

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

958 E. Tuscola St.
Frankenmuth, Michigan
989-652-3259

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8 & 9, 2018



All Are Welcome

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place!

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast the frees us:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place!

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard;
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:*

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place!

This Week in Our Parish

Tuesday, December 11

Memorial of St. Damasus I

- 11:00 a.m. Book Club Meets
 3:00 p.m. Grades 3 & 4 Faith Formation Classes
 1:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 8:30 a.m. Mass
 9:00 a.m. Rosary
 11:00 a.m. Adult Study Group
 3:00 p.m. Grades 5 & 6 Faith Formation Classes
 7:00 p.m. Advent Bible Sharing
 7:00 p.m. Men's Club Meeting

Thursday, December 13

Memorial of St. Lucy

- 3:00 p.m. Grades 1 & 2 Faith Formation Classes
 7:00 p.m. Advent Night of Prayer and Reflection

Friday, December 14

Memorial of St. John of the Cross

Saturday, December 15

- 5:00 p.m. Mass
 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation Social Hour

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m. Mass
 10:00 a.m. Faith Formation Social Hour
 11:00 a.m. Mass
 11:00 a.m. FF3's, FF4's & Kindergarten Classes
 11:00 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word
 12:00 noon Faith Formation Social Hour
 3:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Visits Mustard Seed Shelter
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal



Scripture Readings for December 15 & 16, 2018

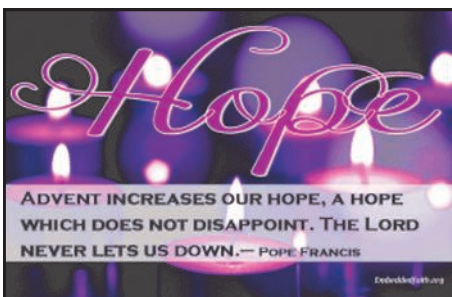
Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

General Information

- ◆ If you would like to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, please call the parish office for more information.
- ◆ If you would like to have your **child baptized**, call the parish office for information. Baptisms are celebrated regularly, except during Lent.
- ◆ Adults who are interested in learning more about the **Catholic faith** are invited to call the parish office for more information.
- ◆ Are you planning a **wedding**? Please call the parish office before setting a wedding date. Six months are required for preparation.
- ◆ Would you or someone you know wish to celebrate the **Anointing of the Sick**? Please call the parish office to request an individual anointing.
- ◆ Please remember that when **entering a hospital**, you should register as a member of Blessed Trinity Parish. When **confined at home**, please contact our parish office.
- ◆ **New parishioners** are always welcome at Blessed Trinity. If you wish to join our community, please contact the parish office for an appointment to register.
- ◆ Text and pictures for the weekly **bulletin** is due by 12:00 noon on Mondays to: lsnyder@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org.



Advent Prayer Service

Advent is a time to wait in hope that the light of Christ will overcome the darkness in our world and in our own hearts. As we make this Advent journey, we invite God's light into our hearts to dispel the darkness. We ask for the gift of attentiveness that we may truly see God's loving presence within us and among us.

Please join us on Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. as we pray for a renewed faith....to be light for others. All are welcome.

our sanctuary candle
is sponsored in gratitude
for the past 20 years
since our breast cancer diagnosis:

Kathy Toth, Roger Grates,
and Karen Frahm

Thoughts from our Pastoral Administrator....

Advent is a very special season, one where we are to live our lives a little differently than in ordinary time. We pray, watch, wait, hope, and above all else....allow ourselves the gift of time to wait. Please make time to allow Christ into your lives a little more often this season; His gifts are certainly worth it. We offer several prayer opportunities where all are invited.

This week, our Gospel message is focused on Christ's second coming at the end of time. The last two weeks of Advent focus on His first coming.

We are extremely grateful that the Diocese of Saginaw has assigned Fr. T.J. Fleming as sacramental minister for our parish. Please read his article and get to know him. His role while assigned here is to fill the sacramental needs of Blessed Trinity to include weekend liturgies, holy days, weekday Masses, funerals, baptisms, weddings, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick.

Last week, I presented a blessing for Advent wreaths and today, Christmas trees. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The lights are illuminated after the prayer of this blessing:

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon and the stars of night.
We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of Scriptures.
We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us,
the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.
Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.



Amen.

(Magnificat)

May the peace of Christ be with each day!

Deacon Larry Deford

We Are Stewards

On-line Giving ~ November 24 - December 1, 2018

Parish Adult Contributions	\$1,165.00
Parish Debt Retirement	5.00
Total	\$1,170.00

Weekend ~ December 1 & 2, 2018

Parish Adult Contributions (170 envelopes)	\$8,871.00
Children's Contributions (4 envelopes)	9.50
Weekend Loose	930.00
Debt Retirement (3 envelopes)	35.00
Campaign for Human Development (6 envelopes)	240.00
Weekend Total	\$9,995.50

Children's Stewardship Messages: Keegan's time ~ dance; Wyatt's talent ~ altar serving.

Eucharist Exposition

On the remaining Tuesdays of Advent - December 11 and 18 - there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the parish chapel.

Please feel free to stop in and pray during this time. All are welcome to come and joyfully prepare for the coming of our Savior.

Be peace on earth.

Thoughts from our Sacramental Minister....

I am Fr. Thomas J. Fleming, now known as Fr. T.J. I am the son of Richard (Dick) and Mae Fleming. I am the third oldest of six children: Colleen, Rick, Tom, Sharon, Chris and Scott. My mother Mae died three days after my seventh birthday. Dick and Mae had Colleen, Rick, Tom, and Sharon. One and a half years after my mother's death, my dad re-married my mother's younger sister Barbara, nicknamed Bobbie. Dick and Bobbie had Chris and Scott. Because their mother is my aunt, I call them my ¾ brothers!

I grew up on a beef cattle farm, six miles north of the small town of Merrill. Starting with fifth grade, I attended Merrill Public Schools through my senior year, graduating in 1976. That fall, I entered college seminary at St. John Vianney Seminary, which was a dorm located on the campus of the College of St. Thomas, now known as the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota. I graduated from there in 1980 with a BA in History and minor in Philosophy.

I continued on in seminary, doing my first year of Theology at St. Meinrad School of Theology, located in southern Indiana. Later, I transferred to St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan. Completing my theology there, I graduated in 1984 with a Master of Divinity degree. I was ordained a Transitional Deacon on August 10, 1984 and ordained a priest on April 28, 1985.

I have served in the Diocese of Saginaw for 33 years. I have served in many parishes throughout the diocese: one as internship, two as associate pastor and the rest as pastor. I have served in two special ministries: Clown Ministry and Signing Ministry.

I was trained in Clown Ministry under a Lutheran Minister. Clown Ministry is effective in nursing homes, but I had to give it up because I couldn't find a paint that I wasn't allergic to using. I have been signing Masses for the deaf and hearing impaired for 28 years. Sign language is not a spoken language, but when I sign at Mass, I also speak it at the same time. This is called Pigeon English.

I am very excited to be here with you at Blessed Trinity Parish and serving as your Sacramental Minister. I am coming off a five-month sabbatical, the result of occupational burnout and a great deal of stress. Now, I'm easing back into full-time ministry and will be living in the rectory at St. James Parish in Bay City.

We do not live in a perfect world, so let's make the most of what we are given. Let's praise God together!!

Fr. T.J.



Blessed Trinity parishioners who volunteer at The Clothesline Store gathered last Monday for a Christmas Luncheon at Frankenmuth United Methodist Church. Over 100 store volunteers were present to hear the inspiring story of the success of the Heart of Saginaw Mission.

Thanks to the many wonderful donations of clothing, The Clothesline Store was able to distribute \$40,000 in profits to: Heart of Saginaw, East Side Soup Kitchen, Underground Railroad, Emmaus House, Hidden Harvest, Bethesda, The Mustard Seed, and the Saginaw Rescue Mission. This is a huge tribute to the generosity and hard work of so many caring individuals in our community.

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us. (Albert Schweitzer)

Youth Ministry News

Tonight/Sunday is an important gathering for our grades 7-12 youth. We'll collect and package personal care items to be delivered to local families in need. We also will have our Christmas Party with a white elephant gift exchange. I hope to see all youth in attendance. We'll have punch, cookies, and pizza!

Last Sunday was our annual "Sleep In Sunday" event. We traveled to St. Mary's Cathedral for Mass and stopped at Panda House for dinner. I love this event because it is the first time many youth experience the cathedral (see picture at right). It's also a great time to share in "community." Thanks to Laura Paetz Morris and Sandi Doherty for driving.

In the spirit of giving and sharing our gifts, we will travel to the Mustard Seed Shelter to visit with residents there on Sunday, December 16 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. We'll deliver shoes and scarves to the women who reside at the shelter and make Christmas cookies with the children that are there. I hope all youth will be able to participate as it's our opportunity to see God in all we do and in the people we meet. Drivers will be needed.

I need addresses of our college-age youth. If you are away at college or staying home to attend a local institution, please send your address to me or the church office. We have something planned for you and don't want anyone to miss out.

2019 BT grads are asked to send in pictures!

As we light our second Advent candle this weekend, we remind ourselves that WE ARE BT AND WE MAKE IT SPECIAL!

Shiloh Kotch must not have seen his name in the bulletin, but I know Flynn Dupuie did. Will Izzy Zdanowski see her name? If so, contact me for your gift card, Izzy!

Kathy Cramer ~ Director of Youth Ministry
kramer@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org

Advent Bible Sharing

Advent is a time of reflection, meditation, and preparation. Are we ready to welcome Jesus? Come ponder the Advent Sunday readings as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord! We will meet on Wednesdays during Advent at 7:00 p.m. at the parish. All are welcome!



Sponsor Sanctuary Lamp

Parishioners are invited to make an offering for the candles used in the sanctuary lamp (the lamp that burns 24/7 before the tabernacle) which reminds us of the presence of the Risen Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that is reserved in the tabernacle.

The light comes from a large candle placed in a red glass container and burns for seven days. The candle is generally replaced on Friday or Saturday each week throughout the year.

If you would like to make an offering of \$50.00 for these candles in honor or in memory of a family member, friend, neighbor, etc. please call the parish office to find out which weeks are available.

Need Prayers?

Call the Parish Prayer Network with your prayer needs and concerns: Ginger Hall at 652-9519 or Nanci Lyon at 652-6532. You can also submit prayer requests on our parish website. When you visit Blessed Trinity during the week or when you come to weekend Mass, be sure to write your prayer intentions in the Book of Life in the back of church.



Endowment Fund Info

The Blessed Trinity Endowment Fund is an effective way for all of us to support for many generations to come, the ministries of our parish that are so important for planting and nourishing the seeds of faith.

The Endowment Fund was established in 2014 and is invested through the Frankenmuth Community Foundation by professional investment managers.

The Frankenmuth Community Foundation has announced its first ever "Giving 150% to our Community Campaign." This means every dollar you donate between now and January 15, 2019 will receive an additional 50% matching donation up to a maximum donation match of \$5,000.

Donations can be made to the Endowment Fund in a variety of ways including cash or assets, such as stocks and bonds, bequests from a will or trust, retirement plan gifts, qualified charitable distributions from IRA's (must be age 70 ½) or life insurance gifts.

More information is available by calling the parish office at 652-3259.



Parish children learn about their Catholic faith in the Atrium.



Our grades 1 - 4 children took part in St. Nicholas Prayer Services last week. Following an ancient custom, the children were asked to leave their shoes outside of the church space and were surprised to find treats in their shoes after praying!



Do What You Can

Mother Teresa used to say that she did not add, she subtracted, and she was not talking about arithmetic skills. Though her Missionaries of Charity have helped hundreds of thousands - perhaps millions - of people, they cannot reach everyone.

In trying to feed the world's hungers, you don't have to do everything, but you can do something.

Our sponsor of the week is: **Schreiner Mechanical, Inc.**
To view this ad, see the back of the bulletin.
Please patronize our sponsors.
They make the bulletin possible.

Pastoral Team

Pastoral Administrator ~ Deacon Larry Deford

Sacramental Minister ~ Rev. Thomas J. Fleming

Pastoral Minister

Interim Director of Faith Formation ~ Karen Smith

Coordinator of Faith Formation ~ Pamela Daily

Director of Youth Ministry ~ Kathryn Cramer

Director of Music ~ Alissa Hetzner

Music Assistant ~ Steven Holovach

Parish Secretary ~ Lori Snyder

Bookkeeper ~ Carol Maurer

Director of Maintenance ~ Frederick Fitch

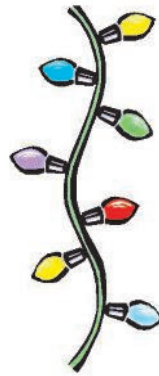
Maintenance Assistant ~ Philip Schmelzer

Commissioned Lay Ministers

Michael Snyder, Veronica Horn,
Virginia Little, Katherine Haney,
Joseph Ricard, Pamela Daily,
Jacqueline Gere



The Frankenmuth McDonald's Restaurant is hosting the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Kick-off Toys for Tots program. Please stop in and bring a \$10.00 or more new, unwrapped toy or monetary donation. The need is always greatest for children ages 5-12 years of age. Thank you for your continued support!



Food Donations

Please consider purchasing extra grocery items for local food pantries, which service families in our area. All items are needed including paper supplies, cleaning supplies, food items, and personal care items.

Please do not bring in perishable food items or items past their expiration date. Drop off your donations at BT during the week or when you come to weekend Mass.