



The Waiting Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

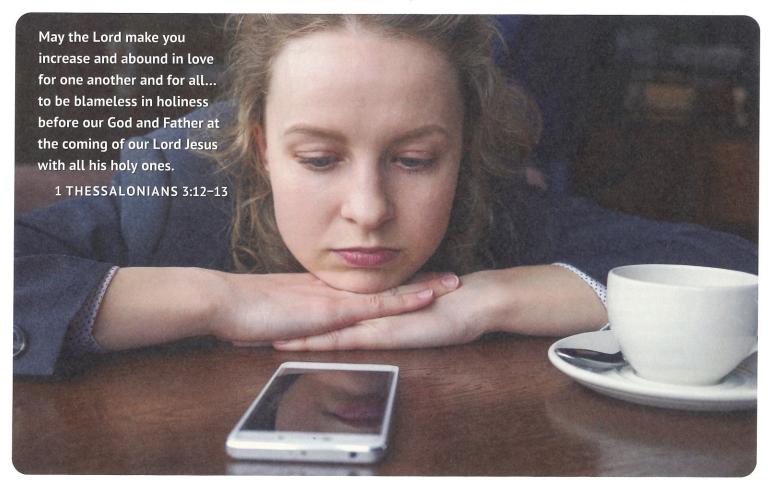
dvent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm the cocoon and so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly's wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel's encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need.

Reflect

How can you better enjoy times of waiting?



Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor Rev. William Pifher 419-446-9288



Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St. Favette, OH 4352I

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Thursday 8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel Pat Eisel Ray Hollstein Mike Burkholder Traci Maginn Barbara Roby

FINANCE COUNCIL

Barb Bruggeman Terry Kovar Joanna Marry



Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.

OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429 Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441 Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

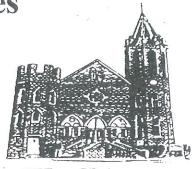
CRE

Mary Bird OLOMCre @olom2441.onmircrosoft.com

Praver Chain

OLOMPrayerchain@olom.2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online) stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy



St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St. Archbold, OH 43502

MASS SCHEDULE

1st Saturday of month 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. Saturday 10:30 a.m. Sunday Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Wednesday 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. Friday

Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150 email-stpeter@rtecexpress.net

Religious Ed

Deb Herring

Parish Council President Stephen Bernath

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- Baptism: Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- Reconciliation: Father will be available for confessions starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.
- New Parishioners: A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- Anointing of the Sick: Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- Matrimony: Please contact the Parish Office six months ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the bulletin deadline is Tuesday, Noon. Please either call, email at OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin.

SUNDAY, December 1, 2024 1st Sunday of Advent

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

BFF (Breakfast, Friends & Fellowship)

BFF today after Mass with donuts and beverages. Come and enjoy fellowship and food!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dec. 8 & 15 - class after Mass (Penance Service on Dec. 8)

Dec. 1,22 & 29 class at Home

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIEST - DECEMBER 2, 2024

Kindly remember in prayer all our Priests serving in the Diocese of Toledo, as they gather on Monday, December 2 for the annual Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Through our prayers, and the intercession of Our Lady, may the Lord grant them spiritual grace, renewed fidelity, and joy in ministry.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mass schedule Monday, December 9, 2024 Our Lady of Mercy Rosary 8:30 a.m. Mass 9:00 a.m. St. Peter – Rosary 6:30 p.m. Mass 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY PREGNANCY CENTER CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Our Lady of Mercy CCD students are collecting baby wipes and ointment for their Christmas project and inviting the Parishioners to help. If you would like to donate please put donation in the box at the back of church.

AREA CONFESSION OR PENANCE SERVICES

St. Caspar – December 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Mercy – December 8, 2024 after Mass
St. Augustine (Napoleon) – December 11, 2024 at 7 p.m.
St. Richard (Swanton) – December 12, 2024 at 7 p.m.
St. Patrick (Bryan) – Dec. 3, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., Dec. 12, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.,
Dec. 17, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m., and Dec. 18, 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA NEWSLETTER

Please pick up your Christmas Novena Newsletter on the back table.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Our Lady of Mercy's days to ring the Salvation Army bell at Circle K here in Fayette, is Friday, December 21 & Saturday, December 22. All donations stay here in the Fayette community. Sign up form is on the back podium. Any questions please call Jerry Van Zile at 419-572-1389.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures, we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of His Son Jesus." - St. John Paul the Great

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 1 – Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God 805 From early morning, I felt the nearness of the Blessed Mother. During Holy Mass, I saw Her, so lovely and so beautiful that I have no words to express even a small part of this beauty. She was all [in] white, with a blue sash around Her waist. Her cloak was also in blue, and there was a crown on Her head. Marvelous light streamed forth from Her whole figure. I am the Queen of heaven and earth, but especially the Mother of your [Congregation]. She pressed me to Her heart and said, I feel constant compassion for you. I felt (202) the force of Her Immaculate Heart which was communicated to my soul. Now I understand why I have been preparing for this feast for two months and have been looking forward to it with such yearning. From today onwards, I am going to strive for the greatest purity of soul, that the rays of God's grace may be reflected in all their brilliance. I long to be a crystal in order to find favor in His eyes.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---Opera House – A Trans-Siberian Tribute – Dec. 6, 2024 – 7 p.m. – Tickets \$20 each

---Dec. 14 – Fayette Winter Market – activities throughout town 4 p.m. – 8 p.m

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email or call Our Lady of Mercy office. Email olomprayerchain@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Privacy Issues for Parish Office:

IMMEDATE FAMILY – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.

The Diocese of Toledo is in compliance with the articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter)* of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Every year, the Diocese dutifully submits the necessary documentation required by the USCCB for a diocese to be in compliance.

Every three years an on-site audit is conducted, when not only all necessary documentation is dutifully submitted, but in addition, Pastoral Center, parish and diocesan school employees are interviewed concerning practices and protocols related to creating and maintaining a safe environment for our children and youth.

The last 3-year audit was conducted in September 2024 and all audited Articles within the *Charter* were found to be compliant. The next on-site audit will be conducted in 2027.

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric, or any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419) 214-4880 or by mail at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

La Diócesis de Toledo está en cumplimiento con los artículos de la Carta para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB).

Cada año, la Diócesis presenta diligentemente la documentación necesaria requerida por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB, por sus siglas en inglés) para que una diócesis está en cumplimiento.

Cada tres años se lleva a cabo una auditoría en el sitio, en la que no solo se presenta debidamente toda la documentación necesaria, sino que, además, se entrevista a los empleados del Centro Pastoral, de las parroquias y de las escuelas diocesanas sobre las prácticas y protocolos relacionados con la creación y el mantenimiento de un entorno seguro para nuestros niños y jóvenes.

La última auditoría de 3 años se realizó en septiembre de 2024. La próxima audioría en el sitio se llevará a cabo en 2027.

La Diócesis de Toledo mantiene su compromiso de garantizar la protección de los niños y proporcionar un entorno seguro para todos los jóvenes. Si tiene conocimiento de algún abuso que haya sido cometido por un clérigo o por cualquier personal de la Iglesia Católica, se le insta a denunciar con el abuso al departamento de policía de su localidad, Servicios para Niños y al Coordinador Diocesano de Asistencia a Víctimas al (419) 214-4880; o por correo a la siguiente dirección 1933 Spielbusch Avenue; Toledo, Ohio 43604.

December

Our Lady of Mercy

| <u></u> | 4 | 2 | 28 |) | , |
|---|--|------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Saturday | | † | | | |
| Friday 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | | |
| Thursday | 12 | 19 | 26 | | |
| Wednesday 4 | Ξ | 8 | 25 OLOM Mass 9 a.m. Happy Birthday Lesys | | |
| Tuesday 3 | 10 | 17 Christmas Novena | 24 OLOM 7 p.m. Mass St. Peter 9 p.m. Mass | 31 | |
| Monday | 9 OLOM Mass 9 a.m. St. Peter Mass 7 p.m. Immaculate Conception | 16 | 23 | 30 | |
| Sunday 1 Rel. Ed. @ Home BFF after Mass | 8 Rel. Ed affer Mass Penance Service affer Mass | 15 Rel. Ed. @ Home | 22 Rel. Ed. after Mass Christmas Novena | 29 Rel. Ed. @ Home | |

Saints of the Day

(www.morningoffering.com)
Week of Dec. 1 – Dec. 7

Sunday, Dec. 1 – St. Edmund Campion - St. Edmund Campion (1540–1581) was born in London, England, the son of a bookseller. He was a promising student and went on to become an esteemed and celebrated Oxford scholar, winning the high regard of Queen Elizabeth who admired his wit and pleasant disposition. Although raised Catholic, he was ordained an Anglican deacon. Unsettled by his move away from the Church, he repented and returned to the Catholic faith. While in disguise to protect his safety following his reversion, he witnessed the martyrdom of a fellow scholar and recognized his vocation. He went to Rome and became a Jesuit priest, and while assigned to minister in Moravia he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary who foretold his martyrdom. He later returned to England as an undercover priest during the severe persecution of Catholics upon the Pope's excommunication of Queen Elizabeth. His mission was to strengthen Catholics wavering under government pressure and win converts among the Protestants. St. Edmund was eventually hunted down, imprisoned in the Tower of London, and tortured. After being found guilty of treason, he said, "In condemning us, you condemn all your own ancestors, all our ancient bishops and kings, all that was once the glory of England — the island of saints, and the most devoted child of the See of Peter." After spending his last days in prayer, he was dragged with two fellow priests to be hanged, drawn, and quartered on December 1st, 1581 at 41 years of age. His feast day is December 1st.

Monday, Dec. 2 – St. Bibiana - St. Bibiana, also known as Vibiana or Viviana (d. 361), was born in Rome, the daughter of Christian parents who were martyred in the persecutions of Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate. Her father was severely beaten and sent to live in exile as a slave, but died from his wounds. Her mother was beheaded shortly after. St. Bibiana and her sister, Demetria, were stripped of their possessions and imprisoned in their family home in utter poverty and hunger. They were offered reward if only they would renounce Jesus, but the sisters, strong in faith and prayer, said they would rather die. Finding that they did not die from lack of food, the Roman governor summoned them. Demetria, after professing the faith, died at his feet. St. Bibiana was given to the guardianship of a pagan woman who tried to force her into prostitution. St. Bibiana refused and resolutely maintained her faith in Christ. For this she was beaten, tied to a pillar, and cruelly scourged. She eventually died from her tortures, and her body was discarded to be eaten by wild dogs. The animals, however, would not touch her. Her body was recovered by a priest and buried, with a chapel built over the tomb for her veneration. St. Bibiana's feast day is December 2nd.

Tuesday, Dec. 3 – St. Francis Xavier - St. Francis Xavier (1506–1552) was born in his family castle in Navarre in what is today Spain. While studying in Paris he met St. Ignatius of Loyola and joined him in the foundation of the Society of Jesus. Instead of devoting himself to academic pursuits as he had planned, and in which he enjoyed great success, he became the first Jesuit missionary priest. His missionary activity began in Goa, India and extended across the Orient. St. Francis Xavier was known throughout the Far East for his humility, care of the poor, and miracles including healings, speaking in tongues, and prophetic powers. His passion for Christ and zeal for souls won him many converts to the faith. It is said that during his missionary journeys he baptized over 40,000 people. He is considered by many to be one of the Church's greatest missionaries since St. Paul the Apostle. In his travels he left behind flourishing churches that were the foundations of the Catholic Church in Asia. He is the patron saint of navigators, missionaries, African missions, India, Japan, China, and New Zealand. St. Francis Xavier's feast day is December 3rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 – St. Barbara - St. Barbara (3rd c.) was born in Nicomedia in modern day Turkey. According to tradition, after the death of her mother she was raised by her rich and tyrannical pagan father who, because of her beauty and intelligence, guarded her closely, keeping her locked away in a tower to protect her from the outside world. She was educated by tutors and came to reject the false gods she was taught to worship in favor of the true God for whom she yearned and wished to discover, dedicating her life and virginity to this purpose. She developed a prayer life and resisted her father's attempts to have her marry. Believing Barbara to be negatively affected by the seclusion, her father allowed her more freedom to associate with the world. She soon discovered Christians, and, recognizing the Creator she sought, and was baptized in secret. After informing her father that she was a Christian, he denounced her to the authorities under the persecution of Roman Emperor Maximian. She was imprisoned and cruelly tortured, but remained steadfast in her faith. During the night she would pray fervently, and her wounds would miraculously heal. This only subjected her to greater torments, followed by more miraculous interventions. She was finally beheaded by her own father, and afterward he was struck and killed by lightening as punishment. St. Barbara is the patron saint of firemen, armorers, artillerymen, military engineers, miners, and others who work with explosives. She is also the patron against storms, lightning, and fire, to name a few. St. Barbara's feast day is December 4th.

Thursday, Dec. 5 – St. Sabas – St. Sabas (439-532 A.D.) was born near Caesarea in Cappadocia to an illustrious family. His father was an army officer who, being restationed in Alexandria, left Sabas (along with his estate) in the care of his wife's sister. Sabas was severely mistreated by his aunt, and he fled from her to live with his father's brother instead. This move led to a family feud over the management of his father's estate, and Sabas, a meek child disgusted with their worldliness, sought refuge in a monastery. He was well-treated there, and although only a child, excelled in the monastic life. When he reached the age of eighteen, after living in the monastery for ten years, Sabas traveled to Jerusalem to visit the holy places and to become a desert hermit. He lived in a Jerusalem monastery for a time before dwelling alone in a desert cave near Jericho, spending his days in prayer and penance. Because of his renowned virtue and holiness many men desired to follow his example. He was ordained a priest so that he could better direct the 150 monks in his care. Sabas became an important leader in the early Church by founding monasteries, fighting heresy, and serving in delegations to the Roman Emperor. He is one of the most highly-regarded patriarchs of Palestine, and is considered one of the Fathers of Eastern monasticism. His most important monastery, the Great Laura, is one of the oldest monasteries in the world and is still inhabited by Eastern Orthodox monks. St. Sabas' feast day is December 5th.

Friday, Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra - St. Nicholas of Myra (270 – 343 A.D.) was the only child of a wealthy Greek Christian couple living in what is today the country of Turkey. He was a pious child, and upon the death of his parents Nicholas was raised by an uncle who was a bishop. St. Nicholas grew in holiness, was ordained to the priesthood, and eventually consecrated a bishop. He was famous for generosity to the poor, protection of the wronged, zeal against heresy, and performance of miracles. Many famous legends are told of him. When a poverty-stricken man was to be forced to sell his daughters into slavery, St. Nicholas secretly tossed bags of coins into their home to serve as the girls' dowry, thus enabling them to marry and be provided for. The money was said to have landed in their stockings drying by the fireplace, which is the origin of gifts in children's stockings and shoes at Christmastime. At the Council of Nicea, Nicholas prevailed against the heretic bishop Arius; he was also instrumental in defending the doctrine of Jesus' divinity and formulating the Nicene Creed. His relics are still preserved in the Basilica of St. Nicholas in Italy. On his feast day they emit a miraculous myrrh, which is distributed around the world. Many countries have the custom of portraying him as the secret giver of gifts to children on his feast day and/or on Christmas Eve. St. Nicholas of Myra is the patron saint of many causes, professions, cities, and countries; but he is most notably the patron of children, sailors, prisoners, and maidens seeking to marry. His feast day is December 6th.

Saturday, Dec. 7 – St. Ambrose of Milan – St. Ambrose of Milan (c. 340–397 A.D.) was born in Gaul (modern France) and became a successful lawyer and governor in Milan, Italy. When the bishop of Milan died in 374 A.D., a movement arose among the people to demand that Ambrose take his place. At the time Ambrose was only a catechumen preparing for baptism; he was not yet a Christian. He went into hiding in an attempt to escape the ecclesiastical appointment. His attempts to hide were unsuccessful; the emperor forbade anyone to give him shelter, which forced him to give himself up and submit to the will of the people to be their bishop. Ambrose quickly received the sacraments, including Holy Orders, and was ordained the Bishop of Milan a week later. He became a very holy leader, giving his property to the poor and his land to the Church, and making himself directly available to the needs of all people. He also worked tirelessly to defend orthodox doctrine, especially against the pervasive Arian heresy which denied the divinity of Christ. St. Ambrose was the saint who introduced lectio divina, the practice of prayerfully meditating on the Sacred Scriptures, into the Latin Church. This informed his eloquent writing, preaching, and teaching, earning him the nickname "honey-tongued doctor." Ambrose was the bishop who converted and baptized St. Augustine of Hippo. He is one of the four original Doctors of the Church, and his statue is one of four that upholds the Chair of St. Peter inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. St. Ambrose's feast day is December 7th.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



DECEMBER I, 2024

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

| 11. | IIS WEED | D IVIL | ASS SCHEDULE |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Date | Time | Chui | rch Intention |
| Sun. Dec. 1 | 8:30a.m. | OLM | Ron & Melody Lichtenwald family |
| | 10:30a.m | SP | Frank O & Mary Smith Gina Dammon |
| Tues. Dec. 3 | 7:00 p.m. | SP | For the People |
| Wed. Dec. 4 | 9:00 a.m. | SP | For the People |
| Thurs. Dec. 5 | 9:00 a.m. | OLM | Joy Short |
| Fri. Dec. 6 Comm. Service | | SP | For the People |
| Sat. Dec. 7 | 4:30 pm | SP | For the People |
| Sun. Dec. 8 | 8:30a.m. | OLM | Eddie Tidwell Giovanni Stella |
| | 10:30a.m | SP | For the People |

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT Reported for November 24, 2024

| SUNDAY OFFERTORY (9 envelopes) LOOSE OFFERINGS BUDGET Over / (Under) | \$ \$ (\$ | 366.00 265.00 1,747.00 1,116.00) |
|--|-----------------|--|
| OTHER COLLECTION St. Vincent de Paul Maintenance | \$ \$ | 5.00 20.00 |
| TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other) | \$ | 656.00 |

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- ---Religious Ed. Dates
 - --- Dec. 1, Dec. 22 & Dec. 29 at home
 - --- Dec. 8 & 15 Rel. Ed. After Mass
- --- Dec. 1 BFF after Mass
- ---Dec. 8 Penance Service after Mass starting at 9:30 a.m. (Religious Ed. Students first)
- ---Dec. 9 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses
 - 9 a.m Our Lady of Mercy
 - 7 p.m. St. Peter
- ---Dec. 17 Dec. 24 OLOM Christmas Novena

| NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS | December 8, 2024 |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Greeters/Gifts | Joyce Bonin Marge Crowell |
| Reader | Mary Bird |
| Servers | Evan Beauregard Kennedy Kunkle |
| Ushers | Dennis & Denise Miller |
| Ministers of the Eucharist | Until further notice |
| Money Counters | Phil Baker Dennis Miller Michelle Miron |

Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

ANTICIPATE – to realize beforehand; foretaste or foresee

"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:316

Dear Padre,

I've been Catholic all my life, but I don't understand Advent. It's too much like Lent and seems an odd way to prepare for the birth of a baby.

In a society that is primarily secular, one skill of the believing Christian is the ability to balance competing realities. From a secular perspective, Christmas is part of the period identified as the "holidays," beginning with Thanksqiving until New Year's Day, when it abruptly ends and stores begin advertising Valentine's Day.



For Christians, Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the great promise fulfilled after centuries of waiting and expectation. The creative energy of the Father is displayed in wonder and awe as the angels sing and people of good faith gather to celebrate. We join our ancestors in anticipation of this event through the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

The Christian holy day is a singular day, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas—but the Church continues the celebration of God's life and love through the days that follow, culminating in the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

We are invited to hold the secular and the liturgical experiences in an integrated balance. We can celebrate the secular holidays and we can enter the liturgical season that helps us contemplate something much grander and more spectacular.

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

Monday December 2 Advent Weekday Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday December 3 St. Francis Xavier, Priest Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday December 4 Advent Weekday Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37

Thursday December 5 Advent Weekday Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday December 6 Advent Weekday Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31

December 7 St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Is 30:19-21. 23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Saturday

Sunday December 8 Second Sunday of Advent Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians"—and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness.... This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness. ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021



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