

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

203 VAUGHN RD., BRANSON, MO | 417.334.2928 | OFFICE@OLLBRANSON.COM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025



FIRST WEEK OF
ADVENT



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



November 29 - December 5

Events

SATURDAY Nov. 29

Sacrament of Reconciliation
3:00 - 4:30pm - Confessional

SUNDAY Nov. 30

Coffee & Christ
Will resume next Sunday 12/7

MONDAY Dec. 1

Rienzie Wannithantri Funeral Luncheon Following
11:00am - 2:00pm

TUESDAY Dec. 2

Centering Prayer
3:00-4:45pm - Heritage Room

OCIA

6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY Dec. 3

Stitchers
9:00am - 12:00pm - St. Francis Room

Music Practice

3:45 - 5:15pm - In the music room

PSR

5:30pm - Mass/Adoration

6:15 -7:00pm - Food/Class

Our Lady's Advent Mission

6:30pm - Rosary - In the Church
Led by the Hispanic Ministries

THURSDAY Dec. 4

OLL Game Day

1:00 - 3:30pm - Faith Formation Room

Our Lady's Advent Mission

6:30pm -Rosary - In the Church
Led by the Music Ministry

Dinner provided by the Hispanic Ministry
In the Gathering Space following the Rosary

FRIDAY Dec. 5

First Friday Book Club

10:45am - Faith Formation Room

Coats for kids

3:00pm - 5:00pm - Parish Center

Our Lady's Advent Mission

6:30pm - Rosary - In the Church
Led by the Hispanic Ministries

SATURDAY Dec. 6

WELCOME Women Christmas Party

10:00am - 1:00pm - Faith Formation Room

Mass Times

SATURDAY

5:00pm

7:00pm (Spanish)

SUNDAY

8:00am

10:30am

MONDAY

11:00am

Funeral Mass for
Rienzie Wannithantri

TUESDAY

9:00am

WEDNESDAY

5:30pm

THURSDAY

9:00am

1st FRIDAY

10:00am



Adoration

TUESDAY

No Adoration
Will Resume Jan. 13th

THURSDAY

No Adoration
Will Resume Jan. 15th

Important Links

[Click Here For PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)



Flower Intentions available for December

Mass Intentions

| | | | |
|------|-------|---------|---|
| Sat. | 11/29 | 5:00pm | Taney County Parish Family (Living) |
| Sat. | 11/29 | 7:00pm | Marcelina Constela de Hernandez † (Anniversary DOD) |
| Sun. | 11/30 | 8:00am | Robert and Dorothy Chapman & Family † |
| Sun. | 11/30 | 10:30am | Marcelina Romero † |
| Mon. | 12/1 | 11:00am | Mike and Veronica Axelson (Living) |
| Tue. | 12/2 | 9:00am | Marty Waller † |
| Wed. | 12/3 | 5:30pm | Mary Nguyen † |
| Thu. | 12/4 | 9:00am | Deceased family members of John & Margaret Casey † |
| Fri. | 12/5 | 10:00am | Phil Harter † |



[Click Here to Make a Prayer Request](#)

[Click Here to Donate Online](#)

[Haga clic aquí para el boletín en español](#)

[Click Here to Contact Parish Staff](#)

WORSHIP WITH US



[Click here](#) for Mass Times & Sacrament of Reconciliation



[CLICK HERE FOR DAILY MASS READINGS](#)

Collection through Nov. 23, 2025

| | | |
|------------------|--|--------------------|
| Envelopes: | | \$41,531.87 |
| Plate: | | \$15,665.38 |
| Green Envelopes: | | \$19,992.60 |
| Total: | | \$77,189.65 |

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



It's an exciting time in OCIA as our seekers will be advancing from the pre-Catechumenate to the Catechumenate.

This weekend - November 29th & 30th
(1st weekend of Advent)

We, as the Parish community, will celebrate with them through

The Rite of Entrance
(for the unbaptized over 7 years of age)
&
The Rite of Welcome
(for those who have already been Baptized Christian)

Our Catechumenates and Candidates have been studying and meeting once each week since September and some since June.

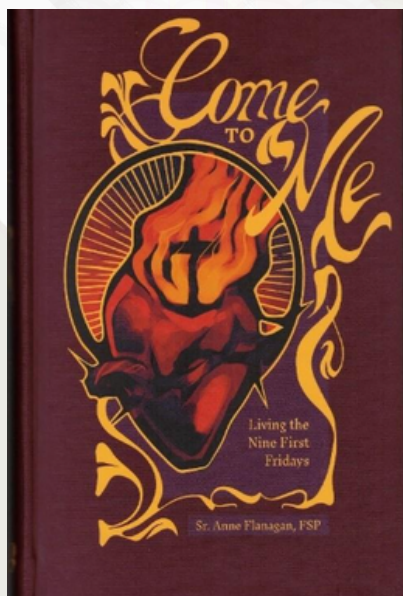
They are ready to go on to the next phase of catechesis to learn about the Sacraments and other Church teachings - and YOU can help!

In the Gathering space there will be a basket of cards with the names of each of our seekers.

The OCIA Team invites you to take at least one card and pray for this person throughout this year to Pentecost.

If you see your person (or people) at Mass or other Church events, welcome them and let them know you are praying for them.

*Thank you! The OCIA Team Leaders,
Steve Harter, Mario Lombardi, Stephanie Miller, Wendie Lapham and Lorry Davis*



First Friday Book Club

December 5, 2025 after the 10:00am Mass
for a book study entitled,
“Come To Me: Living the Nine First Fridays”
by Sister Anne Flanagan, FSP.

**We will meet in the Faith Formation room
approximately 10 minutes after mass ends.**

Awaken your heart to God through the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with this treasury of spiritual readings and prayers, thoughtfully compiled by speaker and retreat leader Sister Anne Flanagan, FSP.



Coffee and Christ Sundays

9:15am to 10:15am
Faith Formation Room

‘The Lamb of God,’
‘The Bread of Life,’

‘The Body and the Blood of Christ’...
These are phrases we know from the Mass.



But do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching? We’ll discover firsthand how Christ’s Body and Blood are an integral and wondrous part of God’s plan for our salvation.



Acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching.

Coffee & Christ will not be meeting on Sunday, Nov. 30th

Dec. 7

Episode 7 - Bread of Life Discourse: John 6 and the Real Presence

Jesus shocked the Jews of his time by offering his own flesh and blood as real food and real drink to gain eternal life.

Was he speaking symbolically, as some argue, or did he mean what he said in ways we’re still trying to understand?



Dec. 14

Episode 8 - The Last Supper and the Cross: The New Passover of Christ

What is the connection between the Old Testament celebration of Passover and Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples-and how does that impact the Mass as we know it?



Welcome.
There is **More to Life**

Women’s Welcome Retreat
Our Lady of the Lake in Branson, MO
March 7th & 8th 2026

The experience is personal, inspirational, and fulfilling.

Welcome is a two-day renewal weekend unlike any you have attended. Parishioners share with one another ways they have found meaning, hope, peace, and love in their lives through Christ.

SCAN TO REGISTER



OR GO TO:
OLLBRANSON.COM/WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT



ANNUAL PARISH 10-DAY EVENT

Our Lady's Advent Mission

OUR LADY of GUADALUPE

Patron Saint of the Americas
Feast Day: December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the name of the apparition of the Virgin Mary that took place in 1531, at the foot of Mt. Tepeyac in Mexico City.

She appeared to the Indian Juan Diego four times, the last being on December 12th of that same year.



Novena

Daily Rosary
at 6:30 pm
in the Church

Unless otherwise indicated

Dinner will follow
each Rosary in the
Gathering Space

Novena Date | Rosary Led & Dinner Provided by:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Wed - Dec 3rd | Hispanic Ministries |
| Thurs - 4th | Music Ministry - Rosary Hispanic Ministries - Dinner |
| Fri - Dec 5th | Hispanic Ministries |
| Sat - Dec 6th | Rosary & Dinner at 8:00 pm Hispanic Ministries |
| Sun - Dec 7th | Hispanic Ministries |
| Mon - Dec 8th | Holy Day of Obligation Masses at Noon & 7:00 pm Bilingual Rosary & Dinner at 8:00 pm Led by Staff |
| Tues - Dec 9th | Advent Mission - Tony and Lynn Melendez 10:00 am & 6:30 pm |
| Wed - Dec 10th | Advent Mission - Tony and Lynn Melendez 10:00 am & 6:30 pm |
| Thurs - Dec 11th | Hispanic Ministries |

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Holy Day of Obligation
Monday, December 8th

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Our Lady of the Lake Branson Masses | Noon & 7:00 pm Bilingual |
| Our Lady of the Ozarks Forsyth Mass | 9:00 am |
| Our Lady of the Cove Kimberling City Mass | 9:00 am |

The official statement of the doctrine reads, "The blessed Virgin Mary to have been, from the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Christ Jesus the Savior of Mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin."
(Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, December 1854)

Essentially, the Immaculate Conception is the belief that Mary was protected from original sin, that Mary did not have a sin nature and was, in fact, sinless.

Vigil in Honor of Our Lady

Thursday, December 11th

| | |
|---|---|
| 6:30 pm | Hispanic Ministries |
| 7:00pm | Dinner Provided by Comunidad Hispana |
| 8:00 to 9:30 pm | Holy Hour with Fr J |
| 9:30 to 10:30pm & 11:15pm to 12:15am | Mariachi Performs with Mañanitas |

Festival in Honor of Our Lady

Friday, December 12th

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 5:30 pm | Mass - Bilingual |
| 6:30 to 9:00 pm | Festival In Honor of Our Lady |
| | Dance Groups: Aztec and Matlachines dances Folk dances Chinelos dance |



Join in the fun! Enjoy the Food!



Join Father J. on a Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes with Barcelona September 20 - 30, 2026

[Click here for more information or to sign up.](#)



Memorial Bricks

Looking for a
gift for that
hard to buy
for person!



Paver bricks are available
to remember loved ones,
signify special celebrations and
commemorate the celebration of life!



Meditation Garden



Memorial Flag Pole



SCAN TO ORDER



or

GO ONLINE

[ollbranson.com/
memorial-bricks](http://ollbranson.com/memorial-bricks)

or

CALL the parish office
417-334-2928

SAVE THE DATE

You Are Invited
To Join
Tony Melendez & Family
For An Advent Retreat



Our Lady of the Lake

Tuesday, Dec. 9th
10:00am & 6:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 10th
10:00am & 6:30pm

We will begin with the Rosary,
followed by Tony guiding us through a
musical mission of Advent

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER PSR CALENDAR



Wednesday PSR K-12th

Dec. 3 - 5:30-7:00pm
Mass/Adoration
Food/Class

Dec. 10 - 5:30-7:00pm
Mass
Food/Class

Dec. 17 - 5:30-7:00pm
Mass
Food/Class

Dec 24th
Christmas Eve
No Class

Dec 31st
New Year's Eve
No Class



SERVICE PROJECT

Christmas Cards for the Homebound



SAINT OF THE MONTH



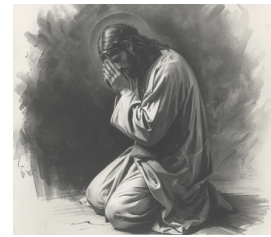
SAINT JUAN DIEGO

was born in 1474 as Cuauhtlatotzin, a native to Mexico.

He became the first Roman Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas.

SPECIAL EVENT

Communal Penance Service
Sunday, Dec. 14th - 3pm



MENU

12/3 - Mac and Cheese

12/10 - BBQ Chicken Sliders

12/17 - Waffles and Ice Cream



NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT



Options Baby Bottles

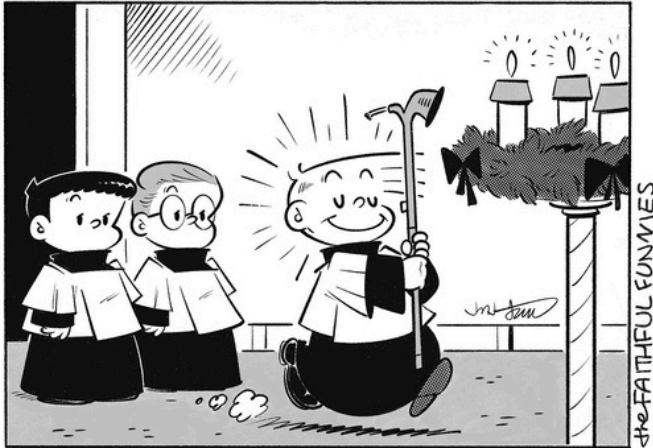
Baby bottles were sent home Nov. 12th
Please return them by Dec. 10th



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.” – Pope Francis

“Was the altar server happy or sad when it was his turn to blow out the Advent candles?”



“He was de-lighted!”



FUN FACT!
“Advent” is the four weeks before Christmas, a time to prepare for Jesus’ birth. An Advent wreath’s candles mark each week’s arrival.



CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Question: What dog breed is named after a saint?



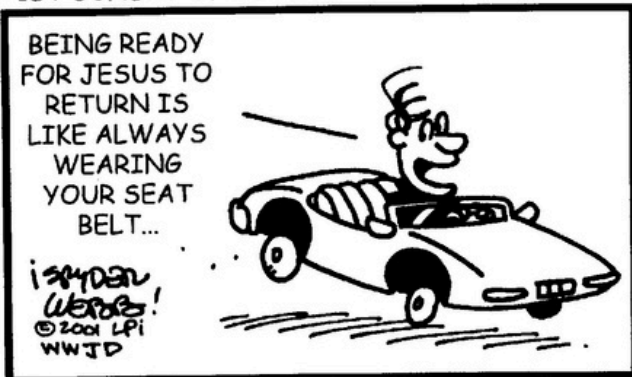
Answer: St. Bernard.



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Why Advent, Why it Matters

Advent is one of the most beautiful and meaningful seasons in the Catholic Church, yet it's often overshadowed by the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations – shopping, setting out a “calendar” of hidden chocolates, and untangling strings of Christmas lights. Advent can seem more like a four-week journey on a whirlwind roller coaster rather than a season of waiting and longing for the Messiah.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *ad-venire*, meaning “to come to” or “arrival.” It marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and spans the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. While many think of it simply as a countdown to December 25, Advent is much more than that—it's a sacred time of waiting, hope, and preparation.

At its heart, Advent is about preparing for the coming of Christ in three distinct ways. First, we remember His first coming over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, when the Son of God took on human flesh to save us. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Advent aims to rekindle “ancient expectancy of the Messiah ... by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming.”

Besides reflecting on Jesus' role in salvation history, we also prepare our hearts for His coming into our lives here and now—through prayer, the sacraments, and acts of love. And finally, we look forward to His second coming at the end of time, when He will return in glory to judge the living and the dead.

This threefold focus makes Advent a season of both joy and solemnity. It's a time to rejoice in the gift of salvation, but also to reflect on our lives and turn back to God where we've strayed.

The Symbols of Advent

One of the most recognizable symbols of the season is the Advent wreath. Traditionally made of evergreen branches, it holds four candles; three purple and one rose. The purple candles represent penance and preparation, while the rose candle, lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday), symbolizes joy as we draw nearer to Christmas. Each week, the lighting of a new candle reminds us that the Light of the World is coming closer.

Other traditions include the Advent calendar, which helps mark the days until Christmas, and the Jesse Tree, which tells the story of salvation history through symbols and Scripture. These practices are not just decorative—they are meant to draw us deeper into the mystery of God's plan.

Living Advent Well

In a culture that often rushes straight from Thanksgiving to Christmas, Advent invites us to slow down. The Church encourages prayer, Scripture reading, and acts of charity during this time. Many Catholics attend daily Mass, pray a novena (St. Andrew Prayer), or take part in reconciliation to prepare their hearts.

Fasting or simplifying our lives during Advent can also help us focus on what truly matters. By resisting the urge to fill every moment with noise and activity, we make space for Christ to enter.

Advent is not just a prelude to Christmas—it's a season with its own beauty and purpose. It teaches us how to wait with hope, how to prepare with intention, and how to welcome Christ not only into our homes but into our hearts.

When we embrace Advent fully, Christmas becomes more than a single day of celebration—it becomes the joyful culmination of a season spent drawing closer to the One who is our greatest gift.

THE LORD'S TABLE IS SET...

& YOU'RE INVITED

This guide lays out monthly themes & practical suggestions for families to build lasting habits within their family & anchor their lives by placing God at the center.

DECEMBER

ADVENT WREATH

Advent begins 11/30 - Make / Display an Advent Wreath in your home

ATTEND MASS AS A FAMILY

Attend Mass every Sunday & Holy days this month

ATTEND RECONCILIATION

As a family - attend an area Reconciliation service during Advent

Sunday, December 7 - 3:00pm
Our Lady of the Cove - Kimberling City
(Form "A") Individual confessions

Sunday, December 14 - 3:00pm
Our Lady of the Lake - Branson
(Form "B") Penance Service

SAVE THE DATE: Diocesan Eucharistic Congress 2026



SCAN HERE to learn more!



DIocese of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Visit WWW.DIOSCG.ORG/DIOCESAN-EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESS or scan the QR CODE for more resources, including suggestions for the Year of Spiritual Preparation, updates to the Congress and to help promote the Congress!

What is Manna?

Manna is the official app of the National Eucharistic Congress— a growing hub of Eucharistic formation, prayer, and mission.

The National Eucharistic Congress invites you into our work of Eucharistic revival: it's the perfect time to go deeper — in prayer, in formation, in mission.

Whether you're looking to renew your prayer life, grow in understanding of the Eucharist, lead others, or simply stay connected to the Congress movement — Manna is built for you.

It's not just a video library. It's a spiritual ecosystem — right at your fingertips.



Coats
FOR **Kids**



Winter Coat
Distribution



Friday, Dec. 5th 3 pm - 5 pm

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
203 Vaughn Rd, Branson, MO 65616



Child must be present
to try the coat on for size.
No other requirements.



More Information: kofcchapter@gmail.com

Intimacy, Mission & Miracles:

The Life of **ADVENTURE** in the

Holy Spirit

Advent Retreat with
Fr. Patrick Gonyeau C.P.P.S.

Join us for a Spirit-filled weekend and experience a spiritual journey that will leave you feeling renewed and strengthened!

Friday, December 5: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday, December 6: 9:00 am - 8:15 pm

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
844 South Gregg Rd, Nixa, Missouri

Experience transformation and healing of your soul through
Inspirational Talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Healing Service
Whether you can come both days or just one, come... You WILL be blessed!!!

www.strengtheningandhealing.org

\$25 or \$40/couple, Lunch & Dinner provided

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly: 417-838-2730 or Jan: 417-763-1579



Fr. Patrick Gonyeau is a dynamic priest with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and serves extensively with Encounter Ministries, teaching and ministering at events internationally. His greatest desire is to know and love The Blessed Trinity with his whole being and to help others do so as well.



Readings for the week of November 30, 2025

Sunday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday:

Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing — someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos *will* come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief — not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isa 2:5)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

Second Reading:

You know the time;
it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.
For our salvation is nearer now than when
we first believed. (Rom 13:11)

Gospel:

"So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come." (Mt 24:44)

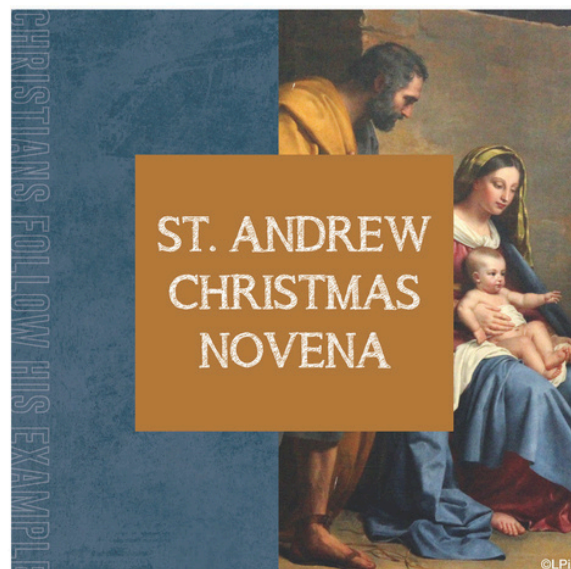
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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"You do not know on which day your Lord will come," Jesus says. He is reminding us that we do not know the mind of God. But we do know the heart of God, and we know that it is filled with mercy for those who heed the warning: Stay awake!

Observances for the week of November 30, 2025

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent; Respect Life Sunday
Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Thursday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent



Devotions, *Explained!*

The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from Nov. 30 through Christmas Eve. St. Andrew was the first disciple of Christ, and in saying this prayer Christians follow his example of prescient faithfulness throughout the days of Advent.

Prayer for Advent - Arise

Bless God's Holy Name!
Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord.
Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent.
Inspire us with new visions.
Be with us as we climb closer to You.
Amen.



Waiting, but Quick!

MIGUEL DULICK

This is the first Sunday of Advent, and the excitement is palpable. Writing 800 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah sounds like breaking news: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” The psalmist announces we are already there: “And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.” Saint Paul tickles our fancy with another whole round of “revelation” yet to come “on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Only Jesus himself seems a little cautious: “Be watchful! Be alert!” The Lord “is coming,” but he’s not here yet. Leave it to Jesus to force the paradox for which Advent seems to have been created: Jesus is present, but we dare not “sleep,” lest we miss him!

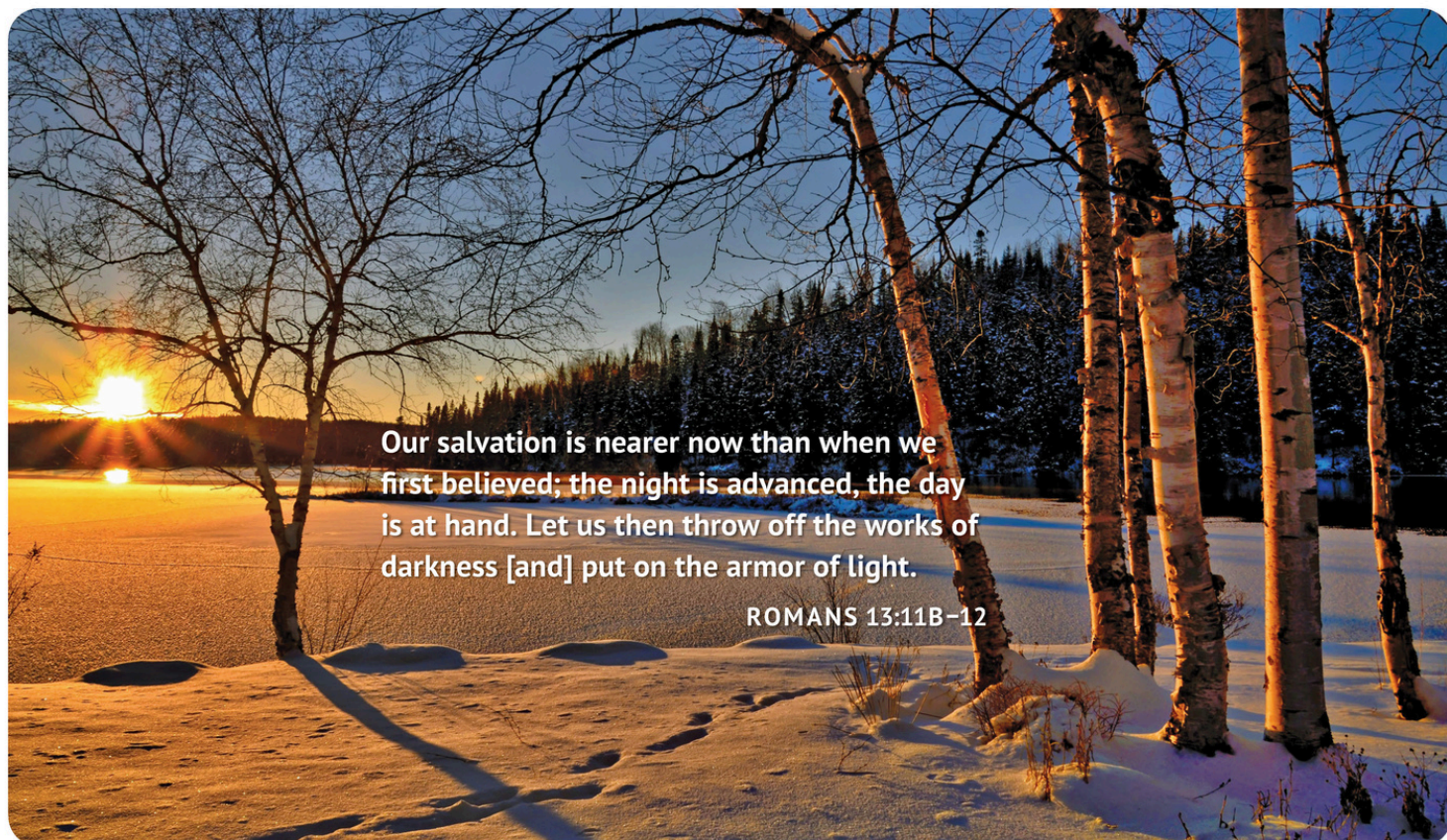


SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

How do we wait for Christmas? After Halloween, the Christmas lights go up, the carols start, the “Merry Christmas!” / “Happy Holidays!” debate begins. Lent is a time for repentance, alms, and fasting. But there’s no fasting in Advent: we fill bags with gifts and stockings with goodies. The Church tries to slow us down and encourage a little reflecting to prepare the way, led by John the Baptist. So let’s keep waiting; let’s hold on to our peace. Christmas Eve will be here soon enough. But let’s not be too austere. A full menu of holiday parties and concerts and family feasts can legitimately “anticipate” Christmas. Let’s cheer each other: Merry Advent! ●

Reflect

What can I do to prepare for Christmas mindfully, peacefully, and joyfully?



Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness [and] put on the armor of light.

ROMANS 13:11B-12

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And His Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth. "But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Watershed Moments

In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

Answer:

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

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MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm (Spanish)
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Live-Streamed)

WEEKDAY

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9:00 am
Wednesday 5:30 pm
1st Friday 10:00 am

Holy Day of Obligation

Noon and 7pm (Bilingual)

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00 - 4:30 pm
or by Appointment (417-334-2928)

ADORATION

Tuesday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

1st Wednesday of the month. After Mass -

Adoration, Exposition, and Benediction until 7:30pm

Thursday 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

- We will not have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the week before, the week of, and the week after a holiday.
- All Adorers, please sign in when you come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Please get in touch with the office if you need a door code or are having trouble with your own.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Any suspected or known abuse of a minor must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-3738 or 844-CAN-TELL; or for suspected or known abuse of vulnerable or eligible adults, the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-0210.

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