



St. Nicholas by Jaroslav Čermák

MASSES

Saturday [anticipated] 4:30 pm

Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am

Mass Tuesday-Friday in the chapel at 9 am

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 7-7:30 pm

Saturday 3-4 pm

in the chapel

ST IGNATIUS & ST LUKE'S

6 December 2020

THE FEASTS OF ADVENT

Many people think of Advent as a penitential season; the purple vestments, which echo Lent, make it easy to understand why. But the *Code of Canon Law* very clearly states: “The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.” (CCC 1250)

Advent has a quality quite distinct from Lent. According to the *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, Advent is “**a period for devout and joyful expectation.**”

The old Catholic Encyclopedia says that Advent originated as a 40 day fast (like Lent) in preparation for Christmas in around the fifth century. (This explains the purpose of Laetare Sunday, which uses rose as its liturgical color: it was meant to be a time of respite in the middle of a long period of fasting.) And certainly penitence is a good and healthy response to the season’s reminder that the Lord is coming again, the next time to bring the final judgement to all, both living and dead. So expectant joy will come most easily to those who are prepared for the Last Day.

So how does the Church observe this season of “devout and joyful expectation”? There are many Advent traditions that focus on preparation: the Advent wreath which shines more brightly with each passing week, and the empty manger to be padded with a straw for each sacrifice and act of charity, in hopes of softening the bed of the Christ Child.

But one of the most delightful qualities of Advent is its many feastdays which strew the path to Christmas.

St. Nicholas’ Day *December 6*

Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. This 4th century bishop and martyr had a legendary habit of secret gift-giving which gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus (“Saint Nick”). One of his miracles was the resurrection of three murdered boys, and thus he is the patron of children. He secretly gave dowries to some impoverished young women, and thus gold coins are emblematic to him. Many cultures give small gifts or candy coins to children on his feast.

St. Ambrose *December 7*

There are all kinds of ways to celebrate the patron saint of candle-makers! Some families like to use this day to decorate their own Christ candle, which goes

in the middle of your Advent wreath during the Christmas season. St. Ambrose was also known as the “honey-tongued Saint” so any recipe with honey is appropriate to eat this day.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: *December 8*

This is not only a holy day of obligation, but also the patronal feast of our nation. So go to Mass and pray for our country.

St. Juan Diego’s Day *December 9* and the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** *December 12*

Juan Diego was from Mexico, so many families choose to eat Mexican food on either or both feastdays. Many people who have statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe in their homes decorate them elaborately in the days leading up to the feasts, surrounding them with flowers, Christmas lights, or candles.

St. Lucy’s Day *December 13*

The most famous tradition—the oldest girl in the family dressing in a white garment with a red sash (symbolizing martyrdom) with a St. Lucy crown on her head to wake the family with coffee and sweet rolls (or ‘Lucia buns’)—comes to us from Scandinavia. In St. Lucy’s honor, light a red candle and share coffee and pastry with your family.

The O Antiphons

Each Office of Vespers in the final days before Christmas has an antiphon with an Old Testament title of Jesus Christ. As you light the candles of your Advent wreath each evening, sing the verse from the hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.

17 December: O Sapientia (*O Wisdom*)

18 December: O Adonai (*O Lord*)

19 December: O Radix Jesse (*O Root of Jesse*)

20 December: O Clavis David (*O Key of David*)

21 December: O Oriens (*O Dayspring*)

22 December: O Rex Gentium (*O King of the Nations*)

23 December: O Emmanuel (*O God with Us*)

And all the while, do remember the most important preparation: that of your soul. With Christian joy, pause to acknowledge your sins and to clean house spiritually by going to confession. Rejoice that Christ came to us and is coming again, but never forget our habitual unworthiness to receive him.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Anne Marie Whittaker, Greg and Felicia Yohe, Joe Coleman, John Hogan, Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; D.K.C., M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., H.G., and J.G.

Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list.

Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [for a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LADIES OF CHARITY

wish to thank all those who contributed to the Thanksgiving Virtual Food Drive. Because of your generosity, more than \$5000 was raised to assist local food banks. May God bless you for your charity.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This Tuesday is a holyday of obligation. Masses are at 9 am and 7:30 pm.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is looking for men 18 years old and older that are in good standing with the Catholic Church to join the parish's own St John Fisher council 16499. If you are interested, please contact brother Knight Joe Chancio at 301-751-2368 or email jchan319@comcast.net.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for our annual Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday December 6th at 5 pm. Don't miss it!

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve *Thursday December 24th*

4:30 pm Roman Missal [with carols]

10:30 pm Divine Worship Mass with choral prelude

Christmas Day *Friday December 25th*

9 am Roman Missal [with carols]

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 5 December

Ember Saturday in Advent

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Guadalupe Manlapaz + [Susie Martinez]

Sunday, 6 December

The Second Sunday of Advent

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Millie Sampson + [Mr. and Mrs. James Guinivan]

11 am special intention [S. White]

Monday, 7 December

Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9 am *no public mass*

Tuesday, 8 December

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

a holyday of obligation

9 am Advent Taylor + [Michael Taylor]

7:30 pm Pro populo

Wednesday, 9 December

Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

9 am Matthew Slattery [Jane Slattery]

Thursday, 10 December

Advent Feria

9 am Mabel Ames +

Friday, 11 December

Damasus I, Pope

9 am Msgr. William J. O'Donnell +

Saturday, 12 December

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Alice Kruse + [Lorraine LaValley]

Sunday, 13 December

The Third Sunday of Advent [Gaudete Sunday]

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Sheila Brown [Jane Slattery]

11 am Edward Guinivan and companions

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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Saint Luké's at
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