

December 01, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Let us draw near to our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary and ask her to tell us about the first Advent. She will be the best teacher in how to spend Advent in preparation for the coming of the Lord at Christmas.

With Mary, we begin again. The liturgical year takes us through the life of Christ, the Word of God who became flesh after receiving the consent of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her "fiat" (which means "let it be done") made possible the unfolding of God's plan to redeem mankind.

This Sunday marks the beginning of the liturgical year. With Mary we wait for Christmas day, the coming (or advent) of the Lord by preparing our hearts for his arrival. While Mary certainly prepared her home and the necessary clothing, etc. for the divine Infant, she focused her heart with profound awareness on the One who stirred in her womb. She like all mothers enjoyed a certain awe for the wonder of new life developing in her womb. For her, the delight was magnified by the fact that her Child was the Light of the world, the One who had been promised.

The holy Virgin bore in her womb a new beginning for mankind. Nothing would be the same again. The Lord, who came to unite his divine nature to a human nature in her, would change the course of all people. "Once you were no people, now you are God's people." (1Pet2:10)

We were lost, but by his Advent we discover that we have been found by the One who can never lose sight of us. Man can lose himself, but the Light of the world who searches every human heart can brighten the path of return to our true home. He is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

The next column speaks to us of the possibility of real Advent preparation for the feast of Christmas. No Advent of Christ, no Christmas day. Without the coming of the Lord, there would have been no redemption, no forgiveness of sin and no happy ending for souls.

The Lord offers us this Advent as a period to prepare for his great feast day - a time of joyful expectation. That joy will not be complete unless we go to the Sacrament of Confession. Our joy will not be complete, the Virgin's hopes will be unmet and the Child who came to free us from our sins will remain frustrated that his invitation to begin again has been unheeded.

If you have not recently gone to Confession, then one of the most fundamental and fruitful aspects of your Catholic faith is waiting to be realized. The mercy of God waits for your "fiat". Just do it.

Every Wednesday of Advent 5-7pm, I will be waiting in the confessional.

Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, save souls!

Fr. Martin Flum

Be renewed in preparation for His coming

Give thanks to the Lord! The Catechism of the Catholic Church does not say that sin sets God against us. It doesn't say that sin turns His heart away from us. No, the Catechism says that sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from Him (1850).

All four Gospels recount the stories of both Judas's betrayal and Peter denying Jesus:

- For Judas' betrayal see, Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53 and John 18: 1 -14.

- For Peter's denial of Jesus see Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-62 and John 18:15-27.

Both men were apostles of Jesus. Both spent three years devoted the life and teachings of Christ. In the end, both used their free will to make choices. Both had the opportunity to seek forgiveness.

As an Advent practice, reflect on the power of accepting God's forgiveness as reflected in the lives of those two men. The choices we make do have consequences: our sinful actions and our response to the Lord after we sin. The sacrament of Penance really does restore our baptismal holiness.

St. Faustina had mystical experiences with the Lord and has recorded those experiences in her Diary. In one encounter she heard the Lord telling her: "All your sins have not wounded my heart as painfully as your present lack of trust does - that after so many efforts of my love and mercy, you still doubt My goodness?" (Diary of St. Faustina, 1486).

Do you trust the power of God's mercy and forgiveness in Confession?

BEAR HUGS FOR HEALING

Give a sick child a bear hug this Christmas! This program delivers stuffed bears to hospitalized children during the holidays. Please drop off your donated bears before December 8th in the box located at the back of the church. Due to health and safety concerns, donated bears must be newly purchased and delivered in their original packing with store tags attached. Or, your tax-deductible monetary donations can be used to purchase bears at a discounted price! Please make checks payable to the *Bread of Life Center for Peace* and mail them to: PO Box 338, Leonardtown, MD 20650. You may also purchase a bear or make donations through the website at www.breadoflifecenterforpeace.org -- click on Bear Hugs Project. Please contact Patricia DiSandro at 240-681-3606 for any questions about this special outreach. Thank you for your continued generous support of Bear Hugs!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2019

Monday: Is 4:2-6/ Ps 122/ Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11: 1-10/ Ps 72/ Lk 10: 21-24
Wednesday: Is 25: 6-10a/ Ps 23/ Mt 15: 29-37
Thursday: Is 26: 1-6/ Ps 118/ Mt 7: 21. 24-27
Friday: Is 29: 17-24/ Ps 27/ Mt 9: 27-31
Saturday: Is 30: 19-21. 23-26/ Ps 147/ Mt 9: 35-10:1.5a. 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122/ Rom 13:11-14/ Mt 24:37-44

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

St. Michael's
Offertory Collection for Nov 24th \$ 2,805

St. Dominic's
Offertory Collection for Nov 24th \$ 1,174

ST. MICHAEL'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

Saturday, 12/07/19 5pm
Rosary Leader: Alice Williams **Lector:** Claude Boswell
Server: James Aviles **EMHC:** Irene Goldsmith

Sunday 12/08/19 8am
Rosary Leader: Betty Lindsay **Lector:** Jeanine Wilson
Server: Dan Wilson **EMHC:** TBD

Sunday, 12/08/19 11:30am
Rosary Leader: Kevin Mondorf **Lector:** Chris Patterson
Server: Taylor Nickens **EMHC:** TBD

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Joe Aviles, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Dorothy Dunston, Kathy Fisher, Mabel Hamilton, Florence Henderson, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Michael Mohun, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Ann Proctor, Betty Proctor, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may their crosses be joined to the Cross of Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday,	11/30/19	5pm	All Souls Intentions
Sunday,	12/01/19	8am	Our Parishioners
Sunday,	12/01/19	10am	Carol Lucas +
Sunday,	12/01/19	11:30am	Michael Smith +
Monday,	12/02/19	8am	Miguel Angel Cabrera +
Tuesday,	12/03/19	8am	Gerard Francis Smith
Wednesday,	12/04/19	8am	Raphael Connick + & Greg Connick
Thursday,	12/05/19	8am	Louis Marino Gregory
Friday,	12/06/19	8am	Denra Wallace Warner
Friday	12/06/19	7:30 pm	Maria Romano +
Saturday	12/07/19	8am	Ronald Smith

PARISH NEWS

This year the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is **not** a holy day of obligation since December 8th falls on the first Sunday of Advent.

The second collection next week will be for the Religious Retirement fund. Recently we had a collection for the Archdiocesan Priests Retirement fund.

We have a new missalette with the readings for Mass.

NEW Christmas Choir - Please Consider!

Dear Parishioners: This Christmas, it would be wonderful to praise the Lord with full voice, and with full choir! Please consider joining a special Christmas Choir to sing at Christmas Mass (Mass time TBD). We will learn, sing, have fun, and worship God together. Give Jesus the gift of your voice in a special way this Christmas. Please call the office to contact Joanna Mason or by email at evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com. If you play an instrument, please let me know!

"Young men and maidens together, old men and children! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted..." (Psalm 148)

TRIP to the MOVIES!

It's not too late to sign up for the trip to see the new film *Love and Mercy: Faustina*, tomorrow, December 2nd at 5:50pm. Sign up in the binder in the back of the Church.

Live the Gospel - Challenge of the Week

If you don't have a family advent wreath at home, order one, or better yet, make one yourself! Gather the family together around the candles each night of Advent to sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and read a short meditation for the day from the Advent booklet we will provide: *Advent with St. Therese*. **Don't let this rich liturgical season pass you by; be ready to meet the Lord at Christmas.** Each of us is part of the "Israel" that waits for the Lord's coming: "Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, oh Israel."

FIRST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

December 6th is the first of our First Friday **evening** Masses and devotions. Mass will be at 7:30 PM, preceded by confessions from 7-7:30 PM and followed by Eucharistic adoration with Rosary until 9 PM. The next morning, at 8 AM, we will be back for First Saturday Mass and devotions! Mass will be followed by adoration, the rosary, the opportunity for confession, and a 15-minute reflection on the mysteries of the Rosary. The **Blue Army** group will be gathering for breakfast and their meeting afterwards. If you are new to the **Blue Army** and have questions or would like to attend a meeting, call Joanna Mason at the office or email evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com.

Adoration and Healing Prayers

Do you pray for healing in your life or in your family? God may not always answer as we would like Him to, but He always answers according to what is best for us. Come to St. Michael's at 7 PM on December 11th, 2019, the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, for an evening of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by prayers of healing by Fr. Flum over anyone who would like to come forward. We hope to see you there!