

Parish News...

From the Pastor's Desk

There will be no Polish Masses on Sunday December 12th and Sunday December 19th, Masses have been rescheduled

Wednesday, December 8th is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin and is a Holy Day of Obligation



This Sunday November 28th is the beginning of Advent Season. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Jesus. And the term coming includes three references, first of all, to our celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas, the second, the coming of Jesus in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Communion; and finally, to his second coming at the end of time.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops "The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) "

Many of our homes have advent devotions to prepare us for the birth of Jesus. During the Season of Advent, I will do my best to focus on some of the most known Advent devotions.

Advent devotions, including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. The Advent wreath, or Advent crown, is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar. The Advent wreaths are normally circular and represent God's infinite love and are usually made of evergreen leaves which represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus. Within this Advent wreath are 4 candles which represent the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His Son Jesus. Some may have 5 candles with the last one white. This white candle represents the Birth of Christ our Savior.

Week 1 **Purple**-Prophecy Candle-This candle reminds us of the promise of the Scriptures to send a send a Savior (Isaiah 9:6)

Week 2 **Purple**-Bethlehem Candle- This candle reminds of the humble birth of Christ. It also reminds us to prepare our hearts for Jesus during this season (Micah 5:2)

Week 3-**Rose**-Shepherds Candle- this candle reminds us that Christ came for all people. The shepherds were unnoticed by most of the world but God chose them to be the first to receive the good news (Luke 2:8-9)

Week 4- **Purple** -Angels Candle- -this candle reminds us of the good news the angels announced- Emmanuel God with us, has come (Luke 2:13-15)

First We Fast: Then We Feast



Advent has been called a "little Lent," because it traditionally has included a period of increased prayer, fasting, and good works. Although the Western Church no longer has a set requirement for fasting during Advent, the Eastern Church (both Catholic and Orthodox) continues to observe what is known as Philip's Fast, from November 15 until Christmas.

Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. Unfortunately, Advent today has supplanted by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by the time Christmas Day comes, many people no longer enjoy the feast or even specially mark the next 12

days of the Christmas season, which lasts until Epiphany (or, technically, the Sunday after Epiphany, being that the next season, called ordinary time, starts on the following Monday).



Our Advent calendar above can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent calendars carry an underlying spiritual message of anticipation and hope. By helping us remember and reflect on the coming of Jesus Christ, Advent calendars can be a valuable aid for Christian families.



Faith Formation

Parents, please remember that all people entering the building are required to wear a face mask. NO exceptions. There will be extra if needed for the children if required

This year the Christmas Mass at 4pm on December 24th, the Parish celebrated the Christmas Pageant with the children. If your child is interested in being an angel (the parish has limited costumes to be used, so please contact me if interested), shepherds and animals. If interested please contact me. 315 527 8399.

Looking for donations of Christmas Ornaments for the Faith Formation Christmas. If your family would like to donate an ornament for the tree, please bring it to the class next week.

The Faith Formation program will be sending Christmas Cards to nursing home residents in the area for a bit of Christmas cheer. If your family would like to send some Christmas holiday spirit to these patients, please bring it to me by December 12. The children will be making cards in class as well.



REMINDER: There will be a very important meeting for parents on December 1st at 6:30 in the Church. You may bring your child to this meeting. Date had to change as December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4pm

Sunday 7:30 AM, 8:30AM, 10AM Polish Mass and 11am

Let's remember that as Catholics, it is important to attend Sunday Mass. At Mass we are able to stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship. While Faith Formation before the 11AM Mass, all families are welcome to this Mass. If unable to attend this Mass, please attend the Church Masses. Faith Formation Classes alone do not teach your children about their faith. It is important they see their faith in the Mass.



First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Jer 33: 14-16

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Mk: LK:21:25-28, 34-36



While I have found these wonderful reflections on the Sunday Gospel, it is not meant to take the place of the Sunday Mass. Remember to attend Mass to hear Fr. Arthur or Deacon Kirk's a much better spiritual teaching of the Gospel reading

Reflection: Jesus is coming.

1. We often hear of the second coming of Jesus but a commentator says that Jesus is actually coming in three forms: He already came in history, i.e. his birth; He comes to us in mystery through the sacraments; Then He will come again in majesty at the end of time.
2. As believers, there is nothing to fear in the third coming. Though it may be a cataclysmic event, we anticipate it with joyful hope that we will see Jesus face to face and be united with Him forever.
3. We may not physically witness the third coming because it may not happen in our lifetime. Still, we need to be prepared at all times. To do that, we do away with habits that distract our preparation such as drunkenness and other forms of addiction. Moreover, we should glorify God every moment of our life through activities like prayers and service to others. There should be no room for idleness.

4. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us so that we may have the eyes to see the signs of the times and to be able to discern the message of God in our life. That is why we need to have time for meditation and to listen to His messengers.

5. Receiving Jesus every day through the sacraments makes us very familiar with Him and thus, any talk of apocalypse will only put a smile on our lips because in faith, we are confident of our salvation. In fact, His presence in our life gives us the privilege to experience the life that is come for His children. We call that living the life of a saint (with a small “s”) but we can only do that through the grace of God. Let us try to experience this saintly life in this advent season and even after that. By trying to do it again and again, we become accustomed to it. Then it becomes our destiny - to be the holy people of God.



Christmas is coming soon. It's easy to tell. We see the signs all around us. (Point to Christmas decorations.) What signs have you seen? (Allow kids to answer.) We see Christmas decorations on houses; we hear Christmas songs on the radio; we see commercials on TV, and more. If we didn't have all of these things to remind us, how could we say that Christmas is coming? (Pause for responses.)

Two thousand years ago, there was no TV or radio announcing that a child would be born and that He would be the Savior of the world. When Jesus was born, very few people even knew about it. But it was an event that God had promised, and it was foretold by prophets many years before. Many people had been looking forward to the coming of the Savior, but they didn't know exactly when He was coming.

We're entering the season of Advent. Advent means "the coming of something very important." It is a period of time when we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas--and we also look forward to Jesus' return.

Jesus promised to come again, and we look forward to it, just as people 2,000 years ago looked forward to the Savior being born. No one knows exactly when Jesus will come back. It isn't marked on the calendar, but we're watching and waiting, expectantly.

As we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Savior, let's also be sure we prepare for His exciting return.

Dear God, we thank You for this special time of year and its important meaning to us. We praise You for keeping your promise to send a Savior who will come back again. In Jesus' name, amen.

Weekly Prayer

This week we start preparing our heart and homes for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ on December 25. This week prayer is on the first week of Advent. It is a prayer of Hope.

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