

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 3rd

8 A.M. – Emma Wick

Tuesday, December 4th

8 A.M. – August & Margaret Smirak

Wednesday, December 5th

8 A.M. – Margaret Timm

Thursday, December 6th

8 A.M. – Father G. Kuratko

Friday, December 7th

8 A.M. – Mary Polansky
6:30 P.M. – Kenneth Louis Pekar

Saturday, December 8th

8 A.M. – Marvin Michalec
5 P.M. – Marcus & Diane Janak

Sunday, December 9th

7 A.M. – Rose Pekar, James Konvicka,
Thomas Kocian
9 A.M. – Victor & Cecilia Bujnoch

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of Ben Kopecky.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Your Gift to God: November 25th

Sweet Home	\$1,229
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$20
Koerth	\$720
Building Fund	\$50
DSA	\$25

May God reward your generosity!

Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

Daily Mass

Beginning this week daily Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 A.M. at Queen of Peace.

CDA Meeting

There will be a Catholic Daughters meeting/Christmas celebration on **Monday, December 3rd at 6:00 P.M.** at the Family Center. Members are asked to bring Christmas "goodies" to share along with a donation to the Food Pantry.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, December 8th, is a holy day of obligation.

Mass Schedule:

Friday, December 7th – 6:30 P.M. (Vigil Mass)
Saturday, December 8th – 8:00 A.M.

Special Collection

A special collection for the Retired Religious Fund will be taken up at all Masses next weekend, December 7-8.



Fr. Dominic's Installation

Bishop Cahill will join us on **Saturday, December 15th** at the 5:00 P.M. Mass for Fr. Dominic's formal installation. Those who've expressed interest in assisting with some sort of welcoming reception should focus on this date and contact Fr. Dominic.

Advent Penance Services

All services begin at 5:30 P.M.

Monday, December 10 – Moulton

Tuesday, December 11 - Hallettsville

Thursday, December 13 – Shiner

Friday, December 14 - Yoakum

Advent Prayer

Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of your Son. Help me to hear his words and repent of my sins, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



*Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women."*

Consoling the Heart of Jesus Small-Group Retreat

Join us for a 10 week small –group retreat that delves into the simplicity and grandeur of Consoling spirituality. This retreat is based on the popular book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*.

Gain new insights into how you can console Jesus; learn the keys to the great sanctity of the saints and blessed like Therese of Lisieux, Faustina Kowalska, and Mother Teresa; and have all the tools you'll need to "Become a saint, a great saint, and quickly."

The Small-Group Retreat will be held at 6:00 P.M. at the St. Joseph Family Center beginning on Sunday, January 6th and will continue for the following Sundays ending on March 10th. For more information, contact Joan Macha at 361-293-1371 or Joyce Harper at 361-798-6325.



The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin or virgins, my Mother. To you I come; before you I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate! Despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Advent Wreath

Paul Turner

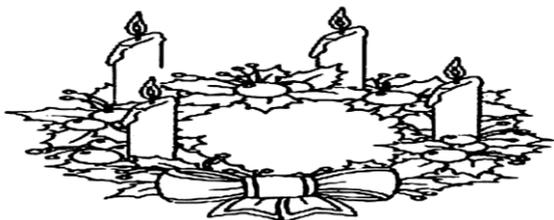
An Advent wreath symbolizes our longing for the coming of Christ. The wreath is a circle of evergreen branches into which are set four candles. Traditionally three candles are violet and one is rose, but four violet or four white candles may also be used.

The wreath symbolizes many things. Evergreens signify God's enduring promise of redemption, evident life green branches in the midst of snow. The circle signifies our hope for the return of Christ, whose kingdom will have no end. The colors of the candles match the traditional colors of the vesture for the four Sundays of Advent. Violet garments signify our penitent hope for salvation. The rose color, which may be worn on Advent's Third Sunday, signals that the season is nearly over – joy is at hand!

The wreath's most luminous symbol is its growing light. One candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent; two on the Second, three on the Third and all four on the Fourth. In the northern hemisphere, Advent comes at a time when the days decrease to their shortest length. As the hours of darkness increase, we light more candles on the wreath. The wreath, which symbolizes the coming of Christ, grows in intensity as the anniversary of Jesus' birth draws near.

The Advent wreath may be used at home or at a church. It should be blessed on the First Sunday of Advent after the homily at Mass, at evening prayer on Saturday night, or during a prayer service including biblical readings and Advent songs. At home, the wreath could be blessed by a family member and lit during the evening meal, to remind everyone of the true meaning of this holy season.

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“May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.”

Immaculate Conception

Paul Turner

“The Immaculate Conception” is a title for Mary, the mother of Jesus. The expression means that Mary was conceived without sin. The conviction that Jesus was born of a virgin is a distinct belief, even though many Catholics erroneously think that the Immaculate Conception refers to Jesus.

Contributing to the confusion is the celebration of the Immaculate Conception during the season of Advent. While the faithful are preparing to honor the birth of Jesus, we commemorate the conception of Mary. The choice of December 8 for the Immaculate Conception does not directly relate to Advent; it corresponds more to the traditional date for the feast of the birth of Mary, September 8, which coincides with the dedication of a Jerusalem church in honor of the mother of Mary. The feast for the conception of Mary is backed up from that day nine months. In a similar way we celebrate the Annunciation on March 25, nine months before the birth of Jesus.

Belief in the Immaculate Conception asserts that God preserved Mary from all sin from the moment of her conception, thus preparing a pure vessel for the incarnation of the Son. This belief is not expressly contained in the Scriptures, but it enjoys a widespread following in the church's tradition. Although the Immaculate Conception of Mary has been affirmed since the earliest centuries of Christianity, it was not formally proclaimed a dogma of the church until 1854. December 8 is now a holy day of obligation in the United States, which is placed under Mary's patronage with this title.

When Mary is depicted as the Immaculate Conception, she is often shown wearing a crown of stars as the woman in Revelation 12 and standing on a snake, reversing the temptation of Eve. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, is the exalted queen of heaven who manifests God's power over sin.

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*“Blessed be the great Mother of God,
Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed by her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary,
Virgin and Mother.”*