Advent brings start of Church liturgical year

Advent Nov. 27-Dec. 24

By Ted King
The Sooner Catholic

The liturgical year for the Catholic Church begins with the First Sunday of Advent. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states it is “the liturgical season of four weeks devoted to preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas.” Advent, which also is a time to prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord as foretold in the Book of Revelation, ends on Christmas Eve.

The practice of spiritually preparing for Christmas was introduced in the 4th century. Saint Pope Leo (440 to 461) taught that the time before Christmas should be a time of fasting and almsgiving. It is in stark contradiction to the current culture’s commerce-driven preparation for Christmas Day.

A pious practice during Advent is the use of the Advent wreath in churches and homes. On the First Sunday of Advent, a wreath is placed near the altar and holds four candles, one of which is lighted each of the four Sundays. Three are colored violet, which symbolizes penance, and the other is rose-colored, symbolizing joy.

On the First, Second and Fourth Sundays the priest wears violet vestments, and on the Third Sunday, he wears rose vestments. On the Third Sunday of Advent we are urged to gladness in the middle of a time of expectation and penance because Jesus is coming soon at Christmas. In addition to a reading from the prophet Isaiah foretelling the coming of the Savior, there is on the Third Sunday, known as Gaudete (Latin for rejoice) Sunday, this reading from Saint Paul: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand, have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And, the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).

During Advent, the Te Deum, the joyful hymn of praise and thanksgiving, is omitted, and the Gloria in excelsis is not said during Mass. The Alleluia, however, is retained. And, in Advent the solemnization of matrimony may not take place with the prohibition extending to the Feast of the Epiphany on Jan. 8. A church is never decorated for Christmas until Christmas Eve. Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

For more information about Advent, the liturgical calendar and prayers, go online to www.usccb.org.

Ted King is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Catholic Charities, Sunbeam Family Services bring Christmas to OKC families

OKLAHOMA CITY – Catholic Charities Oklahoma City and Sunbeam Family Services are partnering to bring A Very Giving Christmas, a Christmas store, to local families in need, Dec. 14-18.

The store, Saint Nick’s Shoppe, will be located at Sunbeam Family Services, 1100 N.W. 14. Individuals selected through Sunbeam and Catholic Charities will have the opportunity to shop for new items for their families at no cost. Donors and volunteers will create a warm shopping experience and extend the season’s joy and excitement to 600 families, who otherwise would not be able buy presents for their children.

continued on Page 8
Hail Mary, full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.
Two chaplains: Two saints?

By J.E. Helm

As the nation observed Veteran’s Day, we thought about those chaplains who were called to care for men and women in uniform who were hurt and wounded. We especially honored those who gave their lives in the trial of combat and died for the cause of freedom. Some of these individ- uals went forward not armed merely for the defense of their nation’s use of war, but only with the cross of Christ.

Father Kapaun and Father Seeline’s Catholic military chaplains were awarded the prestigious Medal of Honor for their service, and both have been named Blessed by the Catholic Church. The final step toward being named a saint.

Father Emil Kapaun, a native of Kansas, was a Korean War chaplain. He was killed in 1951. The author describes how he was captured during the Battle of Inchon, made his way to the prisoners of war camp after escaping, and then worked in the capacity of a POW camp pastor.

Father Emil Kapaun was captured during the Battle of Inchon, made his way to the prisoners of war camp after escaping, and then worked in the capacity of a POW camp pastor.

The book begins with the end of Father Kapaun’s life, with his final months in a North Korean POW camp.

The story of Father Emil Kapaun is a testament to the courage and resilience of those who serve in the military. His selflessness and dedication to the men he served serve as a reminder of the importance of compassion and faith in the face of adversity.

The book is a powerful reminder of the sacrifice that those who serve in the military make, and the importance of remembering their stories.

— By J.E. Helm

Sooner Catholic

November 27, 2016

Arrival: Catholic worldview through science fiction

By John P. McCarthy

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK – Mankind has an extended encounter with aliens in “Arrival” (Paramount).

This unusually well-crafted science-fiction drama finds profundity on a human scale as well as the cosmic. As an engineer and linguist, the trenchant film probes the human capacities of language, love and vulnerability and leaves the human heart unscathed.

Interwoven throughout the film are snippets of Bandul’s personal life – earthy flashbacks to his daughter’s childhood and her thumbs-up greeting to a visiting_spacecraft pilot, “Arrival” is both vividly realistic and mesmerizingly dreamlike. At its heart is the life and times of Dr. Louise Banks, a linguist mourning a personal loss, who is enlisted to communicate with extraterrestrial entities that have descended upon Earth in a dozen or so spacecrafts.

One of those chemical-burned vessels hovers over a small town, as banks of helicopters and tanks and armored personnel carriers, represented by Col. Wes (Forest Whitaker) of Military Intelligence, entangle. Banks and a physicist named Ian Donnelly (Jeremy Renner) devise a plan to pilot a landing craft, “Arrival” presents a provocative moral mystery.

Revealing anything more about the plot or the aliens could spoil viewing. But, the film does employ elements commonly found in sci-fi/fantasy. Takeeth and.themselves up into the air... — if... — is a somber, uplifting — if decidedly somber — way.

Dennis Villeneuve and his cohort of filmmakers have created a splendid jolt of graduating an increasingly branched and varied science-fiction universe. Without diminishing any of their technical, behind-the-scenes work however, Amy Adams’ performance leaves the most lasting impression. Tough, tender and intelligent, Adams trans- lates the dramatic cadences of the story in gripping fashion and will surely win accolades. Not surprisingly, the advent of the otherwise wistfully coded grapes, and they — which would have been Father Vincent came to prominence in the 1970s, and it is胡格 found him to be self-righteous and, famously — referred to him as “The Grunt Padre.”

Many pages of “The Grunt Padre” recall the first person accounts of war. For instance, Leon Lech relates that “I have seen Father Kapaun.” The book ends with the end of the war, while the unit was under heavy fire… … During the Meuse-Argonne, a scene is depicted of Kapaun’s bravery when he was shot in the hand and arm. The text says he made an impasse.”

Kapaun “carried Miller north” for 200 yards outside the lines to drag the foxhole to treat the wounded. This is a significant chapter of the book describes two of the stories of those who prayed to Father Kapaun and obtained what may well have been miracle provisions.

For instance, a soldier, who was captured and thrown into a pit with other prisoners, was saved because of Father Kapaun’s intercession. Another soldier, who was wounded and in the “dog house,” was saved because Father Kapaun’s intercession was responsible for his safe return.

Father Kapaun’s ordeal takes on a new importance to those who read the book in 21st century America. He was eventually found by the Army and returned to the comfort of his family. The heroes of the world who died in battle are remembered and honored in this moving account of a man whose life was dedicated to the service of those who served.

— By J.E. Helm

The Sooner Catholic

November 27, 2016

Hacksaw Ridge: A Christian message in the midst of war

By Joseph McAleece

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples, “No one greater than I has ever been.” And then he called one of his twelve disciples to be the Lord’s personal assistant. That disciple was Peter, the fisherman from Galilee.

But, Doss holds firm, calling himself a “con- scientious objector.” He didn’t believe the Army was justified in sending him to a war he deemed unjust. Doss fathered five children before the war and was a supporter of non-violence. During the war, Doss fathered five children before the war and was a supporter of non-violence. He refused to join the Army and instead became a medic for the 7th Marine Regiment south of Da Nang.

Doss was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2013. The author tells the story of Doss’ life and his work with the Marine Corps.

The film contains graphic war violence with scenes of blood and gore, death and suffering. It also contains scenes of moral sensibilities and considerable crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A — adults only, audience should be at least 18 years old. The film is not recommended for children under 17.

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Recalling in horror, the boy fears he has killed his brother. Desmond tells his friend, “You’re the best man I’ve ever known.” Desmond was motivated by religion and the conviction of saving Private Ryan.” Awards in blood and gore, with heads blown off and soldiers shot down with machine guns, the violence is no doubt realistic, but will necessarily restrict this film’s audience to viewers who are prepared for such sights.

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As Year of Mercy ends, Holy Doors close around the world

This year, the Oxford Dictionary’s Word of the Year is “post-truth” — a term defined as “relating to or denoting a situation in which objective facts are less influential in shaping political or public opinion than emotion and personal belief.”

In the aftermath of our general election, we have partied as if it occurred on an "extraordinary path" toward national malaise at the time of Jubilee. Pilgrims who walked through the Holy Door were able to receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions.

In his homily for the Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Cardinal Agostino Vallini asked about the Holy Door: "Is the Jubilee year, a visible sign of the Jubilee of Mercy, the Holy Door, just closed, was a period of Eucharistic adoration and a prayer vigil. Additional indulgences were to be granted for those who had not yet received one of the seven sacraments.

The year will officially end on Dec. 9, Pope Francis pointed out the jubilees were called in the wake of the Reformation, "a truth which transcends them. It has withstood the weight of so much knowledge and little it has lost the capacity to lift its gaze to the heights, not daring to speak of the truth of being. Abandoning the尽快三观的imaginative interpretation of our culture has given rise to different forms of agnosticism and relativism which have been unable to know, or even research to lose their faith in a stable or substantial vision of the real meaning of life is cast into doubt. This is why people who believe in the truth, then I want to know it now.

There is sense, and there is non-sense. He went on to say, "I don't care what you think. I don't care about the truth, then I want to know it now. I had no idea how deeply my Christian convictions were compromised in serious questions, which is why I have felt both the need and the reality of human life and its questions has dwindled... It is undeniable that this time of rapid and complex change can leave especially the younger generation, whom the future belongs to and on whom it depends, with a sense that they have no valid points of reference.

The need for a foundation for personal and communal life becomes all the more pressing at a time when we face the patently inadvisable quest for young people to ask radical questions about the meaning of life. Abandoning the meaning of life is cast into doubt. This is why people who believe in the truth, then I want to know it now. I had no idea how deeply my Christian convictions were compromised in serious questions, which is why I have felt both the need and the reality of human life and its
Catholic charities, Sunbeam Family Services bring Christmas to OKC families

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY — Visiting young women and girls gave birth to a century-old tradition and a new partnership.

“By birth, they are our sisters,” said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston, in a video message to Cardinal Robert W. Carlson, chairman of the Catholic Foundation Board of Directors.

He said the tradition of giving gifts to children in need from our families in need has been going on for more than 100 years.

In the spirit of Christmas, the foundation initiated a new partnership to support Catholic Charities and Sunbeam Family Services.

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We all, in different ways and to different degrees, wander away from the kingdom through our personal prodigal sin. We depart from God, confounding our endowments, abandoning virtuous habits and storing up the wages of sin. The Year of Mercy shone a light on the prodigal and revealed our flaws and willfulness: it was as persistent as the sheepdog, but God, our shepherd, pursues us with his open arms, and we are invited to return home. It is exactly this dependency that brings us back. We have been granted the grace of receiving. It is unlikey for those who have never experienced the struggle of returning to the Father to be motivated to do so as we, with the help of the church, are able to find the ways to be open to the mercy God has for us.

We aim to share the presence of Christ and his compassion with others through multiple avenues. We are looking for persons who have a minimum of three years teaching experience in good standing with the Church, advanced degree in Theology, Catechetical instruction or experience working within diocesan Religious Education structures or organizations and institutions while at the same time promoting the fast-growing Hispanic population in dioceses, parishes, ecumenical mission groups, interfaith organizations and institutions while at the same time promoting the development of Latino leadership within the Church.

We are looking for persons who are a selected majority from a slate of 10 nominees. If no president or vice president is chosen after the second round of voting, a third ballot is run as off between the two last persons who received the most votes of the second ballot.

The bishops also choose the chairpersons of five committees and new members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for three-year terms and succeed Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, respectively. The new president and vice president of USCCB were elected at the beginning of the General Assembly’s term.

Cardinal DiNardo is cardinal and Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) during their annual fall meeting in Washington, D.C. Cardinal DiNardo has served as president of the USCCB since 2013. Archbishop Jose Gomez was elected vice president of the USCCB.

Cardinal DiNardo and Archbishop Gomez are elected to three-year terms and succeed Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, respectively. The new president and vice president of USCCB were elected at the beginning of the General Assembly’s term.

Cardinal DiNardo was elected president on the first ballot with 131 votes. Archbishop Gomez was elected vice president on the third ballot with 84 votes. Archbishop Gomez ran as the candidate of the USCCB’s Latino ministry.

The president and vice president of USCCB were elected by a simple majority from a slate of 10 nominees. If no president or vice president is chosen after the second round of voting, a third ballot is run as off between the two last persons who received the most votes of the second ballot.

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Lanzate a lo más Profundo

Tiempo para sanar

Esta no es la columna que esperarían algún día escribir. El último mes me ha ido más de lo que pensábamos. El trabajo, la escuela, la vida en general... todo ha ido más rápido de lo que creíamos. En alguna ocasión, terminé en el hospital con una infección en el hígado. Fue un momento duro, pero en el que aprendí mucho sobre la importancia de cuidar de uno mismo.

Lo que nos ha llevado a esto es el impacto de la pandemia en el mundo. Ya se está volviendo a la normalidad, pero todavía estamos lidiando con su impacto.
Briefs

Before Mass. Mass at 7 p.m. Mondays about First Friday Devotion and consecrating family and home with the Heart of Jesus available after Mass. Contact the Office of Family Life, (405) 320-6364 or oklaf@sooner.org.

3) The Lay Missionaries of Charity, the Servants of Mary Immaculate, and the Servant of St. Teresa of Calcutta, at St. Ann’s Nursing Home, OKC, every Sunday. Contact Connie Lang at (405) 249-1041 or jangfux@gmail.com.

4) Feast of St. Nicholas.

December 1
1) Charismatic Catholic prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center. Contact Toni Calvey at (405) 630-0539 or toni-calvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.spiritOKC.org.

2) Have you had an abortion or been affected by another’s abortion? Experience the healing love of Jesus Christ at a Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat. Participation is strictly confidential. Next retreat: Dec. 2-4. Cost: $75 pp, includes all meals, round-trip transportation, retreat materials. Contact: (405) 622-3844, rvahomeyork@gmail.com. Call Fr. Carl Janocha, (580) 395-709.27, for an interview.

November 27, 2016

1) Advent organ recital by Silviya Tkachenko, Classen Blvd., OKC, has Mass at 11 a.m. every Friday in the chapel. Mass is open for the public. Contact Fr. Groover, (405) 249-1041 or jangfux@gmail.com.

2) Polish Christmas dance on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of St. Anne, 3932 N. Western, Oklahoma City. A light meal will be served. Contact Sabina at (405) 345-9961 or Marzena at (405) 606-2589. Contact: T. John Tracy at (405) 630-0539, toni-calvey1900@gmail.com or visit www.spiritOKC.org.

3) The Secular Franciscan Order of St. Clare Fraternity meets at 1:15 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at St. Thomas More, Norman, in the library. All are welcome. To learn how Francis lived, plan to attend Contact Alice at (405) 473-7660.

4) Advent organ recital by Clint Davia of St. Joseph, Norman, 2 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi, Oklahoma City. Contact: (405) 414-9407.

5) Are you a Catholic layperson who is drawn to religious life? Attend a 7 p.m. meeting of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). St. Stanislaus Kostka House, 1043 NW 23, Oklahoma City. Contact: (405) 330-3033 or dominicanokc@hotmail.com.

Are you Listening?

In the 1960s, Cleveland Indians supplied free baseball tickets tostraight-A students. My sister and I were happy recipients. It was my introduction to sports.

Now, decades later, I watched in amazement as my grandchildren, with “Wait ‘til next year!” as their号角，were the Cleveland Indians, and licked their wounds with “I’ll be back” as their battle cry.

Sports fans are a special breed. They understand the excitement of the team and the agony of defeat. They are our monthly expenses that we do face serious budget deficits in Oklahoma. The OK CQB’s vision is to improve our monthly support opportunities to deepen their faith through encounters with the monks, faculty and students at St. Gregory’s Abbey and University.

Mass offered at St. Gregory’s Abbey for the Feast of the Annunciation, including rules, eligibility, sample applications or to order your own, go online to www.fm-sgu.org.

Catholic Charities weekly Mass at Oklahoma City School of Law Classen Blvd., OKC, has Mass at 11 a.m. every Friday in the chapel. Mass is open for the public. Contact Fr. Groover, (405) 249-1041 or jangfux@gmail.com.

Feast of St. Andrew

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Homeless persons find a spiritual father in Pope Francis

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY – Always close to his heart, around 3,600 homeless men and women were given the chance to be physically near the Pope – and near the heart of the Church – as they participated in the Jubilee of Mercy.

From 22 countries around Europe, the men and women came at the invitation of Pope Francis, who has called the poor the “treasures of the Church,” to participate in the European Festival of Joy and Mercy held in Rome Nov. 11-13.

From the United Kingdom, Josephine Kandeba said meeting Pope Francis was like “a daughter talking with her father.”

“He is very humble,” she said. “He listened to me. When I stopped him, I said, ‘Holy Father, if you don’t mind, I want to say something.’ He stopped, while I was holding his hand and while he was holding mine, and I said what I wanted to say to him.”

Having been on the streets for years, Josephine now lives at a shelter in London. She said she never thought that one day she “could see the Pope.”

Other pilgrims attending the event said they were struck by Francis’ great love for the poor, and the attention he showed to all of them.

Terence, another pilgrim from the UK, pointed out that Pope Francis said “he’s the Pope of the poor, and that has really stuck in my mind. Never before has a Pope said he’s the pope of the poor. He’s an exceptional man.”

Organized by the French organization Fratello, the event brought in groups of pilgrims from around Europe and the UK, including a large number from France and Poland, and Rome itself. It was organized as a way to help the homeless participate more fully in the Church and in the Jubilee of Mercy.

An organization in London called The Passage brought a group of around 50 from London. The Passage has a day center and two hostels with beds for the homeless. The weekend’s schedule for pilgrims included an audience and catechesis with Pope Francis on Friday, a vigil of Mercy at the basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls on Saturday evening, and concluded with Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in Saint Peter’s Basilica on Sunday.

In between these, the schedule included Morning Prayer, faith sharing, and free time to tour Rome and walk through the Holy Doors for the Jubilee.

Charlie Egan, another pilgrim, told CNA that he found it very moving when an older homeless man from France spoke to the Pope on Friday, with “tears in his eyes.”

“Then the Pope didn’t go away, he had a chat as if they were in a restaurant.”

“The Pope talked about every person, homeless or not, looking for that dream and that goal, talking about peace and love and charity.”

Charlie said that before going on the pilgrimage, he had four days to “look back” at his life. He said that he had “messes up” his life by drinking and had practiced no religion for years, only coming back to the faith a few years ago.

But, at the vigil at Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Charlie said he had the chance to speak with a priest “about everything,” and he came out afterward “with a bit of emotion.”

One of the messages he said he received that weekend was that even if you’ve lived a “bad life,” there is still the sacrament of confession.

“Everything that Pope Francis said was brilliant,” said Jacob Mensah, a young man, also from London. What struck him was what Pope Francis said about dreams being for everyone, and that they all “have dignity.”

Father Padraig Regan, a chaplain at The Passage, said the weekend was a huge “sign of respect” for everyone who participated.

St. Gregory’s University welcomes prospective students at “Cavalier Day”

SHAWNEE – Saint Gregory’s University welcomed prospective students and their families at its first Cavalier Day of the year on Nov. 10.

Prospective students had an opportunity to learn more about the programs, meet current students and faculty members, experience a college class with and tour the historic campus.

The remaining Cavalier Day’s for this academic year will be Feb. 16 and April 20. To sign up for Cavalier Day, go online to www.stgregorys.edu/cavalierday or call (844) BE EXTRA.

Mandi Schoech, Shelby Giesler and Adriana Garza answer questions from prospective students during Cavalier Day at St. Gregory’s University on Nov. 10. Photo provided.