

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Mary Olsen, The Valenti Family
Nancy Wood and Hamlet & Sofie Valenti

10 a.m.: Bernard Laurenzi, Frances Hernandez
and Michelle Ryan

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Christmas Eve Mass/Children's Pageant
5 p.m. December 24

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
8 p.m. December 24

Christmas Day Mass
10 a.m. December 25

No Vigil Mass for Sunday, December 26

Sunday, December 26: 10 a.m.

Saturday, January 1: 5 p.m. Vigil Mass (Solemnity
of Mary is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.)

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Debra and Kevin Zullo upon the death of her mother, Marion Pennise. Please keep the family in your prayers.

WITH OPEN ARMS

We welcome Aubrielle Gia-Noelle Ward, who was baptized last week, into St. Paul's faith community. Please keep the family in your prayers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 5-12: Totaled \$ 8,101.42

Envelopes: \$ 3,660.54 – Online: \$ 4,440.88

THANK YOU!

OUR THANKS TO THE CRAWFORD PBA

We were first approached with: "Do you serve some families in the Town of Crawford?"

Of course.

"Could you use some food donations?"

Of course.

Then last Monday afternoon an officer with Town of Crawford Police Benevolent Association called. The trailer was in the process of being loaded. "Would drop off at 11 a.m. tomorrow be convenient?"

Trailer?

Yes, trailer. Enough boxes and bags filled to the bursting point were loaded onto a dozen tables in Deacon John Hall by a team of officers. Non-perishable items were collected in Pine Bush elementary schools as well as through PBA initiatives. Then it took a team of St. Paul's elves – headed by Kim and Julio, thank you! – two full days to sort and stock.

It was nothing short of amazing – loaves and fishes personified!

But that's only half the story.

Sure, the pantry's been busier than ever but because of the generosity of others, we've been able to keep up. And we are committed to paying forward this recent blessing. Food does no good sitting on a shelf.

So if you know of any folks facing tough times, encourage them to call the office. And if you could use a hand, don't be embarrassed to reach out. Calls are strictly confidential.

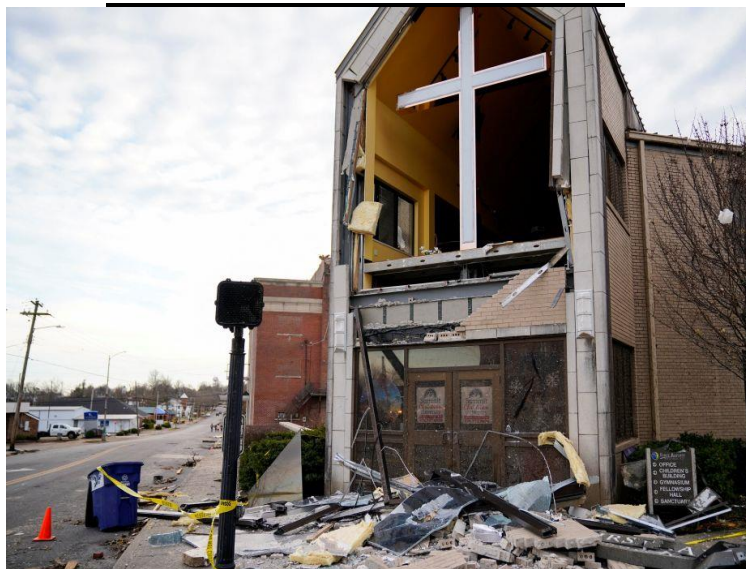


PASS THE PARAPROSDOKIAN

Here's this week's paraprozdokian – a figure of speech with an unexpected twist – from journalist, gossip columnist and author, Earl Wilson (1907-1987):

"If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments."

A CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE



Members of two of Mayfield, Kentucky's, faith congregations came together to pray last Sunday amid piles of brick, metal and broken glass for all of those affected by the ferocious mid-December twisters. Prayers also came from far and wide, including from Pope Francis and the U.S. Catholic bishops, as well as from two Kentucky prelates.

"I am proud of the many ways that your generosity always allows the Catholic Church to respond to the suffering and to families in crisis," Bishop William F. Medley said. His archdiocese covers Western Kentucky, and he has encouraged all people of good will to contribute to Catholic Charities USA. "So I thank you in advance for your generous response to this terrible devastation. God will bless our generosity."

To read the full story, visit:

https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/mourning-prayer-and-resolve-rebuild-follow-devastating-tornadoes?utm_source=PANTHEON_STRIPPED&utm_campaign=PANTHEON_STRIPPED&utm_medium=PANTHEON_STRIPPED&utm_term=PANTHEON_STRIPPED

IN THE LOOP



Reconciliation Monday is this Monday, December 20, and will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church from 4-8 p.m. Several priests from the Carmelite Community will be available for Confession during these hours.



If you've got a few minutes to spare at 11 a.m. also this Monday, December 20, our new Art & Environment Committee will be making it look a lot like Christmas around St. Paul's. Many hands make light work.



And a reminder, parishioners are invited to join the choir for the holidays.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Last week, members of the Youth Ministry discussed: "We are joyous when we choose to live joyously even when we have feelings of unhappiness."

What does that really mean and how do we accomplish it?

The answer is found in serving others, as we are called by Jesus to do. When we think about others, it is easier to stop focusing on what is making us unhappy. We are able instead to spread our joyousness where it is needed.

And the kids had some good suggestions as to how to put this into practice, such as making care packages for the homeless, tutoring, volunteering at a soup kitchen and sharing Jesus' message.

Ephraim Anderson made a related point in writing: "Remember God tells us always, if we know or if we do not know, that you should NEVER GIVE UP, that you have a meaning in this world. No matter what problem comes across our path we are Strong and a Joyful Community of Loving People that Worship God."

Some Scriptures were then shared:

Proverbs 12:25 - Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

2 Corinthians 4:16 - So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self[a] is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

Deuteronomy 31:8 - It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

John 15:11 - These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

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"God loves those who find joy in giving."

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- --St. Pope John Paul II

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