

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Pellegrino & Ferrara Families

10:00AM Paul Kelaher

Marie Macaluso

12:00PM Mary Tarabocchia

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ST. ANDREW

11:00AM Tomasso Morin

Tony Mezzich

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

11:00AM Serafin Hernandez

Lucia Bucovaz

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

11:00AM Nedjelko Radovic

Ivan Picinic

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

11:00AM Ann Kancelaric

Lucia Bucovaz

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

11:00AM Nicolina Picinich

Albert, Robert & Norman

Knebel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

11:00AM Antonia Picinich

Bruno Matesic

Blanca Rodriguez

Ann Tarabocchia

5:00PM Anthony Dragas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00AM Edward H. Szweda

Silvestri & Libero Family

12:00PM Filomena Pallotta

ALTAR BREAD

In Memory of

D'Andrea & Milone Families

ALTAR WINE

In Memory of

Ernie Sdrigotti

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Memory of

Kenny Pinto

MASS CANDLES

In Memory of

Antonio Garcia

PREPARING FOR MASS

The readings for this Sunday are:

Is. 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7

"We are all the work of your hands."

Ps. 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

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

1 Cor. 1:3-9

It is through God's grace that we have been called to kinship with Christ.

Mark 13:33-37

Always be on guard, for we know not the day nor the hour.

THE SEASON OF WAITING AND WATCHING

Today we enter the season of Advent. The word Advent means "coming." In this context, it depicts the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ seen in two ways: his coming as a newborn child (at Christmas) not in the historic Bethlehem but into our hearts, and his Second Coming for the final judgment at the recession of the world. They are both future events, and that is why we have the WAITING clause attached to the Advent. We await the Lord's coming in terms of the ways above. Furthermore, the vehicle for the WAITING for the COMING is WATCHING.

Watchfulness is a great virtue. We could render it as vigilance, circumspection, awareness, or attentiveness. When someone is waiting for something, there will be a need for the individual to be watchful or vigilant. This is important because one needs to see or observe what one is waiting for so that when it finally arrives, one will not be in . There is a tendency to wait and not to watch or be vigilant. One could wait and watch on the wrong side or be distracted from what one is anticipating. Generally, waiting is not enough; one needs to be watchful, vigilant, aware, circumspect, and attentive.

The three readings for this First Sunday of Advent agree that we should wait for God. In the First Reading (Is. 40:1-5.9-11), the prophet could not wait for the coming of God to happen. With heightened anticipation, he cried: "O that you would tear the heavens and come down." This is like saying in our everyday slang, "I can't wait." Furthermore, the prophet's oracle indicated that God works for those who wait for him in unique ways.

From the prophet's words, you will discover that it is not all about waiting alone but also watchfulness, awareness, attentiveness, and vigilance. Here we can see the limitations of the people, which includes sin. Hence, watchfulness in the context of waiting suggests that we disconnect from sin so that the one we are waiting for will find us in a perfect state when he finally comes. We shall hear John the Baptist speak more on this during the season while referring to Isaiah's oracle, which says we should prepare a way for the Lord and make the paths straight.

Watchfulness in the context of waiting for the coming also suggests that we allow God's will and plan to happen in our lives. This is shown forth by the prophet when he said that we are clay and God is the potter. One of the significant characteristics of clay is its plasticity: the quality of being easily shaped. If God is the potter and we are the clay, it follows that we should allow God to shape us this season. Often, we think we have all-around competence, including shaping God the way we desire

The same issue of watchfulness meets us in the Gospel Reading today (Mark 13:33-37). In his typical pictorial way, our Lord used the image of a master, servants, and a doorman (porter) to establish the need to be watchful or awake while waiting for the master of the house to come back. It is instructive to know from the gospel context that his time of arrival is unknown to anyone. Ordinarily, as human beings, we always desire to be given a date or time of someone's visit, and we tend to work with such schedules. God cannot be confined to human timing; that is precisely why most people who predicted the time of the end of the world ended up getting it wrong. If we are watchful and vigilant enough, we may not have any problem with the exact time because we cannot be found wanting.

It is indeed very pathetic and regrettable that the world has a very unspiritual approach to this period that precedes Christmas. The Advent is not just the period that leads us to Christmas. It also a time we are encouraged to prepare for the Second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a need for us to step into the ADVENT ATTITUDE. The Advent attitude is that of watchful waiting. The Advent attitude is that of giving God priority in all our plans and aspirations. The Advent attitude is that of PRAYER-FULLNESS; yes, we must be PRAYER-FULL, not PRAYER-LESS this season of Advent as we watchfully await the coming of the savior of the world.

Have a glorious Advent season, and do not forget to step into the ATTITUDE of prayerful watching as you await the Lord.

Fr. Bonnie

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here.

November 22, 2020

Due to the early submission of the bulletin because of Thanksgiving, we will publish this week's collection in next week's bulletin.

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." – Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to build His kingdom on earth.



CHRISTMAS WREATHS

We will again be selling Christmas Wreaths. Each wreath is stunningly decorated with pinecones, ornaments and a large red bow. Wreaths are \$18.00 each. Please order by November 30th. Wreaths will be ready for pick-up on December 5th and 6th after all the Masses. Proceeds will benefit the renovation of the Rectory. Wreaths must be paid in full when ordering.

SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday Masses will be at 5:00PM on Saturday and on Sunday at 10:00AM and 12 Noon. We can now accommodate up to 150 persons at each mass. When you attend mass, you must wear a mask before you enter the Church and leave it on for the whole mass. Also, please sanitize your hands when entering the Church with the hand sanitizers found at the elevator entrance. Please do not take off or lower your mask when you approach the priest for Holy Communion. Take the Communion in your hand and step aside and lift your mask as you return to your seat.

Once again, please consider whether you are “at risk” and make a good choice about whether or not to attend mass. I remind you that the Archbishop has indefinitely dispensed all Catholics from their “Sunday obligation” so do NOT feel compelled to attend mass out of fear. If any of you is feeling “under the weather” or running a fever, we ask you please DO NOT come to the church. You may be jeopardizing the life and health of others.

BIBLE DIARIES

If you would like to purchase a Bible Diary for 2021, please call the Rectory and let us know. Each book will be \$10.00. Please pay by November 30th.

CORONA VIRUS PRAYER

**Keep us good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy,
In this time of uncertainty and
distress.
Sustain and support the anxious
and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought
low;
That we may rejoice in your
comfort
Knowing that nothing can separate
us from
Your love.
In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

ADVENT OF GIVING

Due to the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic, we have decided not to have the traditional Christmas Give-Away for needy families. Instead, we would appreciate Gift Cards to Walmart or Target, Visa, Master Card or American Express in increments of \$25.00.

MISSALETTES FOR ADVENT-LENT

New Missalettes for Advent through Lent are on sale at the rectory for \$3.00 each. We will not be able to put the books into the pews during this pandemic. If you wish to have a book to follow along with the mass, please purchase your own. All books contain weekday and Sunday readings.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Sometimes marriage is like our computers. You learn a lot of information, but with time bugs and viruses can creep in. Things get messy and work slower. When all else fails try rebooting your relationship. Let go of old hurts and start from scratch with the same spouse. Programs like *Marriage Encounter* and *Better Marriages* can now be done online.

PARENTING POINTERS

2020 has been a year of the coronavirus pandemic, protests and riots, racism, and political divisiveness. What is there to be thankful for? Sometimes disruptions like these can push us into facing our common humanity and what is really important. Think of one unintended positive consequence that has come out of a hard year.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Ann Callagher, Caroline Craven, Felicia Martello, Arianna Cappola, Doris Levy, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Cora Shaffer, Baby Michael, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Doris Portillo, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate Tatiana Flores, Christopher Nash, Pat Romano, Tony Martello, Little Gabriel, Rachel Rocks, Sean O'Connor, Vladimir Drobikov, Louanne Mitchell, Colleen Meyers, Domenick Deodino, Rosemarie Liversidge, Christine Caruso, Patrick Bove, Camille Moglia, John Keegan, Kay O'Connor, Anthony Martini, Pantaleon Domingo, Conrado Trinidad, Joanne Kaiser, Patricia Warren, Ramon Villavicencio, Danilo Bonifacio, Daniel Johnson, Ryan Cariddi, Laura Cipullo, Richard Allen, Anthony Martello, Jr., Miguel Madera, Joe Villani, Lisa Mutchler, Elizabeth Chan, Benjamin Yap, Henry Yap, Anthony McCluskey, Jane Kim Estantino, Mike Hromin, Nancy Manto, Roy Regaspi, Gloria Marquez, David Barmore, Drew Johnson, Kunaim Emelyanesko, Kathy Santiago, Vinny Franco, Baby Grayson DiNatale, Kathie Gumb, Michael O'Connor, Patrick Shanley, Perry Bonaguaro, Rev. John Renard, Louise O'Connor, Cathleen McLaughlin, Fran Barbato, Jared Lanzaloto, Joel Rivera, Angelica Colavito, Jennifer Van Dam, Angelina Cozzitorto, Dawn Troll, Joseph Kirincich.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

Donna Carajat.

**“LOVING GOD AND YOUR
NEIGHBOR CANNOT
EXIST WITHOUT THE
OTHER!”**

