

Dear Padre,

Is Advent a penitential season?

Strictly speaking, the penitential times in the Church are “every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent” (*Code of Canon Law*, 1250). Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s First Coming is remembered, and this remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. (See *Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 39.) While Advent is more anticipatory than penitential, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.” Although, historically, Advent was similar to Lent as a forty-day period of prayer and fasting, it was less severe than the season preceding Easter, and it lacked uniformity in the Western Church. The Eastern Church still begins the Nativity Fast on November 15, while in the Western Church, Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas.

Regardless, the significant focus of Advent is our Lord’s coming (*adventus* in Latin). The Church reflects this anticipation of Advent through such practices as limiting floral arrangements in the sanctuary, simpler liturgical music, and omitting the Gloria at Mass until Christmas. We can also reflect the anticipation of Advent through such spiritual practices as participation in works of charity, moderation in shopping, celebration of the sacrament of penance, fasting on Fridays, and prayerful contemplation on our Savior’s Incarnation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7
Advent	Advent	St. Francis	Advent	Advent	Advent	Second Sunday of Advent
Weekday	Weekday	Xavier, Priest	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	
Is 4:2-6	Is 11:1-10	Is 25:6-10a	Is 26:1-6	Is 29:17-24	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	Is 11:1-10
Mt 8:5-11	Lk 10:21-24	Mt 15:29-37	Mt 7:21, 24-27	Mt 9:27-31	Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8	Rom 15:4-9
						Mt 3:1-12



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We are called to offer God’s love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people. Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 2:1-5 / Romans 13:11-14 / Matthew 24:37-44

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!

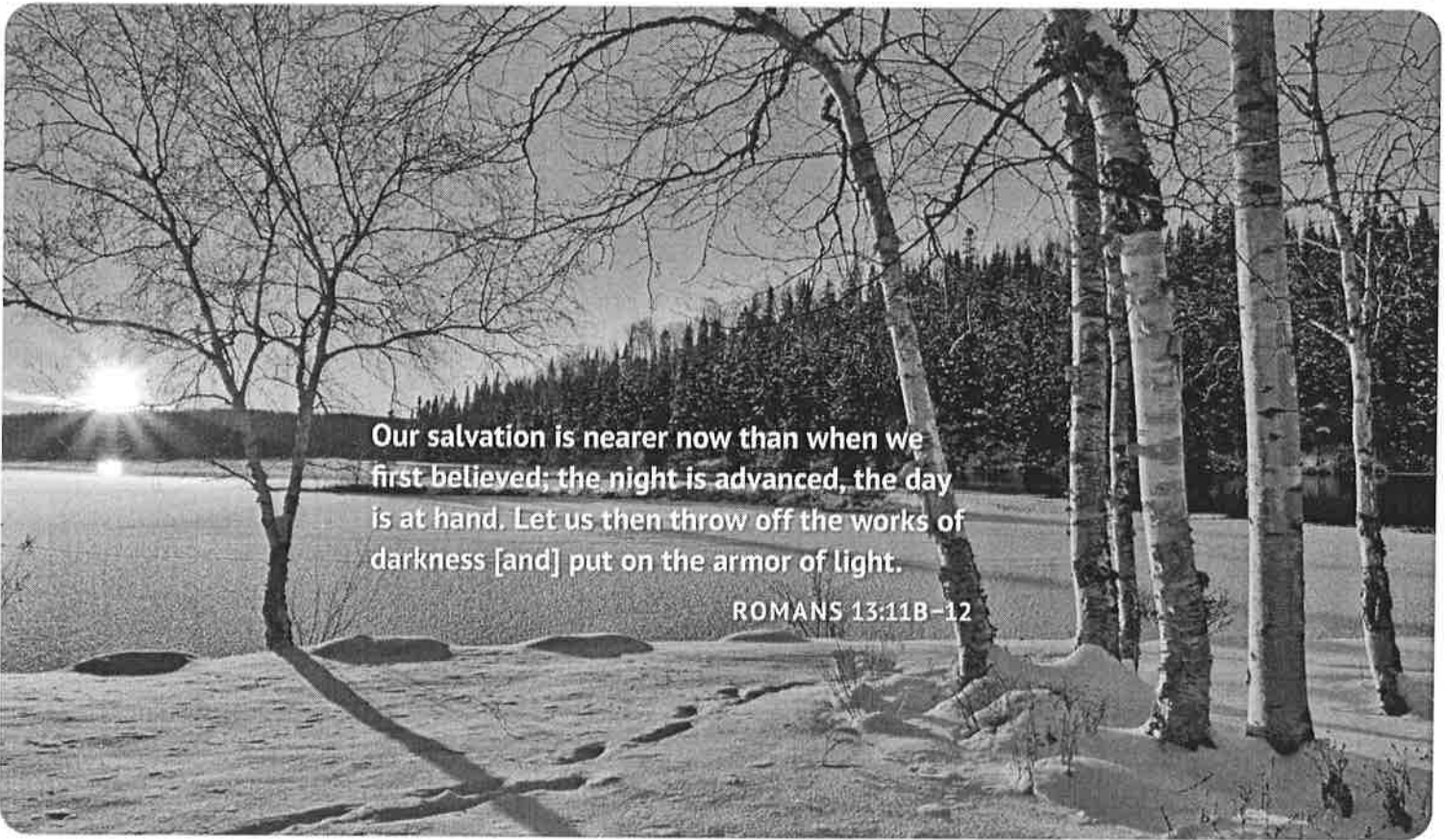
How do we wait for Christmas? After Halloween, the Christmas lights go up, the carols start, the “Merry Christmas!” / “Happy Holidays!” debate begins. Lent is a time for repentance, alms, and fasting. But there’s no fasting in Advent: we fill bags with gifts and stockings with goodies. The Church tries 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! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

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

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 11/22/25 Hunter's Mass = \$389.00 Attendance = 53

Sunday 11/23/2025— \$1,661.00 Attendance = 74

Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

11/30/2025— Bill & Elaine Letter by Letter Family

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

Mass Servers –

11/30/2025— Malachi Gray, Beau Diemel

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

Ministers of the Word –

11/30/2025— Mary Peeters

12/07/2025— Randy Short

Hospitality

11/30/2025— Barb Erb, Amy Guyette, David Nowak

12/07/2025— David Nowak, Karen VanLanen

RE NEWS:

Wed. 12/03 6:30PM Advent Reconciliation Service Gr 3-11
Meet in church

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

Wed. 12/24/25 — 01/01/26 Christmas Break

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 17 4—6 PM

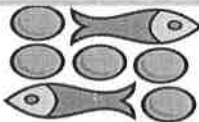
Saturday, December 20 9—11 AM

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.



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

The names of the residents at "The Pines" have all been taken. If you still
want to give a gift, personal hygiene items are needed. All ages feel
warmth and joy over a Christmas gift given just for them. The deadline for
gifts to be at the church is December 7, and the blessing will be held on
December 14, and the delivery will happen after.

2026 Religious Calendars

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

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!

November 30 Becky Krings

December 1 Josh Bierhals; 2 Chris Wetts; 3 Payten Bohm; 4 Paul
Dollhopf; Nancy Vande Heuvel; 5 Lee Lorenz; 12 Reagan Krings;
14 Jared Erb; 15 Isaac Seefeldt; 16 Debbie Banker, Charlie Herb;
17 Beau Coisman, EJ Zander; 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
sets for Nov 23rd, and at the
entrances of the church. There
are forms that you can place
your order with what you want.

If you have donated for flowers already please let
the office know and with your choice of flower we
will use your donation that you have already
turned in.



FORMED
THE CATHOLIC FAITH
ON DEMAND

How to sign on and create your own account on
FORMED:

- Go to Google, or whatever your search engine is,
and type in FORMED, in either upper or lower
case.
- Click on "Formed | On-Demand Catholic Movies,
Audio Books..."
- It will then bring up the next screen that will give
you two blue buttons to select
 - Click on "FORMED FOR PARISHES"
- It will then bring you to the next screen with two
blue buttons again.
 - Click on "FIND YOUR PARISH SUB-
SCRIPTION"
- It will then take you to the next screen with a blue
button that says "Continue to Sign up/Login"
 - Click on it.
- Type in your email address, and click "NEXT"
- A 6-digit code will be sent to your email in-box.
 - Go to your in-box, retrieve the code and copy
or type it in the box.
 - Click on "SUBMIT."
- You will then be directed to a screen that says "Join
your parish" followed by
- "Find your Parish or Organization"
- Type in: "St. Lawrence-St. Mary's"
- If that doesn't work type in zip code: "54106"
- You will then see in the box below:
"St. Lawrence-St. Mary's 301 E Burdick St. Black
Creek WI"
- Click on that.
- Then click the "Submit" blue button.
- The website will now come up and you will be able
to use it with its variety of pull-down menus.
- The website will also give you the option of creating
a password for future logins.

Reflection on 1st Sunday of Advent

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: "1st Sunday of Advent Year A, Sunday November 30, 2025" found on the
"Young Catholics" website—*young-catholics.com*:

The 1st Sunday of Advent Year A begins a season of hope, reflection, and preparation. As we enter Advent, we are called
to open our hearts and prepare our lives for the coming of Christ. The readings for this Sunday remind us to be peacemak-
ers, live in the light, and renew our faith. Through these reflections, we can explore ways to deepen our relationship with
God and strengthen our commitment to living as Christ taught.

Called to Be Peacemakers

The 1st Sunday of Advent Year A invites us to look at Isaiah's vision of a world united in peace. Isaiah describes nations
coming together, setting aside their weapons, and choosing understanding over conflict. This picture of unity shows God's
hope for humanity, a world where we seek peace with one another. Advent is a time to reflect on how we, too, can create
peace in our families, communities, and even within ourselves.

Being a peacemaker doesn't mean ignoring problems or pretending there's no conflict. It means working for solutions that
bring people closer together instead of tearing them apart. Just as Isaiah speaks of nations working side by side, we are
called to find ways to understand each other, even in disagreement. This vision reminds us that we each play a role in cre-
ating harmony wherever we are.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ, peace becomes more than a distant hope; it's something we can practice. Advent
encourages us to be peacemakers with patience, love, and respect. We can ask ourselves how we can bring a little more
peace to our relationships. By doing so, we participate in God's vision for unity and readiness to welcome Christ into our
world.

Choosing to Live in the Light

Paul's message in the 1st Sunday of Advent Year A reminds us to live in the light and leave behind actions that keep us in
darkness. He describes a life of kindness, honesty, and hope as a way to step forward. Advent is a season to think about
our actions and to choose the light, putting aside behaviors that keep us far from God's love and from each other.

Living in the light doesn't mean we're perfect, but it means we make an effort to reflect Jesus in our daily lives. It can be
small actions like choosing kindness over anger or being truthful in situations where we might not want to be. Paul en-
courages us to keep working to make choices that reflect who we want to be as followers of Christ. These choices help us
be ready to welcome Him.

As Advent begins, we're invited to let go of darkness, such as selfishness, impatience, or fear. We're called to step for-
ward, choosing the light in how we think, act, and treat others. This Sunday calls us to prepare ourselves for Jesus' com-
ing by living with faith, even when it's hard. As we choose the light, we open ourselves to God's love and grace.

Renewing Our Faith as Advent Begins

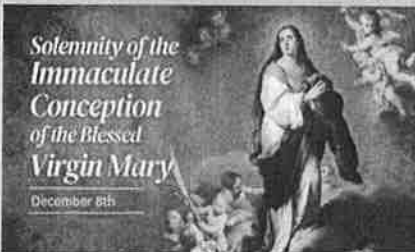
The 1st Sunday of Advent Year A opens the new church year and gives us a chance to refresh our faith. Advent is a sea-
son of waiting, but it's also a time to draw closer to God. Starting a new church year is like starting a journey with re-
newed purpose, reminding us that we are all called to grow in faith.

Renewing faith doesn't always mean making big changes. Often, it means finding small ways to connect with God daily.
We can do this through prayer, helping others, or simply taking a moment to reflect on God's presence in our lives. Ad-
vent invites us to open our hearts and make room for Jesus, letting go of things that keep us from experiencing God fully.
As we begin Advent, we're called to be open to where God may lead us. Whether through acts of kindness, spending time
in prayer, or focusing on gratitude, we can use this season to grow closer to God. The 1st Sunday of Advent reminds us
that faith is a journey, and Advent is a special time to move forward on that path.



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.



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