

# SAINT COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christi simus, non nostri  
*We belong to Christ, not ourselves*

## ST. COLUMBAN PARISH

506 First St. S. Yelm, WA 98597

360-458-3031

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00AM –2:00PM

[parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

Website: [www.saintcolumbanyelm.org](http://www.saintcolumbanyelm.org)

**FORMED**   

### Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM

Sunday: 10:30AM

Daily Mass: Tues—Fri 9AM \*except 1st Fridays

*Rosary is said 30min prior to each Mass*

### Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Following First

Friday Devotions or by Appointment

Confession: Saturdays 3:30—4:30PM

First Friday Devotions: 6:30PM

*The church may be opened upon request during office hours for private prayer.*

See Calendar on Page 3 for current schedule and updates

### St. Vincent De Paul

*Providing emergency assistance for those in need.*

Help Line: 360-458-1904

## ST. PETER MISSION

149 Keithahn St. S, Tenino, WA 98589

360-264-2124

### Office Hours

Mondays & Fridays 10:30AM – 2PM

### Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00 AM

*Rosary is said 30min prior to Mass*

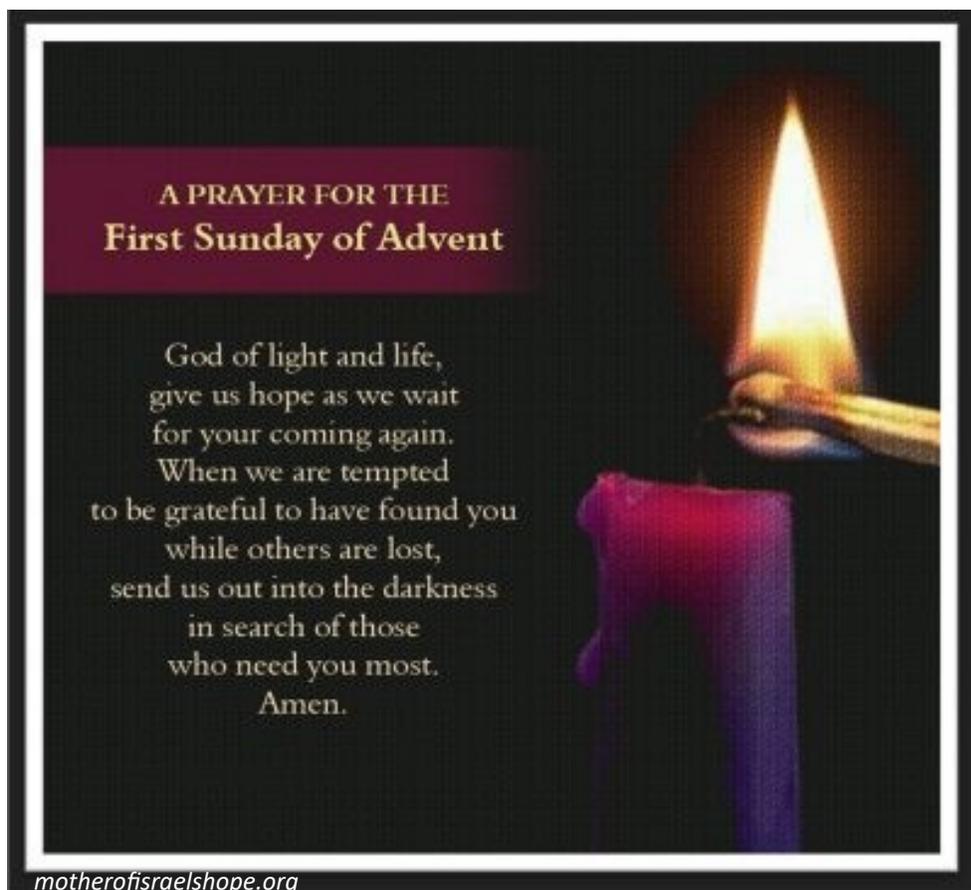
### Sacraments

Confession: Sundays 7:30 -7:45AM

First Friday Devotions: 9:00AM

Anointing of the Sick: Following First Friday Devotions or by appointment

*We are a Catholic faith community that seeks to place God first, to know Him, and to grow in holiness together. We strive to live the Gospel through the Eucharist, in our teaching and way of life.*



## November 28, 2021 1st Sunday of Advent

### Today's Readings

**Entrance Antiphon:** *To you I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

**1st Reading:** Jeremiah 33: 14-16

**Responsorial Psalm:** *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

**2nd Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.*

**Gospel:** Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

**Communion Antiphon:** *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*

### **MASS ATTENDANCE**

In obedience to the most recent guidelines from the Archdiocese, public Mass at our parish is held with the following safety measures in place.

- ◆ Masks are required at this time unless you have a medical exemption
- ◆ Seating is on a first come first served basis, if you wish to remain distanced from others you may do so at your own discretion.
- ◆ Hand Sanitizer is provided



## Fr. Thompson's Reflections

## Liturgy of the Hours

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is not the only liturgical prayer that the church has each day. Throughout the day, the Church prays the Liturgy of the Hours (AKA the Divine Office or Breviary), which punctuate the day with up to 7 times of prayer (I say 5 of them, although in practicality it is really 3 times of prayer as I combine some of them together, as one may do), each consisting of a series of Psalms and canticles that are drawn from the same scriptural sources as the Responsorial at Mass (i.e. hymns/poems in the Bible), short readings, and petitions to God on behalf of and for the Church. The Psalms and canticles, which make up the bulk of the Office, are so chock full of beauty and the full range of human emotion, they are very touching and beautiful.

Clergy and religious are required to pray the Office daily, but the Second Vatican Council earnestly recommended this prayer to each and every Christian. I know that when I have mentioned this in the past, those who did try the Liturgy of the Hours—at least to some degree or at least every once in a while—have enjoyed it. For myself, I started saying Morning and Evening prayer during the Lent of my senior year of high school, and haven't stopped since, adding on the Office of Readings—a slightly longer prayer that can be said any time of day and which includes biblical readings closer to the length to those at Mass as well as writings of saints. I also added Mid-day Prayer and Night Prayer over the course of the years (again, now, as a priest, I must say 5 of the 7 “hours” every day: Office of Readings/Matins, Morning prayer/Lauds, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer/Vespers, and Night Prayer/Compline). Despite the name, the prayers take nowhere near an hour. Matins, Lauds, and Vespers take 10-15 minutes each at most, and Midday and Compline take 5 or less. They are called “hours” in reference to how they divide the day, not due to length; They help sanctify time and keep God close, as well as inscribing in our memories what are among the most beautiful parts of Scripture: the Psalms and Canticles.

I very much recommend the Liturgy of the Hours to you and your families if you want to grow in your relationship with God this coming liturgical year. Now, I will admit that the book form of the Hours is pretty bulky, and while there are abbreviated versions which forgo some content (usually the feasts of saints, Matins, Midday, Compline), it is also quite easy just to get a phone or tablet app (which is what I usually use) that give you everything conveniently (iBreviary and DivineOffice.org are 2 very good ones). Personally, I recommend DivineOffice.org (either the website or their app), as the prayers are available as audio recordings alongside the text (an aid to learning if you are new at it, and/or convenience if you pray while you commute, work, exercise, etc.). I (and the fathers of Vatican II) cannot recommend the Hours enough.

Indeed, for this Advent season, we will be praying Evening prayer on Fridays in the Church at 6:30pm. Feel free to come by and experience Vespers.

In Christ,

Fr Thompson

### Financial Stewardship

#### Weekly Offering

	<u>St. Columban</u>	<u>St. Peter</u>
Weekly Goal	\$5,762	\$712
November 14	\$4,103	\$1,092

*Thank You for Your Generous Support!*

**CALLED TO SERVE as CHRIST**

*As of: July 12, 2021*

3 Year Goal for St. Columban: \$307,368  
Total Pledged: \$115,409 37% of Goal

3 Year Goal for St. Peter: \$54,327  
Total Pledged: \$26,897 50% of Goal



### The St. Columban Giving Tree Project

*Helping Those In Need at Christmas*

**Remember to stop by the Giving Tree in the Narthex to see how you can help those most in need this Christmas Season.**

*Be sure to return your gift cards no later than December 12th!*

### PARISH STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Brian Thompson, Ext.6	<i>Priest Administrator</i> <a href="mailto:frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org">frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org</a>
Patricia Selsor, Ext.2	<i>Bookkeeper</i> <a href="mailto:pat@saintcolumbanyelm.org">pat@saintcolumbanyelm.org</a>
Katie Hennigan, Ext. 3	<i>Faith Formation</i> <a href="mailto:katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org">katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org</a>
Jennifer Langham, Ext. 5	<i>Music, Liturgy &amp; Admin Support</i> <a href="mailto:jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org">jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org</a>
Steven Slater,	<i>St. Columban Maintenance</i> <a href="mailto:steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org">steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org</a>
Gilberto Espino	<i>St. Peter Maintenance</i> <a href="mailto:gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org">gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org</a>

#### SAINT COLUMBAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Judith Cusick (Chairperson),  
Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier,  
Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf  
[parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

#### SAINT PETER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson),  
Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz,  
Bob Bacon, Diane Weston,  
[stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

## Faith Formation



Please contact the parish office for more information, the latest updates, and schedule changes.

**November 29 Rosary Prayer Group**  
7:00PM Kimball's Ranch

**November 30 Daily Mass**  
9:00AM St. Columban  
+In Memory of: Fr. Terrance Wager RIP

6:30PM Spanish Prayer Group  
Parish Hall

**December 1 Daily Mass**  
9:00AM St. Columban  
+In Memory of: Fr. Thomas Phelan RIP

**December 2 NO DAILY MASS**

**Bible Study**  
10:00AM St. Peter (Tenino)  
6:30PM St. Columban  
RE Bldg. Rm. 105

**December 3 NO DAILY MASS**

**First Friday Devotions**  
9:00AM St. Peter  
6:30PM St. Columban  
(w/Vespers)

**December 4 Confession**  
3:30-4:30PM St. Columban  
**Vigil Mass**  
5:00PM St. Columban

**December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**ST. PETER MISSION TENINO**  
7:30-7:45AM Confession  
8:00AM Mass

**ST. COLUMBAN**  
9:00-10:15AM Religious Ed Classes  
10:30AM Mass  
11:45AM Confirmation Classes  
Year 2

### CHILDREN'S PRAYERS



Do your children know their basic prayers? Here is one to test them on:

*Glory Be* Glory be to the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.



**Wanted:** Families to come and sing at the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. Sign up on Flocknote or see Jennifer our Organist after Mass for more information.

### Faith Formation: Grades K-12

- K-5 Sundays from 9-10:15AM
- Confirmation Classes on Sundays from 12-1:15PM

Please see the parish website for a complete class schedule



Join us for RCIA Tuesdays at 6:30 in room 103 of the Religious Education building.

#### RCIA Topic This Week **Prayer**

RCIA is open to all adult learners including, but not limited to, those seeking sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). Please contact Katie Hennigan in the Faith Formation office for additional information.  
[katie@saintcolumbanvelm.org](mailto:katie@saintcolumbanvelm.org)  
360-458-3031x3

### PARISH MINISTRIES

*For more information or to sign-up to volunteer with any of these ministries, please contact the parish office.*



### Daughters of Mary

St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

**December 14 Christmas Party**  
6:00PM Parish Hall



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 17152

**December 15 Council Meeting**  
6:00PM Parish Hall



### St. Vincent de Paul

**December 16 Monthly Meeting**  
7:00PM Parish Hall



### St. Peter's Circle

**January 11 Monthly Meeting**  
9:30AM St. Peter Mission/Tenino



### ALTAR SOCIETY

**Cleaning the Church**  
Every Thursday after Daily Mass

### In Our Prayers

*Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sister and those who have asked for our prayers:*

Joseph Waters

Jessica Nash

Maria Luisa Fregoso

Paul Hennigan

Pam Henslee

Don Troyer

Mary Taylor

Mary Jo Jenkins

Nicole & Garith Scherk

+ All those in harm's way.

+ For all those affected by the Coronavirus and for all first responders and caregivers.

### Rest In Peace

All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name please contact the parish office.

All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes.

### **Bonus Bulletin Content!**

To save on printing, some extra bulletin content will now be exclusively found in the online edition of our bulletin, which is also emailed weekly to parishioners. Sign up at [flocknote.com/saintcolumbanvelm](http://flocknote.com/saintcolumbanvelm) or visit our website [saintcolumbanvelm.org](http://saintcolumbanvelm.org)

**Thanks to our advertisers listed on the back of this bulletin! They make this publication available to the Parish at no cost to us.**

# Baby Bottles for Life



We are distributing Baby Bottles during the Advent & Christmas season to collect donations for PREPARES.

Return your filled bottles any time before January 9th!

*See the bassinet in the Narthex*

Sponsored by



KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS  
COUNCIL 17152

*Please return the bottles to the church as they will be used for future fundraisers*

# Baby Bottles for Life

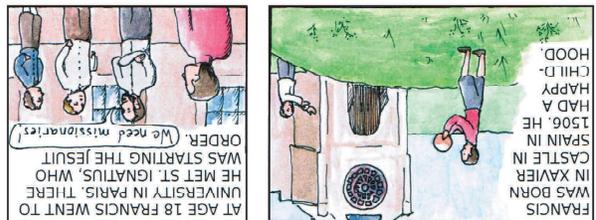
*Return your filled bottles here and  
Thank You for your generosity!*



All bottles must be returned no later than  
Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup>!

# Saint Francis Xavier

December 3



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER ONLY WORKED AS A MISSIONARY FOR TEN YEARS, BUT HE BROUGHT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TO THE FAITH! HE IS THE PATRON SAINT OF MISSIONARIES. YOU CAN PRAY TO SAINT FRANCIS THAT GOD WILL HELP BRING MANY PEOPLE TO THE CHURCH WITH YOUR HELP TOO!

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

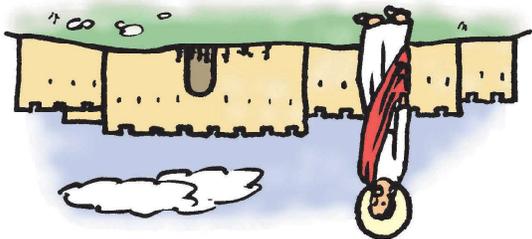
# The Second Coming

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Fill in the missing letters from today's first reading and copy them to finish the last line.

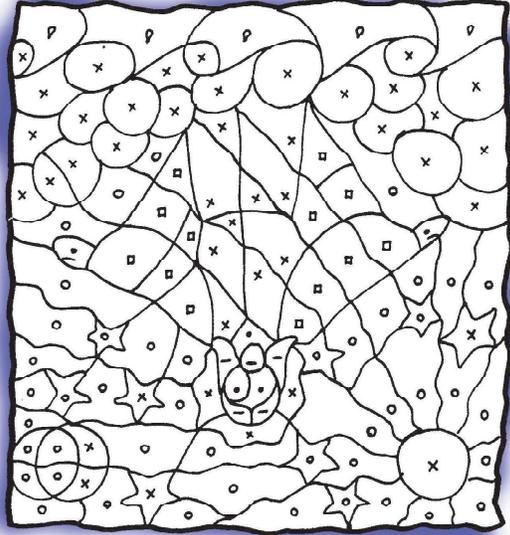
The days are coming (5), says he (14) Lord, (10) when I will fill (9) the promise (6) I made to the house (2) of Israel and Judah. In those (13) days, in that time, (3) I will raise up for David (7) a just shoot; he shall do (8) what is right and just (1) in the land. (4) In those days Judah (11) shall be safe and Jerusalem (12) shall dwell (17) secure; the (15) is what they shall all (16) her:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17



# The Kids' Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent  
November 28th, 2021



Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

In today's Gospel reading Jesus talks about what is going to happen when He comes back at the end of the world.

- black
- × white
- ◊ blue
- skin colour
- red
- brown

Use the code to colour in the picture!

# Advent is Here!



Today is the beginning of Advent, the time when we prepare for Christmas. The word "advent" comes from the Latin word that means "coming". In Advent we are preparing for Jesus' coming. We look forward to Christmas, which is the celebration of His first coming and we also look forward to His second coming. Did you know that the most important thing to have ready for Christmas is a clean soul?



During Advent you can try extra hard to be good. It is also a very good idea to go to confession before Christmas so that your soul will be good and clean when Jesus comes!

Answer to Immaculate Conception Word Find: HAIL MARY

www.thekidsbulletin.com

November 28, 2021



### THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

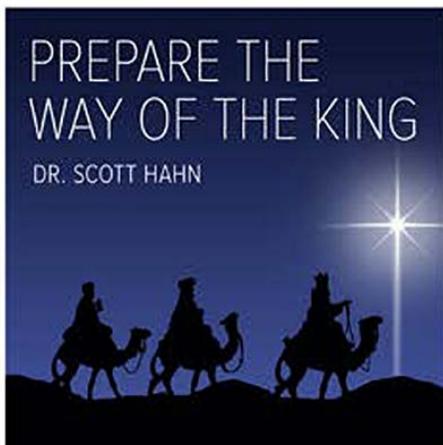
Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent.

WATCH

LEARN

### ADVENT

This Advent prepare your heart through this exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus Christ.



### PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

Your Advent journey will take on new meaning with Dr. Scott Hahn's illuminating presentation on the greatest gift ever given to mankind-Jesus Christ.

LISTEN

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE  
**At Home with Faith**

**Advent provides us an opportunity to focus on what is most important** during a time when we can otherwise be overwhelmed by expectations to do too much too fast.



Photo: Adobe Stock

# Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

**Don't have access to a Bible?**

Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

Every Advent season presents anew the challenge of following Jesus' command to "beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." Here, Jesus wants us to keep our hearts focused on God, rather than material distractions. It's as if Jesus anticipated how this time of year tempts us to forget what Christmas is really all about.

Let's resolve as a family to use this Advent season as Jesus intends: to remember that Jesus will return soon and to watch for him intently. This opens our hearts to the holy Spirit who then comes to meet us.

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

I will fulfill the promise I made to Israel!

**Psalms 25**

Make your ways known to me.

**1 Thessalonians**

Conduct yourselves to please God.

**Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36**

Do not become drowsy from the anxieties of daily life.

# At Home with Faith

## Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Ways to make Advent more joyful and faithful:

- **Ask your child/children “What do you look forward to most about Christmas?”** Let your children share what they look forward to on Christmas day. What makes that day special to them. There may be some things that surprise you.
- **Tell your children about Advent:** a time of year when we look forward to Jesus’ return and open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. This hopeful waiting prepares us to enjoy Christmas more too.
- **Ask your child/children “What do you like most about the time before Christmas?”** Discover what traditions or experiences from Advents before have stuck in your children’s memory. Maybe they really enjoy the decorations? Maybe they enjoy a particular event or activity that you hadn’t realized was so important to them. Use this as an opportunity to share your favorite things about this time of year.
- **Adapt your celebrations:** Use what you have learned to reprioritize how you use your own time in Advent. Maybe there are some traditions or activities that you have done every year that don’t bear much fruit. Not only is it OK to dispense with these, it will free more time for you to do what matters most, be more present to God and your family.



**“The tensions created by an overly individualistic culture, caught up with possessions and pleasures, leads to intolerance and hostility in families”. Here I would also include today’s fast pace of life, stress and the organization of society and labour, since all these are cultural factors which militate against permanent decisions.”**

### **Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) #33**

Pope Francis often warns us about the spiritual dangers we face when we become preoccupied with possessions and the material pleasures that our modern economy provides. This warning sounds so much like Jesus’ warning to look for his return rather than distract ourselves by seeking material comfort and pleasure.

Let’s help our families make the most of this beautiful Advent season by learning about the moments that have brought them a deeper sense of connection with the holy Spirit and with one another. Then, as a family, let’s commit to let go of the less important things so we dedicate attention to those most life-giving activities.

Check out Archbishop Etienne’s weekly reflection on Advent and other resources on the [Advent Draw Near to Christ webpage](#).

Check out [Northwest Catholic’s feature on Christmas traditions](#) to find ways to bring Jesus into Christmas.

Then, as a family, let’s commit to let go of the less important things **so we dedicate attention to those most life-giving activities.**

For more on the Year of the Family, visit <https://archseattle.org/yof>

**For more resources, visit us online at:**

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>

# The First Sunday of Advent



CNS photo/Karen Bonar, The Register

## Advent Begins!

November 28 – December 24

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season 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 cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). 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 the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest will wear violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose is worn (GIRM, no. 316). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar above can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” - Lk 21:27-28

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021

- Sunday** Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
- Monday** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
- Wednesday** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Next Sunday** Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

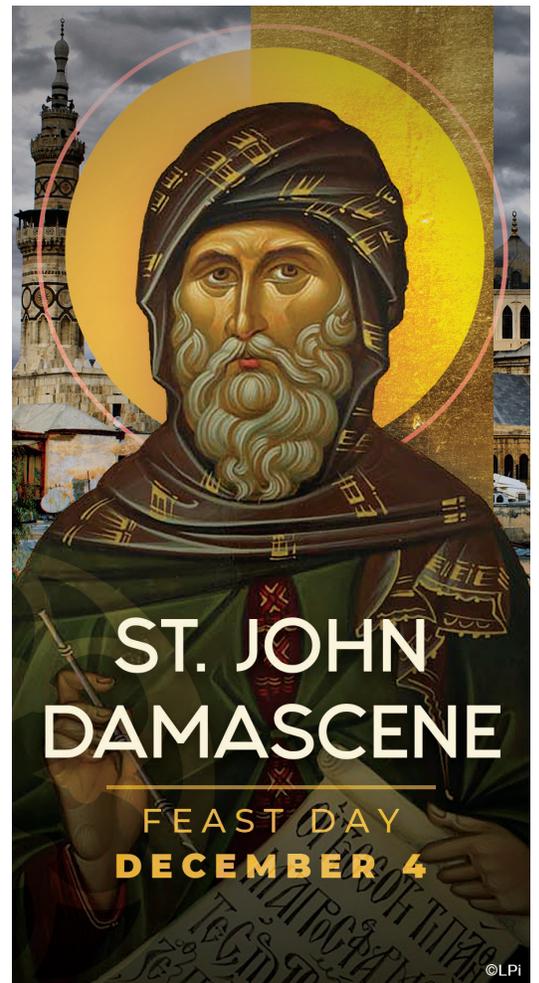
## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021

- Sunday:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
- Tuesday:** St. Andrew, Apostle
- Friday:** St. Francis Xavier, Priest
- Saturday:** St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

Any human success requires vigilance. Opportunities and powerful moments of encounter can easily be missed when we are not attentive. It is all too easy today to live distracted and preoccupied lives. There is so much vying for our attention that it can be hard to be selective and really focus. Caught up in this whirlwind of busyness and anxiety, we become tired and almost sleepwalk through life. Advent is a time to selectively focus. These beautiful four short weeks are a time to look backward and forward and be attentive to the human journey and God's revelation. From the beginning of time, God has been seeking our attention. He constantly reminds us of the justice he desires to bring and the promise of his abiding unconditional love. Understanding and growing in these truths requires alertness so that we can be strengthened in our faith and prepared for whatever will come.



## SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. John Damascene (676 -749) was the son of the chief of the revenue department in the city of Damascus. Through his father, he received a classical and theological education and attempted to follow in his footsteps by serving in a government position. However, the Lord was calling him to a different life, and a few years later he resigned from his position and went to the Monastery of St. Sabas, where he wrote books and composed hymns along with his adopted brother, Cosmas.

St. John Damascene is best known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images; his treatise, Exposition of the Orthodox Faith, a summary of the Greek Fathers; and his work as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church. His devotion to the Blessed Mother and his sermons on her feasts are well known.

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## FIRST READING

I will raise up for David a just shoot;  
he shall do what is right and just in  
the land. (Jer 33:15)



## PSALM

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (Ps 25)



## SECOND READING

Strengthen your hearts,  
to be blameless in holiness before  
our God and Father  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with  
all his holy ones. (1 Thes 3:13)



## GOSPEL

Stand erect and raise your heads  
because your redemption is at hand.  
(Lk 21:28)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,  
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm  
Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,  
1997, International Commission on English in the  
Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## RESPONDING *to the Call*

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

#### Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

##### Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the “Christmas-songs-in-November” debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There’s no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it’s not everyone’s cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It’s hard to miss that point — Lent doesn’t even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It’s harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — “advent” — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, “so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.”

So let us not forget — our master’s advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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### WHY DO WE DO THAT?

#### Catholic Life Explained:

##### Question:

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

##### Answer:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus’ baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John’s Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these “epiphany” moments in your life.

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“People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

– Lk 21:26-28

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
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## **QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**

**Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture**

### **First Reading**

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of God's promise to fulfill the covenant made with King David, four hundred years earlier in 1000 B.C. As we enter into the season of Advent, how might you show your fidelity to God?

### **Second Reading**

Paul's prayer for the believers in Thessalonica is to abound in love and strength for one another in preparation for the return of Christ. How do you think communities of faith can support each other during the Advent season?

### **Gospel Reading**

In Jesus teaching the disciples about the coming end times and judgement day, he warns them not to be too distracted by the stresses and anxieties of daily life. How do you keep focused on your spiritual life amongst the many daily challenges we face?





I LIFT MY SOUL,  
**O LORD.**

PSALM 25

*“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”*

- Lk 21:27-28

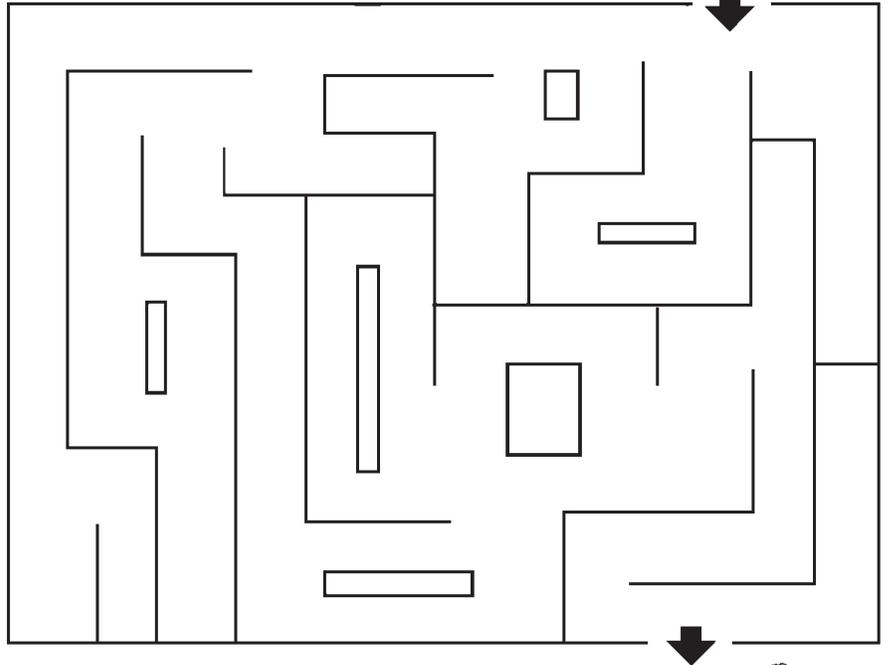
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# KIDS CORNER

## READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Help this child find the path to God.



### SHARING THE GOSPEL

One day Jesus will come back to take us home to live with him in heaven. So when scary things happen around us, we do not need to be afraid. We can stand up tall, because we know heaven will be so much better than this world.

### PRAYER

Dear God, when I am afraid, help me to be brave and trust in you. I know heaven will be wonderful.

### MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Write down one thing that scares you. Tell God about it, and ask him to help you  
To be brave.





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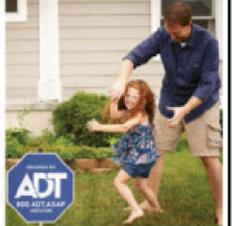


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