

# Live the Gospel

December 2019

December 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Matthew 24:37-44

What are you looking forward to? Christmas is on most of our minds? Jesus calls us today to be attentive as we prepare for his coming.

- When do you least experience God alive in your life?
- Have you ever been surprised by someone else's kind gesture, action or word? What happened? What if Jesus came to you when you least ex-

December 22: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph is visited by the archangel Gabriel to tell him that Mary is about to give birth to the Messiah, and that they are to name him Emmanuel!

- Who do you find difficult to accept and get along with?
- Joseph welcomed Mary, even at the risk of others making fun of him. Have you ever made someone feel welcomed as Joseph did?

December 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3:1-12

In the bible, there are only two people who are described in depth in what they look like, in the Old Testament, David, and in the New Testament, John the Baptist. Today, John prepares the way for our Lord. How are you making the path straight in your life?

- What in your life do you need to change or do so that people can see that Christ walks with you?

December 25: Christmas

Luke 2:1-14 (midnight)

Today is born to us, our Savior Jesus Christ. The town of Bethlehem is glorified at the sight of the new born child who lay in the manger. Come let us adore Him!

- Take a couple of minutes and pray in front of the manger welcoming Jesus into the world and into our hearts!

December 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

Even when in prison, John still sought our Lord. John is often times seen as the figure who humbles himself before God. As John humbles himself before God, he is exalted.

- How do you take time to prepare for Christ to come into your life? Take some time to examine your conscience.

December 29: Feast of the Holy Family

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

The Gospel focus is on the Holy Family this weekend. One should quickly note that even though this was a holy family, it was not free from danger or problems. Today, after the Magi left the family, they departed another way home. The Holy Family also had to flee to Egypt for fear of Jesus' death threat.

- To whom do you flee for protection?
- Pray for your family, and each day of the week, pray together as a family, couple, or those that

# Live the Gospel

December 2019

December 1 begins a new Liturgical year with the beautiful season of Advent, four weeks of preparation, preparing our hearts to celebrate Christmas. During this season, we prepare our hearts in three ways to receive Jesus. First, we look to the past, the historical day Jesus was born in Bethlehem). Second, we prepare to see Jesus in the present in receiving Communion at Mass. Lastly, we prepare our hearts to the future coming of Christ again. I invite us all to embrace this season with an open heart set on the season. I know that it is a busy time, but remember why we are preparing, we are preparing for our King, our Lord, and our Savior Jesus Christ. When we become stressed out, tired, or anxious with all the preparations, we need to ask ourselves why we are doing this? Is it truly for Jesus' birth or is it for something else? Let us remember why we celebrate Christ's birth, who gives us new hope and new light! May God bless you this Advent and Christmas Season.

A popular tradition for Catholics and even many Christians is to have an Advent wreath within our home usually in a prominent place so all may see it. There wreath has four candles, three violet and one rose. Each week during the season of Advent, another candle is lit. During the third week, the rose candle is lit. Take some family time each week, and during a family meal, light the candles throughout the weeks of Advent, and as the days get closer to Christmas, the light will become brighter. On Christmas, we are given the brightest light ever, the shining star, Jesus Christ.

## Blessing of Wreath

O God, rejoicing,  
we remember the promise of your  
Son. As the light from this candle,  
may the blessing of Christ come upon  
us, brightening our way and guiding  
us by his truth. May Christ our Savior  
bring life into the darkness of our  
world, and to us, as we wait for his  
coming. We ask this through Christ  
our Lord. Amen

## First Week:

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of  
every nation, Savior of all peoples,  
come and dwell among us.

## Second Week:

O King of all nations, Jesus Christ,  
only joy of every heart, come and  
save your people.

## Third Week:

O Key of David, Jesus Christ, the gates  
of heaven open at your command,  
come and show us the way to  
salvation.

## Fourth Week:

O Wisdom, holy Word of God,  
Jesus Christ, all things are in your  
hands, come and show us the way  
to salvation.

## Christmas Manger Blessing

God of every nation and people, from the very  
beginning of creation you have made manifest your  
love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent  
your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he  
brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it  
remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up  
our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of  
all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

## Saints of the Month

Dec. 3—St. Francis Xavier	Dec. 21—St. Peter Canisius
Dec. 4—St. John Damascene	Dec. 23—St. John Kanty
Dec. 6—St. Nicholas	Dec. 25—Christmas
Dec. 7—St. Ambrose	Dec. 26—St. Stephen
Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception	Dec. 27—St. John
Dec. 9—St. Juan Diego	Dec. 28—Holy Innocents
Dec. 11—St. Damasus	Dec. 29—St. Thomas Becket
Dec. 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe	
Dec. 13—St. Lucy	Dec. 31—St. Sylvester
Dec. 14—St. John of the Cross	