**Sacrament of the Sick**

Anointing of the Sick should be given if an individual is gravely ill or near death. If possible, the Sacrament should also be administered for serious illness, before major surgery or when one is initially hospitalized.

**Sacrament of Holy Matrimony**

Diocesan policy requires 12 months of preparation for Marriage. Contact the parish as soon as possible after engagement. **No venue reservations or other arrangements should be made prior to consultation with the pastor.**

**Sacrament of Penance**

Wednesday ~ 6:00 – 6:45PM; or by appointment.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Parents must be registered members of the parish and attend a Baptism preparation class prior to the Baptism if this is your first child baptized. Requirements for godparents are established by the Catholic Church. Please call the parish office for Information and to register your child for Baptism.

**Parish Registration**

All Catholics should be registered in their local parish. Please contact the parish office to obtain registration forms, or if you are uncertain of the parish where you should register.



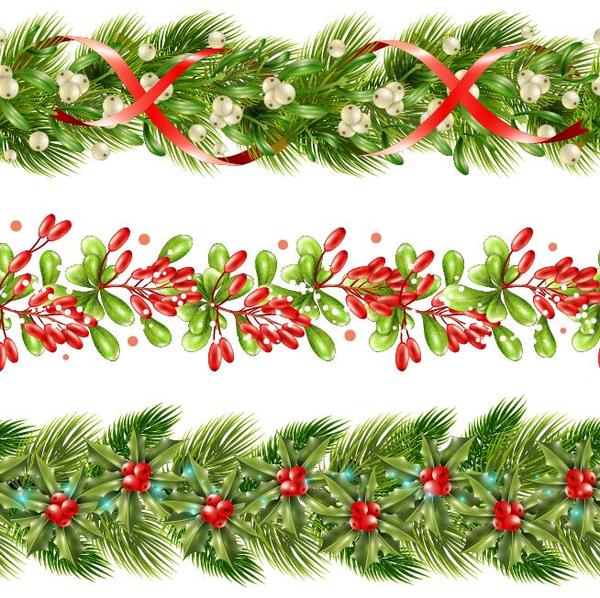
**Parish Staff & Ministries Directory**

[**stignatiusofloyola@hbgdiocese.org**](mailto:stignatiusofloyola@hbgdiocese.org) **| Office: 717-677-8012**

**Financial Manager** ~ Richard Deardorff ~ 717- 677-8012 or 717-420-3464 (cell)

rdeardorff@hbgdiocese.org

**Director of Religious Education** ~ **Deacon Steve Huete** ~ [shuete@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:shuete@hbgdiocese.org)

**Parish Secretary** ~ Kristen DiDio ~ kdidio@hbgdiocese.org

**Buildings & Grounds** ~ Donnie Althoff ~ 717-677-8012

**Music Ministry** ~ Phil Mobley ~ 717-677-8012

**Parish Council Members**

Phil Mobley – *Chair* 571-236-7580 pmmobley@gmail.com

Bicky Redman – *Vice Chair* 677-8592feetintheair7@gmail.com

Joanne Riedel - *Secretary* 398-2021 sterj221@aol.com

Kathi Allwein 677-8984 [allweint@comcast.net](mailto:allweint@comcast.net)

Charlie Baker 677-9536 dcbake@embarqmqil.com

Kathy Dietsch 352-4558 kdiet2@juno.com

Dr. BobTernes [rjtmd46@gmail.com](mailto:rjtmd46@gmail.com)

**Finance Council Members**

Richard Deardorff (*Ex Officio*)

Greg Ernst - *Chair*

Christy Hemler - *Secretary*

Ali Morris

Terri Pendlelton

Bill Pulig



**Altar Flowers**

**OCIA**

***Order of Christian Initiation for Adults***

Contact Fr. Dominic

**Soup Kitchen**

Please send donations

directly to the

“Gettysburg Soup Kitchen”

**Website Development**

Kristen DiDio

**Life After Loss**

Dodie Huete

**Prayer Chain**

**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE**

**Picnic Co-Chairs**

Wally Kane

Mark Schur

**Pro-Life Ministry**

Jeanette Backus

**Knights of Columbus**

SK Bob Ternes

- Grand Knight



**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE**

**Bereavement Ministry**

Ginny Bittle / Dodie Huete

**Catholic Communications/EWTN**

Anna Kane

**Cemetery**

**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE**

**THEOSIS Ministry**

Kathy Dietsch 717-352-4558

Bicky Redman 717-677-8592





Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

*www.YouthProtectionHBG.com*

Abuse Reporting Contact Information:

**First – Call the toll-free PA Child Abuse Hotline at 800-932-0313**

**Then – Call the Diocesan toll-free hotline at 800-626-1608**

**“If one member suffers,**

**all suffer together with it.” (*1 Cor* 12:26)**

**St. Ignatius Loyola RC Church**

**1095 Church Road, Orrtanna, Pennsylvania 17353**

[**www.stignatiusofloyola.org**](http://www.stignatiusofloyola.org) **| Office: 717-677-8012**

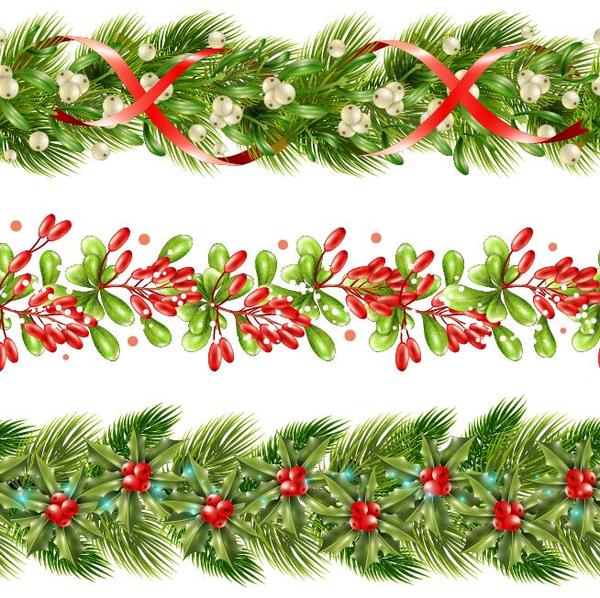
December 17, 2023: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT







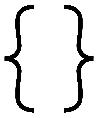






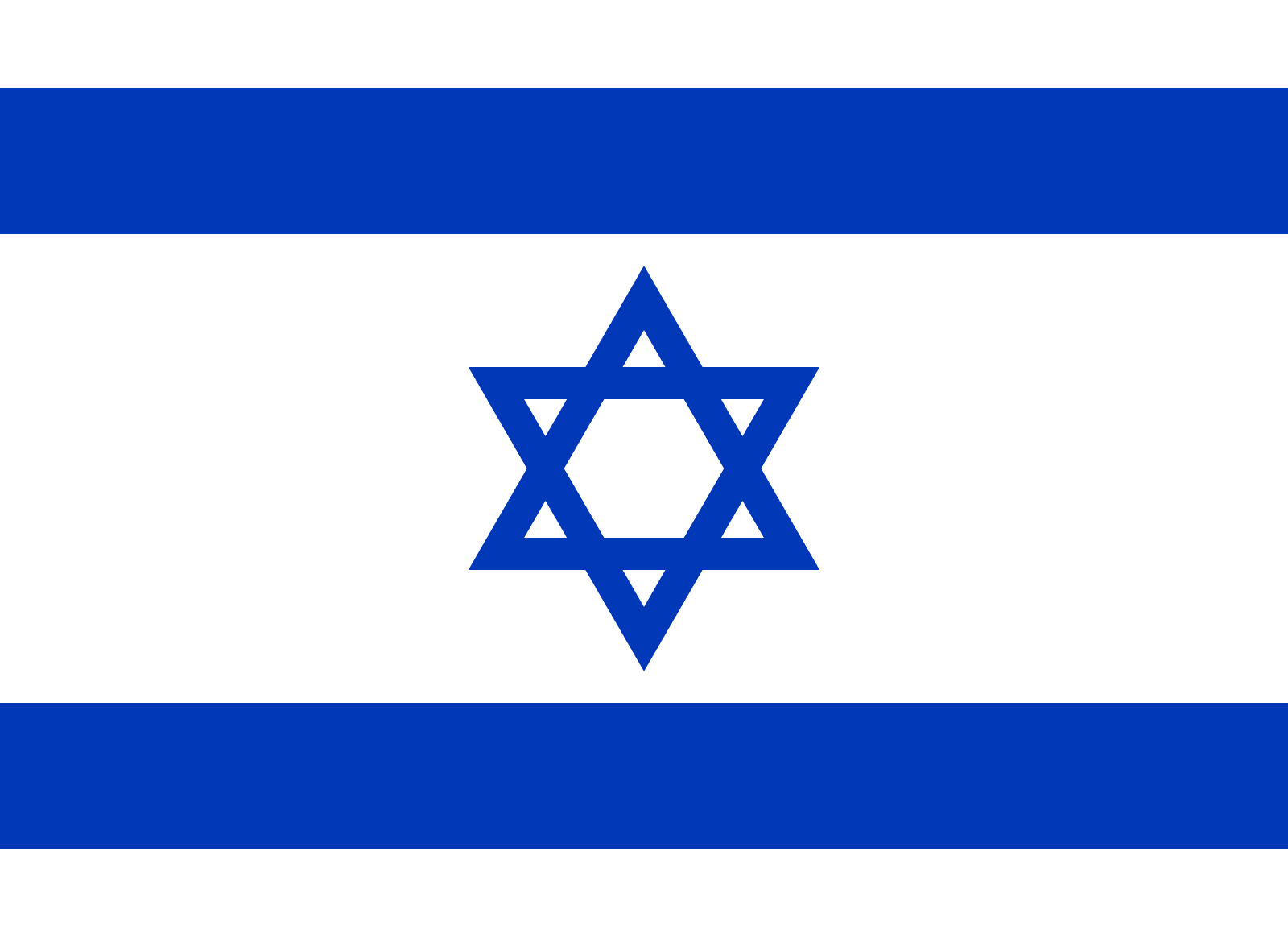




 **December 21 Set up Tree & Manger in church,**

**11AM (after Mass) place Pointsettias & Finish Decorating**



 **PLEASE! Pray to END THE KILLING in the Holy Land!**

Most Rev. Timothy C. Senior, *Bishop of Harrisburg*

Rev. Dominic M. DiBiccaro, *Pastor*

Deacon Steve Huete, *Pastoral Associate*

***Mass Schedule, Intentions, and Events***

**Please Pray for these in need:**

Jeanie Kline & the Kline Family, Dick & Deb Deardorff, Chris & Mary Rebscher, John Baker, Ginny Hoctor, Janet Hodge, Brenda Wolf, Sr. Thelma Steiger HSF, Sr. Miriam Ukeritis CSJ , Peter Hackney, Lucas Christiansen, Dale Kaplan, Jerry Smith, Wade Sprankle, Dulcie Perry, Ron Formosa, Gavin Crumbacker, Anna Kane, Sherry Dennis & Family, Remi Peters, Terry Ahn, K. Grance, Lori McFadden & Family, Mike & Lisa Poole, Mervin Weikert, Chastity Rudisill, Mary Ellen Wilson, Terry & Bernie Cabana, Ed & Aggie Sherensky & Family, Bob Raffensberger, Jerry & Ginny Miller, Adeline Lienard, Kaylee Henry, Nancy Wuller, Dr. Mike Colli, Mrs. Kelly Kump, Gabriel Singer, Sharon McCormley, Ron Thumma, Joe Wisotzkey, Leo Hockensmith, Erika McKissick, Jean "Heather" O'Shea, Scott Moore & Sally Moore, Mary Wyatt, Amy Weatherup, Sophia Joy Ernst, Deacon Richard Wentzel, Deacon Frank Enderle, Paul & Carolyn Topper, Kathleen Thompson, Rachel Wonders, Amy Edwards, Jean O’Connor, Jen Baldwin, Ursula Kaley, Deb Bennet, Larry Endy, Laura Lee, Marwa Abdelrahman, Donna Singley, Tim McGinn, Jane Kump, Peggy Neiderer, Chris Kimple, Robert Riquet, Gene & Jo-Ann McDannell, Bob Doxzen, Kimberly Mears, Gabriella Angello, Paul Angello, Mark & Kate Morrow, Mark Morris, Linda Fogleman, Paul Knight, George & Barbara Erstila, Jeff Carpenter, Lana & Nelson Harmon, Diane Slothour, Sue McDannell, Larry Schneider, Joe & Lisa Grasel, Ange Pena, Julie Barnhart, the Shaffer Family, Heather & Emma Dickerson, Brad Peabody, Paul Ward, Aiden Tyler Schneider, Dorothy Vega, Karrie McCall & daughter, George Shahid, Denise Navlyt, Drew Schneider & Family, Ida Bloomfield, Janie Singley, Mary Beth Greenstreet, Rick Benedict, Jan Patla, Kathey Fogleman, Sam Sheffler, Kate Hemmis, Bill & Mary Lou Graham, Andy Graham, Joanna Hodges, John Varones, Joan O’Sullivan, Martha Klinger, Lisa Dionne Lauretti, Jim Gleason, Sue Gustafson, Joe & Michelle Cleary, Kim Johnson, Helen Mills, Kathy Haber, Haley Detman, Joe Durovey, Bev Smith, Donald Sheppard, Linda Mumaugh, Alison Haring, Janet Hartman, Edward Johnson, Angela Galeone, Juliete Lang, Chris MacBeth, Harry Graham, Donald Howard, Armond Binni, Elizabeth Stansky, Pat Johnson, Chris Morris, Faud Doaney, Patrick Glass, Helen Lagasse, Nancy Kewisnek, Bill & Maureen Collins, Rosemary McGilloway, Anji Eisenhart, Monica Manner, Denny Borbonus, Dr. Paul Scarlata, Mary Hawthorne, Ed Washington,JoshKempinski, NancyBaltzey, Spencer Propts, Karlton Smith & Cheryl Sobun, James & Marylyn Sobun, Marlene Webster, Yvette Stoklosa, Andy Consiglio, Bill & Michelle Cloonan, Nelson Salem, Bill & Deb McClintock, **nursing home residents & shut-ins, the victims of war, violence, disease, disaster, & all private intentions.**

***Also in your prayers, please remember all our men***

***& women currently serving in our Armed Forces:***

**Lt. Col. Nathan Jeffcoat – US Marine Corps**

**Lt. Joseph Cleary – US Navy**

**Michael C. Kenney IV – US Coast Guard**

**Lt. Joshua Kimple – US Army**

**Lt. Sarah Fogleman, M.D. – US Navy**

**A1C Ian Bellinger ‒ PA Air National Guard**

**PRAYER CHAIN: Contact the Office**

***for the Week of December 16 to December 24, 2023***

SATURDAY, Dec. 16 - VIGIL 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28***

**5:00PM + Marilyn Cole**

**SUNDAY, Dec. 17 – 3rd** SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28***

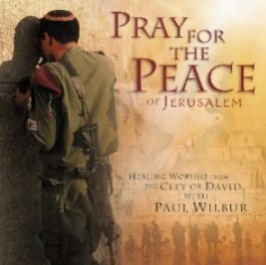
**8:00AM + John, Louise, & Bobbi Strasbaugh**

**10:30AM ⁓ People of the Parish 3PM Penance Service, Corpus Christi**

**Monday, December 18 (Advent Weekday)**

*********Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25***

**Parish Office Closed**

****Tuesday, December 19 (Advent Weekday)**

***Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25***

**8AM – 3PM ~ Office Open**

**10:00AM + David Redding**



**Wednesday, December 20 - (Advent Weekday)**

***Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38***

**NO Mature Spirituality Group until 2024!**

**10:00AM +Teresa Quigley**

**NO Confessions; NO Adoration & NO Benediction**

**6:30PM Communal Penance Service at Corpus Christi, Chmbg.**

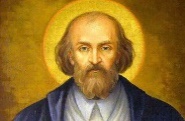
Thursday, December 21 – *St.* ***Peter Canisius, Priest &***

***Sg 2:8-14 / Lk 1:39-45 Doctor of the Church***

**8AM – 3PM ~ Office Open**

**10:00AM + Spec. Int. for Frank & Sue Berger**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fi.pinimg.com%2Foriginals%2Fff%2F2f%2F3a%2Fff2f3a7495054eb50d9f1014850f5df9.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=285c0349e66154f60d12d01d272eea78feb6605f0612f3358d3b9631f30f2f03&ipo=imagesFriday, December 22 **(Advent Weekday)**  ***1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56***  **10:00AM + Margaret “Peg” Hippensteel**  **Parish Office CLOSED** | THE LORD |  |



**SATURDAY, December 23 – *St. John of Kanty, Priest***

***MORNING: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66***

SATURDAY, Dec. 23 - VIGIL 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*********2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38***

**5:00PM + Ruth Ann Robinson**

**SUNDAY, Dec. 24 – 4th** SUNDAY OF ADVENT

***2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38***

**8:00AM ⁓ People of the Parish**

**10:30AM + Art Lazar, Sr.**

https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fclipground.com%2Fimages%2Fpraying-hands-with-rosary-clipart-8.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=0f9162a888e5b867ad6c2a11bc5abc8a1aab9541ef2cf88b18dcb4fc5a73b564&ipo=imageshttps://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fclipground.com%2Fimages%2Fpraying-hands-with-rosary-clipart-8.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=0f9162a888e5b867ad6c2a11bc5abc8a1aab9541ef2cf88b18dcb4fc5a73b564&ipo=images**8PM CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS ⁓ People of the Parish**

**Sanctuary Candle offered for DECEMBER: In Loving Memory of Donald Redding & Teresa Quigley**



# One Who Is Coming: Scott Hahn Reflects

# on the Third (*Gaudete*) Sunday of Advent

The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week’s readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he *is*, we see in today’s Gospel, is best understood by who he *isn’t*.

He is not the Prophet Elijah returned from the heavens (see [2 Kings 2:11](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/2%20Kings%202.11)), although like him, he dresses in the prophet’s attire (see [Mark 1:6](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Mark%201.6); [2 Kings 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/2%20Kings%201.8)) and preaches repentance and judgment (see [1 Kings 18:21](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/1%20Kings%2018.21); and also [2 Chronicles 21:12–15](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/2%20Chron%2021.12%E2%80%9315)).

Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfill his mission (see [Luke 1:17](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%201.17); [Malachi 3:23–24](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Mal%203.23%E2%80%9324)).

Neither is John the prophet whom Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman nor speaks God’s word (see [Deuteronomy 18:15–19](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Deut%2018.15%E2%80%9319); [John 6:14](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/John%206.14)). Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since the time that he “leapt for joy” in the womb of Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary’s cousin (see [Luke 1:15](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%201.15), [44](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%201.44)).

John prepares the way for the LORD (see [Isaiah 40:3](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Isa%2040.3)). The baptism he performs is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance.

John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains (see [John 1:32](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/John%201.32)), the One who fulfills the promise we hear in today’s First Reading (see [Luke 4:16–21](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%204.16%E2%80%9321)). Jesus’ bath of rebirth by water and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Isra-el and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit (see [Zechariah 13:1–3](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Zech%2013.1%E2%80%933); [Ezekiel 36:24–27](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Ezek%2036.24%E2%80%9327); [Mark 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Mark%201.8); [Titus 3:5](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Titus%203.5)).

John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light ‒ that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing in today’s Responsorial, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with Bread from Heaven (see [John 6:33](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/John%206.33), [49–51](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/John%206.49%E2%80%9351)).

And as St. Paul exhorts in today’s Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body —that we may be blameless when our LORD comes again!

Readings: [*Isaiah 61:1–2*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Isa%2061.1%E2%80%932)*,* [*10–11*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Isaiah%2061.10%E2%80%9311)*;* [*Luke 1:46–50*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%201.46%E2%80%9350)*,* [*53–54*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%201.53%E2%80%9354)[*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/1%20Thess%205.16%E2%80%9324)*;* [*John 1:6–8*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/John%201.6%E2%80%938)*,* [*19–28*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/John%201.19%E2%80%9328)

**Sunday Collection Summary: Dec. 9 & 10**

**Weekend Collections**

Regular Offering $ 2,377 .00

Christmas $ 50.00

Immaculate Conception $ 786.00

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God $ 10.00

**TOTAL OFFERINGS $ 3,223.00**

**‒ WEEKLY BUDGETARY NEEDS** **$ 4,494.00**

+Overage or (Shortfall) for the week ($ 1,271.00)

**Other Income**

Candles/Living Faith $ 171.00

Christmas Flowers $ 260.00

Individual Contribution $ 2,000.00

**Total Other Offerings** **$ 2,431.00**

**Diocesan Second Collections**

Retirement for Religious $ 1013.00

**Total Diocesan Offerings $ 1013.00**

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**Hark! You are invited** … to come for the before-Mass “sing-a-longs” at the 8:00PM Christmas Eve Vigil Mass on December 24th.AND… before the Mass of Christmas Day, December 25th.

***A practice session will be held on***

***Thursday, December 21st at 6:00PM***

***in the church***.

If you cannot attend the practice session, but would still like to sing at these Masses, you are most certainly – and warmly – welcome to join us up in the choir loft at 7:15PM on Christmas Eve, the 24th. OR… at 8:15AM on Christmas Morning, the 25th, in the Upper Loyola Conference Room.

ALL ARE INVITED & try-outs are not required! Just bring your voice that God gave you to praise Him. There are plenty of seats for all who want to welcome the celebration of the Newborn-Christ our King in this most special & blessed way!



**Supreme Court to review high-stakes abortion case**

By [Peter Pinedo](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/author/763/peter-pinedo) | Washington, D.C. Newsroom, Dec 13, 2023

The United States Supreme Court has [announced](https://www.supremecourt.gov/orders/courtorders/121323zr_f204.pdf) it will once again consider a high-stakes abortion pill case. The outcome of the case could potentially reinstate safeguards that would prohibit sending these deadly drugs by mail.

The nation's highest court will review a Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling earlier this year which determined that a "Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy" - also known as REMS - should be reinstated to require that women know the facts about Mifepristone ahead of consumption. The Biden Justice Department and the abortion drug manufacturer Danco Laboratories appealed the decision in September.

The High Court will allot one hour for oral arguments in the case, called Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. Food and Drug Administration (AHM v. FDA). Because of its potential to curtail the use of the drug that accounts for over half of all U.S. abortions, the case is expected to be the most consequential abortion case since Dobbs v. Jackson overturned Roe v. Wade.

Mifepristone works by cutting off the nutrients necessary for an unborn baby to survive, essentially starving the child to death. A second pill called Misoprostol is then ingested to induce contractions and expel the dead baby from the womb. In 2022, several pro-life groups and individuals, represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), [sued the FDA](https://adfmedialegalfiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/AllianceForHippocraticMedicineComplaint.pdf) arguing that the administration failed to use the proper channels and hurriedly approve the drug in 2000, without weighing its severe risks to women, which include heavy bleeding, loss of future fertility and even deaths in some cases. ADF Senior Counsel Erin Hawley reacted to the news in a Wednesday statement in which she urged the Supreme Court to uphold “common-sense safeguards” around Mifepristone.

“Every court so far has agreed that the FDA acted unlawfully in removing common-sense safeguards for women and authorizing dangerous mail-order abortions. We urge the Supreme Court to do the same,” Hawley said.

Texas federal district judge Matthew Kacsmaryk issued a ruling in April of this year that entirely invalidated the FDA’s Mifepristone approval. That decision, subsequently overturned by higher courts, would have essentially made the abortion pill illegal.

The most recent ruling in AHM v. FDA by the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals [invalidated the FDA’s post-2016 rule changes to Mifepristone](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/255106/breaking-5th-circuit-court-approves-abortion-pill-restrictions-ends-mail-order-abortions). This means that pre-2016 restrictions on abortion drugs, which included a ban on mailing them or administering them via telemedicine (without an in-person doctor’s visit), would be reinstated. The 5th Circuit said in its ruling that the FDA failed to “consider the cumulative effect of removing several important safeguards” and “to gather evidence that affirmatively showed that mifepristone could be used safely without being prescribed and dispensed in person.”

Despite the appellate court ruling, the abortion pill is still available under the post-2016 rules as the lawsuit awaits action from the U.S. Supreme Court. This is because of an [April decision by the Supreme Court](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/255344/biden-doj-asks-supreme-court-to-overturn-restrictions-on-abortion-pill) to keep mifepristone available under the post-2016 regulations for the duration of the litigation process.

Ahead of the Supreme Court’s decision to review the 5th Circuit’s proposed safeguards on Mifepristone, over [100 U.S. lawmakers wrote a letter to the Supreme Court](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/256080/over-100-members-of-congress-urge-supreme-court-to-revoke-abortion-pill-approval) in November urging it to broadly revoke the FDA’s abortion pill approval. Hawley said on Wednesday that “the FDA has harmed the health of women and undermined the rule of law by illegally removing every meaningful safeguard from the chemical abortion drug regimen.”

“Like any federal agency, the FDA must rationally explain its decisions. Yet its removal of common-sense safeguards — like a doctor’s visit before women are prescribed chemical abortion drugs — does not reflect scientific judgment but rather a politically driven decision to push a dangerous drug regimen.”





**Ivy League Presidents and the Collapse of Moral Reasoning**

By [**Bishop Robert Barron**](https://www.wordonfire.org/author/bishop-robert-barron/) | December 9, 2023

Last week, the presidents of three Ivy League universities — Harvard, MIT, and Penn — appeared before Congress to address the issue of [anti-Semitism](https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/one-hate-to-unite-them-all/) on their campuses, in the wake of the conflict between Hamas and the state of Israel. In their formal statements as well as in the conversation with the congressional committee members, they acknowledged the tension between free speech and the legitimate regulation of certain types of provocative rhetoric. But as the dialogue unfolded, [Rep. Elise Stefanik](https://stefanik.house.gov/), a Republican from New York, became increasingly impatient with what she took to be the presidents’ diffidence regarding extreme forms of anti-Semitic speech at their universities. She finally pressed each one of them: “Would calling for the genocide of Jews constitute a violation of the code of conduct at your school, yes or no?” Astonishingly, each of them balked, insisting that it depended upon the context.

All three women have justifiably faced massive blowback and calls for their resignations, due to the baffling lack of moral clarity in their statements. I should like to explore, however briefly, what has made this kind of moral opaqueness and muddle-headedness possible. First, in the minds of far too many people today, the category of the intrinsically evil act has disappeared. In classical moral philosophy, an intrinsically evil act is one that is, by its very nature, so disordered that it could never be justified or permitted. Good examples of this include slavery, rape, the direct killing of the innocent, and acts of terrorism. Nothing in the circumstances surrounding such acts or in the intentionality of the one performing them could ever turn them into something morally praiseworthy. When we lose a sensitivity to the intrinsically evil, we fall, automatically, into a moral relativism, whereby even the most egregiously wicked act can be justified or explained away. To give just one obvious example, abortion, which involves the direct killing of the innocent, is justified by millions today on account of its [purportedly positive effects](https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/barron/seeing-abortion/).

The great Catholic moral philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe was formed in the highly relativistic ethical thinking that was fashionable in the early twentieth century. Her professors blithely taught that moral statements had no real objective referent; they were rather simply expressive of the feelings of those who uttered them. But when she saw the newsreel films of the liberated Nazi death camps, which showed piles and piles of corpses, she knew that she was seeing something intrinsically evil, something objectively wicked. And consequently, she abandoned the philosophy in which she had been trained. Sadly, the very [relativism](https://www.wordonfire.org/topics/relativism/) and moral indifferentism that Anscombe rebelled against are back with a vengeance. Just how far our own culture has embraced this very bad philosophy was revealed last week in Congress. For in a way, Rep. Stefanik was asking the ultimate softball question: Do you think that inciting people to genocide, the wanton and indiscriminate killing of an entire race of people, is wrong? To be met with the answer, “Well, it depends upon the context” signaled to her, quite correctly, that her interlocutors had moved into complete and dangerous moral incoherence.

Another reason for the inanity on display at the Congressional hearing is the tendency, so typical in woke circles, to divide the world into the simplistic categories of oppressor and oppressed. The roots of this are in Marx and Nietzsche in the nineteenth century as well as in Michel Foucault and the Frankfurt School theorists in the twentieth century, but it has spilled onto the streets largely through the ministrations of the contemporary professoriate in so many of our universities. On this reading, there are simply good guy oppressed people and bad guy oppressors, and once we have sorted everyone into one or the other category, our moral reflection is essentially done. So, whites, Westerners, men, straight people, and Christians are under suspicion, while people of color, those from the global East or global South, women, gays, and non-Christians are lionized. The motives of the first group are routinely questioned, while those of the second group are routinely praised; the first contingent is given the benefit of no doubt, and the second is given the benefit of every doubt. Nuance, careful distinctions, subtle moral reasoning—who needs them, once we’ve decided who is oppressor and who is oppressed? So why not accept a sweeping condemnation of the bad groups? And what’s wrong, therefore, with chanting, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” which, by the way, is functionally equivalent to what the Ivy League presidents were implying in their reluctance to condemn the genocide of Jews?

Might I suggest that the great tradition of Catholic social and moral thought would be a very healthy corrective to the errant speculations evidenced last week in Congress? Let us apply it to the recent conflict in the Middle East. Was Hamas’ attack on Israel intrinsically evil? Yes. Does Israel have a right to defend itself? Yes. Can Israel, in the undertaking of its legitimate self-defense, do so disproportionately and indiscriminately? No. Those responses are, appropriately, both definitive and sufficiently nuanced. If I might put it this way, the answers given by the Ivy League presidents last week were nuanced when they shouldn’t have been and definitive when they shouldn’t have been.

And may I observe that we should not miss this moment? That appalling Congressional testimony served to blow the lid off of an increasingly dysfunctional culture on the campuses of our universities, which have become, sadly, not places where truth is sought, but hotbeds of woke ideology. Donors, parents, alumni—wake up. Do we want to be sending our kids to schools whose presidents cannot muster the intestinal fortitude to resist calls for genocide?

**Pope Francis celebrates 54 years as a priest**



CNA Newsroom, Dec 13, 2023 (*Originally published on Dec. 13, 2022, and has been updated.)*

On Dec. 13, 1969, just four days before his 33rd birthday, Jesuit Jorge Mario Bergoglio — who today is Pope Francis — was ordained a priest by Archbishop Ramón José Castellano, archbishop emeritus of Córdoba, Argentina.

That Dec. 13, 54 years ago, was a Saturday, the eve of the third Sunday of Advent. In the liturgy of the Church this day is known as Gaudete or Joy Sunday. According to the book “The Jesuit: Conversations with Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio,” Francis discovered his vocation to the priesthood while on his way to celebrate Gaudete Day.

When he passed by a church in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of Flores to go to confession, he received special inspiration from the priest who welcomed him.

On another occasion, the Holy Father recounted that initially his mother did not support his decision to enter the priesthood, even though she was a devout Catholic. However, when her son was ordained, she accepted his call and asked for his blessing at the end of the ceremony.

Bergoglio continued his Jesuit formation from 1970 to 1971 in Spain. On April 22, 1973, he made his perpetual profession in the Society of Jesus.

When he returned to Argentina he served as a professor at the San José School of Theology in the town of San Miguel (on the outskirts of the city of Buenos Aires), rector of the college, and on July 31, 1973, at the age of 36, he was appointed provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina.

On May 20, 1992, Pope John Paul II appointed him auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires, and he received his episcopal consecration on June 27 of that year from the local archbishop, Cardinal Antonio Quarracino.

Bergoglio was appointed coadjutor archbishop of Buenos Aires on June 3, 1997. He assumed the pastoral government of the archdiocese in February 1998 upon the death of Quarracino.

Then, in the consistory of Feb. 21, 2001, he was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II.

As a cardinal he participated in the conclave that elected Benedict XVI in April 2005, and on March 13, 2013, he was elected successor of Peter, assuming the name Francis.

# Pope Francis says that he wants to be buried in Marian basilica in new interview

By [Courtney Mares](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/author/421/courtney-mares) | Rome Newsroom, Dec 13, 2023

Pope Francis has said that he wants to be buried in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome because of his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In a new interview broadcast on the Mexican television program “N+” on Tuesday night, the pope revealed that he has already made plans for his funeral and burial.

Pope Francis, who turns 87 on Sunday, said that he has been working with the Vatican’s master of ceremonies, Archbishop Diego Ravelli, to simplify the Church’s papal funeral rites.

“We simplified them quite a bit,” Francis told Mexican journalist Valentina Alazraki.

He said that a “place is already prepared” for his burial in one of the oldest and most important Marian shrines in the West.

“I want to be buried in St. Mary Major,” Francis said. “Because of my great devotion.”

Pope Francis would be the first pope to be buried outside of the Vatican’s grotto crypt in St. Peter’s Basilica in more than a century. (Pope Leo XIII was buried in the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran in 1903.)

The last pope to have been buried in St. Mary Major was Clement IX, who died in 1669. He is one of [six popes buried in the Marian basilica](https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/st-mary-major-24496).

Pope Francis has made more than 100 visits to the Basilica of St. Mary Major since becoming pope. He visits the basilica to venerate the icon known as the “Salus Populi Romani” — “Mary, Protection of the Roman People” — before and after every international trip. Recently, Pope Francis [placed a Golden Rose before the icon](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/256224/photos-pope-francis-honors-virgin-mary-on-the-solemnity-of-immaculate-conception) on Dec. 8.

In the interview, Francis recalled how he would also regularly visit the Marian basilica before he was pope on Sundays when he was in Rome, underlining his strong connection with the basilica.

The interview, taped on Dec. 12 before Pope Francis presided over a Mass to mark the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, was the pope’s first interview since slowing down his schedule due to a bout of acute bronchitis.

“I feel good, I feel improved. Sometimes I’m told I’m imprudent because I feel like doing things and moving around. But I guess those are good signs, no? I am quite well,” Francis said.

Pope Francis said that he now faces some “limits” in his ability to travel and that his international trips have to be “rethought.” The pope confirmed that he plans to visit Belgium in 2024 to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the country’s two main Catholic universities. He added that trips to somewhere in Polynesia and his native Argentina are also “pending.”

In the interview, Pope Francis said that he has never thought of resigning like his predecessor Benedict XVI but is open to the possibility.

“I ask the LORD to say enough, at some point, but when he wants me to,” he said.

When asked if he has become “more tough” since Benedict XVI’s death, the pope replied: “No” but added that sometimes fathers have to reprimand their children, “but never in the face.”

“Sometimes a reprimand is necessary … I am complicated and sometimes a little impatient, but they put up with me,” the pope added.