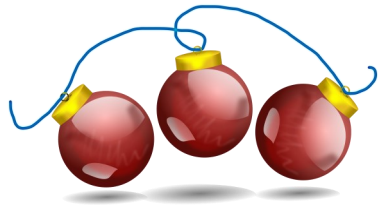


Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

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

Web: www.blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org
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Advent & Christmas 2017 Parish News



~ Parish Holiday Schedule ~ Mark Your Calendars!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Friday, December 8

Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m. on December 7

12:00 noon Mass on December 8

Christmas Eve

(music selections begin ~ 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.)

Sunday, December 24 ~ 5:00 & 8:00 p.m. Masses

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 ~ 11:00 a.m. Mass

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31 ~ 5:00 p.m. Mass

Monday, January 1, 2018 ~ 11:00 a.m. Masse

Feast of Epiphany

Saturday, January 7 ~ 5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, January 8, 2017 ~ 11:00 a.m. Mass

(Children's Epiphany Pageant at 11:00 a.m. Mass)

Individual Confessions

All Saturdays at 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20 at 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Communal Penance

Sunday, December 3, 12:00 noon at St. Xavier Cabrini, Vassar

Sunday, December 3, 2:00 p.m. at Ss. Francis & Clare, Birch Run

Friday, December 15, 7:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth, Reese

Sunday, December 17, 3:00 p.m. at Ss. Charles & Helena, Clio

Advent Giving Tree

Each year, Blessed Trinity sponsors an Advent Giving Tree where items of need are written on individual tags for area families and organizations. Parishioners select a tag, purchase the item and return it to the parish. Your participation truly makes a difference in the lives of many families.

**All gifts are due back to Blessed Trinity by Sunday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m.
PLEASE DON'T BE LATE with your gifts - we don't want anyone to be left out!**



Assistance is needed with transporting/delivering the gifts to Frankenmuth Public Schools and Vassar Public Schools on Monday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. If you are able to assist, please contact Samantha Brunnschweiler at 989-284-3303 or email dodson004@gmail.com.

Notes from our Pastor

You can see on the schedule in this newsletter that the Christmas Eve Masses are earlier than in past years. The first Mass will start at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24, and the second Mass at 8:00 p.m. There will be a program of Christmas hymns and carols before each of the Masses, beginning about 30 minutes before the Masses.

I know there are some parishioners who would like to have a "late" Mass on Christmas Eve, even a Mass beginning at midnight. However, the great majority of our families and those who carry out the liturgical ministries at the Masses have been asking for earlier options rather than later.

So the Sunday schedule on December 24 this year will be a busy one. The two Sunday morning Masses will be celebrations of the 4th Sunday of Advent. The two Sunday evening Masses will be celebrations of Christmas. The Mass on Christmas morning will remain at 11:00 a.m.

I expect that the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve will be very crowded. Hopefully, a good number of those who have been at the early Mass in recent years will choose to be at the 8:00 p.m. Mass where seating should be available for all.

There are additional times on the Advent schedule for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance individually, including morning, afternoon, and evening opportunities. The most difficult challenge in our lives in this busy age is to get ready spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. The experience of this healing sacrament ("going to confession") can be an effective way to prepare our hearts and spirits for a more joyful and peaceful celebration of this holy season.

Times and dates for communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance at some of our nearby parishes are also included in this newsletter. I will be assisting at several of these services and parishioners from Blessed Trinity are most welcome to attend and receive this sacrament of mercy.

Fr. Bob Byrne

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR BLESSINGS TO YOU!

FROM YOUR BT PARISH STAFF



*We wish all a blessed Advent
and a joyous Christmas!*

*May God grace you
with peace and joy in the New Year!*

*Fr. Bob, Karen, Carol, Kathy, Alissa, Steve, Lori, Carol,
Fred, Phil, Mike, Veronica, Joe, Kathy, Ginny, & Pam*

Eucharist Exposition

On the Tuesdays of Advent ~ December 5, 12, and 19 ~ 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.

Christmas and New Year Help Needed

Begin to think about which Mass you will attend on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day. Hospitality Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, and Ministers of Holy Communion will be needed. A sign-up sheet will be in the gathering area by December 9; please sign up early so we know who is able to help.

Volunteers Needed

- ◆ Help is needed to distribute Communion at Wellspring Nursing Facility.
- ◆ More people are needed to pray the Rosary with residents at Medilodge.
- ◆ We would love to have more parishioners join us for Mass at any one of the area assisted living/nursing facilities. The schedule is printed in the bulletin.

One short hour of your time can have a great impact on yourself and others. Do you have one free hour once per month? For more info or to volunteer, please call Karen Smith at the parish.



Faith Formation News

Carol Fox

Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year for the Roman Catholic Church. On the first day of Advent, December 3, the Church celebrates its own kind of New Year's Day. Sometimes people mistakenly think that Advent is part of the Christmas celebration. Actually, Advent is a time of preparation all it's own.

For the Catholic Church, Christmas does not begin until the first Mass is celebrated on Christmas Eve. The Twelve Days of Christmas then continue until the Feast of Epiphany. Advent is given to us as a time to prepare our souls for the coming of the Lord. This season is very similar to Lent, so it's nickname is the "Little Lent." We are called to wait and to keep watch for a light shining in the darkness.

This is a great time to focus on your home (called the domestic church) and make it the place where children hear about and witness the Catholic faith.



Honor the Advent season in a simple way at home. Try to gather the family at least once per week around your Advent wreath and pray. Or, join hands at mealtime and invite each person to thank God for the gift of his son, Jesus.

Coming Faith Formation events:

- ◆ December 5 ~ grades 3 & 4 St. Nicholas Prayer Service at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ December 6 ~ Grades 5 & 6 visit Medilodge of Frankenmuth from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ December 7 ~ grades 1 & 2 St. Nicholas Prayer Service at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ December 9 ~ First Reconciliation Service at 11:00 a.m. and family social to follow
- ◆ December 20 ~ grades 5 & 6 Jesse Tree Prayer Service at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ January 6 ~ dress rehearsal for Epiphany Children's Mass at 10:00 a.m. for gloria angels and 11:00 a.m. for actors/choir
- ◆ January 7 ~ Epiphany Children's Mass at 11:00 a.m. (angels, choir, actors report at 10:00 a.m.) followed by Three Kings' Social
- ◆ January 9, 12 & 13 ~ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd sessions resume
- ◆ January 9, 10, 11 ~ classes resume for grades 1 - 6
- ◆ January 14 ~ classes resume for 3's, 4's, 5's, and Children's Word during 11:00 a.m. Mass
- ◆ January 21 ~ Confirmation Parent/Child Preparation Session at 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ January 25 at 7:00 p.m. or January 26 at 11:00 a.m. ~ Confirmation Parent Only Preparation Session
- ◆ February 13 ~ grade 3 visit to Medilodge of Frankenmuth at 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Training for Parish Eucharistic Ministers

If you would like to serve your parish as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, please come to a training on Sunday, December 17 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass (in church). Note that you will also need to attend a training session offered by the Diocese of Saginaw. Call the parish office for more info or to RSVP for December 17.



Youth Ministry News

Kathy Cramer

It's been a busy fall for our Blessed Trinity youth; our time has been filled with faith-building, service activities, and community bonding. Several of our youth and youth leaders traveled to Indianapolis, IN for the National Catholic Youth Conference and they are ready to share their experiences with others.

We will continue to stay busy with our gatherings on Sunday evenings along with taking part in special service opportunities.

We will travel to St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, December 3 for Mass and then share dinner afterward at Panda House.

On Sunday, December 10 we will have a Christmas Giving Celebration where we will wrap gifts for the Giving Tree. We'll also have a special speaker that evening.



On Thursday, December 21 we will travel to The Mustard Seed Shelter to visit with the children who reside there, share gifts, and frost cookies.

As you can see, our youth have many opportunities for service and faith-bonding. We continue to have incredible participation and awesome leaders and mentors.

*This is YOUR youth group.
Are you owning it?*

Prayer for a New Year

Thank you, Lord, for giving me
the brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
as each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
that I might help a friend,
give me strength and courage
so a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
help me fill it with good things.
Each new day filled with joy
and happiness it brings.
Amen.

Be Ready for a Pleasant Surprise

In scripture and tradition, we remember and celebrate the past - but in the present. What has been applies very much to how we live now. We also look to the future in hope, when all Jesus stood for and taught will be fulfilled.

We think of this time as His return, His coming again, when He will be with us again in His fullness. And like the past, the future has a lot to do with the present. What we hope for shapes what we do now.

That's why Jesus tells his disciples to be ready, especially because His coming again will be unexpected. But if we are ready, the only surprise will be a joyous one, like a surprise visit from a friend or loved one.

Parish Weather Policy

Religious Education Classes and Activities: when the Frankenmuth Schools are closed for the day, all after-school and evening religious education classes and activities are cancelled. When the beginning of the school day is delayed, classes and activities will be held as scheduled.

If weather conditions deteriorate during the day, the Director of Faith Formation makes the decision about the after school classes for the children, in consultation with the school principals.

Parish Offices and Events: when the Frankenmuth Schools are closed for the day or the start of the school day is delayed, the church offices will be closed until 11:00 a.m. and all morning events at the parish are cancelled. Day and evening events will be held, weather permitting. Parishioners are encouraged to call the parish office regarding cancellations.



If Frankenmuth Schools cancel evening activities, all parish evening activities are cancelled. If weather conditions worsen during the day, the parish offices may be closed and activities cancelled. Parishioners are encouraged to call the parish office regarding cancellations.

'Tis (Almost) The Season

Remember getting ready for Christmas when you were a child? From decorating the tree to baking cookies, each moment brought excitement and joy. Preparing for Christmas can be as joyful now as it was then. Don't let this be just another Advent where you get distracted and busy.

Rediscover the joy in the season with *Best Advent Ever*, a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a way that will allow you to have a Christmas as memorable and joyful as when you were a child.

Sign up at: dynamiccatholic.com/advent

Somehow not only for Christmas, but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you.

Advent Taize Service

St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 6400 McCarty Rd. in Saginaw, will host an Advent Taize Contemplative Music Prayer Service on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Lenten Activity Night

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a Parish Lenten Activity Night on Sunday, February 11, 2018. There will be crafts, food, and fellowship. Watch for more details in coming bulletins!

Need Prayers?

Call the parish Prayer Network with prayer requests for yourself and others: Nanci Lyon at 652-6532 or Ginger Hall at 652-9519.

Prayer requests can also be posted at: www.blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org. Please also make sure to write your prayer intentions in our Book of Life in church. All intentions are prayed for at weekday and weekend Masses.



Electronic Giving to your parish helps establish your stewardship as a priority. Once you authorize the amount of your contribution, it is electronically transferred to the parish account on the dates you specify. Complete and return the below form. Call the parish with questions or email: cmaurer@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.com.

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

958 E. Tuscola St., Frankenmuth, MI 48734

989-652-3259



Authorization Agreement for Automatic Withdrawal of Funds

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please debit my contributions from (check one):

checking account (attach a voided check) routing number _____

savings account (attach a savings deposit slip) account number _____

I would still like to receive contribution envelopes envelope # _____

I do not want to continue receiving contribution envelopes

start date _____

I would like to make the following regular contributions:

<u>Church Fund</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Collection	\$ _____	Weekly – Mondays Semi-Monthly on 1 st and 15 th Monthly on 1 st or 15 th (circle one)
<input type="checkbox"/> Parish Debt Retirement	\$ _____	

Annual Collections – Holy Days

<input type="checkbox"/> Solemnity of Mary (January 1)	\$ _____	transferred on January 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Assumption of Mary (August 15)	\$ _____	transferred on August 15
<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints (November 1)	\$ _____	transferred on November 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Immaculate Conception (December 8)	\$ _____	transferred on December 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas (December 25)	\$ _____	transferred on December 30

Diocesan Collections

<input type="checkbox"/> Missionary Co-op	\$ _____	transferred on August 1
<input type="checkbox"/> World Mission Sunday	\$ _____	transferred on October 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement for Religious	\$ _____	transferred on December 15

Missions/Catholic Relief Services

<input type="checkbox"/> American Bishops Overseas Appeal	\$ _____	transferred on April 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$ _____	transferred on November 15

I authorize Blessed Trinity Catholic Church to process debit entries from my account as indicated above. I understand that this authorization will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification of its termination. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip.

Signature _____ Date _____

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
958 E. Tuscola St.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

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