



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come Emmanuel
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80)
 Show us your kindness, O God.
 (2x)

Preparation Come, Lord! Maranatha BB 64
 Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior
 Communion: I Am The Living Bread BB 319
 Our Blessing Cup BB 363
 Recessional: Ready The Way BB 63

10:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come, Emmanuel
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80)
 Show us your kindness, O God.
 (2x)

Preparation We Praise You BB 550
 Maranatha BB 69
 Mass Parts Mass of Joy and Peace
 Communion: Christ, Be Our Light BB 596
 Jesus, Come To Us BB 392
 Recessional: Ready The Way BB 49



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners and friends to do the same.

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity to our parish! Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>November 19, 2017</u> | |
| Offertory | | \$6,404.75 |
| Fuel | | \$2,096.77 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| | <u>November 26, 2017</u> | |
| Offertory | | \$6,426.32 |
| Christmas Flowers | | \$2,538.77 |

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged *Parish Giving* to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smart phone. You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend. Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

December 3, 2017 Property Management
 December 8, 2017 Immaculate Conception



Out of respect, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

| Annual Income | 5% Commitment annually/ weekly | 3% Commitment annually/ weekly |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$100,000 | \$5,000/ \$100 | \$3,000/ \$60 |
| \$75,000 | \$3,750/ \$75 | \$2,250/ \$45 |
| \$60,000 | \$3,000/ \$60 | \$1,800/ \$36 |
| \$50,000 | \$2,500/ \$50 | \$1,500/ \$30 |
| \$40,000 | \$2,000/ \$40 | \$1,200/ \$24 |
| \$30,000 | \$1,500/ \$30 | \$900/ \$18 |
| \$25,000 | \$1,250/ \$25 | \$750/ \$15 |
| \$15,000 | \$750/ \$15 | \$450/ \$9 |

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

| Your Current Offertory Contribution | 25% Increase | 30% Increase | 40% Increase |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| \$75.00 | \$93.75 | \$97.50 | \$105.00 |
| \$50.00 | \$62.50 | \$65.00 | \$70.00 |
| \$40.00 | \$50.00 | \$52.00 | \$56.00 |
| \$35.00 | \$43.75 | \$45.50 | \$49.00 |
| \$30.00 | \$37.50 | \$39.00 | \$42.00 |
| \$25.00 | \$31.25 | \$32.50 | \$35.00 |
| \$20.00 | \$25.00 | \$26.00 | \$28.00 |
| \$15.00 | \$18.75 | \$19.50 | \$21.00 |
| \$10.00 | \$12.50 | \$13.00 | \$14.00 |
| \$5.00 | \$6.25 | \$6.50 | \$7.00 |

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule for the holy day is as follows:

Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow and Friday, December 8 at 8:00 AM in Newton.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Join us on Sunday evenings of the Advent season for sung Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following Evening Prayer.



EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, two bulletins will have to be submitted early.

The deadline for the **December 24** bulletin is at **12:00 Noon on Thursday, December 14.**

The deadline for the **December 31** bulletin is at **12:00 Noon on Wednesday, December 20.**

Thank you for your understanding!

From the Pastor's Desk



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is now closed until Spring 2018. This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.
Fr. Albert



THE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign to replace roofs on the Plaistow campus, and to raise funds to complete other projects in Newton and in Plaistow. Our three-year goal is to raise \$250,000.00. Besides the Plaistow roofs, we would like to accomplish the following projects: Plaistow church access ramp, Plaistow office building & convent window replacement, Newton rectory interior flooring, Newton church lighting and painting, Newton rectory painting as funds become available.

How can you help?

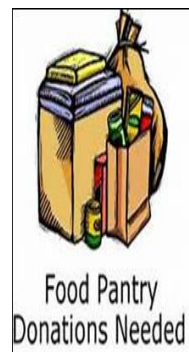
Any contribution is welcome.

Make checks payable to

Saint Luke the Evangelist - Capital Campaign.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at **603-819-4949.**

WHILE AWAY THIS FALL...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Fall even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Fall months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 3

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 10:00 AM | Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Family Advent Activity | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Baptism Catechesis | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 6:00 PM | Vespers | <i>Newton</i> |
| 6:30 PM | Sacrament of Reconciliation | <i>Newton</i> |

Monday, December 4

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 7:00 PM | Knights of Columbus | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------|

Wednesday, December 6

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 9:30 AM | Eucharistic Adoration Begins | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 6:30 PM | Eucharistic Adoration Ends | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 7:00 PM | Reader Scripture Share | <i>Plaistow</i> |

Thursday, December 7

NO 8:00 AM MASS IN NEWTON

ADORATION ENDS AT 5:30 PM TODAY IN NEWTON

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 8:30 AM | Eucharistic Adoration Begins | <i>Newton</i> |
| 9:00 AM | Intercessory Prayer | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 5:30 PM | Eucharistic Adoration Ends | <i>Newton</i> |

Saturday, December 9

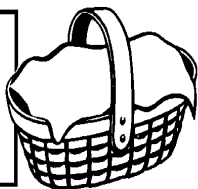
| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 3:00 PM | Sacrament of Reconciliation | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|

Sunday, December 10

| | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 10:00 AM | Religious Education – Pre-K to 8 | <i>Plaistow</i> |
| 6:00 PM | Vespers | <i>Newton</i> |
| 6:30 PM | Sacrament of Reconciliation | <i>Newton</i> |

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukeh.org>

St. Vincent
de Paul
Society



The generosity of your contributions have allowed us to help out those in need with rent, medical, and heating oil assistance. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is so grateful and blessed.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM**. We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, December 2 ~ Vigil / First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------------|
| 4:00 PM | Esther P. Roberts by Chief and Jody Consentino | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|--|-----------------|

Sunday, December 3 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------------|
| 8:00 AM | Esther and Robert Cote by Wayne and Christine Cote | <i>Newton</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Joan McLaughlin by Ann Marie & Joe Sheehan | <i>Plaistow</i> |

Monday, December 4 ~ John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 8:00 AM | Jacob Haseltine (Month's Mind) | <i>Newton</i> |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------------|

Tuesday, December 5 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 8:00 AM | Ruth Ingham (Month's Mind) | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------|

Wednesday, December 6 ~ Nicholas, Bishop

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

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|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 6:30 PM | Timothy J. Holland by his parents | <i>Plaistow</i> |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|

Thursday, December 7 ~ Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27 (Day)

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| | <i>Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 (Vigil)</i> | |
| 6:30 PM | Joseph Fitzpatrick (25 th Anniversary) by his wife Kay and family | <i>Plaistow</i> |

Friday, December 8 ~ Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

| | | |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 8:00 AM | Mary Anne Lesiczka (Birthday Remembrance) by Verna Carbone | <i>Newton</i> |
|---------|---|---------------|

Saturday, December 9 ~ Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (Day)

| | | |
|---------|--|-----------------|
| | <i>Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8 (Vigil)</i> | |
| 4:00 PM | Martin and Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse | <i>Plaistow</i> |

Sunday, December 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| 8:00 AM | Wayne Bettencourt and John Rogers by Janice Bettencourt | <i>Newton</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Armando and William Lombardi by their family | <i>Plaistow</i> |

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

RCIA

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. **RCIA** is intended to serve:

- Those not Baptized who would like to learn more about the Catholic religion.
- Those Baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic.
- Those Baptized Catholic but have not been raised in the Faith.

If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

Plaistow – Wednesday

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Newton – Thursday

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, December 3, 2017** in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according to Church Canon Law) and practicing (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

HELP WANTED – CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Volunteers are invited to help do some decorating on **Sunday, December 17 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow**. Our tasks include Christmas decorating and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for Christmas Masses. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster!

CONTEMPLATIVE WEEKENDS

Our Lady of Hope House of Prayer

Our Lady of Hope House of Prayer invites you to come away for awhile and BE STILL! These weekends are precious times of silence to be alone with God. Cost is \$140 for the weekend. The retreat weekend dates are:

December 15-17, 2017

January 19-21, 2018

February 16-18, 2018

For more information, or to register, call Sisters Rita Pay or Suzanne Rivard, p.m. at 603-878-2346.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Parish Office | 382-8324 |
| Parish Prayer Line | 382-8324 x 314 |
| St. Vincent de Paul Society | 382-8324 x 315 |
| St. Luke's Food Pantry | 819-4949 |
| Preschool | 382-9783 |
| Presentation of Mary Convent | 382-2744 |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Fr. Albert Tremblay | fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Cathy Smith | csmith@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Joyce Szczapa | jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Jackie Tremblay | jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Thomas Kondel | tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Val Barczak | music@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Youth Ministry | youth@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Parish Council | parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net |

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Students currently in school grades 8, 9 or 10 are invited to apply for the Preparation Program for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation sessions begin on **February 4** and are held following the 10 am Liturgy at Plaistow. The preparation program culminates with the celebration of the Sacrament on Sunday, April 22. Admitted candidates **MUST** attend every preparation session. **Deadline to apply for 2018 is December 4.** Any student applying should already be attending Sunday Liturgy on a regular basis.

HELP WANTED! Parents and adults in the Parish are welcome to consider acting as teachers or aides for the Confirmation Preparation program. All adult volunteers must complete the Diocese of Manchester protocols for working with children. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS, MUSIC, & LIGHTS

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School invites you to attend its School Celebration on **December 6, 2017 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.** There will be cocoa, cookies, and a concert by Jedlie.

St. Thomas Church in Derry, NH will be hosting a Christmas Concert on **December 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM.** Experience the spirit of the season and step away from the hustle and bustle for an evening of beautiful music.

St. Lucy Church in Methuen, MA invites you to celebrate its 60th Anniversary by joining them for a concert featuring Gregory Norbet on **December 17, 2017 at 2:00 PM.**

The LaSalette Shrine in Enfield, NH invites to you enjoy their Christmas Lights, Concerts, and other programs during the month of December. For more information, go to www.lasaletteofenfield.org.

WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the longstanding inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten: **If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.** In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. **Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

The St Jude Council is co-sponsoring a Christmas Tree Sale at the Lover's Lane Tree Farm located on Lover's Lane off Rte 108 on the Haverhill/Plaistow line. The sale is taking place on **Saturdays and Sundays through December 17 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.** Knight Andy Gagnon, Jr will be donating the profits to the Knights and the monies will be used to help fund the Knights' charitable activities during the year. The sale is being run in memory of Andy's father, Knight Andy Gagnon, Sr., who passed away last year. The trees are located on a beautiful piece of property and are "cut your own." There will be plenty of help available to cut the tree and get it to your vehicle. The cost of each tree is \$40. There will also be refreshments and a warming campfire for your enjoyment.

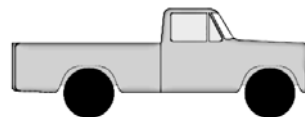
GIVING TREES



Giving Trees are located in the back of both churches. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 17.** Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need!

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.



PARISH TRUCK WANTED

With 2 campuses, a cemetery and multiple buildings, it has become a challenge to move things from here to there, or there to here... so we are looking for some help...

If you have a pick-up truck model year 2000 or newer and are looking to rid yourself of it, consider donating it to the Parish as a charitable gift! We are interested in a 4 WD pick-up in good working order with a current valid state inspection. The Parish will have it inspected by a qualified mechanic before accepting it, and will handle all transfer details.

Please call Father Albert at the Parish Office with any questions (382-8324) or contact by email at fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net.

Advent 2017

Daily Mass Scripture and Reflections in Preparation for Christmas

Sunday

3 Keep Awake!
We do not know when our Lord and Master will return, so we watch and wait for him.
Mark 13:33-37

10 Comfort My People
Our Lord God will feed his flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs in his arms.
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

17 Witness to the Light
We are called to be witnesses to Jesus our Savior, the Light of the world.
John 1:6-8, 19-28

24 The Son of David
The Lord will raise up a Son of David and will establish his kingdom forever.
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16

Monday

4 Walk in the Light
Pray to the Prince of Peace to grant his peace among the nations of the world.
Isaiah 2:1-5

11 The Holy Way
The redeemed of the Lord will enter his presence in everlasting joy.
Isaiah 35:1-10

18 Name Him Jesus
Joseph was to name the holy Child Jesus, for Mary's son would save his people.
Matthew 1:18-25

25 Good News!
How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news, who say, "Your God reigns!"
Isaiah 52:7-10

Tuesday

5 The Shoot of Jesse
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Jesus, and he will judge the nations.
Isaiah 11:1-10

12 Worship Him
We worship the Holy Child, who will rule the nations with a rod of iron.
Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6, 10

19 Repent of Your Sins
John the Baptist came to turn the hearts of the people to the Lord their God.
Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday

6 Jesus Has Compassion
We glorify God because of the healing that our compassionate Savior brings.
Matthew 15:29-37

13 Bless the Lord!
The Lord is merciful and forgiving; he crowns us with his mercy and love.
Psalms 103:1-4, 8, 10

20 The Son Emmanuel
The son to be born will be called Emmanuel, which means "God with us."
Isaiah 7:10-14

Thursday

7 Build on the Rock
Withstand the storms of life by building on the words of Jesus our Savior.
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

14 In the Spirit of Elijah
John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah to proclaim the coming of the Lord.
Matthew 11:11-15

21 Rejoice in the Lord
Mary is blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of her womb.
Luke 1:39-45

Friday

8 Mary's Holy Son
Give thanks and praise to God for Mary's Son, the Holy One, the Son of God.
Luke 1:26-38

15 Delight in the Law
Delight in the law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night.
Psalms 1:1-4, 6

22 Magnify the Lord!
The Lord will lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things.
Luke 1:46-56

Saturday

9 Praise Our God
God gathers the outcasts, heals the broken-hearted and lifts up the humble.
Psalms 147:1-6

16 Restore Us, Lord!
The Lord shines the light of his face on us and we are saved.
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

23 A Refiner's Fire
The messenger of the covenant will be like a refiner's fire, purifying his people.
Malachi 3:1-4, 2:3-24

For God ... has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ. — 2 Corinthians 4:6

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH
LITURGICAL CALENDAR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2017-18**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT -

Christmas Liturgy schedule signups for all ministers

EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS)
SUNDAYS OF ADVENT - CHRISTMAS SEASON
6:00 PM IN NEWTON
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOLLOWS
DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
(A Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, December 24 VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
4:00 PM Liturgy (Plaistow)
6:30 PM Liturgy (Newton)

Monday, December 25 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
9:00 am Liturgy (Newton)

Sunday, December 3 11:30 am Parish Advent Activity (Plaistow)
6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Thursday, December 7 Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary *(A Holy Day of Obligation)*
LITURGY: 6:30 PM – Vigil - Plaistow

Friday, December 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary *(A Holy Day of Obligation)*
LITURGY: 8:00 AM – Newton

Sunday, December 10 4:00 PM Reconciliation Service - Saint Michael, Exeter
6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Sunday, December 17 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Giving Tree gifts due today!

Monday, December 18 **LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE**

Wednesday, December 20 NO Adoration at Plaistow

Thursday, December 21 NO Adoration at Newton

Saturday, December 23 3:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, 4th Advent Sunday (Plaistow)

Sunday, December 24 8:00 am Liturgy, 4th Advent Sunday (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, 4th Advent Sunday (Plaistow)

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: DEC. 25, 26, JAN. 1

Tuesday, December 26 NO Liturgy at Plaistow

Wednesday, December 27 NO Adoration at Plaistow (Liturgy 6:30 PM)

Thursday, December 28 NO Adoration at Newton (Liturgy 8:00 am)

Saturday, December 30 3:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)

Sunday, December 31 8:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)

Sunday, December 31 4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS *(A Holy Day of Obligation)* (Plaistow)

Monday, January 1 8:00 am Liturgy SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS *(A Holy Day of Obligation)* (Newton)

Saturday, January 6 3:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)
4:00 PM Vigil - SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
(Plaistow)

Sunday, January 7 SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:00 am Liturgy, Solemnity of the Epiphany (Newton)
10:00 am Liturgy, Solemnity of the Epiphany (Plaistow)
6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)

Advent: Preparing for the Life to come!

Imagine what it must have been like to wait for death on the Titanic! It would literally have been like waiting on pins and needles, the pricks of death nipping ever more painfully at your heels, knowing that there was nothing you could do to stop death's bite. You would have been thrust back completely into dependence on God.

The season of Advent is for the Church a time much like the experience of those on the Titanic. It is a season of waiting and watching - but not for death, for LIFE! The Church prepares as it waits for the coming of the One who brings new life: Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

The Church prepares by watching in three directions...

The Church looks in the direction of those promises in Holy Scripture that the Messiah would come, that a virgin would conceive and bear a Son who is called Emmanuel, "God with us." These are the promises of Christmas. The Church also watches for those ways by which Christ's life is present now in our midst: the preaching of the Word of God and the offering of the Sacraments of forgiveness. Finally, the Church watches with patience and hope for Christ's final coming in judgment. Then His word of judgment will clothe with eternal life all who believe in Him.

Yet, as the Church lives in this world it is surrounded by a darkness resembling that of the Titanic's hull. Advent calls this darkness to mind and penetrates this darkness with promises about the Light of life. While the world is immersed in preparations for the secular celebration of Christmas, Advent allows the Church time to prepare for rejoicing in the full glow of Christ's light shining in the darkness.

The Church prepares for that Light by observing the disciplines of Advent.

These disciplines bring to the Church the nourishment that comes from the Lord's life. Advent is a season for immersion in the words of Scripture, especially those promises of Christ's birth, of His life-giving presence in His Church through the Holy Sacraments, and of eternal life at His final coming.

Advent is also a season of confession and repentance. It allows the Church to see its own sin-filled darkness, confess its sin, and receive the Lord's forgiveness. Advent is a season of fervent prayer, the Church repeating to the Lord His words that He will come again. The Church cries, *Maranatha!* Come, O Lord! Come quickly! (1 Cor. 16:22; Rev. 22:20)

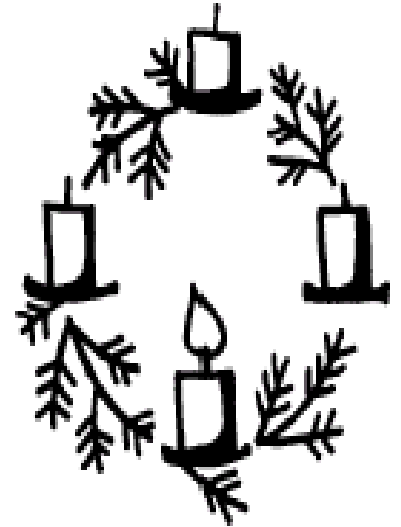
By practicing these disciplines in Advent, Christ leads His Church back to the relationship of absolute dependence He has established. So the Church waits in hope for the Lord's final appearance. On that day He, who became what we are to redeem us, will clothe us in the life of His righteousness.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in Plaistow on Saturday afternoons from 3:00-3:30 PM, and in Newton on Sunday evenings following 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer.

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen, made them into circles (symbols of eternity), and lit fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Farmers pulled wheels off their wagons in exchange for sleigh tracks, and often used their wagon wheels as frames for the wreaths, reminding themselves of the springtime to come.

Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.



Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose, but four white candles or four violet candles can also be used. Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal— one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. The rose candle is usually lit on the third Sunday of Advent. As the candles are lit, a prayer may be said. A short prayer may accompany the lighting.

A RITE FOR THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT AT HOME

The first day the wreath is in the home, the leader may say:

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs—light and green branches—and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.

Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet: *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil.* (Is. 9:1-2)

Then all pray: O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light shines from this candle, may the blessing of Christ come upon us, brightening our way, and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then the candle is lit.

DAILY PRAYERS FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

First Week- O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.

Second Week - O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people.

Third Week - O Key of David, Jesus Christ, the gates of heaven open at your command, come and show us the way to salvation.

Fourth Week - O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, all things are in your hands, come and show us the way to salvation.



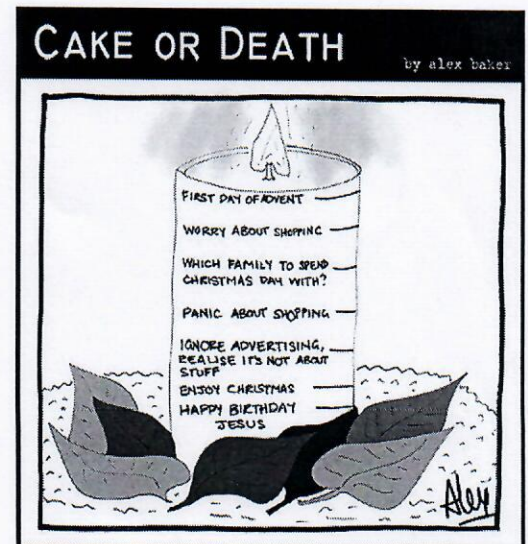
HAPPY ADVENT!

Before all of the shopping, school events, family obligations, office parties, tree decorating, and general mayhem begins...

Join us for a Family Advent hour...

Everyone's welcome! After 10 am Mass on Sunday, December 3 in Plaistow. We will pray together, make an Advent Wreath for you to take home, and work on Jesse Tree symbols for your family tree.

Cookies will be eaten & coffee and cocoa will be sipped.



The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 13:33–37

The Church's three-year cycle of Lectionary readings begins again on the First Sunday of Advent. We start reading from Cycle B, which is organized around Mark's Gospel. Throughout Advent, we also hear the prophet Isaiah's words in the First Reading. On this first Sunday of the Church year, Jesus speaks of his coming in glory. He cautions us always to be ready for him, to live each day in the light of God. **Note:** Friday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holyday of obligation.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): To very young children, the time before Christmas seems to drag on and on. Younger children respond well to simple waiting activities, such as Advent calendars or Advent chains that are done with some ceremony every day. Make sure that whatever you use with your young child is linked to the coming of the Christ Child, not just to Santa Claus.

Promise (Grades K–1): Advent reminds us of Israel's long wait for the coming of the Messiah—God's promised one. Talk with your child about the Advent calendar he or she received with this week's lesson. Post the calendar and see to it that your child completes one square each day. Make an Advent wreath for your home. Light a new candle each Sunday until all four are burning brightly. Make lighting the candles on the wreath a special meal prayer each day during Advent.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Your child learned about the prophet Isaiah and how his words teach us about the coming of Jesus. Your child has also prepared a little Advent booklet that is a reminder to always be ready for Jesus' arrival.

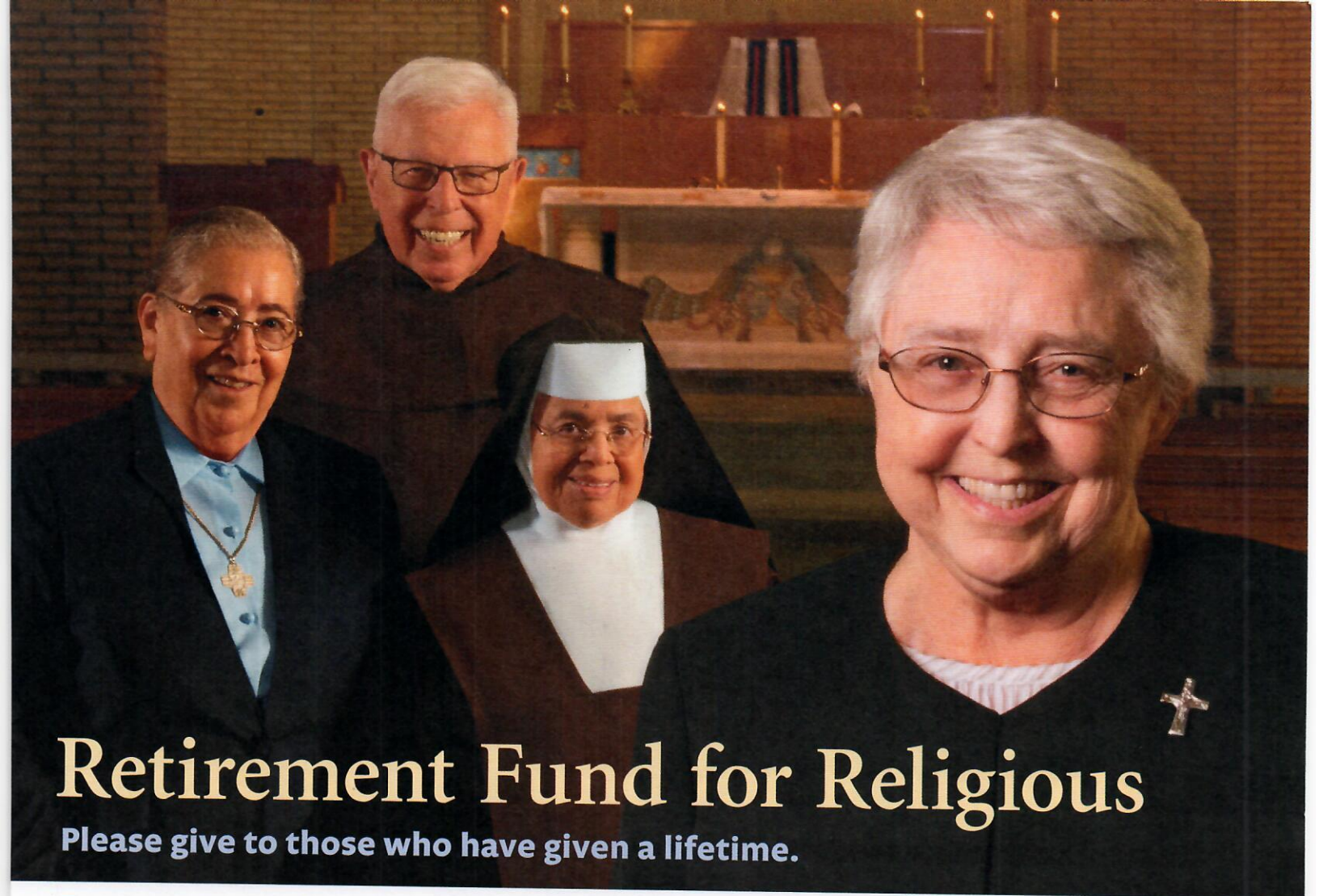
Part of the booklet is a family forgiveness service. Use the forgiveness service as a night prayer some evening during the week. As often as you wish, simply begin with the Sign of the Cross, ask for one another's forgiveness, and close with the Lord's Prayer.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week, your child learned about Israel's Exile and the longing of the people to return home. Talk about your personal experiences of wanting to go home, to be with loved ones, or to find someone or something that was lost. Make some family plans for Advent. Your child can share with you the section of this week's lesson, "What Will Your Advent Be Like?" Ask your child to tell the family about Saint Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Visions (Grades 7–8): In class this week, your teen learned about the history and the signs and symbols of Advent. Ask him or her to share what the class learned. The class also planned activities to do each day during Advent. As a family, plan a simple prayer or action for each day as well. It should be something that can be done easily but that helps focus your family on the coming feast and on serving others.

Pray Together

Plan to have a family Advent wreath. The wreath should have four candles—three violet (purple) and one rose (pink) are traditional, but all white or red candles will do. During the first week of Advent, light one candle each evening, the second week light two, and the third week three. The third week is for the rose candle. Then for the last week, you will have all four candles lit. Say a prayer together that shows how you are eager for the coming of Jesus. It can be as simple as "Come, Lord Jesus, come."



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Elderly religious need your help. The religious pictured here represent more than 32,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests living in the United States. Through prayer, love, and sacrifice, they established Catholic schools, hospitals, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a shortage in retirement funding. Your gift helps their religious communities furnish necessities such as medications and nursing care. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

“My sister was to be a nun, and I was to be a mother,” says Notre Dame Sister Mary Ann Hanson (foreground), 79, “but God had other plans.” For 61 years, she has joyfully followed those plans. Today, she remains active by visiting the sick and knitting blankets for children rescued from human trafficking.

Roughly 94 percent of donations aid senior religious.

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

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National Religious Retirement Office

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Photo (from left): Sister Gloria Rodríguez, MGSps, 80; Father Albert Bunsic, OCD, 81; Sister Alfonsina Sanchez, OCD, 96; Sister Mary Ann Hanson, SND, 79.
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Waiting

O God, you are the maker of heaven
and earth,
the potter who fashioned all of creation.
Come and rouse our hearts from despair
and fill us with the light of faith as we
await your return.

Grant us patient perseverance during
this period of waiting
so that, having been enriched by
Christ Jesus,
we may joyfully and faithfully live in
this world.

Keep us vigilant in our daily living.
Wipe away all darkness
so our hearts may be made holy
and pure.

Like our ancestors in faith, we cry out
to you to come and save us!

Filled with hope,
we trust that all creation will be made
new on the day of your return.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Keep Alert

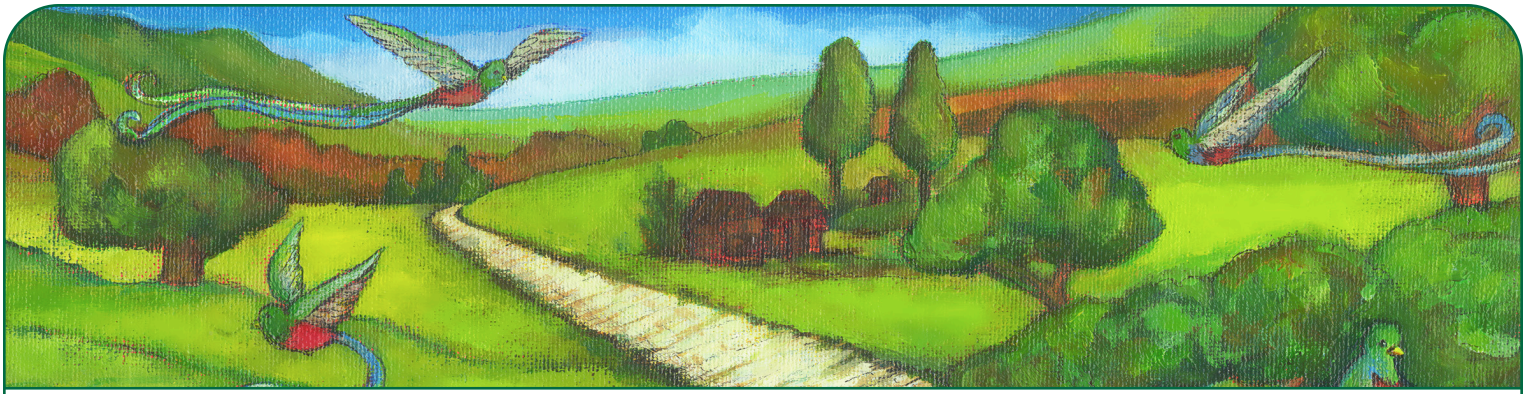


Today's Readings: Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7; Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 13:33–37. Today's readings may not be what you expect as this season of hope and longing begins. Two general themes unfold during Advent: the first two Sundays invite the Church to reflect on the Second Coming of Christ, while the final two Sundays direct our attention more specifically to the Incarnation. Along with the readings, be attentive to the Collects, or Opening Prayers, during the next few weeks, to notice these themes.

The overarching theme for today is “Keep alert.” The First Reading, a communal lament (63:16b–17, 19) and a prayer (64:2–7), focuses our attention on a hurting world. When there is suffering, it is easy to complain or become

cynical and forget God's faithfulness. St. Paul is telling us that in Christ we have already received the gifts we need to remain faithful during this life, this in between time. This is important information as we look to the Gospel. Jesus is very clear that we do not know the day or time of the Second Coming. Like the servants whose master is away, we have been charged to continue preaching the Good News, to keep our “house” in good working order.

We must remain watchful so that at that final hour, we may be found ready to give all glory and honor to the living God. This week, as you prepare your Jesse tree, consider the ways our ancestors were watchful and remained faithful. What might help you remain vigilant?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 4

Peace

At the beginning of Advent, the Church invites us to ponder the Reign of God. The First Reading paints an image of God gathering and instructing the nations. God's instruction leads the nations to unity and peace. Our world continues to be divided so we must continue to pray for peace and strive to make known the Reign of God. Also, do you notice a familiar text in the Gospel? We say this prayer before receiving Holy Communion. At dinner, take some time to discuss this phrase and its relation to the Eucharistic table. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 8:5-11.*

Tuesday, December 5

Jesus Revealer of the Father

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus rejoicing over what God has revealed to the disciples. To understand the reference the reader needs to read verse 17 of the chapter, which describes a battle between good and evil. Like the disciples, we must be watchful, work for justice, and fend off evil. Those who have seen Christ know the Father. Today, create a Jesse tree with your family and discuss Christ's role in salvation. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24.*

Wednesday, December 6

St. Nicholas

The message of the First Reading and Gospel helps us understand St. Nicholas' desire to serve the poor and needy. Jesus, whose love is overflowing, inspired Nicholas to give generously to others. Instead of seeking gifts today, read about St. Nicholas and decide how your family might share its resources with the poor. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37.*

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose

Advent invites us to look into our hearts to discern our willingness to listen and to respond to God's call. The readings today tell us that only the just will enter God's Kingdom and stand firm amidst adversity. Is your heart open to the Father's will? In what ways do you struggle to listen and respond to God? Take time today to journal and name ways you are living the Father's will. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 2-27a; Matthew 7:21, 24-27.*

Friday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception

Today's solemnity celebrates God's grace working in Mary that kept her free of sin from the moment of her conception. The Gospel passage helps us understand that throughout her life she cooperates with God's grace. Confronted by the angel Gabriel, she puts aside her entire self and says yes. She is the New Eve, the mother of all the living. Unlike Eve in Genesis, Mary humbly and obediently accepts God's will and brings forth life in Jesus. After dinner, sing the Magnificat and discuss the powerful images. *Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38.*

Saturday, December 9

Discipleship

Jesus, in today's Gospel, commissions the disciples to "cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons" as part of their mission to proclaim the Reign of God. In Baptism each of us was commissioned to live in such a way that our lives proclaim the Good News. What does it look like to "cure" the sick or "drive out" demons today? Jesus is calling us to go to the margins and proclaim God's Reign. Today, consider celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8.*





Bringing Home the Word

First Sunday of Advent | December 3, 2017

Getting Ready for Christ

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When my mother became pregnant with my youngest sister, I was old enough to be involved with the preparations for her birth. We added a crib to the room she would share, and we gathered clothes and toys suitable for an infant. I wasn't sure we'd get everything ready in time, and it seemed like forever before she arrived.

We didn't know exactly when Mom would go into labor, but when she did, we each had a job to do at home while my father took her to the hospital. I was overjoyed when my mother brought my sister home just before Christmas.

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7

We are the clay and you our potter: we are all the work of your hand.

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son.

Mark 13:33–37

[Jesus said,] "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."

Advent is the Church's time to prepare for new birth. My family had nine months to get ready for my sister. The Church calendar gives us only four short weeks to make our hearts ready to receive Christ. How do we do that? The Scriptures help us by recalling both the promise of his coming and the exhortation to stay awake because we don't know when it will happen.

How odd, we might think. Christmas is always on December 25—of course we know when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. What we have to remember is that while Christmas honors Jesus' birth at a particular time and place more than two thousand years ago, it also reminds us that Christ is alive today, waiting for us to open our hearts to him. It reminds us that Christ is coming again and that we don't want to be caught napping when he does.

We also prepare by taking extra time to pray, to practice kindness and service, and to remember those in need.

Where will Christ be born in you this Christmas? Will you be ready? +

Christmas is a celebration and a reminder.

A Word From Pope Francis

The Lord comes...into our life as a liberator; he comes to free us from all forms of interior and exterior slavery. It is he who shows us the path of faithfulness, of patience and of perseverance because, upon his return, our joy will be overflowing. Christmas is near,...[and] outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us.

—Angelus, December 11, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I believe there is a limited time to my life on earth?
- Since I do not know when Jesus will come again, isn't peaceful awareness of his eventual return the smartest attitude?



Living the Liturgical Year

By Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM

Our Catholic identity is shaped by the way we read the Bible. And we read the Bible in a special way: It's called the liturgical year, with today being the first Sunday of that new year.

This annual cycle of feasts and seasons is not primarily about decorations (when to bring out the poinsettias and when to display the lilies). Nor is it simply a way to add variety to the Mass so that it isn't repetitive (some days the priest wears green, other days, purple). The liturgical year is about much more all-inclusive issues. The liturgical year enable us to celebrate the whole mystery of Christ.

The Bible is our living contact with the mystery of Christ. The way we Catholics officially read Scripture creates our liturgical year. For example, the day on which we read the resurrection account becomes Easter; the day on which we proclaim Christ's birth becomes Christmas Day.

The original, most important Catholic feast day is Sunday—the Lord's day. Jews find identity in Sabbath rest; Muslims, in Jumuah, the Friday prayer. We Catholics find identity in the Sunday eucharistic assembly. The Bible emphasizes the bond between the Lord's day and the Lord's Supper. While our contemporary understanding of Sunday has incorporated elements of Sabbath rest, Sunday retains its original meaning as

a day of assembly. On the Lord's day we gather with fellow Catholics and celebrate his paschal victory, the Eucharist.

Rich Biblical Tradition

At Mass on Sundays and holy days, during a three-year cycle the Church proclaims some 500 passages of the Bible, from each book of the Old and New Testaments. The Church year enables us to hear from all of Scripture.

There are two ways in which the Church decides which passages of the Bible to proclaim. Imagine one of your favorite novels, books of poetry, or inspirational essays. You might read from beginning to end. Or, especially after you are familiar with the book, you might pick out certain passages that correspond to a situation you are experiencing.

The Church reads the Bible in both of these ways. On some Sundays the Church selects the passages based on their theme. This manner of selection creates the liturgical seasons of Easter and Christmas. On the other Sundays the Church reads various books of the Bible from beginning to end in a continuous fashion.

The liturgy enables us to pass from our past-present-future time frame to enter into God's time of salvation so that the grace and mystery proclaimed in the Scripture readings are made present. An

old spiritual asks, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Yes, I was there! Or, more accurately, I am there now! At the Easter Vigil we sing, "This is the night when Jesus Christ rose triumphant from the grave." We don't sing, "We remember the night long ago when...." We sing, "This is the night!"

Jesus: Alive Again

We Catholics today are not disappointed because all the wonderful events of Christ's life happened long ago. The liturgical year enables us to be present to those events now. The liturgical year makes the mysteries of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection present in a mysterious way so that Christians of every generation can come into contact with them and be enriched by their graces.

The mystery of Christ is so rich that no single celebration can do it justice. The liturgical year enables us to experience the events of Christ in a more Catholic, all-embracing way so that we can enter into these mysteries and be enriched by God's saving love. +



Lord, I have become distracted by the things of this world. Guide my steps and lead me safely back home to you. Help me to respond to the needs of others.

From Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas,

Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 4-9

Mon. Advent Weekday:
Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11
Tue. Advent Weekday:
Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24
Wed. Advent Weekday:
Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37

Thu. St. Ambrose: Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri. Immaculate Conception of Mary:
Gn 3:9-15, 20 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 / Lk 1:26-38
Sat. Advent Weekday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 / Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8