



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY
Sunday, December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM
8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come, Emmanuel
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 25)
To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; to you I lift my soul.
 Preparation: Beyond The Moon And Stars BB 48
 Mass Parts: Heritage Mass
 Communion: The Body Of Christ (Cantor)
 Recessional: Ready The Way BB 63 (All Verses)

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$9700.00 each week in order to make ends meet. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). 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. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

<u>December 4, 2022</u>	
Offertory	\$6,385.45
Property Management	\$1,472.30



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **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. 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 COLLECTIONS

December 11	Retired Religious
December 18	Fuel
December 25	Christmas & Needs of Parish
January 1	Mary, Mother of God
January 8	Property Management

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you - or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave.

COLLECTION NOTE

Because of an upcoming change in the Diocesan collection schedule, a Diocesan-wide NH Catholic Appeal will replace certain collections mandated in years past. The Parish **will not** take up a second collection for the **Seminarian Fund (January 8)**. If you use envelopes, please discard these from your box. They will also be removed from the Parish Giving Website.

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 ✠

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

With the holiday season approaching, we have several early bulletin deadlines:

Deadline for the December 25 bulletin is **Monday, December 12 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the January 1 bulletin is **Monday, December 19 at 12:00 Noon.**

Deadline for the January 8 bulletin is **Thursday, December 29 at 12:00 Noon.**

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Advent Reconciliation services are being held at the following churches with area clergy available for confession:

Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 PM at Mary, Queen Of Peace, Salem

Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 PM at St. Michael, Exeter

CLOTHING DRIVE

Kimberly's 17th Annual Holiday Give Away!!!

Another year, another collection!!! I am so happy to be able to continue what started as a confirmation project 17 years ago, and now has become a well known annual event! We will be collecting clothing and nonperishable food items on January 7th and 8th at Holy Angels Church Hall (downstairs from the church), from 12:00 to 4:00 PM each day.

We will be accepting donations for Catie's Closet, Ruth's House, Emmaus House, Epilepsy Foundation, Wish Project, and Saint Luke's Food Pantry. We are accepting CLEAN clothing of any size, any season, any decade. Any donations of socks or underwear must be new and packaged.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer, please contact me at: kimberly-andrade@comcast.net.

Thank you so much for your continued support throughout the years! May God continue to bless you all, and I wish you and your families a safe and healthy holiday season!

Kimberly Clenord

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

Our ministry aims to emulate St. Joseph and become better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. There are no dues and the Men of St. Joseph do not participate in projects or other volunteer efforts as a group, but instead, gather together for sharing among men to help them be a better person, a better family man, and a better member of the Church. Join us on Saturday morning, **December 17, 2022 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.

AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazonmile.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

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 10-11** (the Third Sunday of Advent).



WHILE AWAY THIS FALL / WINTER...

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 11

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K-6 *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

Tuesday, December 13

6:30 PM The Cultural World of the *Plaistow*
 Old Testament

Wednesday, December 14

**Holy Angels Church
 Open All Day For Prayer**

Thursday, December 15

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, December 17

8:00 AM Men of St. Joseph *Plaistow*
 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, December 18

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K-6 *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

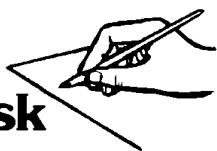
Attention Parents

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!

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.

**From the
 Pastor's Desk**



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow will be closed from December 1, 2022 until Spring 2023. 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.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, December 10 ~ Third Sunday Of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, December 11 ~ Third Sunday Of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

8:00 AM Michelina Inzero by the Stanley family
Newton
 10:00 AM Donald Nadeau by Bob and Sandy Nadeau
Plaistow

Monday, December 12 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM Ruth Harrigan by the Prayer Shawl Ministry
Newton

Tuesday, December 13 ~ Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

8:00 AM Brian Gabriel by his wife
Plaistow

Wednesday, December 14 ~ John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

6:30 PM Charlene Bizeur by her sister, Sonia Tatarka
Plaistow

Thursday, December 15 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30

8:00 AM Maurice Cadorette (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, December 16 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36

NO MASS

Saturday, December 17 ~ Late Advent Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17 (Day)

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Mark Hammond and Paul O'Leary by Colleen Hammond
Plaistow

Sunday, December 18 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

8:00 AM Wallace Antczak by the Burge family
Newton
 10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow



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.**



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Brian Gabriel** by his wife

CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one, as well as the Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

THE GOD MINUTE

Every morning a small group of priests, religious, and lay people start their day in prayer. Soft music, sacred scripture, and a thoughtful reflection are weaved into a 10-minute prayer called "The God Minute." It's then uploaded for you to access and pray along with us on your own time. And it's free. Listen with your coffee in the morning, while driving to work, or taking a walk. See how easy and beautiful prayer can be! www.thegodminute.org

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Among believers and spiritual seekers from many religious traditions, there is a growing awareness of the importance of spirituality. To respond to this growing awareness, there is need for qualified, compassionate spiritual experts who can accompany and help others explore their faith. Merrimack College's graduate programs in spirituality prepare you for a life of spiritual exploration, engagement, and service. You will acquire the theological knowledge and ministerial experience you need to enrich your own faith and to support others in their spiritual journey. Designed to fit your schedule and meet your needs, our spirituality programs offer evening classes as well as five tracks based on your professional goals and interests. You must choose one of the master's tracks or certificate programs by the time you have completed two of the core courses and/or the year-long seminar or practicum.

The application deadline for the Spring 2023 course is **January 5, 2023**. For more information, go to www.merrimack.edu/spirit.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

**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.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✕ PARISH DIRECTORY ✕

Parish Office 603-382-8324
Parish Prayer Line 603-382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society 603-382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry 603-819-4949
Preschool 603-382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent 603-382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szczapa jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Parish Council parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

❖ Community News ❖



SAINT JUDE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus of our Parish are sponsoring a monthly food drive to support the Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry. A list of items needed, along with a paper shopping bag, will be distributed at the end of Masses on the 3rd weekend of each month to those who wish to participate. We ask that you bring back the non-perishable food items the following weekend (4th weekend of the month). You are also welcome to drop off donations at the Parish Office during normal business hours or at one our Parish churches. Monetary donations are also welcome (make checks payable to Saint Luke Food Pantry), or gift cards to local supermarkets. Thank you for reaching out to help families in our community who need assistance. The Knights and the Food Pantry appreciate your generosity and support.

CAMPS BERNADETTE AND FATIMA

Summer 2023 Registration Has Begun! New camp families can register for our Summer 2023 season now. Don't delay. Spaces fill quickly! Secure your space and spread payments over several months. New Hampshire Catholic School students and registered New Hampshire parishioners receive 15% off. You won't want to miss out on all of the excitement, joy, and friendships that come with a summer at camp! Contact Andrew Thibault for more information at: (603) 931-5500, ext. 114.

CURSILLO

If you have a desire to know Jesus more closely, a Cursillo is for you. The Cursillo weekend is a short course in Christianity. The purpose of the weekend is to facilitate a meaningful personal encounter with Christ and his body, the Church. The three day weekend is also the bridge connecting the faithful with the supportive post-Cursillo community, where we live our faith joyfully with our fellow Christians. Cursillo weekends are being offered at the Sato Center in Hookset, NH. To find out more, contact Mark Collopy at 603-833-7341 or explore www.nhcursillo.org.



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 & friends to do the same.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A Men's AA Step Meeting is being on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall in Plaistow, NH (Holy Angels). Bring your own coffee. For more information, call 617-921-9899.

St. Vincent de Paul Society



Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society! Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box on your way out of church.

Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those who need a hand up, not a hand out.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 21 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.

RESPECT LIFE
respect · love · protect

JOIN MEMBERS OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
THIS THURSDAY EVENING AT 7:00 PM
MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH
NEWTON, NH

AS A GIFT FROM GOD,
EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED
FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH.

TOGETHER WE WILL PRAY AND DEDICATE
THE ROSARY FOR THE RESPECT FOR LIFE.

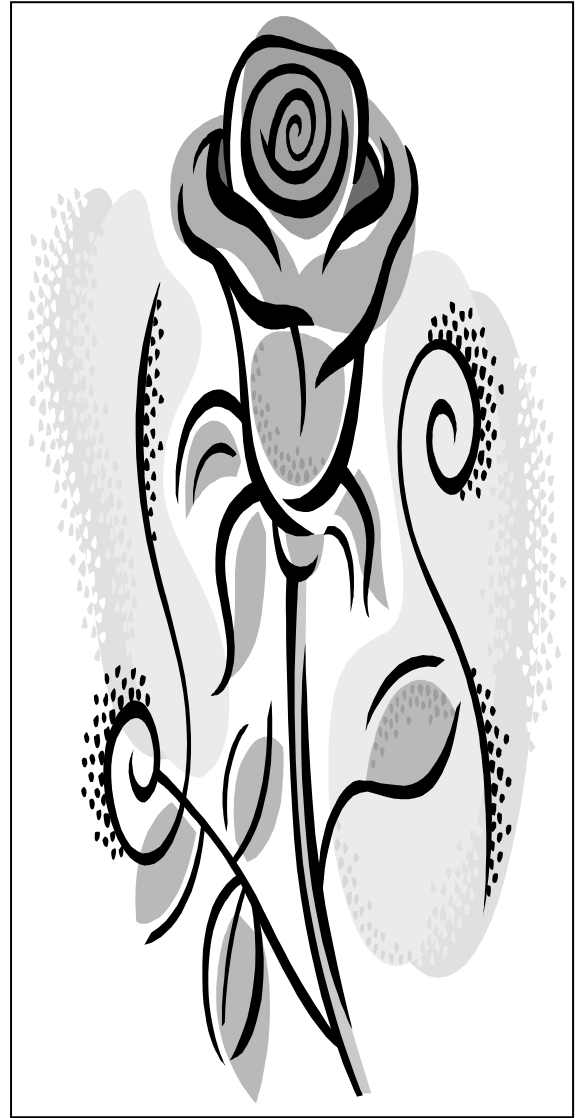
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617
www.kofc6617.org



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Why roses and joyful music on the third Sunday of Advent? It all starts with a golden rose. Long ago, the third Sunday of Advent was sort of a “break” in the fasting that was taking place before the celebration of Christmas. The third Sunday of Advent’s chants and songs talked about “looking up,” being “joy-filled and full of hope” at the nearness of the Savior. In church, the story of the Annunciation was common as the Gospel of the third Sunday of Advent.

The German name for the third Sunday of Advent was *Rosen Sonntag*, or the “Sunday of the Roses.” That name came as a result of 15th century German pilgrim’s witnessing Mass in Rome, where the Pope, after Mass on the third Sunday of Advent, would carry a golden rose in procession out of the church. The rose itself would be sent to an exemplary Christian after Mass that day as a gift.



This custom was in use at Rome as far back as the 11th century, where the Pope would present bouquets of roses to people in the church on the third Sunday of Advent. Over the years, the real roses were replaced by golden roses, often encrusted with jewels. In churches all over Christendom in the West, the custom of presenting roses to exemplary Christians of a particular place caught on. From there, the liturgical color for the day was changed to reflect the joy of the liturgy and the custom of presenting roses – the Church wore “old rose” as a way to signal the nearness of the Christmas festival.

Today, we sing joyful songs and meditate on the image of the rose – whose purity and beauty are reflected in the person of the Blessed Mother Mary, and whose fragrance and loveliness are reflected in the coming “rose of the winter night” – Jesus, Immanuel.

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH
LITURGICAL CALENDAR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2022-23**

GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE DECEMBER 10-11 – Advent 3

ADVENT 1 Sunday, November 27	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
ADVENT 2 Sunday, December 4	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
Wednesday, December 7	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM Patronal Feast of the USA Holy Day Vigil Liturgy 6:30 PM (Plaistow)
Thursday, December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM Patronal Feast of the USA Holy Day Liturgy 8:00 AM (Newton)
ADVENT 3 Sunday, December 11	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
Wednesday, December 14	LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE
ADVENT 4 Sunday, December 18	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Giving Tree gifts due today!

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: DEC. 23, 26 & 30
PARISH OFFICE RESUMES REGULAR HOURS AS OF JAN 2**

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
(A Holy Day of Obligation)

NOTE CHANGE FROM OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

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

Monday, December 26	NO MASS
Thursday, December 29	No Adoration at Newton
Saturday, December 31	4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS <i>(A Holy Day of Obligation)</i> (Plaistow)
Sunday, January 1	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS <i>(A Holy Day of Obligation)</i> 8:00 am Liturgy (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy (Plaistow) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)
Saturday, January 7	3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow) 4:00 PM Vigil - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow)
Sunday, January 8	8:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)
Monday, January 9	8:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Newton) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)



COME, O COME....

Yes, you read the title right. That's "O" - the letter of the alphabet that most reminds us of breakfast cereal, inner tubes, doughnuts, hula hoops, no hitters... and Advent. In many parishes, "O" is the first word said in the new church year. We sing it in Advent's most popular song, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It announces the season which anticipates the coming of Christ at Christmas.

This hymn, which is almost synonymous with the whole season of Advent was first composed and sung to announce that Advent was ending. **The last eight days of Advent (beginning on December 17 and ending on December 24) form a little season all by themselves.** As the church prepares to celebrate the nativity of Christ, the Liturgy gets more intense. At daily Mass, the Gospels relate the events leading up to the first Christmas. At evening prayer, the Church prays a special series of antiphons that beckon the Messiah to come. Each night gives him a new name, drawn from the Old Testament tradition. "O Wisdom," "O Sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of All Nations," and, on Christmas eve, the greatest of them all, "O Emmanuel," a name that means "God is with us."

For the reasons which will be immediately obvious, we call that group of refrains the "O Antiphons." They are a hallmark of late Advent, and a collection of music our church has treasured for centuries. The Mass now includes a version of them as the alleluia verses for the same eight days before Christmas.



In the Middle Ages, those seven antiphons got strung together into a popular hymn. The last one became verse one and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” was born. Thus, the antiphon originally established for the last evening before Christmas Eve is now often sung to begin Advent. That “O” of course, simply tells us that we’re talking to someone. It is like saying, “Hey, you,” only more politely. But “O” reminds us of much more. It makes us think of something having no beginning and no end, like God’s love or an Advent wreath. It resembles the shape of our mouth and the sound we make when we face a mystery we cannot fully comprehend.

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O come, Thou **Wisdom** from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

O come, great **Lord of might**,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou **Rod of Jesse**, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

O come, Thou **Root of Jesse's tree**,
An ensign of Thy people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on Thy mercy call.

O come, Thou **Day-spring**, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
O Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, **Desire of nations**, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

O come, Thou **Key of David**, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O come, O come, **Emmanuel**,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.





Besides sharing Christmas joy through the Giving Tree, our Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Food Pantry provides Christmas Dinners to needy families in our area. The cost of purchasing items for the baskets typically runs to well over \$2000.00, and with hard times facing so many, we anticipate the need to be even greater than previous years.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS, please place your contribution in an envelope marked *“Christmas dinner baskets,”* and place it in the offering basket. You may also visit the Parish Office or Food Pantry and make a contribution in person.

Thank you for your support of the poor among us.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

In Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is truly human and truly God. Healing actions prophesied by Isaiah—making the blind see, the deaf hear, and the lame leap, as well as preaching the Good News to the poor—all tell John the Baptist who Jesus is. Jesus' loving actions continued to be completed by his followers today. Jesus calls us to be just and loving as he is, especially by helping people unable to help themselves. All the readings for this Sunday recall the themes of reconciliation and wholeness.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week the class learned to tell the Christmas story. They learned about Mary and Joseph's long trip to Bethlehem. Be sure to ask what they know about the people in the story and ask about the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which the class discussed this week. Don't forget to paste a new flaming candle on your child's little Advent wreath.

Promise (Grades K–1): Your child's class discussed Mary and Joseph's long journey to Bethlehem. Ask them to tell your family about the different characters in the story. The class also learned about the Good News Jesus shares with us, and how he brings happiness and joy. Invite your child to tell you about Jesus helping the blind, the sick, and the poor. Talk together about who helps your family and the ways your family helps others.

Good News (Grades 2–3): The class studied more of Isaiah's words that showed just what Good News Jesus brings to the world. Ask your child to tell you the story of Juan Diego, the beautiful lady, and the December roses. The

image of the Blessed Mother on Juan Diego's cloak is a reminder that Mary is a mother for all of us. Finally, the last page of this week's lesson features a little song from the Magnificat, the great prayer of praise from Mary. Ask your child what his or her favorite song about Jesus is. He or she can also explain who the Messiah is.

Venture (Grades 4–6): Your youngster's class learned about the Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree. Consider having a Jesse Tree in your home. Let your young person head up the project. Talk about the Gospel story of John the Baptist's disciples who came to ask Jesus if he was the One. Discuss the answer Jesus gave to the disciples. What good things did Jesus say about John the Baptist? Finally, let your youngster make suggestions for activities the family can do together to prepare for Christmas. He or she can use the Week 3 Calendar, on page 5, for ideas.

Visions (Grades 7–9): Your young person's class read the story, "A Different Kind of Success." Ask your youngster what the Minnesota robotics team in the story experienced at Christmas. The class also learned about Second Isaiah's hope for a peaceable world. Share ideas of how your family can be peacemakers in your home, Church, community, and world.

Pray Together

As you say your Advent wreath prayer this week, include prayers for all the areas of the world where there is a need for peace. Family members can mention a need, and the whole family can respond: "Lord, make us all instruments of your peace."





Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Advent (A)
December 11, 2022

The Splendor of God

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

“Here is your God!” Who wouldn’t run to see this marvel? Isaiah tells us what to look for: nature will explode with excitement and splendor, and the hardships of life will no longer hold us captive. Is this really possible, or is it merely hopeful poetry? Jesus tells the disciples of John the Baptist that it’s possible. In fact he, Jesus, is the one who has ushered in the kingdom of heaven. Since that is true, why don’t you and I see it?

The reading from James sheds light on this. There is something wondrous about earth bringing forth “precious fruit” (James 5:7). Our understanding

of how the development and emergence of fruits occur does not make the fact of natural growth any less wondrous. Farmers know this well. They also know that such growth will occur only when human labor cooperates with the laws of nature designed by God. In other words, the farmer provides the labor while God provides the life-giving sun and rain.

If our world does not resemble Isaiah’s astonishing portrait or the healing that Jesus was able to accomplish, might it be that we have not done what we can to remedy the hardships of life that hold so many captive? When God enters our lives, he provides us with the power we need to change our world, but we must be willing to allow that power to work through us. If we are open to God in our midst, our world will be rich with life and healing, and everyone will know that God is really here. +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...he comes to save you.

James 5:7–10

You too must be patient....because the coming of the Lord is at hand

Matthew 11:2–11

The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

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A Word from Pope Francis

Advent tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us....The Child who lies in the manger has the face of our brothers and sisters most in need.

Angelus, Rome, December 15, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- In what ways might you enrich the life of another?
- What can you do to heal the broken relationships in your life?

The Miracle that Summons Us

By Barbara Hughes

I've always been a morning person. It's possible that my body clock was genetically programmed to rise with the morning sun, but more than likely it was the demands of a busy life that would awaken me during the predawn hours. But regardless of the genesis, somewhere along the road to adulthood, the early-morning hours became sacred.

As the size of our family increased, so did the need for my holy hour with God. I might spend the time reading Scripture, praying the rosary, or simply pouring out my heart to God. How I spend the time has become less important than entering the sacred space where I meet the person I truly am: a beloved child of God, not because of anything I do, but because of who God is. Knowing this helps keep the past in right perspective, allows me to celebrate the present, and prepares me for the day ahead. Watching and waiting during the time before the sun rises remains a guilt-free luxury, not so different from the season of Advent.

The way I see it, Advent is to Christmas as dawn is to daylight, an occasion for humble expectation and joyful celebration when time seems still. It heralds the rising of the Son from the night of sin, inviting Christians to ponder the mystery of Christ's threefold coming: in history, with us now, and in anticipation of his Second Coming.

Such a regal liturgical season calls for purple vestments, greenery, and the lighting of candles. Transcending the



barriers of time that once held the world in bondage, Advent calls forth age-old stories about Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah. No longer distant figures from the past, these saints bid hearts to prepare for the birth that is ever ancient, ever new.

During the predawn days before Christmas, the communal celebration becomes personal when Mary's *fiat* invites me to say yes to God and when Elizabeth's greeting challenges me to see Jesus in the face of a weary salesclerk. When life's events rob my soul of peace, Joseph reminds me to trust God, and when self-doubt threatens to steal my identity as a child of God, Zechariah invites me to sit in silent prayer and breathe in love's miracles.

Some have called Christmas a magical season, but there's nothing magical about God becoming man. The Incarnation is a mystery and the miracle that summons Christians to receive the Infant God anew, for once again a new day is dawning.

As the beloved of God, we are being transformed. Ever mindful of his coming, we prepare for the long-awaited birth. Joyfully, we acknowledge the presence of Christ with us here and now, even as we watch and pray, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." +

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**PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, so that every person on this earth may know they are loved, we pray— Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 12–17

Monday, Our Lady of Guadalupe:
Zec 2:14–17 or Rev 11:19a; 12:1–6a,
10ab / Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47

Tuesday, St. Lucy:
Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 / Mt 21:28–32

Wednesday, St. John of the Cross:
Is 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25 / Lk 7:18b–23

Thursday, Advent Weekday:
Is 54:1–10 / Lk 7:24–30

Friday, Advent Weekday:
Is 56:1–3a, 6–8 / Jn 5:33–36

Saturday, Advent Weekday:
Gn 49:2, 8–10 / Mt 1:1–17

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
December 11, 2022

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