

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent



The Miracle That Summons Us

I've always been a morning person. It's possible that my body clock was genetically programmed to rise with the morning sun, but more than likely it was the demands of a busy life that would awaken me during the predawn hours. But regardless of the genesis, somewhere along the road to adulthood, the early morning hours became sacred.

As the size of our family increased, so did the need for my holy hour with God. I might spend the time reading Scripture, praying the rosary, or simply pouring out my heart to God. How I spend the time has become less important than entering the sacred space where I meet the person I truly am: a beloved child of God, not because of anything I do, but because of who God is. Knowing this helps keep the past in right perspective, allows me to celebrate the present, and prepares me for the day ahead. Watching and waiting during the time before the sun rises remains a guilt-free luxury, not so different from the season of Advent.

The way I see it, Advent is to Christmas as dawn is to daylight, an occasion for humble expectation and joyful celebration when time seems still. It heralds the rising of the Son from the night of sin, inviting Christians to ponder the mystery of Christ's threefold coming: in history, with us now, and in anticipation of his Second Coming.

Such a regal liturgical season calls for purple vestments, greenery, and the lighting of candles. Transcending the barriers of time that once held the world in bondage, Advent calls forth age-old stories about Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah. No longer distant figures from the past, these saints bid hearts to prepare for the birth that is ever ancient, ever new.

During the predawn days before Christmas, the communal celebration becomes personal when Mary's fiat invites me to say yes to God and when Elizabeth's greeting challenges me to see Jesus in the face of a weary salesclerk. When life's events rob my soul of peace, Joseph reminds me to trust God, and when self-doubt threatens to steal my identity as a child of God, Zechariah invites me to sit in silent prayer and breathe in love's miracles.

Some have called Christmas a magical season, but there's nothing magical about God becoming man. The Incarnation is a mystery and the miracle that summons Christians to receive the Infant God anew, for once again a new day is dawning.

As the beloved of God, we are being transformed. Ever mindful of his coming, we prepare for the long-awaited birth. Joyfully, we acknowledge the presence of Christ with us here and now, even as we watch and pray, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." (Barbara Hughes)

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SANCTUARY LIGHT

December 11 – William and Catherine Wagner
December 18 – Lawrence and Lillian Lustig
December 25 – Dale Tunny

MASS INTENTIONS

December 10 – Harold Huff
December 11 – Richard and Dolores Wagner
December 17 – Ray Geis
December 18 – Francis Vawter

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – December 17 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Tara Johannigman
Gifts: Mike and Cathy Wagner
Eucharist Minister: Judy Steuri

Sunday – December 18 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: David Hardesty, Ron Bauerle
Gifts: Steve and Ann Wagner
Eucharist Minister: Vicki Wagner

Saturday – December 24 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Judy Steuri
Gifts: Brian and Karen Horan
Eucharist Minister: Roseann Wirth

Sunday – December 25 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Amanda Schutte, Amy Kinker
Gifts: David and Jenny Hardesty
Eucharist Minister: Cindy Weisenbch

PARISH SUPPORT

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$5031.00 |
| Children's Envelopes | \$ 8.50 |
| Loose Collection | <u>\$ 370.00</u> |
| Total Regular Collection | \$5409.50 |
| Religious Retirement | \$130.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$510.00 |
| Capital Improvement | \$490.00 |
| Christmas Offering | \$135.00 |
| Pick Pockets | \$397.73 |

FOR ALL YOUR GIFTS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, THANK YOU!

"Advent tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us...The Child who lies in the manger has the face of our brothers and sisters most in need." ~ Pope Francis

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS –

Help Aging Religious. Senior sisters, brothers, and religious priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give as you are able.

PICK POCKETS –

Thanks a bunch to Sam and Molly Schoettmer, Ally Harmeyer, Aleyah and Myla Shadday, and Sophia Volz for being our Pick Pocket collectors this past weekend. They raised \$397.73 for the food pantry. A check for **\$1,717.11** will be presented this week to the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry! Thank you to all the children who made this gift possible!

GIVING TREE –

Your gifts for the Silver Memories Nursing residents and the Retired Sisters are to be placed near the trees by Sunday, December 18. Thank you for the many ways you give to those who depend upon your goodness.

RELIGIOUS ED –

Preschool through Grade 5 will meet for class on December 14, 6:45 PM until 8:15 PM, and will conclude their class with a Christmas party. **Please notice the slight change in time.**

JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED

– Classes for Grades 6 through 10 next Sunday, December 18, at 8:30 AM, beginning with a breakfast served in the parish hall.

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL –

Please send in your donation for the UCA before Christmas if possible. There are extra pledge cards at the entrances of church. Thanks.

POST OFFICE PRAYER –

“God, our Father, may everything we do be first-class. Imprint your own loving zip code upon our hearts so that we may never go astray. Provide in your gracious Providence special handling for those of us who are fragile and keep us in one piece. And when our days draw to a close and we are marked ‘Return to Sender,’ be there to greet us at Heaven’s door so that nobody may ever say ‘Unknown at this address.’ Amen.” (Fr. Joe Robinson)

4:00 PM MASS GREETERS

December 17 – Joe Wagner, Gary Wagner
December 24 – Dennis Wagner, Gary Wagner
December 31 – Ken Hellmich, Joe Wagner

10:00 AM MASS GREETERS

December 18 – George and Mary Bultman
December 25 – Kevin Tunny, Steve Wagner
January 1 – Paul and Arlene Gehl

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE – Father Bill is also available for confessions after Mass during this Advent season.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER – See the flyer on the bulletin boards at the entrances of church.

HEALING SERVICE –

Take some time away from the busy season and join Fr. Whittington for a Eucharistic Healing Service on Tuesday, December 20, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Sunman, IN. Confessions begin at 6:30; praise & worship music at 6:45; and the service at 7:00 p.m. Come receive healing prayer from Fr. Whittington and a prayer team. Experience true joy and peace!

QUOTE –

No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need even of God – for them there will be no Christmas. Only the poor, the hungry, those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God. (Oscar Romero)

THE LORD’S LAUGHTER –

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'" (The Joyful Noiseletter)

December 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|  | THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH For volunteer not-for-profit organizations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation. | | RE Classes 6:45 PM Penance Service Grades 3-5 FEAST OF ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE | Finance Meeting 6:00 PM | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 AM - Noon HALL RENTED in Evening Penance Service at St. Martin, Yorkville | Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM Pick Pockets Blood Pressure Checks |
| | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| RE Classes (11th & 12th Grades also) 8:30 AM SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass 10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks Pick Pockets Donuts and Coffee | | Ladies Christmas Party - Doors Open 6:00 PM - Penance Service, Holy Family, Oldenburg Feast of St. Nicholas | RE Classes 6:45 PM | HOLY-DAY-OF OBLIGATION FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Celebration of Mass 6:00 PM | | Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM HALL RENTED |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| RE Classes 8:30 AM THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass 10:00 AM VISIT FROM SANTA 11:00 AM | Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  | Penance Service, St. Catherine of Siena, Enochsburg 7:00 PM | Christmas Party for Preschool - Grade 5 6:45 - 8:15 PM Penance Service, St. John, Osgood 6:00 - 8:00 PM | | | Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| RE Classes (Breakfast will be served 8:30 AM) FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass 10:00 AM Donuts and Coffee | | | NO RE Classes First Day of Winter | | |  CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM Mass with Children |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| NATIVITY OF THE LORD  Celebration of Mass 10:00 AM | Christmas Day (observed) | | | | | New Year's Eve Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM JAN 1: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD |