



*Image by Adalee Hude*

### 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**

**13 December 2020**

## PRAYING FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST

"Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off." *Isaiah xxxiii. 17.*

BEFORE Christ came, the faithful remnant of Israel were consoled with the promise that "their eyes should see" Him, who was to be their "salvation." "Unto you that fear My Name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings." Yet it is observable that the prophecy, though cheering and encouraging, had with it something of an awful character too. .... "But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap." [*Mal. iv. 2; iii. 1, 2*]....

We too are looking out for Christ's coming,—we are bid look out,—we are bid pray for it; and yet it is to be a time of judgment. It is to be the deliverance of all Saints from sin and sorrow for ever; yet they, every one of them, must undergo an awful trial. How then can any look forward to it with joy, not knowing (for no one knows) the certainty of his own salvation? And the difficulty is increased when we come to pray for it,—to pray for its coming soon: how can we pray that Christ would come, that the day of judgment would hasten, that His kingdom would come, that His kingdom may be at once,—may come on us this day or tomorrow,—when by so coming He would be shortening the time of our present life, and cut off those precious years given us for conversion, amendment, repentance and sanctification? Is there not an inconsistency in professing to wish our Judge already come, when we do not feel ourselves ready for Him? In what sense can we really and heartily pray that He would cut short the time, when our conscience tells us that, even were our life longest, we should have much to do in a few years?...

Job said, "Though he slay me, yet I will trust in him." Under all circumstances surely, we may calmly resign ourselves into His hands. Can we suppose that He would deceive us? deal unkindly or hardly with us? Can He make use of us, if I may say so, against ourselves? Let us not so think of the most merciful Lord. Let us do what He bids, and leave the rest to Him. ....

When then we pray that He would come, we pray also that we may be ready; that all things may converge and meet in Him; that He may draw us while He draws near us, and makes us the holier the closer He comes. We pray that we may not fear that which at present we justly do fear "that when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." [*1 John ii. 28.*] He can condense into an hour a life of trial. .... He can by one keen pang of agony punish the earthly soul, or by one temptation justify it, or by one vision glorify it. Adam fell in a moment; Abraham was justified upon his seizing the knife; Moses lost Canaan for a word; David said, "I have sinned," and was forgiven; Solomon gained wisdom in a dream; Peter made one confession and received the keys;

our Lord baffled Satan in three sentences; He redeemed us in the course of a day; He regenerates us by a form of words. We know not how "fearfully and wonderfully" our souls "are made." To men in sleep, in drowning, or in excitement, moments are as years. They suddenly become other men, nature or grace dispensing with time.

But again, you say, How can I pray to see Christ, who am so unclean? You say well that you are unclean. But in what time do you propose to become otherwise? Do you expect in this life ever to be clean? Yes, in one sense, by the presence of the Holy Ghost within you; but that presence we trust you have now. But if by "clean," you mean free from that infection of nature, the least drop of which is sufficient to dishonour all your services, clean you never will be till you have paid the debt of sin, and lose that body which Adam has begotten. Be sure that the longer you live, and the holier you become, you will only perceive that misery more clearly. The less of it you have, the more it will oppress you; its full draught does but confuse and stupefy you; as you come to yourself, your misery begins. The more your soul becomes one with Him who deigns to dwell within it, the more it sees with His eyes. You dare not pray for His presence now;—would you pray for it had you lived Methuselah's years? I trow not. You will never be good enough to desire it; no one in the whole Church prays for it except on conditions implied. To the end of the longest life you are still a beginner. What Christ asks of you is not sinlessness, but diligence. Had you lived ten times your present age, ten times more service would be required of you. Every day you live longer, more will be required. If He were to come today, you would be judged up to today. Did He come tomorrow, you would be judged up to tomorrow. Were the time put off a year, you would have a year more to answer for. You cannot elude your destiny, you cannot get rid of your talent; you are to answer for your opportunities, whatever they may be, not more nor less. You cannot be profitable to Him even with the longest life; you can show faith and love in an hour. True it is, if you have turned from Him, and served sin, and in proportion as you have done this, you have a great work before you,—to undo what you have done. If you have given years to Satan, you have a double duty, to repent as well as to work; but even then you may pray without dread; for in praying for His presence you still are praying, as I have said, to be ready for it.



*From Shrinking from Christ's Coming, a sermon by St. John Henry Newman, preached 4 December 1836*

## **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 [or 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 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](mailto:jchan319@comcast.net). Wives, mothers, sisters, fiancées, and girlfriends: please encourage the men you know to consider joining.

**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.

## **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]

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God Friday January 1st

9 am Roman Missal

7:30 pm Divine Worship

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

**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*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Sheila Brown [Jane Slattery]

11 am Edward Guinivan and companions

**Monday, 14 December**

*John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

9 am *no public mass*

**Tuesday, 15 December**

*Advent Feria*

9 am Bob Kane

**Wednesday, 16 December**

*Advent Feria*

9 am Emily Rice [Helene Vidal]

**Thursday, 17 December**

*O Sapientia*

9 am Alice Novy

**Friday, 18 December**

*O Adonai*

9 am Erin Topp [Diana Gritz]

**Saturday, 19 December**

*O Radix Jesse*

*Anticipated Mass for Sunday*

4:30 pm Robert Bork +

**Sunday, 20 December**

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*O Clavis David*

8 am Joe Diana [Joe and Jackie Chancio]

9:30 am Michael Slattery [Jane Slattery]

11 am Pro populo

### St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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*historic*  
**ST IGNATIUS**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

### **Rev. John Vidal**

Pastor, St. Ignatius

Pastor, St. Luke's

### Joint Pastoral Council

Randy King - *Co-chair*

Joseph Chancio • Rosemary Collier

Fran Doyle • James Guinivan

Ada Okafor • Elizabeth Shivone

Connie Somerville

Patrick Delaney - *ex officio*

Susan White - *ex officio*

### St. Luke's Finance Council

Patrick Delaney - *Co-chair*

Nicole Crawford • Dave Hoppe

David Lewis • Franco Madan

Susan White - *ex officio*

Karen King - *ex officio*

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