

Sunday December 1, 2019

## Pastor's Corner

*Advent begins; Giving Tuesday; St. Francis Xavier Feast Day*

**Advent begins:** This weekend we begin the liturgical season of Advent, a graced time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. Advent is my favorite season of the year. I love the Advent readings, music, décor and the Advent wreath for their spiritual simplicity and because they stand in stark contrast to the busyness and commercial aspects of preparation for Christmas.

At all masses this weekend, we will hand out Advent Reflection Books and Children's Advent Calendars. I hope you will use these for spiritual profit. I also hope you will attend our Advent Morning of Reflection on Saturday, December 14, on the theme, "Advent Calm amidst the Christmas Storm." The presenters, Lloyd and Jan Tate, are trained spiritual directors and experienced retreat presenters. The morning will include mass, breakfast, talks and adoration; there will be eight priests for confession. Please avail yourself of this opportunity to focus on the true reason for the season, Jesus.

**Giving Tuesday:** The Tuesday after Thanksgiving, December 3, is "Giving Tuesday." This day was started in 2012 to encourage people to shift the focus of the holiday season from commercial spending to charity and compassion – as an alternative to Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. Giving Tuesday is a day to thank God for blessings received and to support the evangelical and charity work of the church. I invite you to consider making a one-time gift to St. Francis Church or School on Giving Tuesday.

You can donate online to St. Francis through our Online Giving Company, **Faith Direct**, at [faith.direct/LA422](http://faith.direct/LA422) or through the Catholic Church's Special Program for Giving Tuesday, **iGiveCatholic**. To make a donation through **iGiveCatholic**, go the Archdiocese of New Orleans portal and click on St. Francis Xavier Church or School and designate the amount of the donation you wish to give. You also can make a donation by check or credit card at the Parish Office on December 3. Thank you for considering this way of helping us to advance the gospel of Christ during the holiday time of year.

**St. Francis Xavier Feast Day:** Tuesday, December 3, is the Feast Day of our parish patronal saint, St. Francis Xavier. St. Francis was a remarkable man, priest and evangelist for Jesus. Join us at masses this day as we remember and celebrate his life and ask for his intercession. Parish masses are at 6:30 am and 8:00 am, and the school children's mass is at 9:00 am.

Have a blessed Advent,  
Fr. Joe