

**December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
Second Sunday of Advent**

**The Lord will purify us, perfect us and prepare us for himself.**

Many of us have likely heard the phrase “All roads lead to Rome.” The Roman Empire prided itself on its complex system of roads connecting every part of the empire with the capital. These stone-paved roads stretched throughout Europe, Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. They were built by slaves and paid for by taxes from conquered lands. These roads were feats of engineering, passing over hills and mountains, under aqueducts, taking many twists and turns to avoid nature’s obstacles. They were anything but straight.

John the Baptist would have traveled Roman roads many times in his life, as did those who came out into the desert to hear him preach. It was there, where the roads end in the desert, that John tells his disciples to build a new road – one for God’s Son: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John was not telling them to pick up shovels and pick axes. Rather, he prayed that they might pave a way for the love of the Lord to enter their hearts and touch their souls.

John is the last prophet before Jesus, as well as his first disciple. For those willing to undertake this ambitious task of making a straight path for the Lord, John tells them they will be met along the way by God in the flesh. He comes alongside us to assist us in our “road-making” and bridge-building, making winding roads both straight and smooth, by forgiving us our sins and removing obstacles from our path. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The Lord will purify us, perfect us and prepare us for himself.

This road work began in us on the day of our baptism, and it continues until we meet the Lord at our death, as Paul told the Philippians: I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it. To help things along, the Apostle encourages us to increase in knowledge, love and perception, discerning what is of value. This Advent season, what is of greatest value is not the large number of gifts soon to appear under the tree. Rather, it is the gift of God’s only Son who hung on the tree of the cross for us and for our salvation.

During this busy season, we do so much to prepare for the coming of Christmas. Let us make sure we spend at least as much effort this Advent season preparing for the coming of Christ, both his birth in Bethlehem and his return in glory as our King. At this Eucharistic table, we partake of the promise found in the words of Isaiah, and John: and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. May we too, then, prepare the way of the Lord as we go forth and proclaim the Good News we have heard and received.

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**Hymnal:** We would be asking every household to please purchase one or more copies, at the price of \$20.00 each, as a gift, or in remembrance of a loved one as a memorial. It will help to defray the cost. 400 copies are needed for our parish family.

Checks can be written to Holy Angels Parish, just write “Hymnal” on the memo and be sure you include a note that says if this is a gift or in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one for each hymnal. Some suggested dedications are listed on the special envelopes in the back of the church. Please take an envelope and print your acknowledgements on the front. Thank you

**St. Boniface Sanctuary and woodwork project:**

If you would like to donate to the St. Boniface woodwork project for the stands for our statues of Mary and Joseph; St. Boniface and St. John Vianney the estimated cost is at \$6500.00 for stripping, finishing, and painting, we would appreciate your donations. Please make your checks out to: Holy Angels Parish and in the memo space write St. Boniface Wood work project.



**Don’t forget to honor your loved ones with Christmas Flowers.** We would like to recognize your loved ones in the Christmas bulletin, so please include your acknowledgement on the front of the envelope in the white space at the bottom. Please print the name/names of the people you are remembering or honoring. **We would ask that you turn in your Christmas Flower Envelopes by next Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> to be included in the Christmas bulletin.** We will continue to take your donations following December 16<sup>th</sup>.

<p><b>The Christmas Crib</b> Manger, Nativity Scene, or Crèche</p>	<p><b>What is it?</b> A depiction of the scene of the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.</p>	
	<p><b>Did You Know?</b> St. Francis of Assisi made the Christmas crib popular and turned it into a familiar part of Christian homes around the world. He presented a Bethlehem scene with live animals on Christmas Eve in 1223 in Greccio, Italy.</p>	<p>“I wish to recall to memory the little child who was born in Bethlehem. I want to set before our bodily eyes the hardship of his infant needs, how he lay in the manger, how with an ox and ass standing by, he lay upon the hay.” St. Francis of Assisi</p>
<p><b>The preparation of the Nativity scene at home is a wonderful opportunity for family prayer!</b></p>		
<p><b>Include a reading</b> From St. Luke’s account of the birth of Christ Our Savior is coming - <i>Luke 1:28-33</i> Bethlehem - <i>Luke 2:1-5</i> Birth of Jesus - <i>Luke 2:6-7</i> The Shepherds &amp; Angels - <i>Luke 2:8-20</i></p>		<p><b>Say prayers of petition and praise</b> Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, who was born for our salvation. <i>Glory to God in the highest!</i></p>
<p><b>Advent 2018</b></p>		

- Holy Angels Parish  
This Week**
- \*Confessions are a half hour before every Mass\***
- Mon 12/10 **Holy Family** 7:00 pm Recovery Meeting
  - Tue 12/11 **St. Boniface** 9:00 am Mass-Charlotte Raese  
**Holy Family** 6:30 pm Communal Penance Service
  - Wed 12/12 **Holy Family & St. Patrick** 6:45 pm Religious Education  
**St. Patrick** 7:45 pm Mass-Jeff & Sheley Scallon
  - Thur 12/13 **St. Patrick** 9:00 am Mass-Kenneth Schutz  
**Sauk County Health Care Center** 10:15 am Mass-Daniel Horkan
  - Fri 12/14 **Holy Family** 9:00 am Mass-Bernard “Bun” Anderson
  - Sat 12/15 **Holy Family** 4:00 pm Mass-In Thanksgiving for James Kane’s Birthday  
**St. Boniface** 7:30 pm Mass-Gary Bodendein
  - Sun 12/16 **St. Patrick** 8:00 am Mass-Rich & Gilbert Rose  
**Holy Family** 10:15 am Mass-For the Members of Holy Angels Parish Family

**Bless Our Priests Collection**  
Make sure to remember the retired priests of our diocese by making a gift to the Bless Our Priests collection. This collection is used to directly support all retired priests welfare including the rising cost of healthcare, long-term care and medical costs. Please return your gift in the envelopes available at all Masses this week-end. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 11 counties of our Diocese!

**Pope Francis on Twitter:**  
“This Advent, make yourself small, make yourself humble, make yourself a servant of others, and the Lord will give you the ability to understand how to make peace.”

**Communal Penance service at Holy Family:  
This Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.**

**Preparing for Advent and Christmas:**  
There are still some booklets in the back of each church with daily reflections for Advent and Christmas titled “Waiting in Joyful Hope 2018-2019.” This booklet offers brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life in a thought-provoking and lasting way. Please take one.

**Please remember in your prayers**

**From St. Boniface: Mary Jean Weiss** who entered eternal life on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. Mary Jean is survived by her children Julie (George) Holly, David Holly and Robert (Kyla) Holly and many other relatives.

**Parish Support**

**Holy Angels 12/1 & 2**

Envelopes	1527.00
Offertory	95.00
Youth	2.00
Building Maint.	20.00
Flowers	240.00
Initial Offering	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1889.00</b>

**Thank you!**

**Please make checks payable to Holy Angels Parish.**

<b>Hymnals</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>St. Boniface Wood Work Project</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

**Reedsburg Area Helping Hands Mitten Tree**  
Would like to thank all who helped to purchase items for the Mitten Tree. 161 families were served with food, clothing, and gifts. Thank you for making the families Christmas a special time.

**Advent:**  
Violet reflects our longing and anticipation, not penance. Rose colored vestments may be worn on the third week of Advent (Gaudete) Sunday to signal the mid-point of the season. The Alleluia continues to be sung in the Gospel Acclamation and in other songs. This is the clearest indication that Advent is the season of expectation, not penance.



**Second Sunday of Advent Prayer**  
“O holy, patient, and loving God, in this season of grace-filled longing, we await the coming of your Son and our Savior. It is difficult for us to remember that this is a holy time. There are many distractions: commitments seem to pile up, and expectations are high. In the midst of our busy world, our busy lives, we need your help to remind us of what is important and necessary. While many of those things that we do not need will come to us in packages gleaming and bright, the one gift that will last comes from you alone, gracious God, as we grow in our awareness of your love. Bless us, our family and friends, and the food and the company that we share. Increase in us a growing urgency to celebrate the birth of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.”

**Community Blood Drive at the La Valle Fire Department**  
Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Appointments preferred, but walk-ins are welcome! There is a great need for donations at this time and very few have registered. Help save lives, donate blood. You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit [redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass)