

Dear friends in Christ,

Last week, Pope Leo made an apostolic journey to Turkey and Lebanon. In Turkey, he joined the Patriarch of Constantinople in commemorating the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, which gave us the creed we profess each Sunday summarizing our faith. Along the way, Pope Leo gave a powerful call for unity of the Church and deeper conversion to Christ during this Advent Season. Here are some excerpts from his homily for the first Sunday of Advent:

...we begin Advent, the season for preparing ourselves to experience anew at Christmas the mystery of Jesus, the Son of God, "begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father" (Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed), as solemnly declared 1700 years ago by the Fathers gathered at the Council of Nicea.

In this context, the first reading (cf. Is 2:1-5) of today's Mass comes from one of the most beautiful passages in the book of the prophet Isaiah, where the invitation resounds, beckoning all peoples to ascend the mountain of the Lord (cf. v. 3), a place of light and peace. I would like, then, to meditate together on what it means to be part of the Church by reflecting on some of the images presented in this text.

The first image is that of the mountain "established as the highest of the mountains" (cf. Is 2:2). It reminds us that the fruits of God's action in our lives are a gift not only for us, but for everyone. Zion is a city set on the mountain and symbol of a community reborn in fidelity. Its beauty is a beacon of light for men and women from every place, and serves as a reminder that the joy of goodness is contagious...

We find here an invitation to renew the power of our own witness of faith. Saint John Chrysostom, a great shepherd of this Church, spoke of the allure of holiness as a sign more eloquent than many miracles. He said: "The miracle happens and passes, but the Christian life remains and continually edifies" (Commentary on the Gospel of Saint Matthew, 43, 5). In conclusion, he exhorted: "Let us therefore watch over ourselves, so that we may also benefit others" (ibid.). Dear friends, if we truly want to help the people we meet, let us "keep watch" over ourselves, as the Gospel recommends (cf. Mt 24:42) by cultivating our faith with prayer with the sacraments, living it consistently in charity, and casting off — as Saint Paul tells us in the second reading — the works of darkness and putting on the armor of light (cf. Rom 13:12). The Lord, whom we await in glory at the end of time, comes every day to knock at our door. Let us be ready for him (cf. Mt 24:44), sincerely committed to

living a life of goodness, after the example of the numerous holy men and women who have dwelt in this land throughout the ages. POPE LEO

One great way to grow in holiness and prepare for the coming of the Lord is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Here are some opportunities during this season:

PENANCE SERVICES

Friday, December 12, 6-8 PM

**St. Anthony Adoration and Confession
with 1 confessor**

Wednesday, December 17 – 7 PM

St. Jude with 6 confessors

Thursday, December 18- 7 PM

Holy Innocents with 3 confessors

Regular Confession times:

Holy Innocents: Fridays – 6-7 PM

St. Jude: Saturdays – 3:30-4:30 PM

STEWARDSHIP

We still need your help with stewardship! Please remember to turn in your stewardship commitment cards if you have not done so already. Many thanks to all who have already made your stewardship pledge. We are so grateful for your commitment to our parish!

Next week we have two great Marian feasts...

HOLY DAY—MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December 8th we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of church in the United States. Let us ask the Blessed Mother's intercession on our country, that we may effectively share the Gospel and spread the faith in our nation. This a Holy Day of obligation. Please join us in celebrating the feast.

HOLY DAY MASSES for the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. Anthony: Noon

Holy Innocents: 9 AM and 7 PM

St. Jude: 9 AM and 7 PM

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ON DECEMBER 12 Friday

This the great feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. **At Holy Innocents at 7 PM**, we will have a festive Mass to celebrate, with a fiesta downstairs in the hall afterward. It promises to be a joy filled celebration of our Blessed Mother.

Blessings on your week!

Fr. Johnson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9:00 AM Holy Day Mass

10:00 AM Women of Faith

6:30 PM Confirmation Class #5

7:00 PM Holy Day Mass

Tuesday, December 9

No Daily Mass

5:30 PM Faith Formation K-6

Wednesday, December 10

8:30 AM Confessions

9:00 AM Daily Mass

7:00 PM House of Prayer

7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal
(for 11AM Masses)

Thursday, December 11

9:00 AM Daily Mass

12:15 PM Steps to Freedom

1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
(for 9AM Masses)

7:00 PM OCIA

Friday, December 12

9:00 AM Daily Mass

9:30 AM Adoration until 9PM

10:00 AM Guardians & Angels

Saturday, December 13

10:30 AM Ushers Refresher Course

3:30 PM Confessions

5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 14

9:00 AM Sunday Mass

11:00 AM Sunday Mass

International Breakfast with Santa
after both Masses

6:30 PM Teen Group

Beware of Scams this Season

With the onset of Advent, we are once again seeing an increase in phishing emails and other scams aimed at targeting those with the giving hearts of the season. This is a reminder that **Fr. Johnson, Fr. Raphael, or any parish staff will not individually email or text with gift or donation requests.**

Be vigilant and double check any suspicious communications before responding to them.



! Safety Reminder !

With cold weather upon us, we want to remind all our parishioners that SAFETY doesn't just happen, it is PRACTICED.

- Use handrails when going down the stairs, especially in inclement weather.
- Get dropped off/picked up at the front door of church, if needed, to minimize walking on slippery sidewalks.
- When walking on icy pavement, tread carefully.
- Accessible Parking is located on the lower level parking lot behind the Parish Hall.
- There is an elevator just inside the entrance to the Parish Hall that goes right up to the church.
- If you see a potential hazard, please inform parish staff.



Advent is a season of joyful anticipation as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. On a deeper level, anticipation during Advent is about fostering a greater desire for the Lord and his presence in our daily lives.

Go to archseattle.org/advent or scan the code for Advent inspiration from Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, engaging stories from Northwest Catholic and resources to make this your best Advent ever.

