



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year of the Church - year C. The season of Advent is the period of four Sundays that the Church uses to remind us, and ask us to first: prepare worthily and consciously to celebrate the first coming of Jesus in Bethlehem bringing the Good News of God's salvation. Secondly, we are reminded to be ready for His second coming in glory at the end of the world, and of each individual receiving His just judgment.

How do we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first coming and make ready for His second coming in glory? The gospel of Luke for this Sunday gives us the answer: ***"Be vigilant at all times and pray..."*** This answer seems to place a *"heavy responsibility,"* on our shoulders but this is for our salvation at the end, which God wants us to receive.

During the Advent Season, as we prepare outwardly to celebrate the first coming of our Lord, we decorate our houses, the town, and the Church with Christmas trees and lights; we go shopping for gifts for our loved ones, and many kinds of other activities that express our joy. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with doing these things, but that is not the main focus. We need to ***decorate our souls*** too; and before we do that, we need to clean our souls by receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. Then we can decorate our souls with acts of charity, especially the act of forgiveness or reconciliation within our family or friends.

We need to be vigilant at all times and make time to pray - ***private prayer***, such as praying the rosary, meditation, reading spiritual books, saying morning and evening prayers, sacrificing something, receiving the sacrament of reconciliation; or ***public prayer*** such as going to daily Mass, attending other liturgical services, doing other public service at Church. We cannot allow the decoration of the outside to take the place of, or overshadow, the decoration of inside (our soul).

Friends in Christ, we should remember the main reason for our celebration at Christmas: the birth of the King of the universe, Jesus Christ, who brings joy, peace, love and truth from heaven to earth.

Have a blessed and holy Advent Season.

Peace in Christ, Fr. Tien

The Advent Wreath

The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice in the Church as well as the home. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. It is appropriate for a parent or family member to bless the Advent Wreath.



Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tentative Advent Penance Service Schedule

St. Mary's in Sylva - December 9th - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis - December 16th - 6:00 p.m. until



Tentative Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. Family Mass

7:00 p.m. Mass (In Spanish)

Our Children's Choir will sing ½ hour prior to the 4:00 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25th

9:00 a.m. Mass



Pat Matteson, a former parishioner and pianist for our choir, has passed away. There will be a service here for Pat in the Spring. Our condolences are extended to her family.

There will be wrapping paper, gift bags and bows for sale after our weekend Masses. All proceeds will benefit our Faith Formation children.



Our youth will sing prior to our Christmas Eve Mass and practice every Sunday from 10:30 till 11:00 a.m. as part of their Faith Formation.

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don't let this Advent pass you by, slow down and focus on what matters most. Sign up at BestAdventEver.com to receive inspirational videos each day, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey.



Our Knights of Columbus are accepting donations of toiletries and transit cards or even gift cards for our Veterans. Please drop off your donations in our church office.



Did you hear the new music for the liturgy of the Mass? Did you recognize the tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel?" This is our sung liturgy for all of Advent. We hope you will be able to join in the singing.



The Winter Highlights television schedules from EWTN are available at the entrances of the church.

Be sure to pick up a copy!

"I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter who became matter for my sake."
St. John Damascene - Feast Day - December 4th



Pray for healing: Shirley Allegretti, Rita Bader, Joan Barnum, Ray Behr, Dean Birchard, John Wayne Crunkleton, Mary Cude, Lillianne Duong Davis, Tony Fiorillo, Brendan Fox, Carol Fox, Tony Frede, Brandon Hatch, Joan Hatch, Donna Hogsed, Aaron Ivey, Bob Mast, Millard Michaels, Bill and Dee Mollitt, Germaine Mollitt, Dolores Molter, Freeman Robinson, Josette Roisin, Tanya Savage, Bill Shaw, Linda Smith, Catherine Holten Snider, Marlene Taber, Irene Tisdale, Marlene Woods, Alice Yuzzi, Anthony Yuzzi.



Please pray for our parishioners and all men and women in the armed forces:
Stephen Fox, Kyle McCormick, Elizabeth Scoone



Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, November 27

4:00 P.M. Marlene Taber by Marilyn Ricke
Lopez Santos & Lopez Valencia family
by Turner & Pazar families
Donna Hogsed by Cindy Derry

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

9:00 A.M. † Min Galbrecht by Charlene
† Chito Jose by Isobal
11:30 A.M. † Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia
† Justino Soriano from his family

Monday, November 29

9:00 A.M. † Luchi Panes Lutaos by Isobal

Tuesday, November 30

Saint Andrew, Apostle

9:00 A.M. † Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia

Wednesday, December 1

5:30 P.M. † Steven Thornley by Matt & Lisa Michalik
† Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia

Thursday, December 2

9:00 A.M. † Armand DeCastro by Isobal
† Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia

Friday, December 3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

First Friday

9:00 A.M. Megan, Kristen, Sheree, Josette
Donna Hogsed by Cindy Derry

Saturday, December 4

Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

First Saturday

8:45 A.M. Benediction
9:00 A.M. First Saturday Mass
4:00 P.M. † Denise Williams by Dee Opperman
† Gary Frame by Pat Tuscanly

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 A.M. Lopez Santos & Lopez Valenua Family
by Turner and Pazar Families
Zackary Pazar by Nikki Turner
11:30 A.M. † Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia
† Justino Soriano from his family

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday 6:15 p.m.

The Rosary

The Rosary is recited everyday
one-half hour before Mass.