

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6th to December 13th, 2020

FIRST Saturday, Dec. 5th – Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. – All Saints – First Saturday Devotion Prayers
4:15-4:30 p.m. – All Saints – Confessions
5:00 p.m. – All Saints – Intentions of the Blessed Virgin Mary by JAN

Sunday, December 6th – Second Sunday of Advent

7:30-8:00 a.m. – All Saints – Confessions
8:15 a.m. – All Saints – For the People of our Parishes
10:00-10:20 a.m. – St. Isidore – Confessions
10:30 a.m. – St. Isidore – Gaston Begnoche by Colin Wood

Monday, Dec. 7th – St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

4:00 p.m. – St. Isidore – Paul Johnston & Eleanor Luneau by a Parishioner

Tues, Dec. 8th – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 a.m. – All Saints – For The People
5:00 p.m. – All Saints – Adoration with Confession
6:00 p.m. – All Saints – Gabrielle Guillemette by Linda Olio

Wednesday, Dec. 9th – Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m. – All Saints – Conversion of Loved Ones by JAN

Thurs., Dec. 10th – Advent Weekday

5:00 p.m. – All Saints – Adoration with Confession
6:00 p.m. – All Saints – Jean-Noël & Claude Desautels by Noëlla

Friday, Dec. 11th – St. Damasus I, Pope

8:30 a.m. – All Saints – Intentions of the Blessed Virgin Mary by JAN

Saturday, Dec. 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe

4:15-4:30 p.m. – All Saints – Confessions
5:00 p.m. – All Saints – Intentions of the Blessed Virgin Mary by JAN

Sunday, December 13th – Third Sunday of Advent

7:30-8:00 a.m. – All Saints – Confessions
8:15 a.m. – All Saints – Lucille Brooks
10:00-10:20 a.m. – St. Isidore – Confessions
10:30 a.m. – St. Isidore – Alida Landry by Therese Begnoche

Please Pray For: Erica Johnson, Joan Hahr, Christine Scanlon, Joe Noonan, Sarai Tirado, Sandy Morriell, Michael Daley, Mary Latimer, John Young, David Lindsey, Joel Rasco, Deborah Cuesta, Cecilia Fatzinger, Kristin Lotane, Dena Cassidy, Caroline Elkins, Ryan Skochin, Danielle Desnoyers, Dora Hurtubise, Russell Hilton, William Harlow, Cheryl McMurphy, David Robert, Christopher Martel, Leslie Garvey, Ann Twohig, Deborah Kneen, Caroline Daberer, Sue Rhodes, Alice Kinney, Terry Kneen, Leonard Embury, Joel Rivera, Pat Carroll, Joseph Adams III, Liza Farrar, Mary Parent, Jerry Tatro, Denise Brier, Scott Patterson, Jackey Garrow, Kelly Nuovo, Annie Button, Amber Kneen, Richard Ploof, Jessica Pomerleau-Honlon, Kaida, Father Jordan, a Parishioner, the recently deceased, Betsy Snider, Peter Fournier, Tara Stubbs, Special Intention, Gloria Weld, Lexi Booska, Steven Tracy, Ginger Desautels, Gerry Seewaldt, and all Soldiers.
To add someone to the prayer line please call Suzanne Lavalla @ 848-7462

Receipts: November 29, 2020

All Saints Amount needed in Sunday Offertory \$1,440.00

Offertory	941.00
Campaign for Human Development, Energy	25.00
Christmas Flower Donations	342.00
Donation	100.00
Votive Candles	15.25
Bottle Redemption	28.44

St. Isidore Amount needed in Sunday Offertory \$705.00

Offertory	295.00
Campaign for Human Development	20.00
Christmas Flowers Donation	95.00

Thank you to all who are supporting our parishes with your monetary gifts and offerings. God bless you ever more!

Second Collection:

December 6: Food Shelf

December 13: Retirement Fund for Religious

Thank you for supporting our bulletin:

Roy A. Hango, Consulting Engineer
Civil & Mechanical
802-933-2245

Calendar of Events:

~Friday, Dec. 11th: Mac & Cheese Drive-Thru Take Out at All Saints Dorion Hall beginning at 4:30pm – Cost: by Donation
~Friday, Dec. 11th: Rosary Cenacle at All Saints at 6pm
Please come. Our world needs our prayers
~Sun., Dec. 13th: KofC Regular Meeting at Dorion Hall @7pm
~Sunday mornings @All Saints: Recitation of the Holy Rosary before Mass beginning around 7:40am

Christ Our Hope Campaign

During the season of Thanksgiving, we often take time to reflect on our many blessings. With the *Christ Our Hope* campaign, we are especially grateful for those who have given their time and talents to help along the way. At All Saints and St. Isidore, we would especially like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed to the campaign. We are building for the future of the Catholic Church in Vermont and want everybody to share in that excitement and vision. Please continue to pray that our efforts will bear fruit that will last, as we strive to do something good for God.

Our Parish Goals and Progress: (updated 11/25/2020)

All Saints – \$13,300 raised toward goal of \$77,643 ~ 17%
St. Isidore – \$8,585 raised toward goal of 40,539 ~ 21%

2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal Progress Updated November 25th

Our Parish Progress for the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal:

All Saints – 66% of \$14K – we need \$4770 to meet goal
St. Isidore – 101% of \$4,656 – \$61 over goal – Congratulations

Home Blessing in time of Pandemic

Would you like a blessing on your home and family?

In these days that bring uncertainty and anxiety, we are reminded that, even when we are separated physically, we are joined to each other in the Church through Christ.

Let us use this as an opportunity to pray that through the Holy Spirit, Christ Himself will bring us the comfort of His presence.

Deacon Armand Auclair will be making visits to homes for a blessing during the time of a pandemic. This blessing will take place from the front yard, following the Covid protocols.

If you would like for your family and home to receive a blessing, please contact the rectory at 848-7741 or Deacon Armand Auclair at armandauclair@gmail.com.

Advent Mission: Infancy Narratives
Tuesday: Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22

Please join Fr. Jordan in an Advent Mission on the Infancy Narratives at All Saints, Richford, VT.
Mass at 6:00 pm ~ 6:30pm Infancy Narratives Talk
(Mission talk will be approximately 30 minutes)

Blessed Therese Newmann Society

We encourage you to take a packet in the back of the church this weekend containing the Blessed Therese Newmann Society prayers and goals.
The packets can be given to anyone who is willing to offer their prayers and sufferings for the renewal of our parishes and the conversion of poor sinners.
If you have any questions, please contact the office at 848-7741 or email at: info@allsaintsrichford.org

ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS GIVING PROGRAM

This is a reminder that your gifts are due back to the church by 9:30 am on Sunday, December 13th, at the latest.
All tags have been distributed.
Thank you for your charity and generosity in this annual event.

St. Isidore's Giving Program

Starting the first Sunday of Advent on November 29th, we will be asking for gift cards from WalMart, Hannaford and Sylvester's that will be given to local families. If you have a little extra to give this year, please give your donation(s) to Lynn or Peter Locher, Sue Cherrier or Kelly Lagasse. It has been a difficult year for many and whatever support you can offer will be greatly appreciated. The final day to receive your gift will be December 13th.
Thank you in advance for your generosity.



PENANCE SERVICE
St. John the Baptist Church
Sunday, December 20th
2:30 PM to 4:00 PM
With two visiting priests

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1. Who does the Immaculate Conception refer to?

It doesn't refer to Jesus' conception by the Virgin Mary, but to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived. This conception was not virginal. (That is, she had a human father as well as a human mother.) But it was special and unique in another way. . .

2. What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way:

490 *To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.*

491 *Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:*

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

3. Does this mean Mary never sinned?

Yes. Because of the way redemption was applied to Mary at the moment of her conception, she not only was protected from contracting original sin but also personal sin. The Catechism explains:

493 *The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God "the All-Holy" (Panagia), and celebrate her as "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature". By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long. "Let it be done to me according to your word. . ."*

4. Does this mean Mary didn't need Jesus to die on the Cross for her?

No. What we've already quoted states that Mary was immaculately conceived as part of her being "full of grace" and thus "redeemed from the moment of her conception" by "a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race." The Catechism goes on to state:

492 *The "splendor of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son". The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love".*

508 *From among the descendants of Eve, God chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of his Son. "Full of grace", Mary is "the most excellent fruit of redemption" (SC 103): from the first instant of her conception, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.*

5. How does this make Mary a parallel of Eve?

Adam and Eve were both created immaculate--without original sin or its stain. They fell from grace, and through them mankind was bound to sin. Christ and Mary were also conceived immaculate. They remained faithful, and through them mankind was redeemed from sin. Christ is thus the New Adam, and Mary the New Eve. The Catechism notes:

494 *... As St. Irenaeus says, "Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race." Hence not a few of the early Fathers gladly assert: "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith." Comparing her with Eve, they call Mary "the Mother of the living" and frequently claim: "Death through Eve, life through Mary."*

6. How does this make Mary an icon of our own destiny?

Those who die in God's friendship and thus go to heaven will be freed from all sin and stain of sin. We will thus all be rendered "immaculate" (Latin, *immaculatus* = "stainless") if we remain faithful to God. Even in this life, God purifies us and trains us in holiness and, if we die in his friendship but imperfectly purified, he will purify us in purgatory and render us immaculate. By giving Mary this grace from the first moment of her conception, God showed us an image of our own destiny. He shows us that this is possible for humans by his grace.

December 8th: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It was not always thus. In the fifth century, a celebration of the "Conception of the Most Holy and All Pure Mother of God," was celebrated on December 9th. The Eastern Orthodox today celebrate "The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos (God-bearer)" on December 9th. And in the calendar of the Spanish Empire operative in 1531, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated on December 9th, and so it was on this Feast Day, December 9, 1531, a lady who called herself "the ever virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God" made her first appearance to St. Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill in Mexico. This Immaculate Conception day revelation of the Mother of the True God occurred 34 years before the first European settlement in what was to become the United States, 76 years before the first successful English settlement at Jamestown and 245 years before the founding of our country.

In December 1531, at Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City, Blessed Mother Mary instructed a poor indigenous convert, Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, to ask the bishop of Mexico to build a church in her honor. Juan Diego thought himself unworthy of this mission. He avoided a planned meeting with the Blessed Virgin to care for his sick uncle, and at one point walked a different route around Tepeyac so as not to be delayed by conversation with her. Despite Juan Diego's imperfections, Our Lady kept him as her messenger and sent him to the bishop with a sign of her patronage, a gift of roses wrapped in his cloak or *tilma*. When Juan Diego unfolded his *tilma* and presented the roses to the bishop, the *tilma* itself was imprinted with a miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin as a *mestiza* queen and mother. This image of Our Lady, full of Aztec symbolism, led millions of indigenous Mexicans to convert to Catholicism, founding the first Christian people in the Americas and establishing a "spiritual headquarters" for the evangelization of the continent. For this reason, Pope Pius XII proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe to be Patroness and Empress of the Americas.

The Blessed Mother's remarkable intervention and her appearance at Tepeyac to Juan Diego all fall within the octave of the Immaculate Conception. Juan Diego's *tilma* portrays Holy Mary as the Woman of the Apocalypse, "clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet" (Rev 12:1), a portrayal identified with the Immaculate Conception. In these days, as we celebrate the patronage of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, let us not be afraid to reflect also on the life of her beloved messenger, St. Juan Diego. Let us learn from his missteps and not ignore the Blessed Mother Mary amid our cares and insecurities. Rather, as the saint of Tepeyac did, let us draw close to Mary Immaculate, whose imprint on our lives teaches us to follow God's will, and strengthens us to build up the Church on our continent, dedicated to her.

Advent Penance Service

St. John the Baptist Church
Sunday, December 20
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
2 visiting priests available to hear confessions

Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule

Monday, December 7:
St. Isidore – 4:00 pm
St. John the Baptist – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 8:
All Saints – 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM
St. Anthony – 9:00 AM
St. John the Baptist – 6:00 PM

Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24:
St. Anthony – 2:00 PM
St. John the Baptist – 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM
All Saints- 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM

Friday, December 25:
St. Anthony – 8:00 AM
All Saints – 8:15 AM
St. John the Baptist – 10:00 AM
St. Isidore – 10:30 AM

Because we are still at limited capacity, we are required to take reservations for the Christmas Masses and follow all Covid-19 protocols.

To Reserve your spot please call:

St. Anthony: Sarah Reed 933-7748
St. John the Baptist: Parish Office 933-4464
All Saints & St. Isidore: 933-7741

In Lieu of attending a Christmas Mass, you may consider attending a weekday Mass during the Octave of Christmas ~ December 26 – January 1.
Please see the bulletin for Mass times.

Pray the St. Andrew Novena for Advent

Advent always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle. Is this just a nice coincidence, or is there deeper significance? There is indeed a deeper significance. St. Andrew was the very first disciple called by Our Lord—that is why, in the Orthodox tradition, he is known by the name Πρωτόκλητος (Protoklitos) which means "First-Called." Andrew is the one who convinced his brother, Simon, to become Jesus' disciple. "We have found the Messiah!" Andrew said to him. Now we know Simon as Peter, the first pope.

In keeping with his role as "the first-called," the feast of St. Andrew is found at the beginning of our new liturgical year. There are many traditions associated with St. Andrew's feast day, but one of the most popular is the Christmas novena that begins on St. Andrew's feast day. It's called the St. Andrew Christmas Novena, or more simply, The Christmas Novena. It's a wonderful way to enter into the Advent season which is marked by a time of anticipation, penance, and prayer.

While the origins of this prayer are unknown, it is over 100 years old (at least) and may have come from Ireland. If the St. Andrew novena was prayed as a regular nine-day novena, it would end on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. However, this novena prayer is actually prayed much longer than nine days—it is prayed throughout all four weeks of Advent.

It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer FIFTEEN times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested. Prayer is an essential part of Advent. Reciting this special novena prayer each day is a simple yet beautiful way to celebrate the spiritual significance of the Advent season and to experience a deeper conversion to the heart of Jesus. And since Andrew helped his brother find the Messiah, he can do the same for us as our spiritual brother. He can lead us, in spirit, to the Christmas crib, saying: "We have found the Messiah ..."

Here is the beautiful prayer:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

Prayer to the Guardian Angel of the United States

O Glorious Guardian Angel of the United States, to whom God has entrusted the care of our beloved country, we honor you and thank you for the care and protection you have given to this great nation from the first moment of its inception.

O powerful Angel guardian, whose watchful glance encompasses this vast land from shore to shore, we know that our sins have grieved our Lord and God and marred the beauty of our heritage. Lead us to a deep conversion, so that we may return to the embrace of His merciful love!

O Holy Angel, obtain for us through the intercession of the Queen of Heaven before the throne of God the graces we need to overcome the forces of evil so rampant in our beloved land. Help us, our God-given protector and friend, to respond wholeheartedly to the urgent pleas of the Mother of God at Fatima. Assist us to offer the prayers and sacrifices necessary to bring peace and goodness to our nation.

We want to make you known and loved throughout our land, so that docile to your inspirations we may know, love and serve our Lord more faithfully and so become once more "one Nation under God"! Amen.