

## PASTOR

Residence: 904 Central Ave, Coon Valley, WI 54623  
Cell Phone: 608-738-6806  
Email: [mmarshall@diolclergy.org](mailto:mmarshall@diolclergy.org)  
Office Hours: Thursdays and by appointment,  
off on Mondays.

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....4:00pm  
Sunday.....8:00am

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday..... 6:30pm  
Thursday.....8:00am

## CONFESSIONS

Upon request

## PARISH OFFICE

Amy Stafslie, Admin. Assist.....608-452-3841  
Bulletin deadline: .....Wednesday  
E-mail: [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)  
Open most Wednesdays and Thursdays

## COORDINATOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Niki Haugh

## PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Nancy Peters (Secretary), John Mislivecek, Bryan  
Berg and John Roesler (Buildings and Grounds)

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ryan Goodwin, Marlene Humfeld, Sue Humfeld,  
Mike Kammel, Jim Prindle and Steve Schulte.  
(2 appointed vacancies)

## PCCW - Parish Council of Catholic Women

Clarice Kammel (President), Nancy Peters  
(Treasurer), Linda Berg (Secretary)

## ORANISTS

Mary Beth Smith, Linda Schulte, and Chris  
Carskadon.

## Fr. Matt also serving at:

### Annunciation of the BVM Parish, Viroqua

Mass Times: Weekend.....Saturday.....6:30 PM  
Sunday .....10:30 AM  
Weekday: Wednesdays - 6:30 PM & Fridays - 8:00 AM

**New Parishioners:** Welcome to our parish! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Matt and contact the parish office for registration and information. <https://www.stmarycv.org/visit-us>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Call or email Fr. Matt. You can also use our website under the Sacraments tab: <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Please submit a registration by mail, or e-mail to both [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) AND [mmarshall@diolclergy.org](mailto:mmarshall@diolclergy.org). You will be contacted by the parish office to finalize your requested date. The registration form at: <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>.

**Sacrament of Anointing / Visitation of the Sick:** Please contact the parish office or Fr. Matt when someone you know is in need of the Sacrament or a pastoral visit. Requests may also be made from our website under the Sacraments tab. <https://www.stmarycv.org/sacraments>

**Mass Intentions:** Please use the Mass Intention envelopes available in the church.

**Book of Prayer Requests:** Located in the back of church. Feel free to add your own prayer requests. The requests will be included in the parish prayers.

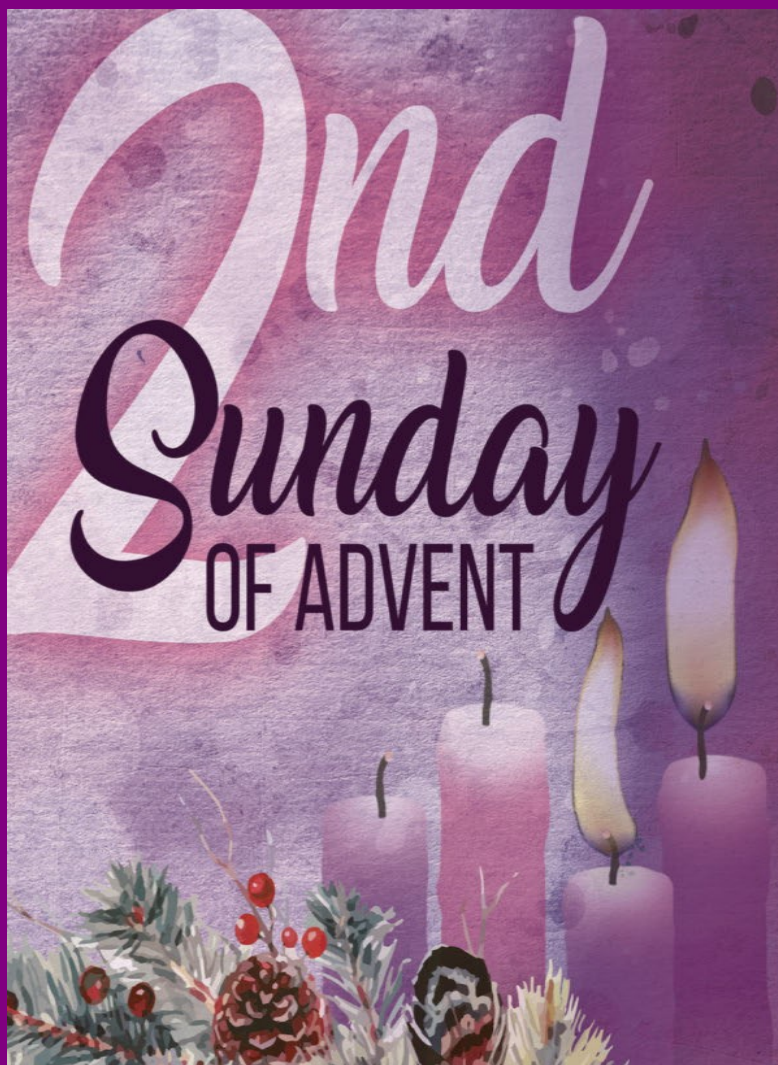
# St. Mary's Parish

900 Central Ave., Coon Valley, WI 54623

Phone: 608-452-3841

Website: [stmarycv.org](http://stmarycv.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley)



*A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths." -Lk 3:4*

## Fr. Matthew Marshall

Pastor

December 5, 2021

Readings: 482C

# St. Mary's Parish, Coon Valley, WI

## Second Sunday of Advent

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

- 1) Baruch 5:1-9
- 2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
- 3) Luke 3:1-6

**FOCUS:** Make straight a path unto the Lord!

Today we hear that John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. While repentance is a sobering act of admission of guilt, being forgiven of sin is a hope-filled relief that lifts the soul. Let us seek to prepare a straight path unto the Lord by pondering the *lofty mountains* we may have in our lives that need to be made low; and *the age-old depths and gorges* in our own character or soul that must be filled to level ground.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

The poem of consolation from Baruch urges Jerusalem to look ahead in hope to days of God's justice and glory. Saint Paul prays for an increase in virtue among the Philippians in preparation for Christ. In the Gospel, Luke places John the Baptist's ministry in historical context before describing his call for a baptism of repentance.

### Upcoming Events/Calendar

- **December 8** ~ Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day, **Mass 8:00 AM**
- **December 11/12** ~ Retirement Fund for Religious Collection
- **December 14** ~ Pastoral Council Meeting 7 PM
- **December 20** ~ Cathedral will be having a *Confessathon* (all day confessions) from 9am – 6 pm!
- **Christmas Eve (Friday, Dec. 24th)** - 4:00 p.m. here and 8:00 p.m. at Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua.
- **Christmas Day (Saturday, Dec. 25th)** - 8:00 a.m. here and 10:30 a.m. at Annunciation of the BVM, Viroqua  
*There will be **no vigil Mass on Saturday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** (4pm and 6:30pm) at either St Mary's Coon Valley or ABVM Parish, Viroqua. Regular Mass times will resume on Sunday morning December 26<sup>th</sup>.*

**Sunday Mass streaming Live on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley>

**Church will be open for private prayer Tuesday through Friday from 9AM until 7 PM and Sunday until 7 PM** (please practice good social distancing)

### Next Week in Service — Dec 11/12

If you are not able to serve as scheduled below, please find a substitute. Thank you!

Reader:	<b>Saturday</b> — Nancy Peters <b>Sunday</b> -Volunteer
Money Counters:	Lori Nickelotti and Curt Horman

### Intentions

Dec 04 ~ 4:00 PM - †Anna Kerska
Dec 05 ~ 8:00 AM - †Kylie Von Ruden
Dec 07 ~ 6:30 PM - †Durwood "Woody" Roningen
<b>Dec 08 ~ 8:00 AM - †Linda Jeffers</b>
Dec 09 ~ 8:00 AM - †Verdel and Sara Holte
Dec 11 ~ 4:00 PM - †Edward and Anna Kerska
Dec 12 ~ 8:00 AM - †Ken and Irene Roesler

**Donations:** Here are some ways to support your parish:

- US Postal Service: mail directly to the parish office, your 2021 Contribution envelope is postal ready!
- *Bill Pay* through online banking, add St. Mary's as contact (if possible, use your envelope number as the account number).
- Use our *online service* at: [diolc.org/st-marys-coon-valley](https://diolc.org/st-marys-coon-valley) (a processing fee will be deducted from your contribution, which averages 3% for debit/credit cards and \$.75 for EFT, ACH your contribution will be recorded for the full amount).
- *Attend Mass and drop* your contribution envelope at either church, Coon Valley or Viroqua and the funds will be directed to St. Mary's

Sign up for **AmazonSmile** and select St. Mary Parish as your preferred charity at [smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1218730](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1218730). Remember to shop for deals at **smile.amazon.com**, or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon app, and AmazonSmile will donate to us at no cost to you."



### Annual Appeal 2020-21

As of 12/2/2021	Total Pledged	Total Payments
Pledged/Paid	\$2,965.00	\$2,765.00
Target Amount	<u>\$14,020.00</u>	<u>\$14,020.00</u>
<b>Under Target</b>	(\$11,055.00)	(\$11,255.00)
Percent Pledged: 21.15%, Percent Received: 19.72%		
Number Contributing:	14	

[Give online at https://diolc.org/donate-online/](https://diolc.org/donate-online/) be sure and choose "2021 (445) St. Mary Parish, Coon Valley"

Giving Last Week		Week 47	11/28/2021
Adult Env.(18)	\$795.00	Needed Weekly	\$2,000.00
Offertory	\$155.00	Received This Week	\$1,308.84
Memorials	\$300.00	Running total needed	\$93,400.00
Amazon Smile	<u>\$58.84</u>	YTD Received	\$87,480.05
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$1308.84</u></b>	Difference	(5,919.95)

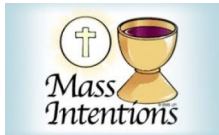


## Parish Announcements

### 2022 Envelopes and Calendars

Your envelope booklets for 2022 are now available in the back of church. Please help us save on mailing expense by picking yours up today. If you cannot find your booklet or you do not currently use envelopes and would like a booklet please leave a message at the parish office.

The beautiful 2022 calendars are also available for pickup in the back of church. These calendars include all the important liturgical dates for the year.



If there is a special weekend date you would like, please get your request(s) in early. **Sunday Masses** have openings starting January 16, 2022. **Saturdays** have openings beginning March 5, 2020 (all the Saturdays are booked for January and February 2022). **Weekdays** have openings beginning January 4, 2022. If you have questions feel free to email the parish office at [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net) or call on a Tues. or Wed.

### Celebrating your 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2022?

Each year, we ask for your help in securing the names, addresses and wedding date of those couples who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during the upcoming calendar year of 2022. We would appreciate this information **no later than December 15!** Please call the Parish office at 608-452-3841 or email: [stmaryscv@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryscv@mwt.net)



### Christmas Flowers

We are accepting donations for Christmas flowers. Please find the envelopes in the back of Church

### Free Magnificat Advent Companion Booklet

*"...by focusing also on His first coming-His birth in human flesh at Christmas-Advent reminds us of the tremendous value each minute of our time on earth now has."* ~Fr. S. White

#### What's in the Magnificat Booklet?

Advent Penance Service | Blessing of an Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree | Daily Reflections | Proclamation of the Birth of Christ | Prayer Before a Christmas Stable | Advent Stations and Prayers | Praying the O Antiphons

Feel free to take a copy from the back of church home today!

### Advent Reconciliation Options

**Wednesday, December 15** at St. Joseph Ridge Parish with Fr. Biju and Fr. Hilary (from Viterbo) starting at 6 PM until no persons are present.

**Monday, December 20** at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse from 9 AM until 6 PM. A priest and confessional assignment schedule is posted in the back of church.

**Wednesday, December 22** at St. Peter Parish in Middle Ridge with Fr. Biju and Fr. Hilary (from Viterbo) starting at 6 PM until no persons are present.

## Parish Announcements cont'd

### Give in Thanksgiving-Retirement Fund for Religious

"I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education" writes a donor. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

## Diocesan/Local Announcements

### Christmas Concert to benefit A Place of Grace

Sunday, December 5, 2 pm in the San Damiano Chapel, 900 Franciscan Way, La Crosse on the Viterbo Campus. Music will be provided by Prairie Smoke with special guests Fr. Conrad Targonski, OFM and Polly Pappadopoulos with comments from Tom Thibodeau. Cash and non-perishable food donations will be joyfully received. Due to Covid, masks are required for the concert.

### Wednesday, December 8: Celebrate the Immaculate Conception & Close of the Year of St. Joseph

Bishop William Patrick Callahan will preside at the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday, December 8, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman to celebrate both the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (a holy day of obligation) and the Close of the Year of St. Joseph. Join us for this special celebration honoring both the Blessed Mother and her spouse, St. Joseph, either in person or via livestream at [diolc.org/live](http://diolc.org/live).

### Cookie Walk and Craft Sale—Dec 11 (MMOC)

Mary, Mother of the Church Parish will be holding their Cookie Walk & Craft Sale on Saturday, December 11, at the Parish Hall located at 2006 Weston Street, La Crosse, from 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Homemade cookies will be sold by the pound, plus homemade Candies, Breads, Pies, Handcrafted Items and Scrip Gift Cards available for sale. Serving Continental Breakfast and Lunch (homemade soup and chili). Raffles and hourly Door Prizes.

### Cookie Walk and Bake Sale—Dec. 11 (Holy Trinity Church)

St. Anne's Ladies of Holy Trinity Church at 1333 13th St S, La Crosse are having a Cookie Walk and Bake Sale Saturday, December 11 from 8:00 a.m.-Noon. Pre-boxed cookies (1 and 2 pound packages), some cookies on trays, breads, pikes, bars and cakes. NO CRAFTS.

### Daily Advent Reflections – 4 great choices.

♦ **Chris Stefanick** – Unshakeable Joy. Sign up for a free 26-day Advent retreat with Chris Stefanick and Cardinal Cantalamessa. With 26 days of joy-filled videos and daily reflections, made specifically to fit your busy schedule, we know that YOU can unlock the secret to Unshakeable Joy today. Visit [reallifecatholic.com](http://reallifecatholic.com) to register.

♦ **Bishop Robert Barron** – Daily Gospel Reflections. Sign up for free daily reflections by Bishop Barron by clicking here: [daily catholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel](http://daily catholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel)

♦ **Matthew Kelley** – Dynamic Catholic with Daily Gospel Reflections. Sign up for free video meditations on the Gospel Reading for each day of Advent. Visit [dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html](http://dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html)

♦ **Praying with Scripture:** A beautiful way to prepare for the Birth of our Savior is to take a few minutes each day reflecting

(Continued on page 4)

## Diocesan/Local Announcements continued

on a Scripture passage that describes the events leading up to Christmas. Go to [diolc.org/deeper](http://diolc.org/deeper) and click "Praying with Scripture" for a Prayer Card with 7 Scriptures or click on "Mysteries of the Rosary" for a Prayer Card with the five Joyful Mysteries.

### Bishop Callahan's Christmas Video Message

Bishop Callahan has recorded his Christmas video message for you at: <https://youtu.be/-FbheRLg4eI>.

## This Weeks Readings by Kieran O'Mahony, OSA

### Monday 6 December ~ Isaiah 35:1-10 (St Nicholas)

Transformation is the message today, first in images (the desert in bloom), then in physical cures (the blind shall see, etc.) and finally in the human heart (everlasting joy on their faces).

*Luke 5:17-26* - The effort of the friends is very impressive in this story...and their efforts meet with a double response, healing and forgiveness. On a spiritual level, we can be "paralysed" too and in need of a word of mercy.

### Tuesday 7 December ~ Isaiah 40:1-11 (St Ambrose)

Powerful images in this reading should awaken a deep longing in our hearts. Let us come again to the great shepherd of our souls, holding us and leading us in all circumstances.

*Matthew 8:12-14* - The parable of the lost sheep makes a direct link with Isaiah. Of course, the ninety-nine who don't stray at all also don't really exist! We are, all of us, lost sheep and in need of guidance.

**Wednesday 8 December ~ Genesis 3:9-15, 20 (Immaculate Conception)** - The early stories in Genesis explore common human experiences, including sin, shame and the "outsourcing" of blame! All very human, of course. The serpent symbolises something more sinister—the power of sin, against which we need the grace of God.

*Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12* - The great hymn from Ephesians explores God's grace in Christ, thus inviting us to gratitude.

*Luke 1:26-38* - Mary's yes is in contrast to the "no" of Adam and Eve...and all the rest of us of course! It is great to hear again that "nothing is impossible for God."

### Thursday 9 December

*Isaiah 41:13-20* - The opening line of this poem gives the key to the rest: *Do not be afraid*. The reading goes on to explore such deep trust using several metaphors: harvesting, drought, and barrenness.

*Matthew 11:11-15* - So, who really was John the Baptist? In Jesus' estimation, John was the greatest of the old dispensation. In orthodox tradition he is called the forerunner, the *prodromos*. Yet even he falls into the second rank compared with the least in the kingdom of heaven!

### Friday 10 December

*Isaiah 48:17-19* - There is a great promise in this reading, but also one big "if": if only you had been alert to my commandments. Isaiah can tell us the rest!

*Matthew 11:16-19* - There's no pleasing some people, seems to be the message of this passage.

[The very last line, puzzling to us, calls for special comment. The passage comes from the Q community, who produced the *Sayings Source* (Q), behind parts of Matthew and Luke. In the view of that community, John, Jesus and their members were all children of transcendent wisdom. Originally, the last verse read: *But Wisdom was vindicated by her children*. (Q 7:35; see Luke 7:35.) For Matthew, Jesus himself is our Wisdom and so he alters the text and continues his portrait to Jesus as wisdom in Mt 11:25-30.]

## This Weeks Readings

### Saturday 11 December

*Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4, 9-12* - Elijah remained a figure of fascination long after his death, as we hear in this reflection. An Elijah-type figure was expected to usher in the long-expected Messiah. The blessedness of this is caught in the very appealing beatitude which closes the reading.

*Matthew 17:10-13* - As noted above, the expected Elijah-type figure was based on Mal 3:1. By identifying John as Elijah, Jesus affirms the significance of the present moment and his own ministry.

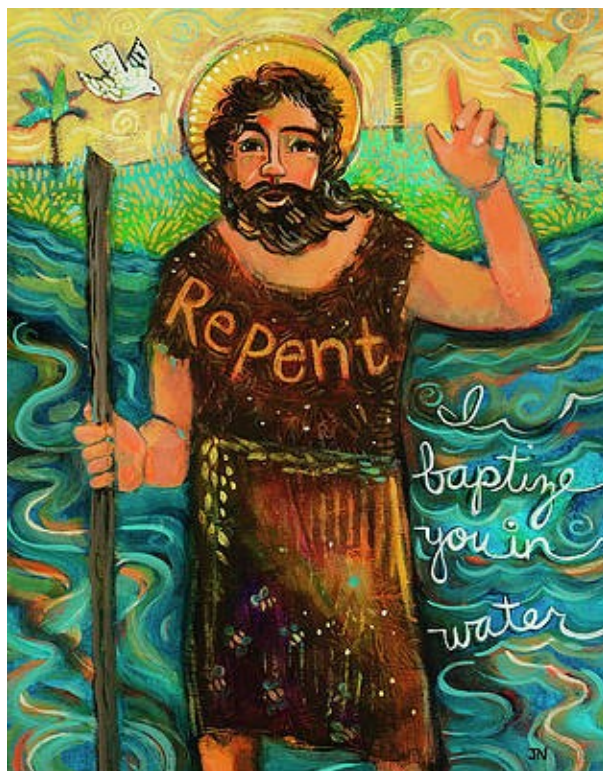
## KIDS CORNER

### Family Activity—New Questions Each Week

#### Sharing Advent and Christmas Joys and Memories

As the "busy-ness" of Christmas increases, take time each day as a family to share Advent and Christmas joys and memories. Each evening at dinner or at another convenient time, choose one or two questions to share and discuss. (from Missionary Childhood Association)

1. Tell about a time when you gave a Christmas gift that brought joy to the receiver.
2. Tell about a time when you received a Christmas gift that brought you great joy
3. Who are some people in your community who are sick and in need of some comfort? What can you do this season to reach out to them?
4. Tell about a time when you shared Jesus' love with someone?
5. What is your favorite Advent or Christmas tradition?
6. Complete this sentence, "Christmas is about..."
7. Tell about a time when you gave yourself for someone in need?
8. What is your favorite smell during the Advent or Christmas season?
9. What three gifts could you give this Christmas that cost no money?
10. If you could tell Mary one thing this Christmas, what would it be?



"St. John the Baptist" by Jen Norton





# ST. NICHOLAS

December 6th

## Family Resource The Joy of Giving

### The Joy-of-Giving

It's common to look forward to the gifts we'll receive at Christmas. But as we learn about the life of St. Nicholas – from which we derive our “Santa Claus” – we will quickly find that it is more blessed indeed to give than to receive.

As Christmas approaches, most of us spend time making lists of presents that we hope to receive. Advent is an appropriate time to learn about the life of St. Nicholas and to remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Nicholas was born during the third century in a village that is located in modern-day Turkey. His wealthy parents raised him to be a devout Christian. Sadly, they died in an epidemic while he was still young. Nicholas obeyed Jesus' words to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor.” He used his whole inheritance to help the needy, the sick, and the suffering. The church recognized his total dedication to God and declared him Bishop of Myra while he was still a young man. Nicholas was known across the region for his generosity to people in need, for his love of children, and for his concern for sailors. You can find many legends about his life on the Internet and in library books. This special day celebrates the stories of his generosity and goodness. The life of St. Nicholas has much to teach us.

A saint of the Catholic Church, his Feast Day is December 6.

This Advent Season, challenge your family to approach Christmas by focusing on St. Nicholas as the model of giving. Rather than focusing on what you and the rest of your family may receive, think about what your family can give. In addition to money, you can offer the gifts of time, talent or treasure for others here at home – and for your mission family far away.

Ask family members to think of meaningful, non-material gifts they have received (*a compliment, a word of encouragement, a helping hand, etc.*) and to share the story of those gifts. Brainstorm ways in which each member of your family can give rather than receive – and to do so for the Missions. Ask each person to choose at least one way to give time, talent and treasure for each week of Advent. Here are a few suggestions:

- Commit to praying daily for children, especially for troubled young people.
- Collect non-perishable food from neighbors and family. Take those items to a local food pantry.
- Write a letter to your members of Congress or governor, telling what you think should be done to help poor families.
- Place your MCA donation container (box) on your dinner table. At every meal, after you give thanks for the food, place a donation in the box .
- Call someone you know who is experiencing sorrow to offer comfort.

Invite everyone to write down their good actions on small pieces of paper, notecards or self-stick notes and place them in a special place. Conclude your time together with the following *Prayer for A Giving Heart*.

*Good and gracious God,*

*You have always been so generous to us.*

*Teach us what it means to give without expecting anything in return.*

*Make each one of us grateful for all we have.*

*Create in us, Lord, a heart that gladly gives.*

*May the hope of Jesus be seen in our hearts, our words, and our actions, throughout this Advent Season.*

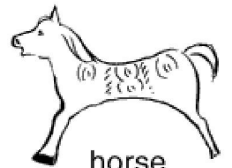
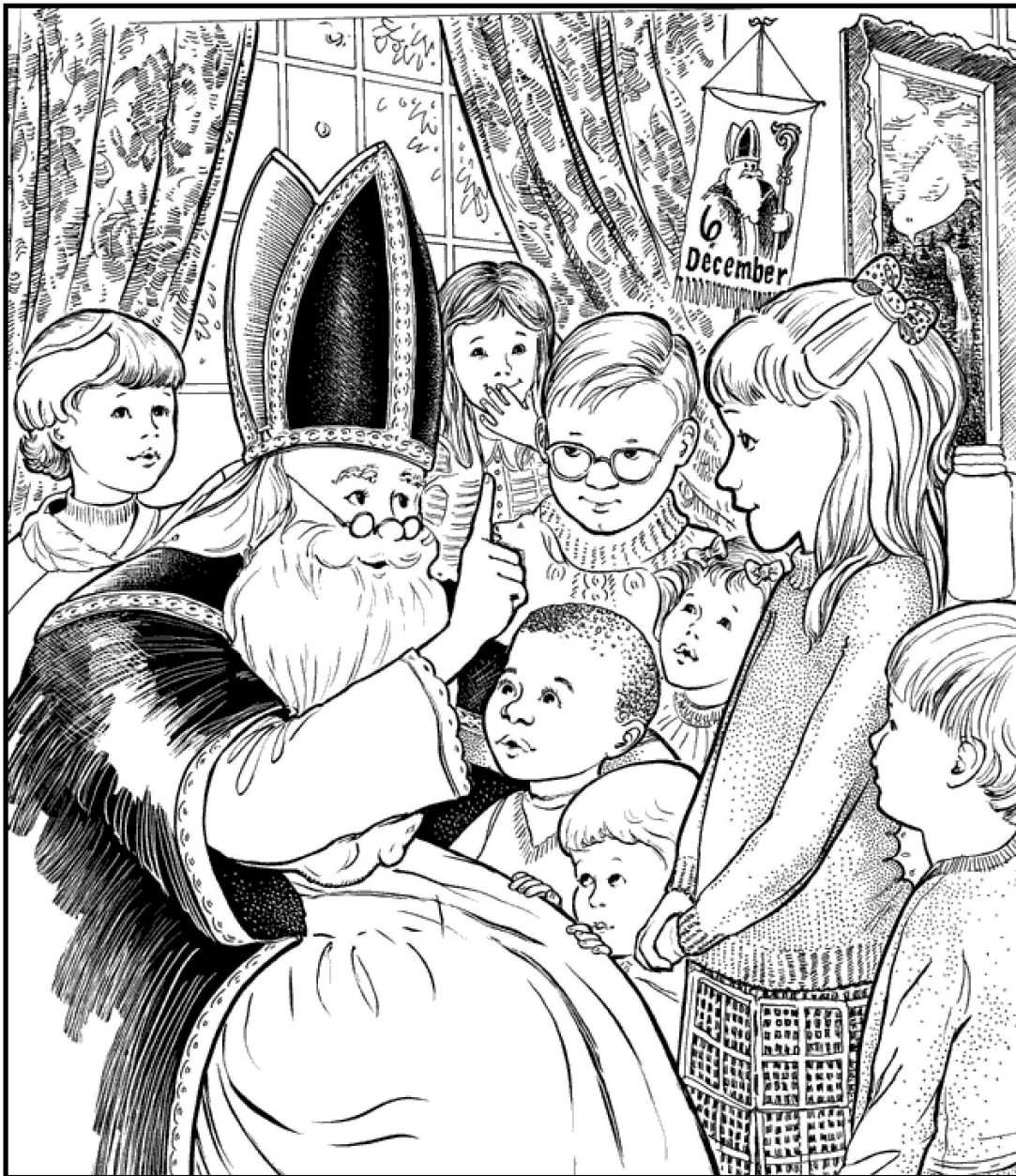
*Help us remember the greatest gift shown to us – the Christ Child.*

*Inspire us to respond to the needs of those around us.*

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

# St. Nicholas Day

Can you find these hidden pictures in the big picture?



horse



leaf



crab



crown



cat



boot



bird



question mark



mouse



glove



saltshaker



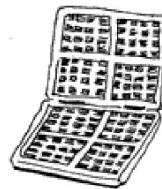
birdhouse



jar



sailboat



waffle iron



chick