POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities:

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.
**DECEMBER 2023**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 02.12.</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>St. Leonhard's</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Sunday, 03.12.</td>
<td>09.30</td>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Family Mass</td>
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<td>17.00</td>
<td>St. Mary's</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 05.12.</td>
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<td>Sunday, 10.12.</td>
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<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Mass + Filipino Feast (Father Christian + Father Francis)</td>
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<td>Advent Confession (Father Christian + Br. Anil)</td>
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<td>Advent Confession (Fr. Christian Enke + Br. Anil)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 19.12.</td>
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<td>Saturday, 23.12.</td>
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<td>Sunday, 24.12.</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Mass</td>
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<td>20.30</td>
<td>St. Mary's</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Mass</td>
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<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Christmas Day Mass (Father Christian + Br. Anil)</td>
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<td>18.00</td>
<td>St. Leonhard's</td>
<td>CANCELLED</td>
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<td>Saturday, 30.12.</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>St. Leonhard's</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Sunday, 31.12.</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Mass (Br. Anil)</td>
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*** All Masses celebrated by Father Christian Enke, unless otherwise specified ***

Parish Collection Sums for October 2023: 2,564 €

We thank you for your continued generosity!
We are very pleased to announce that we have a new member in our pastoral team! Beginning December 1st 2023 Brother Anil will join the International English-Speaking Parish with a 20% position. He will, among other things, celebrate Mass, offer Bible study courses, and help with the Confirmation preparation. We warmly welcome him to our team and to our Parish!

Father Christian Enke + Lori Bemb

Dear parishioners,
I am very happy to be officially part of the parish team and the community!!! Here are a few lines about myself.

After entering the novitiate of the Franciscan Capuchin Order in 2000, I was able to complete my basic formation and made my perpetual profession in 2008, after which I was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood in 2010. I served as Provincial Secretary for two years. Coming from India and living in Münster since 2013 and Frankfurt since 2021, I am fascinated by the diversity of this country and the Catholic Church. Our Capuchin Order sent me to Germany to complete a doctoral programme in philosophy. By the grace of God, I was able to successfully defend my doctoral thesis on Postmetaphysics: A Socio-Philosophical Challenge to the Indian Religious Public Sphere based on Jürgen Habermas, in June 2021 at Goethe University, Frankfurt. Since then, I have been part of the Capuchin community in Liebfrauen, Frankfurt. Before that, I was part of the Capuchin community in Münster from 2013 to 2021 and served as a confessor and substitute priest in various places both in Germany and Switzerland while pursuing my doctorate in Münster.

I wish and pray that I can contribute to this community in every way possible to serve God and his people. Thank you for welcoming me.

Brother Anil
CONFESSION WEEKEND: December 16 / 17
We offer the chance for individual confession in Advent at each of our three church locations:

Saturday, Dec. 16  St. Leonhard’s  17.00-17:30 (before Mass)
Sunday, Dec. 17  Holy Cross  10:30-11.30 (following Mass)
Sunday, Dec. 17  St. Mary’s  16.30-17.00 (before Mass)

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23rd (4th Advent)
18.00  Mass at St. Leonhard’s

Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)
15:00  Mass Holy Cross
20:30  Mass St. Mary’s

Monday, December 25th (Christmas Day)
10:30  Mass Holy Cross

Tuesday, December 26th
No Mass at St. Leonhard’s

Saturday, December 30th (Vigil Mass Holy Family)
18:00  Mass St. Leonhard’s

Sunday, December 31st (Vigil Solemnity of Mary)
17:00  Mass Cross Holy Cross
No Sunday Mass at St. Mary’s
The time of Advent invites us all to „stop, look and listen“, reflecting on our life and listening to God's message for us. It’s helpful to sit down and then to come to receive the Sacrament of Holy Confession. God loves to help us, to embrace us and to lift us up.

With God as our conductor, may we never have to fear crossing the railroad tracks of life.

*Father Christian*
2023 Parish Council Election Results

The International English-Speaking Parish has elected a new Parish Council. The 9 candidates who received the most votes will serve on the Parish Council. Candidates 10-14 will be substitute members.

The results are as follows:

**Parish Council Members**
1. Benjielita Dimaunahan  95 votes
2. Niall Lenihan          94
3. Thomas Lavell          93
4. Apollonia Coutinho     85
5. Amalorpavaraj Arokiaswamy 84
6. Marina Gillespie      82
7. Cindy Dias            81
8. Philippe Molitor      79
9. Giancarlo Polvara     73

**Substitute Members**
10. Daniel Mba           66
11. Diedre Yahootfam      61
12. George Ewusi         52
13. Krystyna Cullinane   48
14. Christopher Cullinane 39

313 total votes cast: 270 online votes
                      43 in person votes or absentee ballots

We would like to thank all those who agreed to run as candidates and congratulate the 9 elected Parish Council members. We look forward to working together to serve our Parish during the next 4 years.

Father Christian Enke, Parish Priest
Lori Bemb, Pastoral Associate
and the members of the Election Committee,
Michael McInerney, Chairman
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION – “Adveniat” is a project of the German Bishops’ Conference, which focuses on helping those less fortunate in Latin America. Traditionally all money collected during the Christmas Masses on Dec. 24 / 25 (in ALL the Dioceses in Germany) will go towards Adveniat.

PARISH OFFICE - Please note that the Parish Office in Frankfurt will be CLOSED from December 27 – 29. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

CONFIRMATION COURSE - We are now accepting registrations for our Confirmation preparation classes. Anyone who will be 16 years of age or older in May 2024 may register for the course (the age for Confirmation in the Diocese of Limburg is 16 years) Classes are set to begin early 2024, with the Confirmation being held in May 2024. If you would like to sign up, please send an email to Lori Bemb (l.bemb@parish-frankfurt.de).

"Sharing is caring"! – Soon we will enter a new year full of hopes and dreams, we would like to invite you to an evening "share and care" time twice a month. St Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians, 5: 11 says: "Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also do..... ". Christian communities grew since ancient times by coming together in families and smaller groups to share the Word of God and their faith experiences, which led them to develop a deep life of faith in Jesus Christ. So let us come together, meet, share and celebrate our Christian life together, modelled on the Basic Christian Communities that form a strong foundation of every community. This meeting offers us an opportunity apart from the Sunday Mass obligation to share the Word of God, faith and church in a more familiar manner. Let us be part of this new venture of our Parish and strive to build a loving and joyful Christian community based on Christ and His Word.

Dates of Meeting in January: 11 and 25
Time: 18.00-19.00        Place: Vilbeler Str. 36 (Parish Office)

Please contact the Parish Office to register.

Br. Anil OFM Cap
**Special Music during Advent + Christmas**

**Saturday, Dec. 2nd** (St. Leonhard’s - 18.00) Ensemble Mainklang – short concert at the end of Mass.

**Sunday, Dec. 10th** – Advent Caroling with the choir at Liebfrauen Church (19.30)

Music during Mass : Benno Hohmeier, Solo-Trumpet

**Sunday, Dec 24** (St. Mary’s) at 20.15 – musical introduction with Katie Lipow (Solo-Sopran), Music during Mass: Vocalquartett.

**FOOD DONATIONS** – Each Saturday at Mass we collect non-perishable, non-refrigerated food for the Mother Teresa Sisters (things like marmalade, fruit teas (rather than black tea), sugar, margarine, dried meats, e.g. salami). Simply place your items in the basket in the back of church.

**TUESDAY MASS** – Please note that the weekday Mass at St. Leonhard’s has been cancelled on:

Tuesday, December 19  +  Tuesday, December 26

**COFFEE SOCIAL AFTER MASS** – You are most welcome to join us for some refreshments Sundays after Mass. In order to not use so much plastic and to be environmentally friendly, we ask everyone attending to **please bring your own cup to the coffee social.**

**FILIPINO FEAST** – Sunday, December 10th -

Our Parish’s annual Filipino Feast will be celebrated liturgically during the 9:30 Sunday Mass at Holy Cross, followed by delicious treats from the Philippines at the coffee social afterwards. All are welcome!

**LABYRINTH** – Sunday, December 17th - As many of you recall, the Holy Cross Meditation Center creates a labyrinth of tea candles on the church floor each year for one week in December. This labyrinth - a wonderful symbol in the Advent season - will also be a theme throughout our 9:30 am Mass on Dec 17th, the 3rd Sunday of Advent.
FOOD DONATIONS - We collect non-perishable food for the Missionary Sisters of Charity each Sunday. Items such as marmalade, FRUIT teas, sugar, margarine, dried meats, e.g. salami 10-slice packs of individually wrapped yellow cheese and “to-go” coffee cups with lids.

FOOD DONATIONS - Reminder: you can bring your food donations for the Hattersheim-Hofheim Tafel each Sunday to Mass. The Tafel is especially in need of items such as sugar, flour, cooking oil, non-refrigerated milk and canned goods.

Penitential Act
I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Gloria
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Profession of Faith (Apostles Creed)
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and
is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

**Invitation to Prayer**
PRIEST: Pray, brethren .. acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
PEOPLE: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**Preface Dialogue**
PRIEST: The Lord be with you.  PEOPLE: And with your spirit.
PRIEST: Lift up your hearts.  PEOPLE: We lift them up to the Lord.
PRIEST: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  P: It is right and just.

**Sanctus** - Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**The Mystery of Faith**
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

**The Lord's Prayer**
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil … For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

**Sign of Peace**
PRIEST: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
PEOPLE: And with your spirit.

**Agnus Dei**
Lamb of God Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. … Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.  PRIEST: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.  ALL: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.
FIRST READING – Isaiah 63: 16b-17; 64: 1, 3-8
A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.
You, O LORD, are our father; our Redeemer from of old is your name. Why, O LORD, do you make us stray from your ways and harden our heart, so that we do not fear you? Turn back for the sake of your servants, for the sake of the tribes that are your heritage. O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. … When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. … You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. … Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

R: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.
Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. … I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ
Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GOSPEL – Mark 13: 33-37**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. Jesus said to his disciples: Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. … Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**FIRST READING – Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11**

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah. Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven
ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the L ORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the L ORD has spoken.” … Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

R:  Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING – 2 Peter 3: 8-14
A reading from the second letter of St. Peter
Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at
Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace.

**GOSPEL – Mark 1: 1-8**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**FIRST READING – Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11**

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has
clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ... For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

R: My soul shall exult in my God.

SECOND READING – 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-25
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians. Brothers and sisters,. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. ... May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.
GOSPEL – John 1: 6-8, 19-28
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

He said: “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, for Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

FIRST READING – 2nd Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
A reading from the second book of Samuel.
Now when David, the king, was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark
of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the L ORD is with you.” But that same night the word of the L ORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the L ORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? … I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover the L ORD declares to you that the L ORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. … I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall established forever.

Response: Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.

SECOND READING – Romans 16: 25-27

Brothers and sisters: To the One who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.
The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. … The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” … Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.
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Tel: 069 219 3650-0

Public office hours for inquiries and appointments:
Monday + Wednesday 10:00 – 15:00
Friday: 10:00 – 14:00

Baptisms arranged with one month notice
Weddings arranged with at least six months’ notice
Confession available on request

Parish Council President:
Damian Gerstner
thegoodomen@gmail.com

Parish Council Vice-President:
Regina Lynch
regina.lynch@gmx.net
St. Leonhard’s

Church location:
Am Leonhardstor 25
60311 Frankfurt am Main

Mass time: Saturdays 6:00 pm
      Tuesdays 6:00 pm

Holy Cross

Church location:
Kettelerallee 45
60385 Frankfurt am Main

Mass time: Sundays 9:30 am

St. Mary’s

Church location:
Wachenheimer Str. 58
65835 Liederbach am Taunus

Mass time: Sundays 5.00 pm