



December 17, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FROM OUR PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, Praise be to the Lord. When we think of Christmas, what comes to mind? Is it a memory of a loved one, a favorite holiday tradition, shopping for thoughtful gifts, or is it a specific symbol? Whatever it is, have we ever stopped to think more in-depth about what these symbols mean and why they are so crucial to our yearly traditions? Check out 10 of our favorite symbols and the meanings behind them that make them so special.

1.Christmas tree: Used for centuries as a Christmas symbol by both Pagans and Christians, a tree represents the birth of Jesus. Its triangular shape symbolizes the Holy Trinity, and its tippy top is pointing to heaven, symbolizing one's relationship with God. Whether it's real, fake, bedazzled with fresh garland, or your favorite ornaments, it feels like the Christmas tree is one of the most popular symbols to represent Christmas. **2.Christmas stockings:** Legends say that a poor man with three daughters was struggling to afford their dowries when a Christian Bishop named Nicholas offered to help, but the father declined. Wanting to help, Nicholas threw three balls crafted from gold through an open window, one landing in each of the girls' stockings as they hung by the fire to dry. This thoughtful gift allowed the women to get married and the stockings became a holiday tradition symbolizing the importance of service. **3.Candy canes:** Candy canes are thoughtfully shaped like a shepherd's cane, creating a symbolic Christmas connection representative of the Good Shepherd and his loyal disciples. Conveniently, this shepherd's hook hangs beautifully from the beloved Christmas tree. **4.Poinsettias and Holly Berries:** Originally from Mexico, poinsettias are beautiful white or vibrant star-shaped flowers that are known to thrive in the winter seasons (depending on your location). **5.Stars:** Stars are symbolic of the Christmas tradition because a new star appeared in the sky the night Jesus Christ was born. In fact, it is believed that Samuel the Lamanite prophesied a star would appear as a sign of the new savior's birth, five years before it occurred. **6.Bells:** Bells were used to announce the birth of Christ. The sweet sound of bells reminds folks not only of his birth, but they are also a prominent symbol of the holiday season. **7.Angels:** Angels are thought to be the messengers of God who appeared to the Shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus. **8.Wreaths:** Like trees, wreaths are used as traditional decor during the holiday season. Wreaths are proudly displayed on front doors as a welcoming symbol. **9.Gingerbread:** It is a tasty cookie that has become a unique symbol of the holiday season. Baking gingerbread and building houses loaded with candy and frosting have quickly become a yearly tradition for many. **And 10.Gifts:** Although Christmas is not all about gifts, they are enjoyed by many on Christmas morning. Children and adults are delighted to find beautifully wrapped gifts beneath their trees and are equally excited to curate the perfect gift for their loved ones. Gifts symbolize love, remembrance, and the gift of eternal life, making them one of the most popular Christmas symbols.

The biggest, greatest and sweetest gift for Christmas is Christ. So, let us keep Christ in our hearts in Christmas.

God bless, Fr. Jey.

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401 Mansion Street
Phone (608) 847-6054
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Hours: Monday—Friday 8:00 AM—4:30 PM

stpatrickparishmauston@gmail.com

Father Jeyaseelan Yobu (Fr. Jey),

Pastor

Juan Delgado, Deacon

Laurie Oldigs, Pastoral Care

pastoralcare@stpatrickmauston.com

Jennifer Laursen, Parish Secretary

*To reach Fr. Jey outside normal
office hours, you may call
his cell phone @ 715-660-1701*

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Anita Czajka, School Secretary

Larry Moore, Maintenance

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturdays ~ 5 PM

Sundays ~ 8 AM & 10 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 5:30 PM

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 AM

First Saturdays 8:00 AM

DAILY ROSARY

Before 8 AM Mass at 7:25 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays ~ 4 PM—4:45 PM
& Following 1st Saturday 8 AM Mass

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

First Fridays following 8 AM Mass
Benediction at 4:00 PM
All other Fridays beginning at 3:00 PM
Benediction at 4:00 PM

Mass Intentions for the week of December 17th, 2023

Sat. Dec. 16	5:00 PM	For <i>Kelsey Motyka</i>
Sun. Dec. 17	8:00 AM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Don & Mary Ann Strack</i>
	10:00 AM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
Tues. Dec. 19	5:30 PM	For the repose of the soul of <i>Francis Morrissey</i>
Wed. Dec. 20	8:00 AM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Ernie & Audrey Schmocker</i>
	6:15 PM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Michael, Rose, Tom, Mark & Jo Powers</i>
Thu. Dec. 21	8:00 AM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Elton & Dorothy Noble and Alfonse & Sena Schwab</i>
Fri. Dec. 22	8:00 AM	For the repose of the soul of <i>John E. Walsh</i>
	9:45 AM	TERRACE HEIGHTS For the repose of the soul of <i>Millie Hovde</i>
Sat. Dec. 23	5:00 PM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Gerald & Beverly Steiner</i>
Sun. Dec. 24	8:00 AM	For <i>our Parishioners</i>
	10:00 AM	For the repose of the souls of <i>Gerald & Monica Niles</i>

Pray for the health of Max Teumer, Ben Reynebeau, Julie (Watry) Stoner, Vivian G., Russell Fairchild, Deb Beyer, Diana Hunt, Jessie Norton, Bill Chase, Kiley Hackel, Shari Randall, Helen Eucolono, Sid Mead, Becky Fredrickson, Bob W., Therese, Audrey Gillen, Rita Kueppers, Cindy Mueller, George Gabay, Jim Smith, Sadie Ravenscroft, Anne Nancolas, RM, Payton, Veronica, Kathryn Doughty, Patricia, JM, Carl Wier, Carole Hayes, Tillie Schumacher, Bill Eisch, Marsha Hamil, EMM, Brenna, Lori P., Barb Gardner, Patrick Moore, Karen Patton, Therese Severson, Fran Skalak, Tina Moore, Tony Berns, Jeanne Allen, Randy Czaplewski, Anna Madden, Steve Connor, Joe Wolf, Phil S., Randy Mullenberg, Janel, Sidney G. Mead Jr., Mary Mead, Mike Miller, Jon B, Larry Purvis, Linda Serrurier, Joe Slowinski, Bob and Lisa Konitzer, Joy Kelley, Ofelia Sandoval-Villrreal, Estella Villarreal, Mary Jo Link, Mary Beth Hall, Connor Laridaen, Nancy & Tom Mueller, Fran Schroeder, Kevin, Tom and Joyce Czysz, and Jordan P.

Pray for those in the military serving our country: Janie Asberry, Zachary Bader, Bailey Granger, Alex Ericson, Samuel Levandoski and Ethan Jasinski.

Christmas Mass Schedule: The Fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on Sunday, December 24th. Morning Masses will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, while Masses on Sunday evening will observe the Vigil for Christmas. **Catholics are to attend Mass twice for these two occasions**—once for the 4th Sunday of Advent (either on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 23 or during any Mass on Dec. 24), and once for Christmas (either on the evening of Dec. 24 or during the day on Dec. 25).

We will be purchasing an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to have available in the church. The cost is about \$3,000. If anyone would like to contribute to this, please drop your gifts at the rectory office. Thank you!

Stewardship Corner ~ December 9th & 10th, 2023 (493 Registered Families)

	**WKLY BUDGETED GIVING	ACTUAL
Adult Envelopes	\$8,653.85	\$ 4,473.00
On-Line Giving		\$ 1,886.00
Children's Envelopes	14.42	\$ 14.00
Loose Offering	480.75	\$ 474.00
Total Weekly Offering:	\$ 9,149.02	\$ 6,847.00

Year-to-date* budget requirement	\$228,725.50
Year-to-date amount contributed	\$179,317.86

*Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to current date

** Budgeted Weekly Giving Amount based on pledges made. We anticipate a total budgeted income deficit of \$ 91,454.00 for this fiscal year.

We ask you to join us in praying sincerely for guidance and success in helping to meet the temporal needs of our Church so that we can carry on our spiritual mission.

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday	Dec. 19	3—4 PM	Divine Mercy / Holy Face to Jesus Devotions
		7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus Mtg
Wednesday	Dec. 20		Religious Ed Classes
		6:45 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	Dec. 21	10:00 AM	Rosary Markers—RH
		7:00 PM	Communal Penance
Friday	Dec. 22	8:45 AM	Friday Folders

Making a good confession is the best way to prepare ourselves for the proper celebration of Christmas. Our Advent Communal Penance Service will be Thursday, December 21st at 7 PM.



This Advent Season, our 2nd Grade First Communicants and their families have the opportunity to participate in the parish life of our church by lighting the candles on our Advent Wreath. This week's students are:

5 PM: Isaiah Leggett
8 AM: Caleb Turpin
10 AM: Tigie Ross

"A heart-felt thank you from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and our Diocesan Mission Office to St. Patrick Parish for your generous response of prayer and sacrifices for World Mission Sunday. Your response to Pope Francis' call to have our "Hearts on fire, feet on the move" gives witness to your commitment to Christ and His teachings. We will forward your financial contribution of \$3,326 to our national office. The collected funds will assist in spreading God's message of hope and peace to the poor, those suffering persecution for their faith, and those who are yet to experience the redeeming power of the Gospel"

Rev. Woodrow Pace, Mission Office Director

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—Weekend of December 16th & 17th

Saturday, 5:00 PM

Lector: Jeri Kolba
Eucharistic Minister: Dorothy Gorski
Servers: Owen Lubinski, Jack & Mary Vinopal
Musicians: Ann Benz
Greeters: Kevin Quist
Ushers: Bernie Lubinski, Bill Powers, Tom Schoettler, Jon Field
Gift Bearer: Dick & Natalie Schwab
Scrip Seller: Laura Schwab, Jeri Kolba

Sunday, 8:00 AM

Lector: Bridget Gunther
Servers: Seth Schwedersky, Canaan Becker
Musicians: Ann Benz
Greeters: Ron & Marge Bailey, Pam Zolondek
Ushers: Dave Bosgraaf, George Trembl, Jim Bires, Dave Netzer
Gift Bearers:
Scrip Seller: Donna Miller, Jeri Kolba

Sunday, 10:00 AM

Lector: Connie Walhovd
Eucharistic Minister: Julie Whitney
Servers: Hudson Randall, Cooper Thayer, Johann Wolf
Musicians: Peg Schmitz, Choir
Greeters: Bill Thill
Ushers: Clinton Pouillie
Gift Bearers: Matt & Michelle Komiskey
Scrip Seller: Julie Whitney, Jeri Kolba

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—Weekend of December 23rd & 24th

Saturday, 5:00 PM

Lector: Steve Hesprich
Eucharistic Minister: Rita Hamm
Servers: Ryleigh Vinopal, Gracey Kobylski
Musicians: Peg Schmitz, John & Nancy Noga
Greeters: Danelle & Anita Lubinski
Ushers: Bernie Lubinski, Bill Powers, Tom Schoettler, Jon Field
Gift Bearer: Doug & Tammy Nedza
Scrip Seller: Jeri Kolba

Sunday, 8:00 AM

Lector:
Servers: Jacob Barnes, William & Eli Schanke
Musicians: Ann Benz, Joe Clary, Cristina Becker
Greeters: Donna Miller, Joe Buttner, Vicki Boehm
Ushers: Dave Bosgraaf, George Trembl, Jim Bires, Dave Netzer
Gift Bearers:
Scrip Seller: No Sales - Merry Christmas

Sunday, 10:00 AM

Lector:
Eucharistic Minister: Nancy Horabik
Servers: Caroline & Cecilia Marien, Leia Kocyan
Musicians: Ann Benz, Bridget Swanson
Greeters: Kris Mazur, Nancy Horabik
Ushers: Clinton Pouillie
Gift Bearers:
Scrip Seller: No Sales - Merry Christmas

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—December 24 & 25th - Christmas

Sunday, 4:00 PM - Children's Mass

Lector: School Students
Eucharistic Minister: Carrol Kaiser
Servers: School Students
Musicians: Ann Benz, School Students
Greeters: School Students
Ushers: School Students
Gift Bearer: Lynda Vinopal

Sunday, 11:00 PM

Lector: Naome Pouillie
Eucharistic Minister:
Servers: Brayden & Kellen Housworth, Weston & Garrett Pouillie
Musicians: Peg Schmitz, Choir
Greeters:
Ushers:
Gift Bearers: Chris & Erin Lund

10:00 AM Christmas Day

Lector: Howard Boppart
Eucharistic Minister: Gina Boppart
Servers:
Musicians: Ann Benz, Joe Clary, The Becker family, Gail Fleming
Greeters:
Ushers:
Gift Bearers:

Our Annual Diocesan Appeal has begun. Our goal this year is \$40,685.00. The appeal supports the many ministries of our diocese as well as the ministries of the greater Church. Information regarding the appeal was mailed to every parish family this week. Please prayerfully consider how you can best support this appeal and please be generous in your giving.

To date our parish has pledged \$1,665.00.

Our shortfall is \$39,020.

Community Christmas Dinner~ Mauston Methodist Church, 420 Suszycki Dr. Monday, December 25th from 11 AM to 1 PM. Please come and fellowship with others from the community while you enjoy a free ham dinner. Reservations are not necessary but are appreciated.—608-847-5964.

Our religious women and men offer gratitude. A sister shares, "*I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them.*" Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. Our parish gifts totaled \$1,922.00. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

Our Savior is Born!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Advent Penance Service—Thursday, December 21—7 PM

Christmas Eve—Vigil Masses on Sunday, December 24
— 4 PM and 11 PM
(Singing of Christmas Carols beginning at 10:30 PM)

Christmas Day—Mass on Monday, December 25—10 AM

Feast of the Holy Family—Masses on Saturday, December 30
—5 PM and Sunday, December 31—8 AM and 10 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—Masses on Sunday,
December 31 —5 PM and Monday, January 1—12 Noon

Epiphany of the Lord—Masses on Saturday, January 6—5
PM and Sunday, January 7—8 AM & 10 AM

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS! We are so glad that you have chosen this place of worship to honor the Lord's name with us. If you are new to this church or just visiting, we would like to thank you for worshiping with us and we warmly welcome you to St. Patrick's as our brothers and our sisters. If you would like more information about St. Patrick's in general or would like to join our parish, please check out our website: stpatricks-mauston.com or give our rectory office a call. Welcome!

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