

First Sunday of Advent

29 November 2020

*I give thanks . . . for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Corinthians 1:4)*

Welcome to Advent! Whether it's your first time entering this holy season or your ninetieth, be assured that God, your heavenly Father, is eager to bestow his grace on you.

As Paul says in today's second reading, God has *already* poured his grace on you. He has given you access to every spiritual gift as you wait for Jesus to reveal himself to you (1 Corinthians 1:7). And God wants to do even more. He wants you to have a great Advent! He wants to make this season into a time for you to grow closer to him and come to know him better.



That doesn't necessarily mean these days before Christmas will be easy. Your faith might deepen, or you might receive unexpected blessings. But you might also experience hardship or setbacks. Yet no matter what happens, God will reward whatever effort you put into your Advent preparations. That's because he wants nothing more than for you to deepen your relationship with Jesus. That's the grace God is offering you this season.

So dig in! Start by committing to spend more time in prayer this month. Use this magazine to read the Mass readings and meditations with an open heart. Participate in the life of your parish, maybe through Eucharistic Adoration or a service project. Pick up a spiritual book or do an Advent Bible study to develop your understanding of your faith.

Above everything else, be hopeful: "God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son" (1 Corinthians 1:9). That's what this season is all about.

"Father, I want to experience your blessing as I wait and watch and prepare this Advent."

Called to Serve,

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

Safeguard the Children VIRTUS Sessions

The Office of Safeguard the Children is proud to sponsor a series of VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Zoom Sessions during December 2020/January 2021. These sessions are for Clergy, staff, and essential volunteers. Those whose current VIRTUS® certificate has expired and need to take Keeping the Promise Alive or are new to their position have never taken the Protecting God's Children training. If you want to register for a session, please contact Felecia Johns at 323.291.1136 (office) or 323.600.5159 (cell) for more details.

Did You Know?

The devastating effects of verbal abuse

A study by Florida State University found that children who were verbally abused are more likely to experience depression and anxiety. They are also twice as likely to suffer with mood and anxiety disorders throughout their lifetime. Children who suffer such abuse can go on to repeat the same parenting styles they experienced thereby continuing the cycle of abuse. Pay attention to the language you and others use with your children. Breaking the chain of negative behaviors starts with positive, healthy parent-child relationships. For a copy of the VIRTUS article "The Devastating Effects of Verbal Abuse," visit <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.

NEXT WEEKEND – DECEMBER 13, 2020

Retirement fund for Religious Offering

Give thanks for religious...

Please give generously to next week's offering for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Weekly Offering for November 22, 2020

\$3,718.41 Tithe and Offering

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Cynthia Fortier, Michael Frierson, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Vyldred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, Alice Williams and Herbert Young.