

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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website: www.holyspiritkennewick.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

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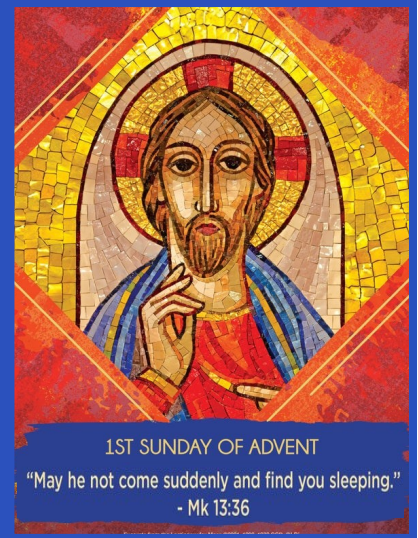
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micajere@msn.com



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."

- Mk 13:36

DECEMBER 3, 2023

Parish Staff:

Bookkeeper	Philline Go	735-8558
Secretary	Debbie Forgette	735-8558
Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator	Michele Umemoto	735-1743

Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade	Karen Gorham	735-8558
6th to 8th Grades/Edge	Danielle May	735-8558
	& Meta Boik	735-8558
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen	Jennifer Moore	492-6209
	& Joe Bliss	216-402-3118
	email: lifeteenhs@gmail.com	
Confirmation	Deacon Mike and Carol Gaulke	551-7626
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Joe and Sherry Schroeder	405-2242

Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass	Julianne Barnaby	735-2163
9:30 a.m. Mass	Paula Bachelor	375-9019
5:00 p.m. Mass	Perry Kelly	735-8558
Children's Choir	Paula Bachelor	375-9019

Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers	Trish Feeny	551-0486
Eucharistic Adoration	Liz Friedrich	783-6223
Prayer Line	Adele Ogryzek	627-0201
Altar Server Training	Zack Rinderer	582-2543

Parish Ministries:

Mary Martha Prayer Group	Camille Henneberry	735-4858
Welcoming Committee	Jan Beardemphl	948-3367
PCC Nursery	Wynona Vaz	628-0754
Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins	Deacon Eric Shaber	
	& Charlotte Shaber	208-521-7846
Bible Study	Judy Turner	438-7938
Women's Group	Linda Rego	221-1130

Councils and Committees:

Parish Council	Jim Carey	627-0321
Finance Council	Jared Liebert	947-9386
Stewardship	Lenice & Pat Nagle	582-6893
Voice of the Spirit	Dieter Bohrmann	987-3158
Parish Library	Ann Stevens	396-2723

Charter Organizations:

Catholic Daughters	Linda Garner	627-2748
Knights of Columbus	Nick Multari	425-753-1654
St. Vincent de Paul	Message Line	591-0632
Scout Troop #275	Teddy Herrera	778-0505

Natural Family Planning:

Christine Disselkamp	628-8810
Carol Gaulke	619-5464

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.
or by appointment.

Please visit our Holy Spirit Facebook page to join livestream events:

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

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Babies and young children are usually baptized during Mass on Saturday or Sunday, or on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Call the parish office for a list of upcoming Baptism dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes. (735-8558)



On Being Married at Holy Spirit ... Engaged couples who wish to be married at Holy Spirit Parish are asked to contact the parish office at least nine months prior to their desired wedding date. The couple and the priest will then meet to begin the Marriage preparation program. (735-8558)

Deaths

What should I do when there is a death in my family?

Please call the parish office and speak with the office staff and the pastor before making arrangements with the funeral home, to ensure that the church is available at the desired date and time. (735-8558)

First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023
Calendar for the Week: (Note: PCC = Parish Community Center)

Sunday, December 3:
First Sunday of Advent

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Prayer Service, 11:00 a.m., PCC hall

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School),
PCC rooms 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School),
PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Monday, December 4:
Advent Weekday
Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Mass at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Scout Troop 275, PCC hall, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5:
Advent Weekday

Holy Spirit Mommy and Me, PCC nursery, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education, pre-school to fifth grade, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Joyful Noise Choir, PCC hall, 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, CHURCH, 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Mass at 5:30 p.m. in the church. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Rosary near the tabernacle, following Mass.

Wednesday, December 6:
Advent Weekday
Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Mass at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Mary Martha Prayer Group, PCC 5, 1:30 p.m.

Amazing Grace Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 7:
Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

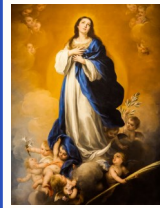
Mass at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

St. Vincent de Paul, PCC room 7, 10:00 a.m.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), PCC room 7, 7:00 p.m.

Celebration Choir, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 8:



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

(May be fulfilled by attending Mass on Tuesday, December 12, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Mass at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in the vestibule. Concludes with *Prayers for Priestly Vocations* at 4:30 p.m. and the *Rite of Benediction* at 4:45 p.m.

Mass at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

Saturday, December 9:
Advent Weekday
Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., PCC hall

Sunday Vigil Mass in the church at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10:
Second Sunday of Advent

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Christmas Pageant, PCC hall, 1:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School),
PCC rooms 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School),
PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



From the Pastor's Desk ...

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN:

As you leave church this weekend, please be sure to pick up a copy of the Advent devotional booklets we are offering to parishioners and visitors to our parish this year. **Adults**, please select ONE of the following booklets (so that we will have enough for everyone).

Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas, with reflections by Susan H. Swetnam.

OR

Waiting in Hope, with reflections by Pope Francis, St. Mother Teresa, and Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen.

Our Advent resource for **children** this year is **Journey to Bethlehem**, published by All Saints Press. Students in our Religious Education Program, grades 1-5, already received their copy in class on November 28th.

Students in our **Edge** and **LifeTeen** programs will receive a copy of **Advent Seasonings: A Daily Delivery of Advent Appetizers for Teens and Young Adults** when they meet for Edge and LifeTeen this weekend.

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SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:

See the article on an interior page of this bulletin for our Mass times for this **holy day of obligation**, which falls on Friday, December 8th this year.

Advent Blessings,

E. Michael

2023-2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL (ACA)

The Parish of the Holy Spirit
2024 ACA Participation



Thank you to our loyal donors and the new donors who have pledged to the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal. If you were not present in church on Pledge Sunday in November, we urge you to make a pledge or a one-time gift to the ACA today. Your gift is essential to sustaining the many ministries of the Diocese of Yakima. **For the ACA to be a success, we need every family of the Parish of the Holy Spirit to participate this year.** To date, **182** individuals or families have made a pledge or one-time offering to the ACA. We have **913** registered families at the Parish of the Holy Spirit. That's only 20% participation so far. **We can do better.** Pledge cards are still available in the vestibule or at the parish office. If you would like to donate online, please visit www.yakimadiocese.org or scan the QR code (on the right or on your pledge card).



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES 2023

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m.

Holy Spirit
Sacred Heart Church
Christ the King
St. Joseph Church
St. Frances Cabrini

7409 W. Clearwater Ave, Kennewick
1905 Highland Drive, Prosser
1111 Stevens Drive, Richland
520 S. Garfield Street, Kennewick
1000 Horne Drive, Benton City



This weekend is Name Tag Sunday. As we begin our Advent journey together, the Stewardship Committee is encouraging each of us to get to know our fellow companions by name. Please keep your name tags on after Mass during our social/refreshment time. Thanks for participating!

STEWARDSHIP: The Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are, and they strive to live in readiness for His coming.

November 19: \$8,909.94 Recorded givers: 127

Thanks for your giving of time, talent and treasure.

For online giving, visit:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy7409270>

Thank you for maintaining your financial support of our parish as you are able. If you'd prefer to mail an offering, please send it to **Parish of the Holy Spirit, 7409 W. Clearwater Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336**. If you are currently using offering envelopes and would like to switch to online giving (or bill-payer from your bank), please call the parish office so we can discontinue your envelope mailings with our printing service. Thank you.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 2024 CHRISTMAS CARD SALES

Keep Christ in Christmas with the Knights of Columbus Christmas cards. The cards will be available for purchase in the vestibule before and after Masses **this weekend!** As always, shop early for the greatest selection! Cards will be available in the vestibule through December 10th.

This time of the year we are giving thanks for the many blessings God has given us. Please consider helping those in need in our parish and/or in our local community by adopting a family at Christmas. This parish program assists families who, due to economic circumstances, need food and gifts at Christmastime. For more information, call Vonnie Bliss at 586-3745.



You are invited to decorate the **Teddy Bear Tree** in the hallway near the vestibule with **stuffed animals, hats, and mittens**. Each item you give will be donated by the Women's Group to the families adopted by our parishioners at Christmas.



Friday, December 8, is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, which is the patronal feast day of the United States and a holy day of obligation.



In view of the great devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Diocese of Yakima, Bishop Joseph Tyson is dispensing the obligation to attend Mass on Friday, December 8 for those who will attend a Guadalupe Mass on Tuesday, December 12.

As is already the case, Catholics who are unable to attend Mass on a holy day of obligation may seek a dispensation from a priest or deacon of the diocese, who can either excuse the person from the obligation completely, or commute it to another pious work, such as praying the Rosary. Here at the Parish of the Holy Spirit, **Masses for the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated Friday, December 8, at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. (not 5:30 p.m.) on Tuesday, December 12.

A NOTE FROM ST. SERRA CLUB OF TRI CITIES

"Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay and You the potter: we are all the work of Your hands." (Isaiah 64:7) You were made in God's image, to serve Him and your brothers and sisters. Consider service to Him as a priest, permanent deacon, or religious brother or sister.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative.

Monday	December 4	Lorrie Licht RIP
Tuesday	December 5, 5:30 p.m.	Amy Rieck RIP
Wednesday	December 6	Fr. O'Shea
Thursday	December 7	Rob & Kristi Privette
Saturday	December 9, 4:00 p.m.	Sherry Clark
Sunday	December 10, 5:00 p.m.	Josie Wannarachue RIP

The Sunday morning Mass is normally offered for the people of the parish.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gene Coté.
May he rest in peace with the risen Lord.

To have your need added to our parish prayer phone chain, please call Adele Ogrzyzek at 627-0201.

To have your need added to the list which is published in the bulletin once each month, please call the parish office.

Gratitude Corner

Thank you to the Liturgical Ministers for all the ways you serve our Holy Spirit Parish Community.

Lectors
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Acolytes
Altar Servers
Video Technicians and Slide Operators
Ushers and Greeters
Musicians
Choir Members

And to all those who help to make Mass available, holy, and meaningful in service to our Lord and to our parish community.

'Tis the Season! Parish of the Holy Spirit's annual Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 10. Participation is open to all children/youth from kindergarten through high school. The next rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 9, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the PCC.

A letter with details and an accompanying registration form is available on the table in the vestibule. If you have any questions or you would like to help with the Christmas pageant, please call Karen Gorham at 735-8558 or email to karen@holyspiritkennewick.org.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 10
1:00 p.m.
PCC hall



The children and youth of Holy Spirit invite you to attend the 38th Annual Christmas Pageant which will be presented on Sunday, December 10, at 1:00 pm in the PCC. They wish to share with all the real reason we celebrate Christmas!

**PRACTICING) CATHOLIC—
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Memento Mori

Just this week, my husband and I signed our wills, and the lawyer was careful to couch our transaction in gentle, abstract language: “When we lose you” she kept saying, instead of “When you die.”

It can be very uncomfortable to dwell on our eventual death. But the Christian life does not just encourage us to do so; it *demand*s that we do.

I once came upon a prayer consecrating the last two hours of life to the Blessed Mother. I have since found variations of the prayer online with different phrasing, but the sentiment of them all is the same: Let me not be caught sleeping. Let me be ready.

“You can’t do all your homework at the end,” a deacon who ministers to the dying once told me. “Good Friday is waiting in the wings for all of us.”

I think of that a lot when I don’t particularly feel like praying, when I think I’m too busy to go to Confession, or when feelings of resentment fester inside me on Sunday mornings as my family is getting ready to go to church. All our good deeds are like polluted rags, says the prophet in our first reading this weekend. We have all withered like leaves.

You can’t do all your homework at the end. God is always faithful. Are we?

“May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

— Mark 13:36

©LPi

2023-2024 **Sunday Missals** are available for purchase (\$4.00) in the parish office during office hours.



Please stop by the booklet display in the vestibule and pick up a **FREE** copy of *The Invitation*. This new booklet reminds us that a great way to get to know someone is by sitting with them and simply enjoying their company. Jesus Christ, present in the Blessed Sacrament, will show each of us that we are both lovable and loved. We can all be close to God if we sit with him in Eucharistic adoration.



Support the 28th Annual Art and Wine Auction to benefit St. Joseph Catholic School. This event on Saturday, February 10, 2024 will raise funds for the academic success and preparation for service and leadership of students at St. Joseph School. Tickets are \$80 each, or 2 for \$150, or buy a table of 8 tickets for \$576. St. Joseph School parents will be in the vestibule after all Masses this weekend to answer questions and provide an opportunity for you to purchase tickets to this exciting and important fundraising event.

The **Women’s Group** is collecting **new and used blankets and sleeping bags** for distribution to the homeless by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Pasco. Sadly, many of our needy neighbors are sleeping in cars or outdoors during the winter months. Please package your new or gently used blankets/sleeping bags in a plastic bag and place them inside the playpen in the vestibule **through December 10**. Contact Linda Rego at 253-370-6368 with any questions.



Women’s Group Christmas Raffle

Following All Masses
this weekend AND next weekend.

**Winning tickets will be drawn following
the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 10.**

All proceeds support the Women’s Group ministry
which provides funeral luncheons
to families after funeral Masses at Holy Spirit.

HOLY SPIRIT TRI CITY AMERICANS HOCKEY NIGHT



Jennifer Moore has reserved tickets for our Holy Spirit family on **Saturday, December 9th**. The game starts at 6:05 p.m. This is **Teddy Bear Toss** night. If you’d like to, bring a stuffed animal to donate to children in need. We will toss them on the ice between periods. Tickets need to be paid for in advance. Please text Jennifer Moore at 509-492-6209 if you are interested in attending. In your text, please provide your email and Jennifer will send you the link to purchase tickets at the group rate. Looking forward to spending a fun night out with our Holy Spirit family!



The Knights of Columbus are selling fresh **Noble fir Christmas trees** in the parking lot at St. Joseph Church. The lot is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on weekdays from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Get your trees early! They completely sold out last year and expect to do so again this year.

The December Ultreya of the Cursillo movement will be held **Monday, December 4** at Christ the King in Richland. The Rosary will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel with the meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Please come and invite your friends.

Holy Spirit St. Vincent de Paul Conference meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. in PCC room 7. If you are available a few hours each month and are seeking a way to serve the poor, grow spiritually, and make new friends, please join us this Thursday.



The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, is one of six days specially designated for religious observance in the United States by the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

For more than 70 years, Catholic Charities has been reaching out in love to help those most in need. Motivated by Christ’s love, Catholic Charities works to bring hope to adults, families, children, youth, and elders throughout Central Washington. The annual Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities will be taken up at all Catholic churches in the Diocese of Yakima on December 24 and December 25. Thank you in advance for your generosity. To learn more about the Catholic Charities network of services, visit www.hopetolife.org.

Parishioner and college student Conner Howard is active in the St. Thomas More Catholic Student Center at Washington State University. Conner is asking for our support to attend a national retreat in Florida in January hosted by Saint Paul’s Outreach. The mission of Saint Paul’s Outreach is to “build missional community on college campuses and beyond, forming lifelong disciples.” The retreat, called *Communio*, will bring together men and women from 16 college campuses. It is designed to help empower students to return to their campuses as beacons of God’s light, and to be on mission for others that do not know the power of their faith. If you are able to help Connor fund this trip, you may write a check to the Parish of the Holy Spirit, write “Connor Howard Retreat” in the memo line, and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office.



Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come.

MARK 13:33

How Has God Shaped You?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Sometimes it seems as if life is a laboratory of designed experiments on how to become human, all of them allotted ten-year blocks.

Have you noticed how nine- and ten-year-olds can be easy to be around? Then about the time we've gotten being a kid down to a science, life begins to move us into adolescence. We want to be independent and responsible, but we don't yet have all the skills. We have sexual feelings, but we're expected not to act on them. About the time we reach adulthood and move into our twenties, it seems we can finally do what we want, but then we might drink too much, spend too much, drive too fast, and party too long. Once we begin to settle down around year thirty, we have to learn how to live with another person. One likes it warm, the other cool. One seeks to save, the other spends. One is a homebody, the other enjoys going out on the town. By the time we've gotten to our sixties and seventies, we may have figured out life, but by then we've used up most of our energy.

What's going on?

Faith suggests it's the hand of God shaping us into the sort of persons we're meant to be. "Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you our potter: we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:7). Advent may be a time to figure out how God is acting in your life now and look back to see that God was shaping you all along. ●

Reflect

What did you learn in your last ten-year block of life?

ADVENT

God Comes Among Us

More than just a memory of the past, Advent is a celebration of the seeds of our faith, the gift of God's grace gradually growing to fulfillment in the world. Like the people of ancient Israel, we long for the completion of God's reign on earth. At the same time, we know that our redemption has been won for us and that our sins have been forgiven. As we celebrate Advent in the liturgy of the Church, we experience the longing for Christ in our lives as we wait in a hope that is joyful because we have been redeemed. Just as our world is in desperate need of God's grace, our own lives are in need of reform to live more fully in Christ. The rituals of preparation at home and in church remind us that this special time of the year is more than just a winter holiday. Miraculously born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus continues to come among us through the sacraments, Scripture and the Christian community gathered in prayer. May we experience the presence of Christ, the proclamation of the Kingdom and the call to conversion this Advent season.

History of Advent

Advent began after the 4th century as a time of preparation for Epiphany—not in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrated the birth and manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early Church instituted a 40-day period of fasting and repentance.

Later, in the 6th century, Pope St. Gregory the Great was the first to associate this season of Advent with the coming of Christ. Originally it was not the coming of the Christ-child that was anticipated, but rather, the second coming of Christ.

By the Middle Ages the Church had extended the celebration of Advent to the familiar format we know today. The early weeks are rich with the prophecies of Isaiah, reminding us to wait and prepare for the coming Messiah. Later, the pace quickens and we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.



Celebrating with the Advent Wreath

One way to prepare for Christ's coming into our lives is to make an Advent wreath for your daily household worship. This traditional circular wreath reminds us that God, like the circle, has no beginning and no end. Evergreens on the wreath symbolize our everlasting relationship with God, the source of continuous new life.

The wreath has four candles, three purple or violet and one rose. On the First Sunday and Week of Advent, we light the first candle and then an additional candle on each Sunday until Christmas. Purple is a royal color, reflecting the kingship of Christ and also repentance. The rose candle, lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, represents joy. Thus, the colors of the candles illustrate the themes of Advent: kingship, repentance and joy. The candles also remind us that the incarnation has transformed the darkness of hatred and evil into the light of joy and love.

Let your Advent wreath become the center around which your household gathers together each night during this joyous, but sometimes frenzied, season of celebration. And as you celebrate with the Advent wreath, include your favorite Advent hymns and songs, scripture readings and prayers focusing on Christ's threefold Advent—past, present and future.

Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath

Lord God of all creation,
you came among us as an infant
in Bethlehem long ago.
Come to us now
as we prepare to celebrate your birth
and look forward to your coming
in glory at the end of time.
May the light of this wreath remind us
of the power of your steadfast love for us
over the darkness of fear, evil and death.
May we praise you all the days of our lives.
Bless our preparation for your coming. *Amen*

THE "O ANTIPHONS"

The **O Antiphons** refer to the seven verses that are recited (or chanted) preceding the *Magnificat* during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23. These antiphons form the basis of the Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," put to music in 15th century France.

December 17—*O Wisdom*, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

December 18—*O Sacred Lord* of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

December 19—*O Flower of Jesse's Stem*, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

December 20—*O Key of David*, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

December 21—*O Radiant Dawn*, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 22—*O King* of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

December 23—*O Emmanuel*, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

MASS READINGS FOR ADVENT 2023

1st Sunday	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
2nd Sunday	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
3rd Sunday	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
4th Sunday	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Christmas Day	Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

Parish of the Holy Spirit

One Minute Meditations

St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England,

St. Edmund left a brilliant academic career at Oxford to become a



Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.

Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him"
(Luke 2:40).



A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

Encourage joyful anticipation. As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. *"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me"* (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

Focus on prayer. Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every

soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

Serve. Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should

continuously ask God what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the



Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.

Have a peaceful, Merry Christmas!

Do you aim for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, Christmas comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebration:

Be realistic. It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.

Soothe the beast. Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas frame of mind.

Reach out. Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else's. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy.

Seek the eternal. Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remind yourself of what is most important about Christmas.

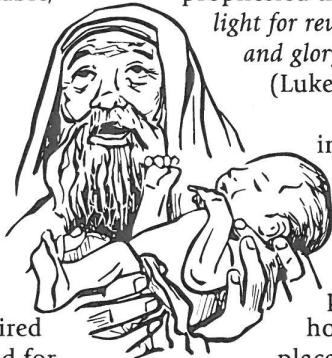


from Scripture

Luke 2:22-40, Encountering God in the ordinary

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable, and His family was quite ordinary. In fact, when it was time to present Jesus in the temple, His parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, and instead made the offering of the poor – two pigeons. As faithful Jews, they did all that was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized Him as the Messiah.



Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"* (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be happy with Him forever.

Q & A How can I make Christmas joy last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord. By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:

Feast of the Holy Family, December 31. Gather for a meal with loved ones, or contact out-of-town friends or family.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1. Dedicate a Rosary to the Blessed Mother, asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

Epiphany, January 7. The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing Him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8. Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.



Feasts & Celebrations

December 3 – First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked St. Juan to carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his *tilma*, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 15 – St. Maria di Rosa (1855). Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula was renowned for holiness, generosity, and concern for the sick. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840. She took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa di Rosa.

December 27 – St. John the Beloved (1st Century). As an apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



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Dear Padre,

Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News. ●



This first page of the Gospel of Mark is from a fourteenth-century Armenian illuminated manuscript painting by Sargis Pitsak.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 4 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 5 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 6 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 7 <i>St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	December 8 <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	December 9 <i>Advent Weekday</i>	December 10 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
Is 2:1–5 Mt 8:5–11	Is 11:1–10 Lk 10:21–24	Is 25:6–10a Mt 15:29–37	Is 26:1–6 Mt 7:21, 24–27	Gn 3:9–15, 20 Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 Lk 1:26–38	Is 30:19–21, 23–26 Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8	Is 40:1–5, 9–11 2 Pt 3:8–14 Mk 1:1–8

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] ...is at the door to our heart. He knocks. Do you know how to listen to the Lord...who has come today to visit you...? He came to Bethlehem, he will come at the end of the world, but every day he comes to us. Be attentive, look at what you feel in your heart when the Lord knocks.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

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