

LOOKING AHEAD:

TODAY:	3:00 p.m.	"Please don't forget the Greening of the Church, followed by Wassail"!
December (18) Mon:	6:00 p.m.	Finance Meeting.
December(18) Mon:	6:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting.
December (20) Wed:	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry.
December (22) Fri:	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer.
December(24) Sun:	5:00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE.
December(25) Mon:	10:30 a.m.	Holly Eucharist Rite II.

BRRRR! *It's getting cold outside.*

*It's time to decorate the Mitten Tree with **hats**, and **scarves**, and **gloves**, and **mittens**. These items will be collected and given to children who otherwise might no be prepared for our cold winter!*

All items will be collected on

Friday, December 22nd at 9:00 A.M.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please contact Betsy Limmex (440 449 1699) if you have any questions.

The Advent Banner

Many times in the Book of Revelations, God says "I am the Alpha and the Omega", the beginning and the end. Sarum Blue, our color for Advent, symbolizes hope, expectation, and anticipation. We begin this new Church Year with Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet. As we enter the beginning, we know with certainty, that there will be an end (Omega, the final letter).

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

*To be acknowledged in the bulletin as contributing toward the poinsettias, your contribution needs to be turned in no later than **Sunday, December 17**. Contributions may be made in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for, and there is no set amount for giving.*

Celebrant: The Rev. Stephen Secaur

Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Price (8:00) Wendy Charny (10:30)

Lectors: Diane Bellas (8:00) John Charny and Matt Matthews (10:30)

Acolyte: Nancy Nicholls

Ushers: Matt and West Matthews

Teller: Debbie Kampman

Organist: Aleksandr Leybkind

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

17 December 2017

Welcome! Please enter the nave quietly and reverently as there may be people already in prayer and contemplation.

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Your presence is important to all of us. If you are just passing through, we wish you Godspeed on your travels and hope that you will join us whenever you return. If you live in this area and are new to this parish, we welcome you and invite you to make Saint Bartholomew your church home. If you are a long-time member who has been gone for a while, welcome home---we've missed you! And if you are a member of this parish who generally shows up every week, thank you for your commitment to our parish family---well done, good and faithful servant!

About Today's Lessons

On this Third Sunday of Advent we again are focused on John the Baptist. Today we hear more about John's ministry and his response to questions raised by his message. An important issue for many in the days of the early Church was the relationship between Jesus and John. In response to those who believed that John the Baptist was the Messiah, the early Christians remembered John's own words: "I am not the Messiah...I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

The first reading is Isaiah's poem of the anointed one and his ministry of peace, healing, and redemption. In his first sermon Jesus applied this passage to himself. In this Advent time we anticipate our celebration of the birth of the anointed one who comes to save.

The second reading is the conclusion of Paul's first letter to the Church in Thessalonica. He wrote this letter to encourage them to persevere in the Way as they waited for the return of Jesus. Paul assures them that the Lord will return but that their lives now are to reflect the nature of God's kingdom rather than to be spent in sitting back and awaiting the End.

The Church's Eucharist is a foretaste of that coming of Christ which is still ahead. In word and sacrament, song and story, we encounter the reign of God in our midst and we reveal that future joy to the world. Like John the Baptist we are sent ahead of the One who is coming and our joy is to see God's presence in the world increase.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

E·P·I·S·C·O·P·A·L·...·C·H·U·R·C·H

Saint·Bartholomew

In case of a pastoral emergency, please call the church and leave a message. Messages are checked daily, and someone will get back with you. Please tell the office of any pastoral emergency as soon as possible. Fr. Stephen Secaur may be contacted directly at 440 541 8359 or by email at Fr.Stephen.saintbartohio@gmail.com.

We pray for those who are infirm, and for the continued healing of:

Dorothy, Richard and Mary, John and Caroline, Steve and Diane, Frank and Liz, Paul and Jane, Al and Marie, Allison and child, Vinton, Nancy, Betty, Fr. Jim, Carol, Harriett, Jean, Judy, Jim, Pat, Brooke, Dee, Lauren, Mary Ellen, Mary Francis, Anastasia, Mary, Greg, Irene, Robert, John, Victoria, Ann, Katie, Earnest, Richie, David, Sylvia, Jeremy, Freddie, Bob, Dolly, Sandy, Shirley, Andrea, Linda, Janelle and Jake, Toni, Quasim, Florence, Nancy, Tony, Wendy, Dolores, ...

And we offer our thanksgivings for your many blessings upon us especially for:

December 10th the offering was \$1,506.00 and the attendance was 66.

The birthdays of : ...

The anniversary of: ...

We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces...

Lt. Colonel Dan Knaup, Corporal Jason Thompson, Lt. Col. David Marcinski, Sgt. Mark Ditchman, Pvt 2 nd Class Kyle Lewis, Quartermaster Mike Thoumire, Staff Sgt. Paul Workman, Seaman Kyle Knowlton, Staff Sgt Rebecca Gibson, Staff Sgt. Frank Gibson, Sargent Jack Rolf, Sargent Anthony Worst, Col. Patrick Renwick, Sgt. John Kleeberger.

We also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially: ...

and those who have died this week in the service of their country.

The Shawl Ministry : Prayer Shawls are always available in the library area. Please feel free to take one for yourself or friends. Sign the book so that we may know where our love and prayers go. The Shawl Ministry meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Join us if you like to knit or crochet. We are always in need of yarn donations if you happen to be cleaning out your stash or someone else's!!! Thank you for your loyal support of this ministry. Liz York: 440 946 3374.

Saint Bart's Book Club meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Gates Mills Public Library at 7:00 pm. Selections are: The **December** selection is **The Heist** by Janet Evanovich, and the **January** selection is **The Light Between Oceans** by M.L. Stedman. **For more information, see Wendy Charny or call her: 216 291 9235.**

18	Monday		
		2:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Groovy Garfoose Finance Meeting Vestry Meeting
19	Tuesday		
		9:00 am	Office Open Franco
20	Wednesday		
		9:00 am 7:00 pm	Office Open Franco Prayer Shawl Ministry
21			ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
		8:00 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm	TMCC Office Open - Boyd Groovy Garfoose Special Class
22	Friday		
		9:00 am	Morning Prayer
23	Saturday		
24	Sunday		THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
		8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Bible Study Holy Eucharist, Rite II CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship through the Week, a guide for Praying and Study at home
This Week's Readings
From the Daily Office for the week of December 18th through December 24th, 2017

Monday: Psalm 41, 52; 44
Zech. 1:7-17; Rev. 3:7-13; Matt. 24:15-31

Tuesday: Psalm 445; 47, 48
Zech. 2:1-13; Rev. 3:14-22; Matt. 24:32-44

Wednesday: Psalm 119:49-72; 49, 53
Zech. 3:1-10; Rev. 4:1-8; Matt. 24:45-51v

Thursday: Psalm 50; 59, 60 or 33
Zech 4:1-14; Rev. 4:9-5:5; Matt. 25:1-13

St. Thomas
AM: Psalm 23, 21; Job 42:1-6; 1 Peter 1:3-9
PM: Psalm 27; Isaiah 43:8-13; John 14:1-7

Friday: Psalm 40, 54; 51
Zech. 7:8-8:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Matt. 25:14-30

Saturday: Psalm 55; 138:1-17(18-23)
Zech. 8:9-17; Rev. 6:1-17; Matt. 25:31-46

Sunday: Psalm 63:1-8(9-11); 103
Amos 9_11-15; 2 Thess. 2:1-3, 13-17; John 5:30-47

How to use the Daily Office: For each day, the Psalms are split into M (morning) and PM (evening) readings by the "&" You may read them this way or together at one time. Optional readings are in [brackets]. Below the Psalms you have an Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel reading for each day. The entire Bible can be read in two years following this format from the Book of Common Prayer.