

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2

5:00 p.m. + **Arthur Peterson**
By Nancy and Charlie Guerriere

Sunday, December 3

8:00 a.m. + **Antonietta and Sabino Antinolfi**
By Daughter

10:30 a.m. + **Nicholas DeSanto**
By Paul and Elisabeth Boccolini

Monday, December 4

8:45 a.m. + **Kathy O'Malley**
By Family

Tuesday, December 5

8:45 a.m. **In Thanksgiving of Fr. Francis**
By Angela Gross

Wednesday, December 6

8:45 a.m. + **Theresa Rebinski**
By Henry Rebinski

Thursday, December 7 Vigil Mass

NO MORNING MASS

6:30 p.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

Friday, December 8 The Immaculate Conception

8:45 a.m. + **Toby Barkman**
By John and Eileen Flanagan and Family

6:30 p.m. **The Altar Rosary Society**

Saturday, December 9

5:00 p.m. + **Virginia Moss**
By Brian and Gerry Moss

Sunday, December 10

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

10:30 a.m. **In Honor of Saint Philomena**
By Mary Kovacs

their own. Advent, from the Latin word, adventus, meaning "coming."

Advent often gets lost in the shuffle of the holiday season. We can forget it's a separate season, with its own wisdom and traditions.

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts room for the Christ-child who was and is, and is to come. It's a joyful season but also penitential.

This time of year, the holiday season, can be an intense time. It can stir our human hopes and fears, the hopes and fears of all the years. We may find ourselves recalling joyful or painful memories of Christmases past. We may hope this will be a wonderful Christmas, or be afraid that it won't be. Some years we may have a great deal to look forward to at the holidays, other years we may be separated from loved ones, in poor health, struggling financially, or facing other challenges. We may look around at the world and shake our heads, wondering where on earth peace is.

This time of year can stir our hopes and fears for our own lives and for the world. Advent is not just a reminder of Christ's birth, not just a time of waiting for his return. We celebrate a threefold Advent: Christ has come, Christ is with us in Spirit, Christ will come again.

Our task at Advent is to be open to signs that God is at work in our own lives and the world around us.

Can we see the signs around us? Can we make room for Christ in our hearts? Can you take a quiet moment to walk in the snow? Spend a few moments in conversation with a good friend? Can you listen to the sacred music and stories and feel a deeper awareness of God's presence? Take some time to pray and to be open to the still, small voice within. Let us see in the joy of the holiday season a reflection of the eternal joy. Let us reach out to those who are struggling with the love that is ours in Christ.

Advent is a mystical time, a right-brained rather than a left-brained time. It is a time of watching and waiting, of keeping alert. "God wants to address us. Are we home? Are we at our address, ready to respond to the doorbell?"

"God comes every day. Advent is a time to fine tune our senses."



You've been to the stores, you've seen the Christmas decorations and merchandise. Maybe you've heard those radio stations that are already playing Christmas carols. Wait a second. Have we forgotten

something? Oh yes. Advent! It starts today. The beginning of the church year. These four weeks leading up to Christmas are a liturgical season of

The fearful parts of life do not have the power to drown out the hope that is within us, do not have the power to destroy the Christ-light within. Christ is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. Even in our end times, those times when the sun is darkened and the stars fall, Christ is present, and offers us a new beginning. Immanuel, meaning God-with-us- is always present to us, amidst the hopes and fears of all the years.

So keep awake, stay alert to signs of God's presence. Live in love and faith, so as to be ready. When is Jesus coming? I don't know. Is he here? Yes.

On this last day of the church year then, take time to think about your own life. How disordered has your life been? Have you been placing too much effort in the wrong places? And don't get discouraged, because we have the shepherd watching over us, helping us on to the right paths, caring for us and providing for us. His message is "put your hope in him, and think about others" and that is how you will reach the kingdom of heaven at the end of your time on earth. That is the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel today.

Christmas Schedule



Confessions: Every Day, 30 minutes before the start of Mass (this includes the Sunday Masses); Saturday @ 4p.m.

All other times by appointment

MASSES: Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. and 12 midnight

Christmas Day: 9 a.m. - 11:00 am.

New Year's Eve: 5 p.m.

New Year's Day: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Our Weekly Offering

Sunday collection needed to meet

weekly expenses: \$3,637.

(Deficit 7/1/17-9/26/17: \$26,014.05)

November 26: \$2,215. -\$1,422.

November 19: \$1,674. -\$1,963.

November 12: \$2,524. -\$1,113.

November 5: \$2,160. -\$1,477.

December Calendar

Bible Study every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

12/3: **Giving Tree** comes down

12/6, 6 p.m.: Altar Rosary Dinner

12/7, 6:30: **Holy Day Vigil:** Immaculate

Conception Mass. Religious

Education Students and Parents are to attend this Mass.

12/8, 8:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. **Holy Day of**

Obligation: Immaculate Conception

12/9, 2:30 p.m.: Warren Haven Christmas Mass

12/9, 6:30 p.m.: **Game Night** in Parish Center

12/10: Hospitality Sunday after 8 & 10:30

Masses; **Brunch with Santa:** 11:30

12/13, 6:30: Trustee & Pastoral Council Meeting

12/18, 6:15pm: 8th Grade report to the church

12/23: 5 pm Mass (Sunday Obligation)

12/24: 8 & 10:30 Masses (Sunday Obligation)

12/24: 5 pm Children's Christmas Pageant & Vigil Mass

12/24: Midnight: Christmas Vigil Mass

12/25: 9 am & 11 am: Christmas Masses

12/31: 5 p.m.: New Year's Eve Vigil Mass

11/1/18: 9 am & 11 am: New Year's Masses



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney,

Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Patty Mahoney, Susan Reynolds, Millie B., Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars

PLEASE NOTE: We ask those of you who will be contributing gift cards or monetary gifts to the *Giving Tree* to please put your donations in the first collection basket. The ushers and counting teams will see that your donations are handed into the Parish Office for safe keeping.

