

Dear Padre,

Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

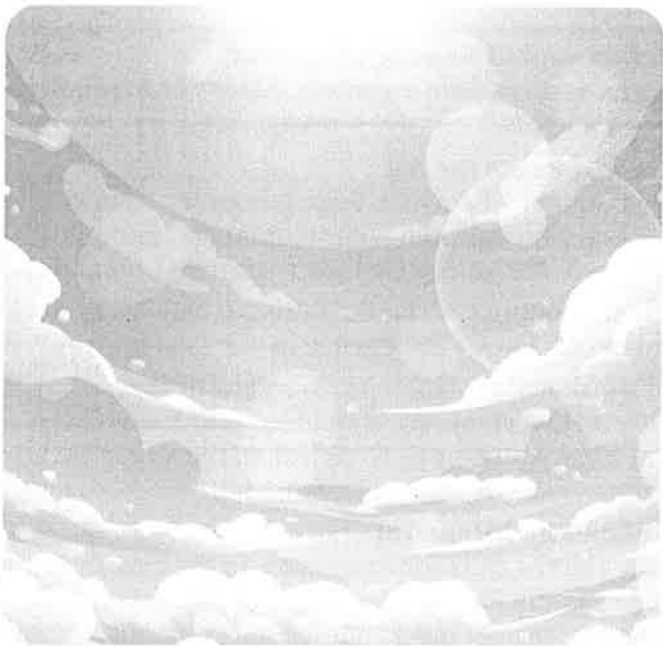
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Is 40:1–11	Is 40:25–31	Is 41:13–20	Zec 2:14–17	Sir 48:1–4, 9–11	Is 35:1–6a, 10	
Mt 18:12–14	Mt 11:28–30	Mt 11:11–15	or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab	Mt 17:9a, 10–13	Jas 5:7–10	
Gn 3:9–15, 20	<b>Do you have a question for the Padre?</b>			Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	Mt 11:2–11	
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12				Go to <b>DearPadre.org</b> to send your question and to learn more about <i>Dear Padre</i> .		
Lk 1:26–38						



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025



PASCAL HUOT / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 7, 2025  
Second Sunday of Advent (A)  
Isaiah 11:1–10 / Romans 15:4–9 / Matthew 3:1–12



Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today’s first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: “The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low” (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the “mighty” who make great noise when they fall. “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees,” echoes John the Baptist in today’s gospel. If we are looking for where God’s Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

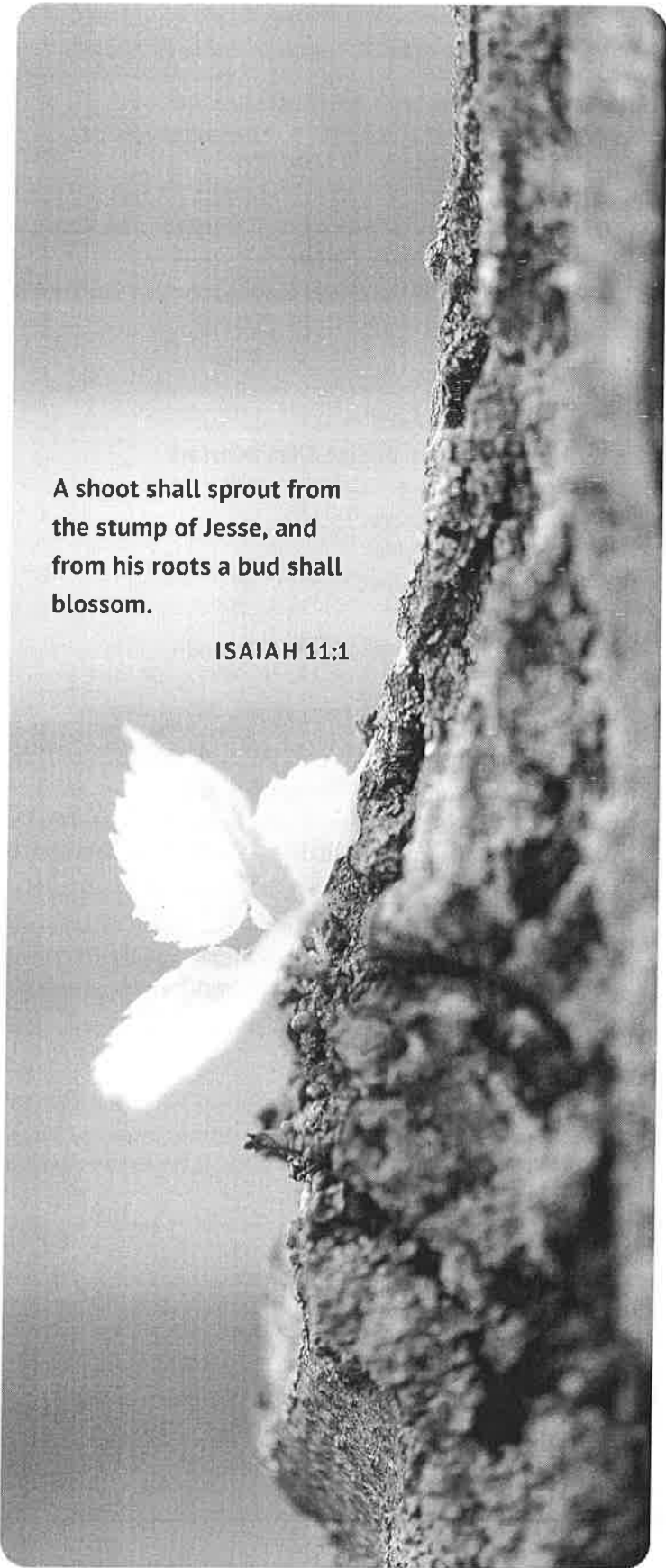
The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

Reflect

Are my eyes open to the small signs of God’s work in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

ISAIAH 11:1



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Office hours are Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 am—5:30 pm.

If there is an Emergency you may call Corinne at 715-250-0567 or  
Father David at 920-228-1814. Thank-you.

St Mary's Mass schedule in Black Creek: Saturdays @ 4 PM,  
Sundays @ 8 AM, Tuesday—Friday @ 7:30 AM

Father David Greskowiak—Administrator

Saturday 11/30/25 = \$3,302.00 Attendance = 68  
Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

12/07/2025— Memory of Leroy & Lois Hartleben by Karen VanLanen

12/08/2025— St Lawrence Parish

12/14/2025— Living & Deceased Family Members of Tom & Carol  
Weyenberg

Mass Servers —

12/07/2025— Jared & Ava Peters, Beau Diemel

12/08/2025— Volunteers

12/14/2025— Jamesen Boerst, Nina Drossart

Ministers of the Word —

12/07/2025— Randy Short

12/08/2025— Troy Wegner

12/14/2025— Mary Peeters

Hospitality

12/07/2025— David Nowak, Karen VanLanen

12/08/2025— Volunteers

12/14/2025— Rene LaFond, Pam Wetts, Bernie Weier

During Advent, individuals, couples and families will be invited  
to light the candles on the Advent Wreath.

### Oplatki—Christmas Wafers Orders

Assumption B.V.M. Church in Pulaski is  
again taking orders for Oplatki—the  
Christmas Wafers. Order forms are  
available at the entrances of the church.

#### RE NEWS:

Wed. 12/10 6:30 PM RE class for all, Christmas Practice 7:15-7:45 (Gr 1-6)

Wed. 12/17 6:30PM RE Class 7:00 PM Christmas Program (Gr. 1-6)

Cookies & Milk in church hall. 10th –11th Grade class clean up  
Invite Family Members

### Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 17 4—6 PM

Saturday, December 20 9—11 AM

Thank you for all the donations so far this year!!

St Lawrence Food Pantry Ministry

November Report—49 Families, 129 Individuals, 25 Kids

Highest number of families since Inception in 2010.

Come to church early during the Christmas Season &  
enjoy the music. Pre-mass Christmas Eve & Christmas  
Day 20 minutes before mass and the other services  
10 minutes before mass.



### Happy Birthday!

December 12 Reagan Krings; 14 Jared Erb; 15 Isaac Seefeldt;  
16 Debbie Banker, Charlie Herb; 17 Beau Coisman, EJ Zander; 18 Tim  
Letter; 20 Marge Bowden, Dennis Jarek; 21 Carter Guyette; 26 Jordan  
Fischer, Amy Guyette; 27 Zach Reif, Carol Short; 29 Harper Strayer;  
31 Pat Weier, Stacey Scott

Christmas flower envelopes are available in your  
envelope box, today is the deadline and if you  
donated money the committee will make the  
decision on what they will purchase for flowers.  
Thank you for all that donate to make this  
Christmas season a beautiful one with all the  
flowers. We will be buying from 3 different small  
greenhouse/Flower  
businesses.

Christmas flower  
envelopes are available  
at the entrances of the  
church.



### SHARE IN THE CARE Retirement Collection— Next Weekend

Next Sunday, our parish will take part in the  
Retirement Collection—SHARE IN THE CARE to  
support those who have spent their lives serving God  
and our communities. This collection benefits two  
groups:

- **National Retirement Fund for Religious**,  
which supports retired sisters, brothers and  
religious order priests
- **Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund**, which helps  
care for our senior priests here in the Diocese of  
Green Bay.

You may choose to support one or both funds using  
the special envelope attached to the bulletin and  
available at the entrances of the church. If paying by  
check, please make it out to the parish. Let's be as  
generous as we can to help these faithful servants  
receive the care and dignity they deserve.  
Thank you.

### Rite of Introduction

Next Sunday, 14 December, we will be privileged to  
witness a very special ritual. At the start of Mass we  
will be celebrating the **Rite of Introduction** to  
welcome Tiffany Marvin into the Catholic Church.  
Tiffany is going through the **Order of Christian  
Initiation (OCIA)** process to become of member of  
the Catholic Church, and will be formally and  
publicly welcomed into the order of the  
Catechumenate via the Rite of Introduction. This is  
a proud and holy moment both for her and for our  
parish. Let us pray for and congratulate Tiffany as  
she takes this momentous step on her journey of  
faith.

### Reflection on 2nd Sunday of Advent

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: “**2nd Sunday of Advent Year A, Sunday December 7, 2025**” found on the  
“Young Catholics” website—[young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com):

#### Justice and Peace for All

The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A reminds us of God's promise of justice and peace. Isaiah speaks of a leader from  
Jesse's line who will rule with wisdom and fairness. This leader brings harmony, where even nature is at peace. It is a  
vision of a world guided by God's spirit and filled with His knowledge.

This hope is not just about the future. It calls us to work for justice and peace now. Are we promoting fairness in our  
communities? Do we seek peace in our relationships? We are called to reflect God's spirit in our actions.

Isaiah's vision also challenges our view of leadership. True leaders promote justice and peace. They serve others with  
humility and wisdom. We should support leaders who seek the common good and act with integrity. The 2nd Sunday of  
Advent Year A invites us to reflect on the world we hope for and the role we play in it. By living justly and peacefully, we  
help bring God's vision closer to reality.

#### Repentance and Renewal

John the Baptist calls for repentance in the Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A. People were drawn to his bold  
message and his fearless stand against hypocrisy. John challenged people to change their hearts and bear good fruit.  
Repentance was not just about feeling sorry but about changing one's life. This call to repentance is still relevant. It  
invites us to examine our actions and attitudes. Are we living as God calls us to? Are we helping others, or are we focused  
only on ourselves? Advent is a time to reflect and make changes.

John's message also challenges how we view religious identity. He told people that ancestry and status did not matter if  
they did not bear good fruit. What matters is how we live our faith. This challenges us to go beyond words and show our  
faith through actions.

The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A invites us to prepare for Christ by changing our hearts and lives. True repentance  
brings renewal and helps us grow closer to God.

#### Hope and Leadership

Both Isaiah and John the Baptist speak about leaders who guide people toward God. Isaiah describes a leader who rules  
with justice and wisdom. John prepares the way for Jesus, who will lead with mercy and truth. The 2nd Sunday of Advent  
Year A shows us the kind of leadership that brings hope.

We all follow someone, whether in politics, community, or even within our families. Are the leaders we follow promoting  
peace and justice? If not, we may need to reconsider who we listen to. True leaders work for the good of all people.

Isaiah's vision also points to Jesus as the ultimate leader who fulfills God's promise of peace. He is the model of selfless  
leadership. By following Jesus, we find true hope and direction. The 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A invites us to reflect  
on who leads us and how we lead others. It calls us to seek leaders who bring hope and justice and to be leaders who  
reflect God's love and mercy.



### 84 Years Ago—The Attack on Pearl Harbor Sunday, 7 December 1941

“Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy...”

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Address to a joint session of Congress on 8 December 1941

Pray for our military and our veterans.

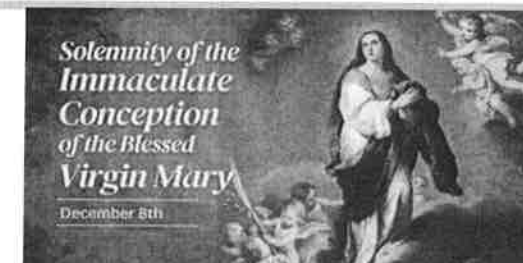
### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patronal Feastday of the United State of America A Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule—Monday, 8 December

8:00 A.M. St. Mary's in Black Creek

12:00 P.M. St. Lawrence in Navarino

5:30 P.M. St. Mary's in Black Creek



Catholic Heritage 2026 religious calendars, compliments  
of Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home, are available at the  
entrances of the church.

Don't forget to bring your Christmas gifts for the residents  
at “The Pines” next week is the blessing of the gifts.