

ADVENT

General Background on the Season.

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

Advent begins with Evening Prayer of the Sunday that falls on or closest to November 30th and ends before Evening Prayer of Christmas.

With the beginning of Advent is, too, the beginning of the new liturgical year. (Year B)

Advent Wreath. The use of the Advent wreath has become a popular practice in the Church. The Advent Wreath should be large enough to be visible to the members of the assembly in a given church building. In some churches, it is suspended from the ceiling. Others use a stand or a table for the wreath and candles. If the Advent Wreath is placed in or near the presbyterium (sanctuary), it should not be placed in such a way as to interfere with the ritual actions of the liturgy or obscure the visibility of the altar, ambo, or presider's chair.

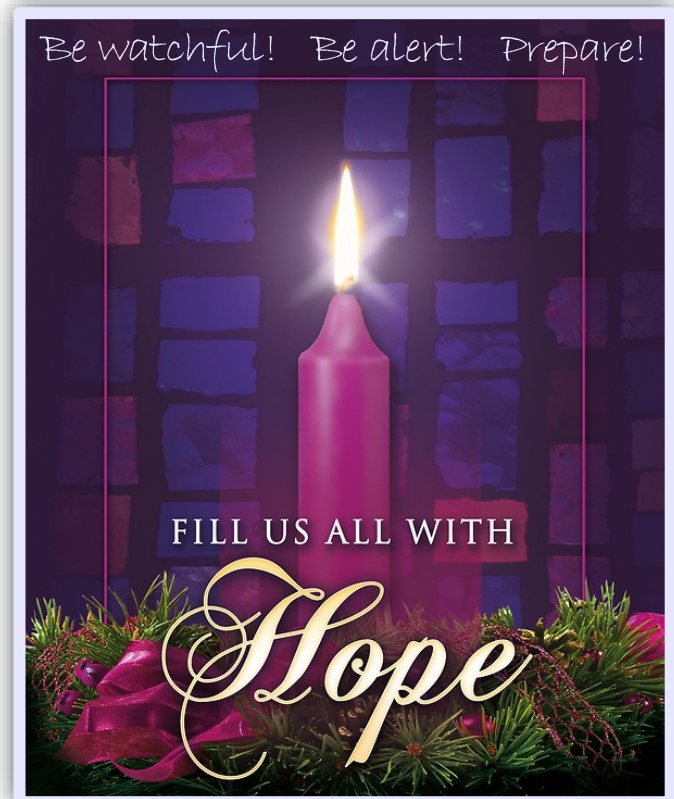
Vestments. The color of the Season of Advent is violet. In order to distinguish between Advent and Lent, the bluer hues of violet may be used. Blue vestments are not authorized for use in the United States and rose-colored vestment may be worn on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is termed *Gaudete Sunday*.

COFFEE TABLE BICENTENNIAL BOOKS

As part of the Bicentennial Celebration, the Diocese published a coffee table book "Shine Like The Stars From 1820-2020, Bicentennial Anniversary" highlighting each parish as well as the history of our Diocese. We still have copies available if you would like to give one as a Christmas Gift or have one for yourself. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book please contact the office.

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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November 29, 2020
1st Sunday in Advent
Year B

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Advent is a word meaning “coming”. It is a time set apart by the Church to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas to celebrate his birth. Today is also the beginning of the new Church year, Year B. The quality of our vigilance and preparations will determine the quality of our meeting with Jesus our Lord when he comes.

Advent is a time of hope. During this time of Advent, we look forward for something good to come. The future is going to be better. Advent is a time of longing to be with the Lord who brings us much needed help, care, compassion, joy, and love. Like the people of Israel who cried out for the return of God, Advent is the time we ask the God to allow us to return to Him. In the first reading from Isaiah we hear a longing and heartfelt pleading for Yahweh to return to his people. A people lost, estranged and abandoned: “Why do you let us wander.... Return for the sake of your servants”. A people feeling punished: “...you are angry, and we are sinful...unclean people, withered like leaves....and guilty”. A people yearning, confused, in pain and misery, lost without their God. A people longing to see their God. Advent is for us Christian that time of seeking out the Lord and knowing that He will hear our cries and come to be with us.

We are called to be people of HOPE. Advent places before us the real call for hope. God is faithful and despite of so many signs to the contrary today, in Advent we celebrate the fact that God is making sense out of history whether we notice it or not. Our God will be victorious and already there are many signs of this. In times of a pandemic as we are going through now, we might not see any hope. But The Lord through medical science is working miracles. A vaccine is now a reality, that gives us hope for bright future without fear of this virus.

In the gospel Jesus tells us to be *constantly on the watch*. “Be watchful. Be alert! You do not know when the time will come”. So, Advent is also WATCH and ALERT time. The man, in the Gospel, who travelled abroad left each person with his own task to do until he returned... the gatekeeper was told to keep watch. God gives each of us special tasks also to do until he returns. Be it a father, mother, a husband or wife, layperson, priest or religious, all of us have a task to carry out to bring about God’s kingdom here on earth. How are we doing these tasks? Are we performing our duties to the best of our abilities or falling short?

One thing is certain about today’s gospel. It is not told to frighten us or make us fearful. The invitation and warning to be watchful and alert is for our own happiness and good. Jesus is instructing us, his followers, to be alert and watchful while doing our Christian duties with sincerity. We should live in the living presence of Jesus every day. We can experience Christ’s living presence in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible, in our worshipping community in our parish, in our family, in our own souls and in everyone around us.

Our faith tells us that God is faithful. Let us too be faithful people – people full of faith. Let us be Advent people, people of hope, people watchful and alert to what is needed in our world and doing our best to contribute according to our capacity and talents.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY’S MASS

First Reading:

Isaiah 36:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading:

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Matthew 13:33-37

Father suggests you say the Prayer for Spiritual Communion during communion →

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are truly Present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things And I desire to possess You within my soul.

Since I am unable at this Moment to receive You Sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually Into my heart.

I embrace You as being Already there, and unite Myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be Separated from you.

Amen.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bill Marks, Sharon Vajda & Elsie Zent & Lavonne Pearce



PARISHIONERS

Marianne Krop, Toni Traynor, Sandi Delagrang, Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O’Leary, Michele Meaney, Donna Lange, Jack & Louise Petralia, Tom Wash, Paul Pearce, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Min Tassone, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Lorie & Sal Messina, Pat Paul, Georgia Beville, Margaret Hock, Anne Dunn, Michelle Chmiel, Tom & Cindy Jessee, Peggy Williams, Karen Dame, Joe Nolte, Mike Lokie, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Mary Ann & Kenneth Gulick, Nancy Wirth, Chris Henkel, Vincent Recupido, Bettie Hodge, Bob & Ingrid Borden, Laurie King, Becky Nunn, Bill & Linda Gray, Peg Meushaw, Carol Smith, Allen Hines, Pat & Lee Reamy, Janine Jaboulay, Anne Paparella, Carole McPherson, Jeanne Lessner, Colin Walsh.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Krop Family, Andrea Bordgen, Jennifer Sanders, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aquela Parker, Khloe Nipper, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil Melancon, Ray Kostaskey, Doris Melancon, Dominick Perry, Kimberly Lavinder, Frank & Gerri Lohrs daughter, Doug Meuse, Michele Brune, Noele & Mike Anglin, Anita Bomberger, Drinkwater Family, Kathy Shepherd, Lucy Walker, Suzanne Whelan, Jim Rundle, Rundle-Kehl family, Doris & Arthur Green, Rachel, Brian & Marcus Pittman, Robbie Beasley, Sandra Bush & Children, Mary Gray, Denis Popp, PJ Schwedler, John Calvin Barnard, Sal Messina Jr., Colleen O’Rollins, Michael Reamy, Sarah Kobezak, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, Shirley Schultz, LC Warren, Joseph Gascoigne, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Paula Harcum, Cathy Kirkland, Steve Sohles, Remy Maine Miller, Jessie Debusk, Ryan & Jeanne Norris, Donna Newcomb, Vickie Hogge, Auggie Bain, Maria Franzoni, Pumpkin Brownley, Rita Blommel, Brenda Knupp, Ashely Scott & family, Steve Smith, Susie Loustanaun, Elizabeth Panzer, Linda Cryer, Tyra Freed, Valerie McCarthy, Joan & John Rychtarik.

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office by email or phone.

MAIL IN OFFERTORY, AND ON LINE DONATIONS: NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Collection: \$ 2,114
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 46,356
Total Budget Projection: \$ 43,830



There is no Second Collection Today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$260 Lawn Care; \$200 donation to Northern Neck Health Clinic.



As an alternative to mailing us a weekly donation, you can visit our website www.church-of-the-visitation.org. Click the Red Donation button, select our church, a donation amount and fill in the information. Use the green secure button and done.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR DECEMBER

1st-Tom Shoemaker, 2nd-Mollie McMurtrie, 4th-Karin Wilkins & Mike Ballato;
5th-Louise Petralia; 8th-Frank Lohr; 10th-Larry Dame; 11th-Vera England; 12th-
Jerry Suyes; 15th-Dennis Lynch; 16th-Cindy Powers; 18th-Mary Dorman & Lynne
McMurtrie; 19th-Lois Kramb; 20th-Roger Scott; 22nd-Georgia Beville & Linda Gray,
23rd-Christine Williams; 25th-Colleen Hoffman; 26th-Tom Hawksworth; Anne Costello,
Betsy Brown & Patricia Figueroa; 29th-Jack Petralia; 30th-Doug Olson.

ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR DECEMBER



1st-Chuck & Carol Walsh; 10th-Tom & Cherianne Johnson; 14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden; 20th-
Fritz & Peper Heunemann; 22nd-Edmund & Michele Meanley; 30th-Bill & Donna Brandl.

MANY ITEMS FOR PICKUP

In the corridor by the office are many items for pickup, as you desire. We have 2021 Calendars, The Little Blue Books for Advent devotion, you 2021 Envelopes, and Lectors' Workbooks. When you drop by to pick up an item(s), Please exit through the doors by the office. Inserted in the collection books are envelopes designated for donations for the New Worship Area. We presently plan to have these monthly during 2021. For those parishioners who do not attend Mass, but desire to receive any of these items, Mike & Lynne Dreelin have offered to deliver them as a convenience to you. Another way to receive them is to come by the church and pick them up during office hours.

PARISHIONER VIBES

Our parishioner Becky Nunn won the Peoples' Choice Award for contestants from the United States in the Ms. Senior World Pageant. The contest was conducted via the Internet with people voting from all over the country. Becky overtook her nearest competitor by 550 votes. All of the money raised at \$1 per vote will go to purchase Bibles for Third World Countries. In addition to that huge win, Becky was one of nine finalists and finished the pageant as Second Runner Up in the WORLD!



My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we look forward to the Festive Season beginning with Thanksgiving, we all agree that year 2020 has certainly been a challenging year for our country, Diocese, and for our parish community: The Covid-19 pandemic has changed all of our routines from the way we work, shop, study, worship and gather, to the way we relate to friends and family, Race related tensions and the very divisive political campaigns and elections. have added to our stress. All these may make one lose the mood of celebration, but then we have to accept the fact that despite all these challenges, the Lord has been good to us. Many of our parishioners and friends have so far been spared from this pandemic and to those affected we pray that they get better soon. So, as I wish each one of you a Happy Thanksgiving, and all the Feasts to come, I urge you to celebrate and be mindful of your safety and that of your loved ones.

Another reason to be grateful is that during this difficult time, The Church has continued to be a faith-filled community. This is largely due to your continued spiritual and financial support. You are greatly appreciated.

As we look forward to the Advent Season and the beginning of a new ecclesiastic year, it is my hope that the Holy Spirit will keep you safe and healthy. In addition, I pray that the Spirit will guide you to continue your support of our parish, and you will keep in mind and your prayers all our parish members especially those we have not seen since the beginning of the pandemic. Remember those who have lost loved ones, and those who were affected by the recent storms in our area. Pray also for all our projects especially the construction of the Church. We are all happy that at long last work has begun, but the journey is still long, and it will need the effort of each parishioner to achieve a successful completion.

With faith in God and in you and your support, I am confident that we will continue to maintain a living and vibrant parish which is driven by our strong Catholic Faith.

*God's blessings to each one of you
and your loved ones.*



CHURCH INFORMATION

Our hours for prayer when the church is open are Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM-12:00.

Church attendance was 56 this past Sunday with 6 guests.

This coming week the Mass is for parishioners in **Group L-Z**.

The important thing to remember is to notify the office if you are planning to attend Mass and are not in the proper alphabetical grouping.

We continue to offer daily Mass on Wednesday and Thursday @9AM for anyone who desires to attend. All are welcome!

ROSARY MINISTRY



Two Sundays ago we commenced a Rosary Service before Mass starting at 8:30AM. Parishioner Cindy Jessee who successfully lead the ministry in her former parish will lead the Rosary Prayer. If you have any questions, contact her at 804-510-4688 or email cindyjessee6@gmail.com.

ANGEL TREE



A big **THANK YOU** to all who chose to be Christmas Angels this year. Just a reminder that all presents are to be wrapped, placed in a bag if there are multiple for your child, the star securely attached, and back to the church no later than December 13th. If there are any questions I can be reached at 804-815-0353 Mary Sychterz

Online Giving



E-GIVING

In a tedious process for now, we are slowly developing the system that will be employed by COV for e-giving in conjunction with Parish Soft, our present administrative and financial system providers. Our goal is to have it developed by January 1st for your convenience.

GOV. NORTHAM'S NEW COVID-19 MEASURES



As you are aware Gov Northam announced new restrictions which went into affect a week ago Monday. Although there are new limits to social gatherings, the new guidelines do not impact the manner we have been conducting Daily or Sunday Masses or our Committee Meetings. Of note, however, is the requirement that individuals attending religious services must wear "**cloth**" face coverings.

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Lectors: Fernando Atienza & Eileen O'Brien

Community Leader: Kevin Hayes

THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The first Advent Candle is the prophecy candle, which symbolizes Hope. Things have been very dark this year primarily because of the pandemic. At your family dinner on Sunday discuss what will give you hope in the coming months and year.



Advent Candle Lighting Song

Light the Advent candle, one;
Now the waiting has begun.
We have started on our way,
time to think of Christmas Day.

Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Lord God, we look for you during Advent with hope. Give us some light each day to find you. Help us walk in your light, and shine it for others. Amen

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Members of our church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal "in remembrance" of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation. As we recall the names of those who have died, our minds are filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have in both material and non-material things have been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?



Potential, Purpose, Promise

Before Mass Sunday on December 6th, we will celebrate two parishioners (Pearce and Sychterz) Legacy Gifts by placing fish on the Legacy Tree in the Alcove. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early that day.

NEW WORSHIP AREA

As we still await the building permit to begin construction, the general contractor began mobilizing his equipment last Monday. Asphalt removal was also scheduled for last week, meaning that beginning Sunday, parishioners will have to enter and exit church through the alcove doors.

Please be patient with this change of procedure and continue to adhere to the guidance of our ushers.

