

# Advent

13 December 2015

## TODAY

- Blood Pressure Readings (McDuffee) after all Masses
- Cinnamon Roll Sale (DH) after all Masses
- Elementary Religious Education 9am
- Nursery (Room #102) during 10:30 Mass
- Middle School Edge (DH) 5:30pm
- Sunday Night Live (Youth Room) 7pm

**MONDAY | Dec. 14 | St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17 / Mt 21:23-27

- Men's Bible Study (Room #101) 7am

## TUESDAY | Dec. 15

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 / Mt 21:28-32

- Mass in Chapel (+Joan Taylor) 8:30am
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel) 9am-7pm
- Catholic Inquiry (Library) 6:30pm
- Advent Communal Penance Service (Church) 7pm

## WEDNESDAY | Dec. 16

Is 45: 6-8, 18, 21-25 / Lk 7:18-23

- Elementary Religious Education 4 & 6pm
- Mass in Chapel (+Steve Allen) 6:30pm
- Cantor Practice 6:30pm
- Choir Practice 7pm
- Mom's Group (McDuffee) 7pm

## THURSDAY | Dec. 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10 / Mt 1:1-17

- Religious Education Nativity Program (Church) 6:30pm

## FRIDAY | Dec. 18

Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25

- Mass in Chapel (+Gerri Smith) 8:30am
- High School Retreats begins at 7pm

## SATURDAY | Dec. 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25 / Lk 1:5-25

- Reconciliation/Confessions 4-4:45pm
- Contemporary Choir Practice 4:30pm

## LORD'S DAY LITURGIES | December 20, 2015

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4 / Heb 10:5-10 / Lk 1:39-45

5:30pm Saturday

+Tom Maslowski +Florence Baker +Lois Maddox

8:30am Sunday

Parish Family

10:30am Sunday

+Sharon Nash +Lori Marvin

+Deceased members of the Myles and Cook families



## Bells, Books & Coats

As you look ahead to celebrating Christmas with us,  
please add these to your list:

🔔 BELLS—Children are invited to bring little bells to the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.

📖 BOOKS—Check out our great selection of Christmas books in our Media Center.

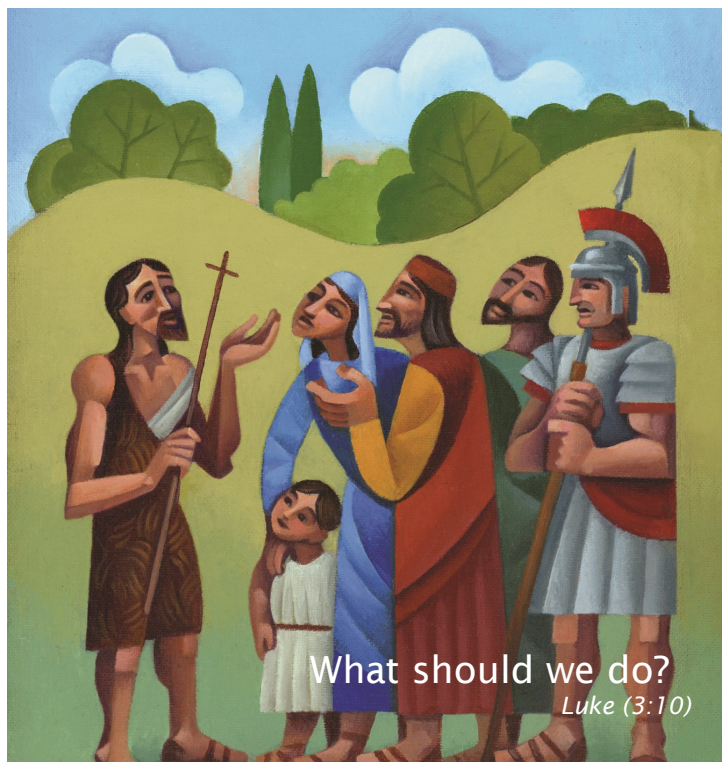
🧥 COATS—Make room at the inn by hanging your coats or leaving them in your car for 5:30 p.m. Mass.



Christmas Tree  
Blessing Prayer  
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real people + real presence

... a welcoming Roman Catholic family of God  
empowered by the Holy Spirit  
to grow our relationship with Jesus Christ  
and with one another  
as we worship, pray, learn and serve.



## Living in Mercy

The Gospel today is very clear! Everyone is asking John the Baptist: "What should we do?" (Luke 3:10). That is the perfect question as we anticipate the second coming of Christ. Let us be found doing the **Corporal Works of Mercy**: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the prisoners, burying the dead, and giving alms to the poor.

- Who needs my second coat or blanket or boots?
- Who needs a tithe of my food budget, of my time, of my conversation?
- Who needs to hear Good News? How can I proclaim it by word and by deed?

Prepare for next week: Read and reflect on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (beginning on p. 49 in "Living Liturgy" missal).



**ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC PARISH**

3937 Wilson Ave. SW | Grandville, MI 49418  
616-532-9344 | Fax: 616-538-6340

[www.spxcatholic.org](http://www.spxcatholic.org)

**Parish & Formation Office Hours:**

9-Noon; 1-5pm Mon-Thurs 9-Noon on Fridays

**Parish Book of Prayer** — This book near the main church entrance is for your prayers of intercession or gratitude. They are part of the intentions at Mass.

**Parish Membership** — Count yourself in! If you worship with us regularly, kindly register as a parishioner. You'll receive parish mailings, and it will help us provide pastoral care should you need it. Contact 532-9344; or [parishoffice@spxcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@spxcatholic.org).

**Infant Baptisms** are celebrated at various times throughout the year. If you believe raising your child in our Catholic faith is one of your most important duties as a parent, call the parish office.

**Sacrament of Marriage** — The lifelong covenant between a man and a woman is a sign of God's covenant with us. At least six months of prayer and preparation are needed before entering this commitment. Please contact Fr. Chris as soon as you are engaged. Couples celebrating an anniversary ending in a "0" or "5" may request a special blessing.

OTHER MARRIAGE RESOURCES: [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/)

**Pastoral Care of the Sick** — If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound, or anticipating surgery, please contact Marjorie Flores or Fr. Chris in the parish office. The hospitals do not contact us.

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Rev. Chris Rouech** | Pastor  
532-9344, ext. 107 | [frchris@spxcatholic.org](mailto:frchris@spxcatholic.org)

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**FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

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**Kim Lobert** | Director of Maintenance  
538-2600, ext. 116 | [maintenance@spxcatholic.org](mailto:maintenance@spxcatholic.org)

**A MERCIFUL VIEW from 40th & Wilson**

FR. CHRIS ROUECH  
[frchris@spxcatholic.org](mailto:frchris@spxcatholic.org)



**To all who have adorned their yards with Christmas cheer, I say: Thank you!** The lights help alleviate the gloom of these short, cloudy, foggy days and early nights.

I'm having a rough time getting in the holiday spirit, due to the unseasonably warm weather and lack of snow. The ongoing suffering of humanity and the earth, our home, is making it difficult to get into the spirit of Advent, let alone *Christmas*.

This is what I need to do (and I think you might, too): Undertake a thorough examination of conscience. Be rigorously honest about my failures. Confess my sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Receive a healing remedy of penance and absolution.

As fun and uplifting all the decorating and partying are for "the holidays," it all eventually ends up in a dumpster (literally). But not our souls. Our souls are eternal. They require constant care.

**Our Advent Communal Penance Service is 7pm Tuesday.** A half dozen priests will be on hand for individual confessions. You've been taking care of others, your house, your yard — now tend to your soul. Come, receive the gift of the Father's mercy so that you can share that mercy with others. It might be one of the few times this season when we will all be free of pretense. We will approach God just as we are. And God will light up with love.

**Speaking of Mercy:**

Today at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Bishop David Walkowiak will open the "Door of Mercy." This will be the official launch of the "Year of Mercy" in our diocese — an "extraordinary jubilee" that will continue throughout the year.

You know we Catholics are big on rituals and symbols. We constantly try to express how our earthly lives are blended with the divine, thanks to that child born at Christmas. The Holy Doors in cathedrals throughout the world communicate that Jesus Christ is the door to God's mercy. Watch for more information about the Holy Doors in the coming months, or go to [dioceseofgrandrapids.org](http://dioceseofgrandrapids.org).

**It's rather ironic — no, it's prophetic** — that as we become more frightened by the evils of terrorism, Pope Francis has scheduled a Year of Mercy. (Actually, he did that long before the latest incidents in Beirut, Paris and San Bernardino, CA.)

In a recent interview, Francis said the Holy Year is a response to the world's need for a "revolution of tenderness" from which "justice and all the rest derives."

"We are used to bad news, cruel news, and to even bigger atrocities, which offend the name and life of God," the pope told Italian magazine *Credere*.

Ending those tragedies requires a spirit of mercy, he said.

**One way we are incorporating the Year of Mercy** into our parish is by using the official Year of Mercy hymn at our Masses. Also, the "faith chat" on the front of the bulletin has been

replaced with questions designed to link our Sunday readings with some of the concepts Pope Francis has asked us to focus on in the coming year, such as the Spiritual and Corporal Acts of Mercy.

But of course, what will be most important is our individual practices of mercy within our homes, places of work and with the stranger. That will require effort, prayer and plenty of grace!

Watch for a banner such as this in our vestibule, along with prayer cards for the Year of Mercy.







## Faith Formation | Religious Education

ELIZABETH POST  
epost@spxcatholic.org

**ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES** will not meet from Dec. 20 through Jan. 9. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 10.

**The Annual NATIVITY PROGRAM** is 6:30pm Thursday, Dec. 17 in the church. This is a beautiful event where all the kids in our Religious Education program come together. A cookie reception follows the program. All are welcome!



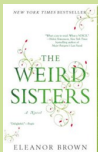
**MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE:** We will meet tonight (12/13) at 5:30pm in Danner Hall ~ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!



**MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECTS:** Last weekend we had 62 middle schoolers participate in service projects. Our groups cleaned and led BINGO at Degage downtown and St. Ann's Home, decorated and sang carols at Medilodge, sorted and helped customers shop at In the Image, and prepared breakfast and helped with crafts at Family Haven. It was a great day! Thank you to all who participated!



**NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB** meets at 7pm Monday, Jan. 4, in the McDuffee Room to discuss *The Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown. Contact Linda Stray (lindastray@yahoo.com or 249-8034) or Mary Boehm (meb2904@aol.com or 538-9635) with inquiries.



### DAY of REFLECTION for MEN

"A Year of Mercy with St. Luke, Pope Francis & You"

Presenter: Fr Phil Shangraw | Saturday, Jan. 9 ~ 9am-3pm Maranatha Conference Center (Muskegon, MI)

Begin the new year with a mini-retreat with other men from the diocese. Be enriched by the Eucharist, Father Phil's reflections, and time in conversation with other men. There will also be time for personal prayer and reflection.

Register with Pam at 616-842-8230 x125 by Dec. 31.

Coffee, rolls and lunch are provided; suggested donation \$20.



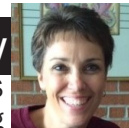
**Can you hear me now?** Audio receivers are available for those who have difficulty hearing during Mass. They are in the cabinet to the right of the main church entrance (center aisle). We have two types:

► **LOOP RECEIVERS** — For those whose hearing aids are equipped with the T-Coil.

► **EAR BUDS** — Small headphones for people who do not have a hearing aid, or a model not equipped with t-coil. You can also plug your own ear buds into the unit.

## High School Youth Ministry

MERRY HASS  
mhass@spxcatholic.org



### SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE UPCOMING EVENT

- **SNL: Ugly Sweater (optional)** | Tonight (12/13) from 7-8:30pm in the Youth Room. Feel free to bring a wrapped white Elephant gift.
- **Girls/Guys Retreats & Service Projects:** Dec. 18 & 19; register online
- **SNL Reunion** | Dec. 27  
(See the parish website or contact me for more information or sign-ups)

**SPIRITUAL STOCK:** We are sending 65 volunteers to Catholic Heart Workcamp in the summer of 2016. We would really love your financial support. You can purchase Spiritual Stock in our teens for \$20 a share. All shareholders will be invited to a banquet in July to hear firsthand how their investment helped make a difference not only for our youth, but for the people they served in Springfield, IL. Contact the Formation Office for more information at 538-2600.

**YOUTH ROOM NEEDS** white and/or blue Christmas lights. If you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Formation Office.

**HIGH SCHOOL RETREATS** will be held Dec. 18-19. For planning purposes, register online as soon as possible. Check the high school page of the parish website for details.



## Pastoral Care

MARJORIE FLORES  
mflores@spxcatholic.org



### THE DEDICATION OF FIVE CANDLES ~ A prayer of grief and hope

If you lost a loved one and would like a special prayer over the holidays to grieve and celebrate their life, please visit the St. Pius X website (spxcatholic.org) for the Dedication of Five Candles prayer. This is a beautiful ritual that can be used individually or in family gatherings to honor someone special that has passed away.



**PRAYER SHAWLS:** Our prayer shawl crafters have been busy knitting and crocheting shawls in prayer. Shawls are available to any parishioner who has a family member that is sick or struggling and in need of a comforting embrace. See me if interested in receiving a shawl to gift to your family.



## Parish Life

ANDY REBOLLAR

arebollar@spxcatholic.org

**MOM'S SUPPORT GROUP ~ Favorite Things:** One last chance to take a deep breath before the craziness begins...we will all bring a snack to share and bring ideas for gifts or your favorite thing at home that you couldn't live without. We will also do an optional \$5 gift exchange. Join us—we love new friends—on **Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7pm in the McDuffee Room.**

**POTENTIAL ST. PIUS X PRE-CANA COUPLES:** Next year, the Crossroads parishes will host our own Pre-Cana retreat for couples looking to be married in the Church. We seek married couples who might be interested in being a part of this ministry. You do not have to have a perfect marriage...we are looking for real couples that would be willing to share their experiences (ups and downs) with engaged couples. If this sounds interesting or intriguing contact me at 532-9344 or via email.

### MARRIED COUPLES KICKOFF EVENT ~ Mark your calendars:

We're having our first of many events for married couples on Friday, Jan. 15 from 7-9pm at the parish. This event for all married couples is a chance to connect with your spouse, other couples, strengthen your marriage and have fun at the same time. More details in the coming weeks.

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:** We have an active presence at **St. Pius X Catholic Parish.** "LIKE" us for updates on parish events and for resources and articles to help you grow in faith.



## Mass Assignments for Dec. 19 & 20

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SPECIAL MASSES:** Sign up in the back of church for our Christmas Masses and Mary Mother of God Mass.

Mass Coord.	5:30pm	8:30am	10:30am
	Diane Remenak	Dave & Mary Bristol	Sharon Love
Greeters	Denise Doyle Kathy Maslowski	Dave & Lynn Zabler	Kassandra Baker Donna Huyge
Servers	Carter Brink Mckenna Brink <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Andrew Dukesherer Lexi Dukesherer Olivia Miars	Kristy Galligan Isabel Genautis Zack Valko
Eucharistic Ministers	Mo Belliel Mary Cook Nick Dabbous Rosemary Holzgen Angie Lemont Harold Lemont Mary Lynch Ann Maddox Andrew Smith	Betty Cole Mark Henderson Val Henderson Nancy Hogerheide Brittany Klein Deb Lampani Amanda London Jerry London Mary Rademacher	Brenda Bargaquast Connor Fischer Nancy Hoekstra Dolores Jesnek Kathleen Kelly Jim Kohmescher Sharon Love Chris Marsh Jen Meyering Kate Ruemenapp Monica Tyler Nam Vu <b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Lector	Jerry Hoogterp Frank Cegelis	Justin Noordhoek Angie Zylstra	Helena Signore Mary Lang
LWC			<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Ushers: Team D	Ushers: Team C	Ushers: Team G

## St. Pius X Christmas Masses

### The Nativity of the Lord

Dec. 24 ~ 5:30pm

Dec. 24 ~ 10:30pm (carolling begins at 10pm)

Dec. 25 ~ 9:30am

Christmas Masses at Neighboring Parishes:

Holy Name of Jesus | Dec. 24 ~ 4:30pm & 10pm | Dec. 25 ~ 10am

Holy Redeemer | Dec. 24 ~ 4pm, 6pm & 10pm | Dec. 25 ~ 10am

St. Sebastian | Dec. 24 ~ 4:30pm & 10pm | Dec. 25 ~ 10am

St. John Vianney | Dec. 24 ~ 4pm & 8pm | Dec. 25 ~ 9am

real people + real presence

## Growing in Christ

### Weekly Stewardship Report

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** In today's Gospel, we hear the prophet John the Baptist being asked a profound stewardship question: "What should we do?" Each group wants to know the appropriate response to John's call; each reply points to how they should treat others. John does not simply say, "Be baptized." Rather, he points them to their jobs and personal relationships. The message of John the Baptist is simple: judgment is near, and repentance includes treating others well. We should be willing to share what we have with those in need. To listen to John the Baptist is to be called to account. Do I give only of my excess, or am I the good steward who is willing to sacrifice in order to help others? from the ICSC December 2015 Catholic Stewardship e-Bulletin

## Time and Talent

### MASS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 5 & 6: 5:30pm—324 | 8:30am—273 | 10:30am—560

**CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS AND GIFTS** are given to those in need from St. Pius X and St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Wyoming. Non-perishable food items are needed by Dec. 16. Volunteers can help out with wrapping (Dec. 14@9am); packing food (Dec. 17@9:30am); delivering gifts to St. Joseph the Worker (Dec. 18@9:30am). Contact Marjorie at 532-9344 or mflores@spxcatholic.org if you'd like to help.

## Treasure

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** will be held this weekend. Many sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—these saints in our midst—are elderly. While some continue in volunteer ministry, others are frail and need care. Most worked for years for small stipends, leaving their religious communities without adequate savings to meet growing retirement and eldercare needs. Please pray for God's blessing on all religious and give generously to the Retirement Fund for Religious.



PARISH SUPPORT		Last week 12/5 & 12/6	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Fiscal Year 2015-2016   Week 23/52				
Adult Envelopes		\$ 14,281	\$ 285,772	\$302,450
Electronic Giving spxcatholic.org		\$ 8,167	\$ 99,312	\$ 91,594
Youth Envelopes		\$ 4	\$ 84	\$ 228
Loose Offerings		\$ 666	\$ 14,147	\$ 12,819
<b>Total Contributions</b>		<b>\$ 23,118</b>	<b>\$ 399,315</b>	<b>\$407,91</b>
Budget Overage/(Shortfall)		\$ 6,331	\$ (15,322)	
OTHER GIVING				
Master's Mission		\$ 1,963	\$ 16,613	\$ 16,290

St. Pius X has 1,009 registered households. Last week, 370 contributed either by using an offertory envelope or electronically. Every gift is gratefully received as a sacrifice united with Christ's own self-offering in the Eucharist to share God's love.



## Our prayer list for healing

Please continue to pray for the following and all the sick in our Parish, their families and friends, those hospitalized and home-bound, and those in care facilities. To be included on the Prayer Chain (separate from this bulletin list), call Jason George at (231) 736-7487.

Jenny Walsh	Gerry Dekkinga	Bob Brock	Frank Cegelis
Kenneth Schumacher	Mary LaSarge	Jennifer Cook	Erika Yonker
Kelsey Gibson	Joe Tuszyński	Bernard Trost	Marie Nevins
Pat Deuling	Catherine Cesare	Diane & Mary Prindle	Andy Wierzbiński
Vera Bartz	Henry Visscher	Betty DiTrapani	Claudia Shaub
Beverwyk Family	Joe & Margaret Grandy	Rose Reilly	Judy Wojtas
Anthony McAndrew	M. Forrester	Laurie Bialik	Sally Thome
Nicole Tullio	Marty Schumacker	Margaret Harman	Pat Chichester
Terry Freybler	John Stoddard	Carol Guffy	Bob & Holly Ann Ott
Pat & Nancy Krupp	Derek Bull	Shannon Olman	Diane Austin
Rich Hubbard	Stephen Meurer	Dorothy Rennager	Linda Meagher
Kathy Maslowski	Scott Holzgen	Patrick Bartz	Ilene Topolinski
Deb Russo	Tom & Becky Hoffmann	Ellen O'Toole	Sarah Johnson
Catherine Owens	Mike Connell	Edward Kaminski	Justin Vriezema
Jeff Zylstra	Mary Jebb	Markell Barnhart	Josina Galaszewski
Skylar Martin	Mary Beth Jensen	Pat Rummer	Robert Ryzanca
Cindy Cole	Megan Reynolds	Lloyd & Caroline Skaya	Mary Benson-Slosser
Jill Moyer	Diane Rudnik	Leo Raap	Lois McCarty
Nell Wouters	Lorraine Lutker	Bernita Stegewans	Martha VanDyke
Brianne Bassett	Tucker Potter	Roberta Hagen	Jackson & Lauren Peters
Tom Wojtas	Winnie Kulaga	Jonathan Kolenda	Tracy Woodruff
Kerry Deboer	Noah Ziegler	Mike Sartorius	John Blanchard
Sr. Jean Marie Wojtas	Pat DeJong	Norm Pokora	Linda Wood
Terri Bernott	Clara Jo Braybrook	Barbara Barney	Zachary Matzke
Ann Berg	Jane Voss	Chuck Seguna	Pam Willemstein
George & Virginia Bieber	Gisela Foote	Judy Perrin	Bob Bagin
Matt Rich	Judy Clinger	Allen Mulligan	Karen Bourassa
Christina Geldersma	Donna Waters	Sandy Ressel	Robert Schab
Deb Finnigan	Jim & Mary Norcutt	Charles Frodl	Ann Partridge
Jennifer Hassell			



*We offer the sympathy, love, and prayers  
of our parish to the families of:*

**FRANCES KANOZA**

*mother of Marcia (Frank) Cegelis*

**MARIANNE PIERSON**

*sister of Maxine (Doug) Shoemaker & Michaleen (Terry) Matrichuk*

*We warmly welcome the following into our faith family and  
pray for God's continued blessing on them.*

**COLLIN HAACK**

*son of Kevin & Tanya (Smith) Haack*

**CECELIA RENEE MIRANDA**

*daughter of Todd & Stephanie (Hammond) Miranda*

**CONNOR MARK STRATTON**

**VIOLET LYNNE STRATTON**

*children of Jason & Brittani (Powell) Stratton*



## Bless your Christmas Tree

*When the tree has been prepared, but before it is illuminated,  
the family gathers around it.*

**+** All make the sign of the cross.

**LEADER** begins: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**ALL** respond: Now and forever.

**LEADER:** This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise to be such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

*Then the scripture is read by the leader or family member:  
Listen to the words of the apostle Paul to Titus:*

But when the kindness and generous love of our God our savior has appeared,  
not because of any righteous deed we have done  
but because of his mercy,  
he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us  
through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
so that we might be justified by His grace  
and become heirs in hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

The Word of the Lord. **ALL:** Thanks be to God.

*After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession,  
followed by the Lord's Prayer.*

*The lights of the tree are now illuminated.*

**Leader:** Let us now pray for God's blessing upon all who gather around this tree: *Pause in silence*

**Lord our God,**

**We praise you for the light of creation:**  
the sun, the moon and the stars of the night.

**We praise you for the light of Israel:**

The law, the prophets,  
and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

**We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:**

He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,  
who fill us with your love.

**Lord God,**

let your blessing come upon us  
as we illuminate 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, respect all life,  
and come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us bless the Lord. **ALL respond,** making the sign of the cross. **Thanks be to God. +**

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Their support pays for this publication.**

**DeVries & Royston**

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