

La parroquia de San Francisco de Asís
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Building Together
Construyendo Juntos

Merry Christmas



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

The Nativity of the Lord Christmas

December 25, 2017



As a faith filled community guided by the Holy Spirit with Christ as our model and Saint Francis of Assisi as our patron, we are called together to live God's Word through Worship, Evangelization, Welcoming, and Caring of all people in building together the Kingdom of God.

Mass Times

Office Hours

Tuesday / Martes: 7:30 a.m. St. Nicholas
Wednesday / Miércoles: 5:30 p.m. St. Joseph
Thursday / Jueves:
7:30 a.m. Mary, Help of Christians
Friday / Viernes: 7:30 a.m. St. Nicholas
Saturday / Sábado: 4:30 p.m. St. Nicholas
Sunday / Domingo:
7:00 a.m. Mary, Help of Christians
9:00 a.m. St. Joseph
11:00 a.m. (Spanish/Español) St. Joseph

St. Joseph (Central Ofc)
 Monday 8:00—4:00
 Tuesday 8:00-4:00
 Wednesday 8:00—5:00
 Thursday 8:00—4:00
 Friday 8:00—4:00

Mary, Help of Christians
 Monday —Closed
 Tuesday 9:00-12:00
 Wednesday 9:00-5:00
 Thursday 9:00-12:00
 Friday—Closed

St. Nicholas
 Monday —Closed
 Tuesday 9:00-12:00
 Wed. 9:00-12:00
 Thursday—9:00-12:00
 Friday—Closed

Reconciliation is celebrated 30 minutes before Mass Wednesday thru Saturday.

St. Joseph (Central Office)
 P.O. Box 684
 Dale, IN 47523-0684
 Phone 937-2200
 email: stjoeale@evdio.org

Mary, Help of Christians
 6827 E. CR 1930 N
 Dale, IN 47523
 Phone 937-4326
 email: maryhelp@evdio.org

St. Nicholas
 P.O. Box 351
 Santa Claus IN 47579-0351
 Phone 937-2385
 email: stnick@evdio.org

WEBSITE www.catholicnorthspencer.org

Please feel free to contact our offices with any questions or concerns.

Pastor: Fr. John Brosmer—jbrosmer@evdio.org
Deacon: Jim Woebkenberg—jwoebkenberg@evdio.org
Deacon: Tim Cox—812-454-1369
Pastoral Assistant: Juan Ramirez—jramirez@evdio.org
Central Office Mgr. at SJ: Devin Carpenter—stjoeale@evdio.org
Office Mgr. at MHC: Deacon Jim—maryhelp@evdio.org

Faith Formation: Michelle Fischer—mfischer@evdio.org
Office Assistant: Nora Weber—nweber@evdio.org
DRE: Michelle Fischer—mfischer@evdio.org
CRE at MHC: Marilyn Satkamp—msatkamp@evdio.org
Music Director: Cisco Lloveras—clloveras@evdio.org
Admin. Assistant: Trish Schuler—tschuler@evdio.org

Welcome to our Parish!

We want to extend our hearts to you and your family. If you would like to join our parish, or if someone is ill, in the hospital, homebound or if you have any other concerns, please drop the information into the collection basket at church, phone one of the offices or stop by one of the offices so that we can minister to you as a Christian Parish Family. May the peace of Jesus be with you!

From Our Deacon's Desk

Greetings,

This being the last Sunday of Advent, we hear again the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mary that she is to conceive a son and to name him Jesus. This Son will not be conceived by natural means, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. In an Advent preparation booklet called, *Prepare HIS WAY!* Pope Francis says *that everything is changed through the birth of Jesus. If we take the child Jesus in our arms he will embrace us and give us peace, the kind of peace that flows from justice.* Jesus the Son of the Most High God was born poor, in an animal shelter, in a town inconspicuous, off the main road, and certainly off the radar of Scriptures. This boy teaches us that happiness does not flow from things. Rather real happiness flows from living simple and balanced lives, rooted in mercy and compassion. Perhaps the following words reveal the real Christmas joy Pope Francis speaks of.

This Advent Season has been a very gratifying one to date. I witnessed so many people who are giving their time and resources to help others. At the Das Nikolausfest Parade, though the weather was cold, people from all three churches came to help with the parade. There is something about a parade that brings so much joy. The people on the sidelines are always so grateful whether receiving candy, our parish logo card, or just a simple Merry Christmas greeting. And some even wished us a blessed and joy filled Christmas without receiving anything. It also made my heart swell with love for the kids and mothers who went with our float. Though I kept warm by walking, Saint Nicholas (Bill Cherolis) and the kids on the float bore the cold air bravely. After the parade, Ron Balbach, our driver, convinced me to go to St. Nicholas Church for some hot chocolate and a bite to eat. What a treat that was being with all those people coming in from the cold to do the same. Someone there introduced me to some yummy "Kraut Balls." From there we listened to the St. Francis of Assisi choir. We are so fortunate to have a choir made up from people of all three churches and the great variety of musicians to back them up. You just don't realize what we have until you attend a mass elsewhere. Rose and Chuck Pund graciously

allowed the use of their wagon for the float and her sister for the use of their manger scene. Generosity is contagious.

I encountered so many people that have found the truth in Pope Francis' call to live simpler and balanced lives from people who give to help others, to people who receive small tokens of our love whether in a meal, a visit, or a gift. I am simply amazed at how our outreach ministries have grown. It's not me. My first words are "No!" But the Holy Spirit brings forth people who want to help and my heart is softened. Our outreach work is like a contagious spirit that is creeping its way into the lives of people all around our local area permeating all ages and churches. Whenever I encounter people who give so freely I can sense immediately the joy they have found. Perhaps you too know of people who radiate that joy.

This evening and tomorrow we will be in the stable at Bethlehem. The only sounds will be the sounds of animals standing in awe at the beauty of their Creator. There is stillness tonight in Bethlehem like no other stillness has ever been. Earth and heaven are in absolute harmony in that stable. The Son of God chose to be poor born that he could embrace all people, rich and poor alike, saint and sinner likewise to live in harmony and peace.

As we sing, "O Holy Night," remember the stillness and peace in that stable. I pray that your Christmas will be filled with family and friends, that your lives will be changed through the embrace of the child Jesus.

Christmas Blessings!

Deacon Jim



This Week

Saturday, Dec 23rd & Dec 24th—4th Sunday of Advent

- 4:30pm Mass at St. Nicholas
- 7:00am Mass at Mary, Help of Christians
- 9:00am Mass at St. Joseph
- No 11:00am Mass on Dec. 24

Sunday, December 24th—Christmas Eve

- 4:00pm Mass at St. Joseph
- 6:00pm Mass at St. Nicholas
- 10:00pm Mass at St. Joseph Bilingual

Monday, December 25th—The Nativity of the Lord

- 8:00am Mass at Mary, Help of Christians
- SFA Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 26th

- SFA Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 27th

- SFA Offices Closed
- No SFA Music Rehearsal

Thursday, December 28th

Friday, December 29th

- No SFA Music Rehearsal

Saturday, December 30th

Sunday, December 31st

Monday, January 1st— New Years Day

- 8:00am Mass at Mary, Help of Christians

Let us Pray for our parish families who have lost loved ones. That in their time of sadness, may our support and prayers bring them some comfort.

Family of Charles R. Ruxer
Especially his daughter, Karen Springston

Family of Helen Luttrell,
Especially her husband, Charles

Family of Nancy Schwartz,
Especially her daughter, Tammy Daunhauer

Names in the "Pray for" box will be listed in four bulletins. If you would like your name added again, please call the office.



Janet Dilger - Edna Meunier - Trisha
Martin - Brian Bledsoe - Carmen
Lloveras - Verna Wollenmann


**white-collar
workers needed.**

VOCATIONS PRAYER CALENDAR

Pray daily for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. Pray for the priests and seminarians of the day listed below. Give thanks for their vocations.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Mr Paul Hayden

Mr Eric Gehlhausen

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Mr Juan Ramirez

Mr Phillip Rogier

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Mr Nick Sellers

Mr Gavin Steckler

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Mr Andrew Thomas

Mr Tyler Underhill

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Bishop Joseph Siegel

Bishop Emeritus Gerald Gettelfinger

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Fr Donald Ackerman

Fr Crispine Adongo

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:
1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or
Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

Fr Kenneth Betz

Fr John Boeglin

St. John Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests, bless these men with the strength and wisdom to follow God's will.

Minister Schedule

St. Nicholas — Saturday, December 30th — 4:30 p.m.
 GR Trish Schuler, Lee Ringeman
 SE Ralph Langen, Richard Kempa, Rose Lloveras, Volunteers
 LE Annie Oxley, Lee Ringeman
 CL Michelle Fischer
 US Rob Oxley, John Bennett, Volunteers
 GB Volunteer Family
 EM Janet Lifke, Firmina Young, John & Stella Bennett, Volunteers
 Sacristan Stella Bennett

Mary, Help of Christians — Sunday, December 31st — 7:00 a.m.
 GR Doris & Samantha Gries
 SE Alec Daunhauer & Gavin Daunhauer, Liz Mehling, Luke Leffert
 LE Ed Balbach, Emily Reisz
 CL Marilyn Satkamp
 US Zeric Breivogel, Danny Buechler, Brandon & Nathan Hanloh
 GB Mark Greulich Family
 EM Joann Lehr, Joyce Philipps, Marilyn Satkamp,
 Christine Schlachter
 Rosary Leader

St. Joseph — Sunday, December 31st — 9:00 a.m.
 GR Tanya Eger, Mary Striegel, Marilyn Harper, Patty Stutsman
 SE Jacob Schmidt, Cody & Dylan Hagedorn, Dacota Wright
 LE Teresa Begle, Ridy Schaefer
 CL Ashley J. Tempel
 US Mark Schaefer, Steve Clark, Ray Striegel, Ron Schaefer
 2 Volunteers
 EM Cindy Morrison, Adrian Morrison, Beverly Turnock,
 Jenny Wahl, Nolan Wright, Shelby Pund, Volunteers
 Sacristan Nora Weber

Stewardship of Treasure December 10th

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 10,396.00
Loose Cash/Checks	\$ 607.25
Children's Basket	\$ 45.00
Total	\$ 11,048.25

Number of Envelopes Used: **208** (out of 380)

Budget amount needed \$10,000.00

YTD Actuals: **\$225,004.21**
 YTD Budget: **\$240,000.00 (24 Sundays)**
 YTD Net: **(\$14,995.79)**

Building & Grounds	\$ 60.00
St. Vincent De Paul	\$ 15.00
St. Pierre	\$ 55.00
NSCAC	\$ 20.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 45.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 85.00

Total Deposit \$ 11,328.25

2016 - Mass Attendance - 2017

202 Dec 10	Sat - Dec 9— 4:30pm	206
159 Dec 11	Sun - Dec 10 - 7:00am	152
271 Dec 11	Sun - Dec 10- 9:00am	244
208 Dec 11	Sun - Dec 10- 11:00am	67

CATHOLIC PARISHES CAMPAIGN

Total pledged to date: **\$115,896.40**
 Parish Goal: **\$132,428**
 Cards mailed out: **674**
 Cards returned: **424**

Mass Intentions

Sat, Dec 23 4:30 pm (SN) Jack Hauser,
 Hubert & Philomena Dilger
 Sun, Dec 24 7:00 am (MHC) Kathryn Meyer
 Sun, Dec 24 9:00 am (SJ) Russ Wahl, Robert Herr
 Sun, Dec 24 11:00 am (SJ) *No Mass*
 Sun, Dec 24 4:00 pm (SJ) Christmas Flower Memorials
 Sun, Dec 24 6:00 pm (SN) Christmas Flower Memorials
 Sun, Dec 24 10:00 pm (SJ) Christmas Flower Memorials
 Mon, Dec 25 8:00 am (MHC) Christmas Flower Memorials
 Tues, Dec 26 7:30 am (SN) L&D Jacob Hauser Family
 Wed, Dec 27 5:30 pm (SJ) Cletus, Bernice & Jim Litkenhus
 Thur, Dec 28 7:30 am (MHC) Bill Miller
 Fri, Dec 29 7:30 am (SN) Kurt Knies
 Sat, Dec 30 4:30 pm (SN) St. Francis of Assisi Parish
 Sun, Dec 31 7:00 am (MHC) St. Francis of Assisi Parish
 Sun, Dec 31 9:00 am (SJ) St. Francis of Assisi Parish
 Sun, Dec 31 11:00 am (SJ) St. Francis of Assisi Parish
 Mon, Jan 1 8:00 am (MHC) Heather Snyder, Elizabeth
 Kiszewski (birth mothers of
 Isaiah & Sierra Evans)



Your Catholic Parishes
 Campaign (CPC) pledge is part
 of your personal commitment to
 Christian Stewardship: giving
 thanks to God by returning a
 portion of the blessings God
 has given you.

Community News



Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

We will only have one Mass on January 1st, New Year's Day. This year, Mary, Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation, but we will have a Mass to give thanks for our past year blessings and blessings for the New Year.

**8:00am January 1st at
Mary, Help of Christians**



Thank You to everyone who took an angel or a bag of blessings ornament off the giving trees. Every year we have ornaments for children who are in need of clothes and nursing home residents who enjoy receiving a gift from someone. Also this year we added an ornament called "Bag of Blessings". This is a monetary donation to the North Spencer Community Action Center for children in need of food for the weekend. Food is sent home in their backpacks at school on Friday so they have food to eat for the

weekend. Thanks to all who helped in any way with this project. **Merry Christmas, Outreach Committee.**

MARRIAGE SAVING – THE WEEKEND PHASE

During the weekend phase of Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) a series of presentations are given by a team of three couples and a priest. The team presents a technique of communication that enables you to take a good look at most areas of your relationship. After each presentation you have time to discuss the presentation in the privacy of your room. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan 12, 2018, call 270-852-8346 or email: felliott3232@yahoo.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org Registration deadline Jan 5, 2018.



Between Christmas and New Years, the Dale office will be open on Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 to 4:00. December 27th and 28th.

QUILT RAFFLE - for Winter Stars was held at the 9:00am Mass at St. Joseph on Sunday, December 10th. The winner was **Cindy Morrison** !! Congratulations. There was \$1,072.55 collected for this quilt from this raffle and deposited into the SFA Building and Grounds fund.

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY**

UPCOMING WOMEN AND MEN CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH RETREATS

We will begin the women's retreat on Saturday, March 10th and end on Sunday, March 11th. The men's weekend will be the next week, March 17th and 18th. Both weekends will be at Mary, Help of Christians Parish Center. May you take the time to pray about these retreats and consider making a weekend.

PARISH JOB OPENING—Saint Francis of Assisi Parish is in need of a part-time Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Ministry Coordinator. Applicants need to be positive, energetic, self-motivated, and able to manage multiple tasks. Applicants are also expected to have experience with Microsoft software (Word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point). Bilingual Spanish/English desired, but willingness to learn also acceptable. St. Francis of Assisi Parish consists of St. Joseph, St. Nicholas and Mary, Help of Christians Churches. Please email resume to: jbrosmer@evdio.org or send to: Job Opportunity, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, PO Box 684, Dale, IN 47523.

2017 DAS NIKOLAUSFEST SNOW FLAKE CONTEST WINNERS

Camden Kress

Trent Winchell

Alexa Fleck

Cole Fleck

Paige Flannagan

Trey Nord

Jesse Weatherholt

Aerial Bancroft

Payton—out of town guest

The prizes can be picked up at St. Nicholas during office hours or at Mass until the first of the year. The prizes then will be taken to the St. Joseph office location in Dale.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fullness is an experience we glimpse only briefly in this world. Once in a while, the tank is full of gas, the pantry shelves are stocked, our appetites are completely satisfied. But then the world keeps spinning, and we have to search out more gas, more groceries, more food. God designed us to be satisfied with nothing less than eternity; God alone provides fullness. Today's readings praise God for being everything, at all times, to everyone. King David learns that God alone has the power to order history to fulfill the divine plan. Saint Paul praises God's glory "forever and ever" for bringing salvation not just to the Israelites, but to all nations. Sweetest of all, Mary learns that God has filled her with grace. Mary is uniquely capable of holding God's fullness in her flesh—a fullness so vibrant that it becomes a child, our Lord Jesus Christ.

POSSIBILITIES

"What could happen?" That question affects each of us differently. Some of us are thrill-seekers, diving into unfamiliar territory with no regard for obstacles or dangers; others have learned from painful experience that the future may hold suffering or disaster. This last, brief Sunday of Advent emboldens us. Our readings remind us that our God is the God of possibilities. And while God's care does not guarantee that we will not encounter suffering, we can absolutely count on God's power to raise us to glory.

GLORY BE!

Truly, God creates us for glory. The burdens of daily life can shrink our hopes, but we must remember that we are made for nothing less than infinite glory. Who could have believed that the beleaguered Israelite nation could defeat all of its enemies? And yet our first reading today proclaims that God gave David "rest from his enemies on every side." Who could hope to unify the entire world in obedience to one Messiah? And yet Saint Paul insists that the "only wise God" has revealed salvation through Jesus to all people. Who could expect one young woman to decide the course of human history? And yet the angel tells Mary that her yes will establish a kingdom to endure forever.

We know, of course, that Israel did not maintain its peace. Even today, that area of the world is far from stable. We also recognize the wide variety of world religions that do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as the true savior. Though God has set us on the path to fullness and glory, we are still broken. Our danger lies not in hoping for too much, but in trusting too little in God. God can resurrect any darkness—replacing terror with peace, healing ancient wounds, uniting families, bringing stability to chaos. This is the message of Christmas. God can, and will, do everything to cover the world in love.

Today's Readings: 2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25–27; Lk 1:26–38 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

POSIBILIDADES

"¿Qué podría pasar?" Esa pregunta nos afecta a cada uno de nosotros de manera diferente. Algunos de nosotros somos buscadores de emociones, sumergiéndonos en territorios desconocidos sin considerar los obstáculos o el peligro; otras personas han aprendido de experiencias dolorosas que el futuro puede tener sufrimientos o desastres. Este último y breve Domingo de Adviento nos enaltece. Nuestras lecturas nos recuerdan que nuestro Dios es un Dios de posibilidades. Y mientras el cuidado de Dios no garantiza que no encontraremos sufrimiento, podemos absolutamente contar con la fuerza de Dios para levantarnos en gloria.

¡GLORIA SEA DADA!

Verdaderamente, Dios nos crea para la gloria. Las cargas de la vida diaria pueden hacer pequeñas nuestras esperanzas, pero debemos recordar que estamos hechos para nada menos que la gloria infinita. ¿Quién pudo haber creído que la asediada nación israelita podría derrotar a todos sus enemigos? Y todavía nuestra primera lectura de hoy proclama que Dios hizo a David "descansar de todos sus enemigos". ¿Quién podría esperar unir el mundo entero en obediencia al Mesías? Y sin embargo, san Pablo insiste que Dios "infinitamente sabio" ha revelado la salvación a todas las personas por medio de Jesús. ¿Quién podría suponer que una joven mujer decidiría el curso de la historia? Y todavía, el ángel le dice a María que su sí establecerá un reino que perdurará para siempre.

Sabemos, desde luego, que Israel no mantuvo la paz. Aún hoy día, esa región del mundo está muy lejos de la paz. También reconocemos la amplia variedad del mundo de las religiones que no reconocen a Jesucristo como el Salvador. Aunque Dios nos ha puesto en el camino de la plenitud y la gloria, todavía no estamos unidos. Nuestro peligro radica no en esperar demasiado, sino en confiar muy poco en Dios. Dios puede resucitar cualquier oscuridad, remplazar el terror con la paz, sanar heridas antiguas, unir familias, traer la estabilidad del caos. Este es el mensaje de Navidad. Dios puede, y hará, lo que sea necesario para cubrir al mundo con amor.

Lecturas de hoy: 2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25–27; Lc 1:26–38

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Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Youth



Hail Mary

Directions:
Recite the prayer below every night before going to bed to honor the Mother of Jesus.

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners.
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017

The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35

GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a woman's house named Mary. He said, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."

2 Sm 7:1-8, 8-12, 14, 16
Rom 16:25-27

Ps89:2-5, 27, 29
Lk 1:26-38

Directions: Complete the dot-to-dot to finish the picture.

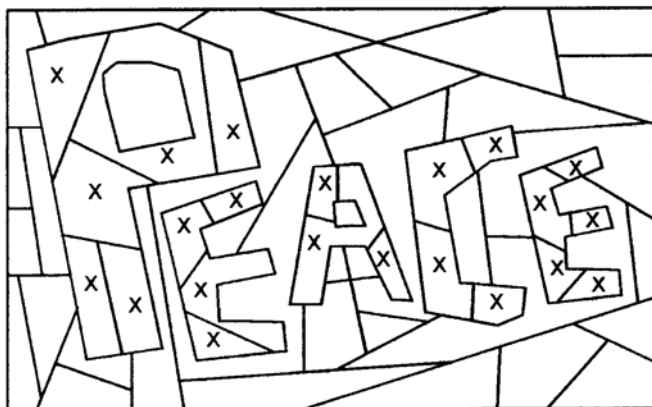


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With great faith Mary replied, "I am the
handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me
according to your word."



Directions: Color only the spaces that have an X in them.
Decode the word.



Upcoming

Faith Formation

No Classes on December 27th or Jan 3rd

Classes will resume on January 10th

Encounter

No Sessions on December 24th or 31st

Sessions will resume on January 7th

Catechists Pathway Formation

Wednesday January 3rd at SNLL 6:00pm topic will
be the Trinity! (Anyone is welcome to attend!)