



WATCH! “Watch!” This word occurs three times in today’s Gospel passage. Moreover, it is placed at significant points: the beginning, the center, and the end. Though this is technically a parable, it is quite short (four verses). The threefold repetition of “watch” leaves no doubt as to what the story is about. We often think of Advent as a time of waiting, but it truly is a season of watchfulness, a very active form of waiting for the coming Day of the Lord. It is that Day, more than Christmas day, that the Christian community faithfully expects, using all of our gifts and talents for this purpose, as Paul reminds us in the letter to the Corinthians. When we use these gifts in faithful watching and expectation, we become like the servants of the parable, set to their tasks, not waiting around idly, but engaged in the master’s work until his return. May our Advent be a time when we return or rededicate our lives and our communities to this work—the active and diligent faithfulness that the Lord will expect to find.

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FAMILY PERSPECTIVE We rush through our busy day, distracted by all we must do and at night we relax in the distraction of TV. Today’s gospel tells us to “Be watchful, and alert” because distractions prevent us from discovering the Lord’s loving presence. Expect to find the Lord and you will. Pick a “No-TV” day in your family and choose an alternative activity this week.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING On Tuesday, December 6th the Ladies of Blessed Sacrament will again be entertaining the residents at the Presbyterian Lodge at 2628 Elmwood Avenue at 7:00pm. Why not spend an hour or so to bring some “Christmas Joy” to the shut-ins at the nursing home. They really enjoy hearing the carols! Please call Marge Wiertel at 454-4811 or Carrie Sciamanda at 455-8725 if you plan to attend. We certainly hope you can join us!

GIVING TREE Please take a name off the tree, purchase a gift for the person and return it UNWRAPPED with the name tag attached. Gift recipients are from our Parish Food Bank and Emmaus Soup Kitchen. Our Confirmation class will be wrapping the gifts as part of their Advent service project. Besides the generous donations of gifts, we will be collecting wrapping paper, ribbon and tape for the project. The Blessed Sacrament Community has always been overwhelmingly generous with this project – let’s continue this wonderful tradition of giving! All gifts are due to the Parish Office by Friday, December 16th.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS Please return your pink envelope marked “Memorials and Altar Decorations for Christmas” by Sunday, December 11th.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD will **not meet** on Sunday, December 4th [Breakfast with Santa] Sunday, December 25th [Christmas] or Sunday, January 1st [New Year’s Day].

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU The Notre Dame Folk Group extends a big thank you for supporting them at their recent concert and for the free will offering that was taken up. Your donations will help them to care for the needy of their area at the Prince of Peace Center.

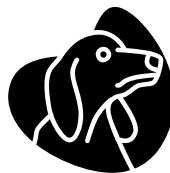


BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ;
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the people,
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the Savior of every nation.
Loving God, let your blessing come upon us,
As we light the candles of this wreath,
May the wreath and its light
Be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay
We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN*

WHAT I WONDER

I wonder if Christ had a little black dog, all curly and wooly like mine, with silky ears and a nose round and wet, and two eyes brown and tender that shine. I’m sure if He had, that little black dog knew right from the first He was God; that he needed no proof that Christ was divine, but just worshiped the ground that He trod. I’m afraid that He hadn’t because I have read how He prayed in the garden alone, for all of His friends and disciples had fled, even Peter, the one called a stone. And oh, I am sure that little black dog with a heart so tender and warm, would never have left Him to suffer alone, but creeping right under His arm, would have licked those dear fingers in agony clasped, and counting all favor but loss, when they took Him away would have trotted behind, and followed Him quiet to the Cross.



*This poem is dedicated to Toby,
Msgr. Magraw’s little black dog who passed away last week.*

MINISTRY SCHEDULE The December/January schedule for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and High School Altar Servers is available in the Sacristy; please pick up the copy with your name on it after Mass.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES Sign up sheets for all Christmas Masses and New Year Masses will be in the Sacristy after Mass this weekend. This will include Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, Lectors and Altar Servers.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER The Benedictine Sisters of Erie invite you to join them for Advent Evening Prayer at Mt. St. Benedict Monastery on Saturday, December 3, 10 or 17. Supper is at 5:15pm and Evening Prayer at 7:00pm; for more information or to RSVP please call 899-0614 ext. 507.

ENVELOPE USE We started a new procedure this year by issuing offertory envelopes to all of our High School students. The response so far has been good; although we issued 192 packs of envelopes we have an average of 20-25 students using their envelopes every week. We would like to thank those students for their participation.

First Sunday of Advent

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for all of the sick and shut-in of our Parish Family.

31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday 11/28 Monsignor Magraw
 Tuesday 11/29 Helen Felice, Julia Parana
 Wednesday 11/30 Gerry Ward, Terry Shannon
 Thursday 12/1 Marilyn Balliett, Mary Jo Fulton, Diane Hopkins
 Friday 12/2 Lee Zaremba, Susan Shannon, Ella Flick
 Saturday 12/3 Holly Konopka, Patricia Brown
 Sunday 12/4 Carl Braeger

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Monday 11/28 NO SCHOOL
 Tuesday 11/29 Bonnie Abramczyk, Marie Elsesser, Mary Fiske
 Wednesday 11/30 Cindi Orlando, Sue Kelly, Jessica Kunco, Marion Inman, Joni Medvec
 Thursday 12/1 Marianne Zimmerman, Lisa Boehm, Lisa Jones, Mary Jo Polatos
 Friday 12/2 Sandy Danch, Janet Fisher, Natalie Kreidinger, Jack Kohler

“RAISE THE ROOF LOTTERY”

Tickets are \$5...get yours now!!
 You can't win if you don't have a ticket!!

Our winners for this past week:

11/14 Elizabeth Keiser #154 \$50...unsold ticket #155...unsold ticket #153...**11/15** Dr. Raymond Dombrowski #470 \$50...unsold ticket #471...unsold ticket #469...**11/16** unsold ticket #384...unsold ticket #385...unsold ticket #383...**11/17** unsold ticket #601...unsold ticket #602...unsold ticket #600...

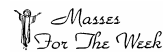
Remember to return your sold December tickets by 11/30 for a chance at the \$50 seller's drawing...for every 10 tickets you sell your name goes in the drawing.

LOTTERY TICKETS December and January tickets are now available in the Parish Office and after Mass. These make nice stocking stuffers, St. Nicholas Day gifts or that last minute gift exchange for your Kris Kringle!! Where else can you buy a \$5 ticket and have 3 chances to win every day for a month? Get your tickets today!!

A CHRISTMAS CAROL presented by the Erie Diocesan Office of Education will be held on Friday, December 2nd & Saturday December 3rd at 7:30pm and Sunday, December 4th at 2:30pm at Cathedral Prep Auditorium. Tickets are available at the door Adults \$12, Seniors \$11 and Students \$6.

FIRST FRIDAY is this Friday; Adoration after the 8:45AM Mass followed by Benediction at Noon. Why not plan to spend some quiet time in prayer.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament in Memory of Annabell Reusch from Sue & Bob Zill and Joy & Bill Steger.



Monday, November 28 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Louis Golembiewski / Anna Wisniewski
 8:00 +Mary Santo Pietro / Dolly Bien – Daughter [birthday]

Tuesday, November 29 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Mary Foerster / John & Patricia Sienicki
 8:00 +William Bensur / Mr & Mrs John Bensur

Wednesday, November 30 – St. Andrew

7:00 +All Souls
 8:00 +Daniel N. Presogna / Wife and Family

Thursday, December 1 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Stanley Wisniewski / Anna Wisniewski
 8:00 +Michael Luciano / Robert & Carolyn Brabender

Friday, December 2 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Frances Letizo / Letizo & Winiarczyk Families [anniver]
 8:45 +Jerry Pytlarz / Family [anniversary]

Saturday, December 3 – Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent

5:15 +Special Intention / Marge Wickles
Sunday, December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
 7:30 +Peter Scalise / Wife and Family
 9:00 +Mary Steiner / Dave & Penny Jonie
 11:00 +Joseph Chetoni / Mark & Joanna Straub
 7:30 *People of the Parish

SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

Weekly Need:	\$ 9,200.00
Adult Offering:	\$ **
Loose Collection:	\$ **
Youth:	\$ **
Young Adults:	\$ **
Total	\$ **

**figures not available due to bulletin deadline for the holiday

SINCE JULY 1, 2005 (START OF FISCAL YEAR)

Offertory Budget YTD:	\$184,000.00
Offertory Received YTD:	\$168,919.26
Surplus/Deficit	\$ -15,080.74

2005 ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Assessment:	\$ 55,629.00
Total Pledged to Date:	\$ 66,041.00
Paid to Date:	\$ 59,377.00
# of Pledges:	454
Our Roof Goal:	\$100,000.00
Overage from CSA:	\$ 10,412.00
Gifts towards the Roof:	\$ 2,970.00
Gift from PTC	\$ 1,000.00
YTD Profit from	
"Raise the Roof" Lottery	\$ 9,300.00
Parish Capital Improvements (gold envelope)	\$ 6,665.50
Balance to reach goal:	\$ 69,652.50

