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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 27, 2022

SATURDAY, NOVEBMER 26

The Mass of Anticipation for the 1st Sunday of Advent 4:00PM Frances Hruda—Memorial

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

The First Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Teresa M. Romano—3rd Anniversary

9:00AM Lucille Masse—Memorial

10:30AM R.G. Peter-Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Advent Weekday

7:30AM John T. Cole—4th Anniversary

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell—23rd Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew, Apostle

7:30AM Mary E. Healey—43rd Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Neal J. Armstrong—Birthday Remembrance

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Mary Jo Duffy—1st Anniversary
9:00AM The Deceased Alumni of OLM School

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:30AM Emily Devlin—65th Anniversary
The Mass of Anticipation for 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Robert Johnson—Birthday Remembrance

9:00AM Peter & Gloria Monti—Memorial

10:30AM Margery Rusnak—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy



Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

We begin the Season of Advent (from "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to"), a season encompassing the four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas.

From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation.

Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the world's cares. Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

While the secular world is busy and noisy in the weeks leading up to the birth of our Savior, Advent should be a season of waiting in silence, praying with patience, and full of joyful expectation. Advent has us waiting for Christmas, but also nursing the hope of ancient Israel for the arrival of the promised Messiah. He came first as the Holy Infant of Bethlehem and then promised He would come again at the end of time to bring us home.

Our lives today can be filled with tensions, setbacks, frustrations, and weariness. It's incomplete! We await the

completion of God's plan when He arrives in glory as the Judge of the living and the dead.

All the challenges and adversities of this life are potent reminders that we are in need, we are incomplete, something is missing, and we sense the void. That's what we're waiting for: salvation, rescue, redemption, and fulfillment. And that only comes when Jesus returns.

Many people put up their Christmas trees and lights in early November. Growing up my family never put up the Christmas tree and decorations until after Thanksgiving. Also, the Nativity scene had a prominent place in our home, but the crib was empty! The baby Jesus was placed in the crib after Christmas Midnight Mass.

The empty crib is a radiant symbol: that's our world; that's our lives! Empty, awaiting someone. That someone is Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World, born on Christmas Day. Advent is a time to recall the cry of the early Christians: "Maranatha!" "Come, Lord Jesus!"

We put up the Advent Wreath in Church but also in our homes. It is made of evergreens, signifying continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes God's eternity, the soul's immortality, and the everlasting life found in Christ.

All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father. Christ who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles of the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. Each week represents one thousand years, a total of the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple, and one is rose. The purple candles, symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, sometimes call Rose Sunday because of the color of the vestments. It is the Sunday of rejoicing because we have arrived at the midpoint of Advent when our preparation is now half over, and we are close to the great celebration of Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles each week symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. Advent is our time to slow down and prepare, not speed up and shop. It is our time to prepare the room for Christ to come more intimately into our lives, our hearts and our homes.

It's Advent, use this sacred time to prepare more room for Christ in your life by praying daily, making a good Sacramental Confession before Christmas, and staying nourished and strengthened at Sunday Mass. "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Be well. Stay safe. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey

Advent Gospels

ON THE four Sundays of Advent, the Catholic lectionary presents a series of Gospel readings that prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. The Sunday Advent readings all rotate on a three-year cycle, but they always follow the same pattern.

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent always tells of the reign of Christ at the end of time. It echoes the theme of the previous Sunday, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Advent starts with the message that we await the Second Coming of Christ. This entire season is not just a reminder of a past birth but also an anticipation of future glory.

The Second and Third Sundays of Advent always have Gospel readings about John the Baptist. John is an adult in these passages, proclaiming the nearness of the Kingdom of God and serving as the prophet who bridges the Old and New Testaments. John foreshadows Jesus in his birth, his preaching, and his death. John's message on these two middle Sundays of this season inspires us to follow Christ.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent always tells part of the story that just precedes the Birth of Christ. These familiar episodes set the stage for one of the Bible's best-known passages, the story of Christmas.

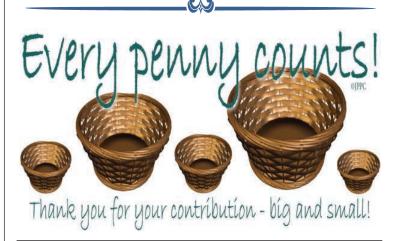
The Gospel readings of the four Sundays of Advent come to us in reverse chronology. We start with the end of time. We continue to the period when Jesus was an adult. We end in the days before his birth. Like a funnel, Advent opens with a giant theme, the grandness of Christ the King, and it ends with a specific one, the child lying in a Bethlehem manger.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Lectionary for Mass © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.



Ceekly Collection

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday print deadline Weekly Collection result are unavailable.



Second Collections

Next Week:
Monthly Building & Grounds Collection

Leave a Legacy of Faith for the next Generation! Remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated in memory of **Teresa M. Romano** In your charity, please pray for the gentle repose of her soul.



Divine Mercy Chaplet

Join us every Friday at 3:00PM as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet in OLM Church before the Our Lady of Mercy Altar and Shrine.



RE Schedule

November 27: Thanksgiving Break/no class

<u>December 4</u>: 5:00pm Mass & Class for Grade 8 Confirmation 2023 to follow in the OLM School Gym

<u>December 11:</u> 9:00am Mass & Class for Grade 1 & 2 to follow in in the OLM School Gym

<u>December 11</u>: Advent Penance Service 6:00PM for Grades 3 thru 8. Parents should attend.

<u>December 18</u>: 9:00am Mass & Class for Grades 3 & 4; 5:00pm Mass Class for Grades 5-7



- <u>OLM Food Pantry</u> is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. All food items should be unexpired and non-perishable. We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.
- •OLM Holiday Outreach: We are always in need of gift cards to Stop & Shop and Walmart during the holiday season. Please drop in the collection basket or the safe in the vestibule in envelop marked OLM Holiday Outreach.
- •OLM Bereavement Group: Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 4:00PM in Mercy House. All those who are grieving are invited to join with us. ●For more information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org

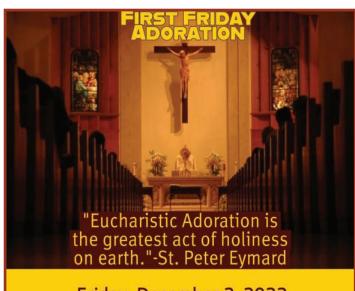


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Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, November 29: Science Club Meeting2:30-3:30 pm; HSPT Prep Class 2:30-4:00 pm
- Thursday, December 1: Choir Practice After School; Beloved Meeting 2:20-3:30
- •<u>December 2:</u> Frist Friday Mass at 9:00AM: Middle School Dance 6:30pm-8:30pm

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Friday, December 2, 2022
Exposition at 12:00 PM
Adoration All-Afternoon
Benediction at 5:00 PM
Adorers are needed, sign up online

1st Sunday of Advent



oday is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new liturgical year.

Advent, which always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, dates back to the fourth century.

It is a four-week period of devout and joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Early in Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on the second coming. After December 16, it shifts our attention to the events surrounding the nativity.



First Sunday in Advent

This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

The Men of St. Joseph

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Monthly Meeting Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 7:00AM OLM Rectory Meeting Room

All Men (18 years or older) are invited to join us.

Book Discussion Into the Breach by Bishop Thomas Olmsted Copies Available in the Parish Office

For more information, contact Fr. Mahoney at 884-4968 or associatepastor@olmparish.org





Join the OLM Family Group for an evening of caroling!

Friday, December 2

5:30-7:00PM

Gather in the Church vestibule.

We will walk the neighborhood caroling and bringing Christmas joy to our neighbors.

Hot Chocolate and Snacks to follow

Everyone is welcome to join!

Song Sheets will be provided

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