00 AM, Brussels, Dec 12th, Mass

Wednesday, 8:00 AM, Brussels, Dec 13th, Mass

Thursday, 8:00 AM, Lincoln, Dec 14th, Mass

+ Mel & Arlene Beaurain

Friday, 8:00 AM, Rosiere, Dec 15th, Mass

+ Karen Pinchart

Friday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 15th, Novena

Saturday, 4:00 PM, Rosiere, Dec 16th, Mass

+ Donna Kinnard, + Andrew Engebose,

+ Francis & Lorraine Charles

Saturday, 5:30 PM, Brussels, Dec 16th Mass

Sunday, 8:30 AM, Brussels, Dec 17th, Mass

Sunday, 10:15 AM, Lincoln, Dec 17th, Mass

+ Paula Bushner, + Lewellyn Gigot, + Cody Cochart

Sunday, 6:30 PM, Lincoln, Dec 17th, Novena

Monday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 18th, Novena

Tuesday, 8:00 AM, Brussels, Dec 19th, Mass

Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 19th, Novena

Wednesday, 8:00 AM, Brussels, Dec 20th, Mass

Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 20th, Novena

Thursday, 8:00 AM, Lincoln, Dec 21st, Mass

+ Karen Pinchart

Thursday, 6:30 PM, Lincoln, Dec 21st, Novena

Friday, 8:00 AM, Rosiere, Dec 22nd, Mass

+ Andrew Nowak

Friday, 6:30 PM, Rosiere, Dec 22nd, Novena

Sanctuary Light

Dec 10-16: In mem of Mel & Arlene Beaurain

Dec 17-23: In mem of Goldie & Grace Thiry

Sacrificial Offerings

Nov 22-29, 2023: \$1,451.81

St. Peter & St. Hubert Scrip

Nov 27-Dec 3: \$6125.00

Gross profit: \$310.48

FYTD profit: \$2321.89



For scrip information, call Sue Havel at 920-493-2789 or email at Havel27sm@gmail.com.

Liturgical Ministers:

December 9th, 4:00pm Rosiere

Lector: Mark Bader

Communion Distr: Matt Thayse, Volunteer

Servers: Volunteer

December 10th, 10:15 am Lincoln

Lector: Amanda Barta

Communion Distr: Dcn. Ray, Jake Barta

Servers: Sawyer Ducat & Lainey Barta

December 16th, 4:00pm Rosiere

Lector: Chris Vincent

Communion Distr: Chris Vincent, Wendy Vlies

Servers: Volunteer

December 17th 10:15 am Lincoln

Lector: Mary Fameree

Communion Distr: Sandy Maccoux, Jason Jandrin

Servers: Clayton & Chase Barta

Parish News

Adoration and confession: For Advent, there will be Adoration and confession 1 hour before Rosiere 4 pm mass on Saturdays in December. (There will not be a public Rosary.)

Novena Masses: St Peter & St Hubert Nine-day Novena is Dec 15 – Dec 23 and RE families are invited to sign up for the lector, server, and usher spots. The family can also provide a mass intention. Please see the schedule to sign up (in a recent email from Penny).

Brussels Novena Masses: Brussels Novena masses are Saturday, Dec 16 – Sunday, Dec 24 at 6 am (except Sundays which are at 8:30 am).

Religious Education: Class on Dec 13, 20. Dec 20 will be the Children's Mass in Rosiere at 6:30 PM. Tentative holiday party/potluck on Dec 16 after the 5:30 pm mass in Brussels in the basement of St. Francis & St. Mary's church. Please RSVP.

Confirmation: Confirmation is Sunday, Jan 14 at 2 pm at St Mary Church in Luxemburg, and we have nine Confirmation candidates in St Peter & St Hubert.

Confirmation Retreat: Retreat for Confirmation students is at Rosiere on Jan 6 at 8 am until 4 pm mass. Confirmation sponsors will be invited in the afternoon.

Scrip: We have several \$10 gift cards that could be used for stocking stuffers - fast food, Fleet Farm, Walmart, Barnes & Noble, or Bath & Body. It's not too early to look over the full list of custom order cards and put in your order for Christmas gifts. Sue usually orders every 2-3 weeks. **Also, Fleet Farm is offering a higher bonus in December, so stock up on Fleet cards for your Christmas shopping.

Prayer Requests for those in need: The Worship & Spiritual Life Committee welcomes prayer requests.

Please contact Julie in the parish office with any prayer requests for those in need.

Second Collection: Today, through the Retirement Collection, we are able to Share in the Care of our retired sisters, brothers and religious order priests through the National Retirement Fund for Religious, as well as of the senior priests of our own diocese. Envelopes are available in the church entrances to make your contribution. Please be generous in helping those who have given so much over the years.

Area News

L-C Sr. Citizen Christmas Bingo: at **St. John's Church in Luxemburg** on Tuesday, Dec 12; 8:30 am Music, Snacks, & Refreshments; Bingo at 9:15 am. Open to all senior citizens residing in the Luxemburg-Casco School District. In case of inclement weather, the snow date will be Thursday, Dec 14.

Casco American Legion Post#319: Casco American Legion & Auxiliary members & spouses will meet Monday, Dec 11 at 6:30 pm at the Casco Village Hall – Lower Level for a Potluck supper – please bring a dish to pass.

Belgian Heritage Center: Griffin String Quartet Holiday Concert at BHC on Dec 16 at 3 pm. Free Admission but donations to support the artists is greatly appreciated. Wine, beer and cheese bar sponsored by Von Stiehl Winery & Renard's Cheese available for purchases. Doors open at 2 pm.

Christmas Bingo; It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night at Southern Door Auditorium: Show is on Saturday, December 16th at 7 pm. For more details or to purchase tickets online, visit southerndoorauditorium.org.

Pope Francis' Intention: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Parish Contacts

Office Manager: Julie Engebose 837-2852

Finance Council Chair: Char Everard 536-0033

Faith Formation: Penny Paye Price 825-7555

Trustee Secretary: Mark Bader 680-2936

Trustee Treasurer: Jerry Barta 255-2702

Gospel Readings for Week of December 10th

Monday, Dec 11: Luke 5: 17-26 (St. Damasus I, Pope)

Tuesday, Dec 12: Luke 1: 39-47 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Wednesday, Dec 13: Matthew 11: 28-30 (St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr)

Thursday, Dec 14: Matthew 11: 11-15 (St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor)

Friday, Dec 15: Matthew 11: 16-19

Saturday, Dec 16: Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13