

ADVENT 2018

Yes, Thanksgiving and Black Friday are behind us and now we are in a festive mood. As the popular press tells us, we are in the holiday season. Wherever we go, houses and city streets are decorated with “holiday lights”, shops are busy and definitely there is a joyful atmosphere everywhere. Though our secular society does not openly agree, the sole reason for this joyful season is the birth of Christ. We know and proclaim this truth and loudly greet each other not Happy Holidays but MERRY CHRISTMAS.

The truth is out there. Christ, the Son of God, Emmanuel is in our midst. What else do we need to be exuberant and joyful? Of course, as we are about to celebrate the birthday of our Savior, we have our down moments, both in the form of natural and human-made tragedies. The fire in Paradise, California and its human toll, the gun violence in different parts of the country and the never-ending war in Afghanistan, Syria and other parts of the world are fresh in our minds. The sexual abuse of minors in our Church and its consequences are hurting the faithful. The lack of decency and civility in public life is another reality we must confront in our lives. In all this apparent dark cloud, there is the radiant and ever-assuring presence of Emmanuel who brings the awesome mystery of God ever-present in our lives.

So, may I suggest, despite the “very busy tag” around our neck, we consciously find some time to cherish that presence of Emmanuel. Happy and holy Advent season.

Fr. Joe





**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION MASS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7
6:30 PM Blessed Trinity**

Additional Mass times are *Friday, December 7* 5:15 PM in Spanish at St. Clement Parish (Sheboygan); 6:30 PM at St. Dominic Parish (Sheboygan); and *Saturday, December 8*, 8 AM at Holy Name of Jesus Parish (Sheboygan); and 12:10 PM at St. Clement Parish (Sheboygan).

THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Saturday, December 8: 3 PM at Blessed Trinity
Saturday, December 15: 3 PM at
St. John Evangelist

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

The Little Blue Book (Advent and Christmas Seasons) and this year, also available in large print, features six-minute reflections on the *Sunday Gospels of Year C*. The books are located at all Church entrances. Please take one home.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ENVIRONMENT FUND

Each year we look to our parish members for help, financially, to purchase seasonal flowers to beautify the church's environment throughout the holiday season. Please use the Red Christmas Flowers Offering envelopes located at all church entrances and drop them in the collection basket. Donations in this envelope do not include taking a plant home with you. All gifts will be acknowledged in a January bulletin. Please know that we are always grateful for your generosity.

~ The Environment Committee

**THE 9TH ANNUAL HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS
COOKIE & CANDY SALE**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

*** 9 AM TO NOON ***

**GATHERING AREA
ASSORTED COOKIE &
CANDY BOXES: \$8/BOX**



CALLING ALL BAKERS & CANDY MAKERS

We need donations of homemade cookies and candy. There is no required minimum regarding the number to donate. At the Masses on *December 1/2 & 8/9*, there will be sign-up cards in the pews. If you are able to donate cookies or candy, please write your contact information on the cards. Put the cards in the collection basket or give them to members of the committee after Mass.

**Drop Off Cookies/Candy (Church Hall)
(Enter through north side door)**

December 12, 13 & 14: 9 AM - 7 PM

Help Decorate Cookies (Church Hall)

December 13: 9:30 AM

Help Box Cookies/Candy (Church Hall)

December 14: 2:30 PM

Help Sell Cookies/Candy (Gathering Area)

December 15: 9 AM - 12 Noon

Adult and student volunteers are also needed to help decorate, package, and sell the cookies & candy.

Just in time for Christmas! Candy & Cookies make a GREAT gift for your family & friends.

SCRIP DEADLINE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Please place and pay for "special orders" for SCRIP by Sunday, December 9, to ensure delivery by Christmas!



Easy ways to buy SCRIP:

- **At the Parish Office** (Monday-Friday 8-11:30 AM)
- **Online:** www.shopwithscrip.com (Email lynn@btsje.org for the enrollment code.)
- **After weekend Masses** in the Gathering Area

Please note...

- The Parish Office will NOT be ordering SCRIP from Great Lakes SCRIP Center the weeks of December 23 & 30.
- Pick-A-SCRIP Gift Certificates are ONLY available at the Parish Office.

From	SCRIP Sales:	SCRIP Profit:
Oct. 1-31, 2018	\$13,080.00	\$466.11