



**ST. JOSEPH**  
CATHOLIC PARISH  
DEXTER, MICHIGAN



**Chips & Sawdust**  
December 2025 & January 2026

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH**

6805 Mast Road  
Dexter, Michigan 48130

734-426-8483 (Voice) 734-426-6451 (Fax)

[www.stjos.com](http://www.stjos.com) (website)

[info@stjos.com](mailto:info@stjos.com) (email)

St. Joseph Catholic Parish, Dexter Michigan (facebook)

**WEEKEND LITURGIES**

Saturday: 5:00pm; Sunday: 9:00am, 11:00am

**WEEKDAYS in Village Church**

Liturgy: Monday through Friday at 8:15am

Communion Service: First Monday of the month at 8:15am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 4:00–4:30pm or by appointment

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Fr. Brendan Walsh  
Romolo Leone  
Randy Desrochers  
Larry Deford  
John Goff  
Laura McKenzie  
Gail Assenmacher  
Darlene Cresson  
Lisa Dobis  
Steve Hinz  
Don Dalgleish  
Marinell High  
Katie Webber  
Liz Neil

Pastor  
Senior Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Administrative Assistant  
Capital Campaign/Office Assistant  
Faith Formation Secretary  
Finance  
Director of Music & Liturgy  
Director for Faith Formation—Youth  
Director of Faith Formation—Adults  
Director of Faith Formation—Children  
Cemetery

**Grounds and Maintenance Team**

Erich McElroy  
Chris Hollis  
Gary Fradette  
Anthony Fradette  
Village Campus Maintenance  
Country Campus Maintenance  
Cemetery Grounds  
Cemetery Grounds

**2025-2026 PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Fr. Brendan Walsh  
Randy Desrochers  
Larry Deford  
Laura McKenzie

Pastor  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Staff Liaison

**Member**

Tim Kuzma  
Paul Ledwidge  
Jared Thornton  
Ted Bucy  
Bob Deacon  
John Lasecki  
Terry Grabinski  
Dave Widmann  
Kelly Kubicki  
Kyle Wieman  
Brian Haeussler  
Tanya Clark

**Commission Liaison**

Chair  
Vice Chair  
Finance  
Spiritual Life & Worship  
Parish Life/Secretary  
New Parishioner Contact  
Caritas  
Properties  
Children & Youth Faith Formation  
Festival  
Adult Faith Formation  
Charitable Activities & Social Justice

**COMMISSIONS and ACTIVITIES****Commission**

Finance  
Worship  
Charitable Activities  
& Social Justice  
Parish Life  
Caritas  
Education— Children  
Youth  
Adult Faith Formation

**Activity**

Bulletin and *Chips* Editor  
Growing in God  
Building the  
Brotherhood of Christ  
St. Francis Retreat Center  
Men's Retreat  
Women's Retreat  
Faith Formation (Pre-K—6)  
Faith Formation (7-8)  
Festival  
Giving Garden  
God Squad (Gr. 7-8)  
Knights of Columbus  
Columbus Ladies Auxiliary  
Music Ministry  
Discovering Catholicism (OCIA)  
Scouting (Troop 456)

**Chair**

Lisa Dobis  
Fr. Brendan Walsh

Randy Desrochers  
Marinell High  
Sue Hungerford  
Katie Webber  
Don Dalgleish  
Marinell High

**Chair**

Laura McKenzie  
Marinell High

Marinell High

Joe Prochaska  
Ann Smart  
Katie Webber  
Don Dalgleish  
Kurt Assenmacher  
Tom O'Brien  
Rodger & Linda Cook  
Don Dalgleish  
Paul Tavana  
Marilyn Dehring  
Steve Hinz  
Marinell High  
Matthew Demerath

**Our Mission**

*As members of the family of God, we of St. Joseph Parish, Dexter, in the Diocese of Lansing, believe that we are called to be people of faith and prayer, to celebrate the sacraments, and to live the Word. We commit ourselves to being warm and welcoming, responding to each other's needs and to the needs of the community by sharing our gifts and talents.*

**Country Campus:** 6805 Mast Rd, Dexter, MI 48130

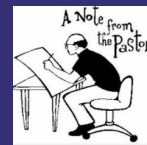
Weekend Liturgies and Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays. Parish Office, Social Hall, Faith Formation

**Village Campus:** 3430 Dover St, Dexter, MI 48130

Village Church, Grotto



## FR. BRENDAN'S BILLBOARD



### Building Complete

We have completed the punch lists, and we have made final adjustments. Our new addition is completed and paid for! We have put new water filters on the drinking fountains to improve the taste. We have upgraded the water heaters in the new bathrooms in each hallway. We are learning what it takes to use all our new spaces. We have served the grieving, held a parish breakfast, a flea market, and a silent auction. We have held basketball, pickleball, and volleyball games for fun. The Faith Formation classrooms are seeing students and adults. The office wing is warm and welcoming to our guests. The grounds have been landscaped and planted. It is complete, and we are thankful. We are grateful to all who served and sacrificed, contributed time, talent, and yes, treasure to this grand project. As your pastor, I am grateful.

### Stewardship for Saints and Scholars

Thank you to all who contributed to this campaign. Your gifts will help those engaged in Catholic education. Our parish's *Final Steps* has also benefited from your goodness and kindness. As of November 14th, we have received \$ 579,637 towards our goal of \$1,440,000.00.

### Paving Project

A very generous parishioner and donor has stepped forward and promised to help with half the cost of completely repaving both parking lots in the spring. We are grateful for this special gift. We will be saving all winter for this project.

### Sunday Offering Shortfall

As of November 14th we are \$ 20,262.95 behind in our Sunday offering. In this last month of the year, a special year-end gift to help us get back in the black will be appreciated.

### Advent: A Sacred Time of Anticipation

The four weeks of Advent are a penitential time of anticipation. We look for the coming of the Prince of Peace. We use purple to repent and pink to rejoice. We rejoice because of the gift of Jesus, our Savior, is almost here. Let us use these Advent days, days long in darkness, to seek the coming new Light of the World. Let us remember to pray in thanksgiving for our blessings this past year. Let us look forward in hope for a new year of health and happiness.

May we use these days to remember that Christmas is about giving, giving in gratitude, giving in love, giving in faith, giving in sacrifice. Let us pray in thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate.

Shalom,  
Fr. Brendan J. Walsh



# Advent Schedule

St. Mary & St. Joseph Holy Hour  
Sunday, November 30, St. Mary, Chelsea, 4 pm

Ladies Advent Tea  
Tuesday, December 2, Social Hall, 7 pm

Cookie Market  
Saturday, December 6, Social Hall, 9 am - 2 pm

Holiday Concert  
Sunday, December 7, Worship Space, 3 pm

Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation  
December 8  
8:15 am Mass - Village Church  
7 pm Mass - Country Church

## Advent Reconciliation

### Communal Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 9, 7 pm - Immaculate Conception, Milan  
Wednesday, December 10, 7 pm — St. Mary, Chelsea  
Thursday, December 11, 7 pm — St. Mary, Manchester  
Monday, December 15, 7 pm — St. Andrew, Saline  
Tuesday, December 16, 7 pm — St. Joseph, Dexter

### Individual Reconciliation

Each Saturday during Advent 3:30 — 4:30 pm — Country Church  
Thursday, December 18, 7-8 pm, Village Church  
Saturday, December 20, 11 am - 12 pm, Village Church  
Tuesday, December 23, 12-1 pm, Country Church



# Christmas Liturgies

## Christmas Eve - December 24

(music a half hour before each Mass)

4:30 pm — Mass — Country Church  
7:30 pm — Mass — Country Church  
11 pm — Mass — Country Church

## Christmas Day - December 25

10 am — Mass — Country Church

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31 @ 5 pm - Country Church  
January 1 @ 9 am Country Church

## Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on  
December 24, 25, and 26.  
Closed at noon on December 31  
and all day January 1



## Pastoral Council Notes

### The Light of Advent: Preparing Our Hearts for Christ



As we enter this holy season of Advent, let us open our hearts in prayerful anticipation of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent is a time of hopeful waiting, repentance, and joyful preparation for the coming of our King.

During each Mass of Advent, we begin by lighting one of the four candles on the Advent wreath, reminding us of the virtues of **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**. Three of the candles are purple—symbolizing penance, preparation, and sacrifice—while the third candle, lit on the third Sunday, is pink, representing joy.

The **first candle**, known as the *Prophet's Candle*, calls us to remember the promise of the Messiah foretold by Isaiah and the prophets of old. As we light this candle of **Hope**, we are invited to renew our trust in God's faithfulness and to place our confidence in His divine plan. *How can we listen more deeply for God's promises in our lives this week?*

The **second candle**, the *Bethlehem Candle*, reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where our Savior would be born. This candle represents **Peace**, calling us to quiet our hearts and prepare a place for Christ within us. *Where is God calling us to trust Him more fully on our journey?*

During the **third week of Advent**, we light the pink *Shepherd's Candle*, symbolizing **Joy**. As Christmas draws near, our hearts are filled with joyful anticipation, just as the shepherds rejoiced when they heard the good news of Jesus' birth. *What brings you true joy as you prepare to welcome Christ this Christmas?*

Finally, the **fourth candle**, known as the *Angel's Candle*, represents **Love**. It reminds us of the ultimate love of God, who sent His only Son to live among us and show us the fullness of divine love. As we light this final candle, we rejoice in the message of the angel Gabriel and await the glorious celebration of Christmas. *How can we share God's love with others in this final week before Christ's birth?*

As we light each candle on the Advent wreath, may the growing light remind us that the darkness of the world is overcome by the Light of Christ.

May you and your family experience a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas season.

**May the Light of Christ shine through you during this holy time.**

*Tim Kuzma, Pastoral Council Chairman*



Music has a unique way of drawing us into the mystery of the Mass. We lift our hearts in prayer, deepen our sense of community, and give voice to the joy, hope, and faith we share. Every hymn, psalm, and song is an act of worship, uniting our voices as one body in Christ. I appreciate how you join in our song!

If you've ever felt a nudge to sing, play an instrument, or simply learn more about how music shapes our worship, this is the perfect time to get involved! Our parish music ministry is a welcoming community of people who love to

serve through song. Whether you've sung in choirs before or are just beginning, there's a place for you.

### Special Note for Christmas:

This year, beautiful **preludes of special Christmas music will begin 30 minutes before each Mass**. Come early, quiet your heart, and allow the music to draw you into the wonder of Christ's birth.

For more information about joining our choirs or bell choir, or serving as an instrumentalist, please reach out. We'd love to have you join us! Steve Hinz - [steve\\_hinz@stjos.com](mailto:steve_hinz@stjos.com)

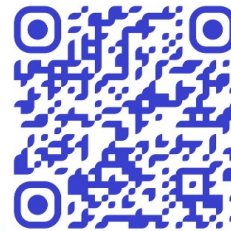




# CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S NATIVITY DRAMATIZATION

Our Christmas Children's  
Liturgy and Dramatization is  
set for Dec. 24th at 4:30pm.

We need several adult and  
youth volunteers to make this  
special Mass a success!



**SCAN THE CODE OR CONTACT KATIE AT  
KATIE\_WEBBER@STJOS.COM**

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
HIGH SCHOOL  
YOUTH GROUP**

**6-8PM IN THE TEEN ROOM  
AND GYM AT THE  
COUNTRY CHURCH**

**2025**

**DECEMBER 14 DECORATING CHRISTMAS  
COOKIES FOR HOMEBOUND/SHUT-INS  
DECEMBER 28 NO YOUTH GROUP  
(WINTER BREAK)**

**2026**

**January 4 Movie Night  
January 18**

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
OPEN GYM  
TEENS ★  
SUNDAYS 6-8PM**

**2025**

**December 1  
December 21**

**2026**

**January 11  
January 25**



## Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmation Class



ST. JOSEPH PARISH, 6805 MAST RD.

Contact Katie with questions at [Katie\\_Webber@stjos.com](mailto:Katie_Webber@stjos.com)

# Family Worship Night & Social

**WEDNESDAY, 2/4 @6PM AT THE COUNTRY CHURCH**

**PRAISE,  
GAMES, &  
PIZZA!**



## Adult Faith Formation

Watch for registration in the Gathering Space

### LUKE: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled

Wednesday Evenings 7—8:30 pm

Thursday Mornings 9—10:30 am

January 7/8 to February 25/26

### Living Life as Catholic Christian in a Modern World

#### The Call to Happiness:

#### Freedom, Virtue, and Morality

Wednesday Mornings 9:30—11 am

Thursday, Evenings 7-8:30 pm

January 14/15 to February 4/5

### A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

Saturday One Day Study

January 24, 2026, 9 am—3 pm



## Coffee with the Deacons January 11, 18, 25 and February 1

Join us in the Social Hall each Sunday AFTER the 9:00 Mass and learn from our Deacons.

The topics and presenters each week are:

January 11: Deacon John Goff

"What does it mean to be fired up for Jesus?"

January 18: Deacon Randy Desrochers

"Who, what, why & how to Eucharist"

January 25: Deacon Randy Desrocher

"Catholic Morality in the Real World"

February 1: Deacon Larry Deford

"What in the world is bio ethics"

*Each week's topic and conversation will last approximately 45 minutes.*

## Catholic Social Teaching Weekend and Guest Presentation



Join us in the Social Hall on January 24/25 after all the Masses and visit our Catholic Social Teaching Expo. These seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching are ways that we can all live as Jesus taught us to live.

Our Expo will be followed by presentations by Meghan McKenna on **Sunday, January**

**25, from 4 to 5:30 pm and Monday, January 26, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm** in the church. The title of her presentation is **Living Gospel Values in Today's World**

Megan is an internationally known author, theologian, storyteller, and lecturer. She teaches at several colleges and universities and does retreats, workshops, and parish missions. She has graduate degrees in Scripture, Adult Education and Literacy from the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master's in Systematic Theology from Catholic University, Washington, DC. Foremost, she is a lover of words: the Scriptures, stories and tales, poetry, images, and phrases spoken aloud, written down, and spun to make meaning — and how these both convert and transform us, bringing meaning and hope to the world. She has authored more than thirty books, including *And Morning Came: Scriptures of the Resurrection*, *Praying the Rosary*, *Send My Roots Rain*, *The New Stations of the Cross*, *On Your Mark: Reading Mark in the Shadow of the Cross*, and the recently released *Harm Not the Earth*.

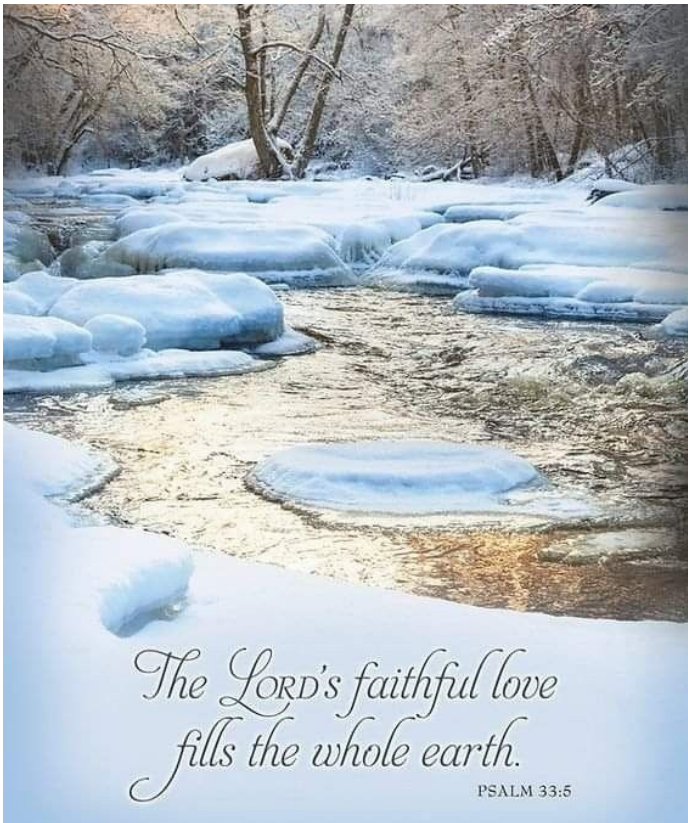
Please join us!



## WINE & CHEESE

Join the Parish Life Commission for a relaxing evening on a cold winter's night. This year's Wine & Cheese event will be held in the Social Hall on January 31 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Mark your calendar and bring your friends! Tickets will go on sale January 10 & 11 through January 24 & 25.





Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

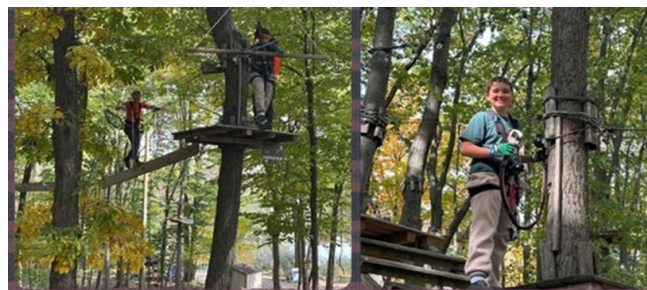
Just around the corner the Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting their annual Rummage Sale on January 30 – February 1, 2026. This sale benefits St. Louis Center, Chelsea and Sparrow’s Place, Dexter.

Please start saving all your unneeded treasures for donation **except:** Furniture, Luggage, Child car seats/cribs, Christmas trees, Large exercise equipment, TVs, Computers/printers, Encyclopedias/textbooks, VHS/cassettes, and Shoes.

Look for more information in the weekly bulletin beginning in January. We thank you in advance for your donations!

Troop 456 Activities

The Service project for this period was the Troops’ participation at the Dexter Daze event in support of the Dexter Lions Club and the annual Mill Creek fish survey. The major outing for this period was the Tree Runners outing.



cle courses of various degrees of difficulty, while being suspended in the tree canopy. Different types of obstacles, such as zip lines, barrels, cargo nets, and bridges, are connected between platforms constructed around trees.

The troop held a planning meeting to identify the activities of the upcoming year. On the right, there is a representation of the outcome of the planning activity. Some of the activities have been reported on in a previous report. The long-term outing that is being planned right now is the Air Force Museum campout. This activity requires a more than normal level of planning and coordination. The initial plan is to camp at the Wright–Patterson Air Force Base wilderness area, which was specifically designed to support Scout Camping. During the planned weekend, a visit to the Air Force Museum will be the principal activity.

If you are interested in being a scout or an adult leader, please contact Pete Potsos (scoutmaster) 734-355-8729 or Ron Carpinella (Charter Organization Rep.) 734-476-3151

We stayed at Proud Lake Recreation Area at the Pines Group site in Oakland County near Wixom for our camping experience. The activity for the campout involved working with Tree Runners Adventure Park to participate in a group team-building activity involving low-ropes and high-ropes courses. Aerial Adventure Courses are a unique outlet for outdoor recreation where groups can come and enjoy obsta-

Dates	Description
Sept 26-28	Atomic Energy Camporee
Oct 17-18	Tree Runners Ropes Campout
Nov 8-9	Aviation Campout & EAA Young Eagle
Dec 16	Court of Honor & Christmas Potluck
Jan 16-18	Klondike Event
Feb 13-15	Muskegon Luge & Tubing Adventure
Mar 21	Spaghetti Dinner & Overnighter
April 17-19	Air Force Museum Campout
May 15-17	Biking Campout
June	Baseball game, Huron River Argo Float
July 6-12	Camp Lakota
Aug 2-8	Great Lakes Sailing Adventure
Sept 18-20	Rendezvous in the D

## *Dear St. Joseph Parish...*

September 2025

Because of your generosity, those in our community who are dealing with the most significant struggles and are without hope can benefit from the programs and services offered by Catholic Charities of Washtenaw County. We are grateful for your recent gift of \$1,023 for the food pantry and \$2,562 annual fund.

Sincerely,

Laurie Wilcox

Interim Director of Development



October 2025

On behalf of the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, we want to express our deep gratitude for your recent gift of \$2,050, received in September 2025. Your generosity is a cornerstone of our ongoing mission to end homelessness in our community.

Thank you for making an impact in our work and in the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,

Nicole Adelman, MPH

Executive Director



October 2, 2025

Thank you so much for the \$682 donation from your Caritas Sunday second collection. We are so, so grateful for your most generous donation and for choosing the St. Luke N.E.W Life Center as the recipient.

We are getting more and more calls for food and personal items. We will use your donations to purchase food, especially protein, and personal items. Thank you for helping us to live the spiritual works of mercy in Flint's north end. We are grateful to you!

With a grateful heart,

Sr. Carol Weber

Director, St. Luke N.E.W Life Center

August 2025

Thank you for the \$2,314 gift to Faith in Action on July 11, 2025.

In 2024, we distributed 4090 food orders to low-income households in Dexter and Chelsea, helped over 100 families equip their children with the supplies needed for a successful school year, and had 99 families participate in our Holiday Sponsor Program. In 2025, we will remain focused on providing vital support to those in need.

In Appreciation,

Sarah Shugart

FIA, Executive Director



October 2025

On behalf of Dexter Family Services, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$1,897 from your June Caritas collection and for your donation of \$1,705 from your August Caritas collection. Your donations will help keep our shelves stocked at the Dexter Food Pantry as we continue to support many Dexter families each month. We also use the money to buy dairy products—milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, and eggs — each week for the pantry.

We always appreciate your thoughtfulness and continued support of our organization.

Sincerely,

Sue Yager

Treasurer

Dexter Family Services



October 2025

As the seasons change, St. Louis Center often takes time to reflect on each person who cares enough to make a difference in our community. Thank you very much for your generous \$1,250 donation to St. Louis Center from your Festival tithing. You are changing the lives of 50+ extraordinary people who live here. Because of you, our residents and their loved ones have the comfort of knowing their needs are met and they can live each day with joy, security, and meaning.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Fr. Satheesh Alponse, SdC

CEO, St. Louis Center



We are one body, one body in Christ, and we do not stand alone.

### Welcome to Our New Parishioners

*All are welcome in this place.*

Dominic Perna

Paula Wojcik

Kenneth & Krystal Davis

Maureen O'Grady

Alexander & Quin Mentzer  
Ricky

Brian & Lucy Eazer  
Samuel and Maxwell

Patrick & Melissa Carmody  
Madeline, Emerson and Elliott

### In Loving Memory

*May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

*And let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Eloda Mae Ervin

Barbara Ann Kraning

### Marriages

*In our love new hope is found. In love we choose to live.*

Michael Bacon Govan & Courtney Rae Mercier

### Baptized into the Family of God

*You are God's work of art,  
created in Jesus the Christ.*

Oliver Fitzgerald Wood  
Son of Andrew & Corinne (DePue) Wood

Mable Mae Hall  
Daughter of Alexander & Mary (Lopez) Hall

Joshua James Schofield  
Son of Timothy & Leigh (Steichen) Schofield

Sienna Grace Boone  
Daughter of Kenneth & Michelle (Murphy) Boone

Aurora Kay Zettel  
Daughter of Jacob & Phoenix (Sunstrum) Zettel

Andrew Edward Medeiros  
Son of Christopher & Erin (Edwards) Medeiros

Josephine Mae D'Agostino  
Daughter of Matthew & Gina (DiCiuccio) D'Agostino

Victoria Marie McKay  
Daughter of Alexander & Jennifer (Perna) McKay

Stella Marie Schiller  
Daughter of Michael & Ashley (McDermott) Schiller





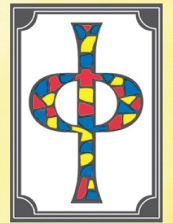
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We want to thank our bulletin printing company,  
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To show your thankfulness, please patronize the businesses that  
advertise on our bulletin and let them know you appreciate their support.

Interested in advertising? **Call 1-800-783-1623**



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**"More than Santa and presents, we're waiting  
for Jesus, with hope for everyone."**

**MATT MAHER**  
*The Advent of Christmas*

 **Dynamic Catholic**