The Two Parts of Advent

Part One: The Prophets’ Anticipation

While most liturgical seasons focus on the gospel, during the first weeks of Advent, the Church gives us daily readings from the prophet Isaiah. *With the eyes of faith, these foretell the coming of the Messiah.* Rather than a continuous gospel narrative familiar to us for most of the year, this part of Advent offers a wide variety of gospel readings that support the first reading of the day.

With each passing week, more prophets speak clearly of the coming of a Savior. During the first readings we hear the anticipation, expectation, hope. Listening to the second reading, we hear about fulfillment of God’s promise and connection to the gospel.

Part Two: The Gospels Lead Us to Christmas

In the last eight days before Christmas, the relationship between the readings changes. *Now the gospel leads us to our celebration of Christmas.*

The gospels are taken from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. The first reading is taken from the Hebrew scriptures and chosen to match the gospel. In many cases we can imagine Matthew or Luke having the first reading open on their desks while they wrote the gospel.

When we read the gospel before the first reading, we can sense the anticipation and fulfillment building as we witness the story of the preparation for Jesus’ first coming into this world.

Advent Mission Week: December 8-12

We invite you to attend our 2019 Advent Mission Week. The entire week includes special events for the whole family to help prepare our hearts while we watch and wait for the Lord.

**Saint Nicholas Breakfast: Sunday, December 8**

The Bishop of Myra will pay a special visit to St. Anthony on **Sunday, December 8 after the 8:15 am and 10:30 am Masses.** All are welcome to enjoy a **delicious pancake breakfast,** hosted by the Knights of Columbus in de Padua Hall. Treats and a picture booth with St. Nicholas will be available for kids.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Monday, December 9**

Join us for Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on **Monday, December 9 at 8:15 am and 5:30 pm.** Parents can earn points for their child’s Student House by attending. Print out a House form at school.stasb.org and drop it in the collection basket after Mass. Fresh, hot coffee will be available after Mass. Take a cup to go or stay and visit!

**A Visit from the Saint John’s Bible: Tuesday, December 10**

Come to view the rare Saint John’s Bible, which will be at St. Anthony Parish on **Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 pm.** This is **one of only 300 copies of this beautifully hand illustrated bible in the world!** Carolyn Pirtle, from the McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame, will offer a reflection on the *Nativity Illumination* as well as ideas for celebrating the Season of Advent. The evening will conclude with an **Advent Vespers** service and a **reception** with hot cocoa and treats.

**Advent Lessons and Carols: Wednesday, December 11**

Our school children in grades K-4 will present Advent Lessons and Carols at **6:30 pm on Wednesday, December 11.** Through Scripture and song, the children will tell the story of the coming of Christ and help us quiet our hearts so that we can **watch and wait, as God’s love for us and promise of redemption unfolds.**

**Advent Penance Service: Thursday, December 12**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available with four priests at **6:30 pm on Thursday, December 12.** During the Season of Advent, we are called to **make room for the Lord in our hearts** by receiving God’s infinite mercy and forgiveness through this sacrament. Resources on how to go to confession along with a handy guide are available at stasb.org/Reconciliation.
### Advent Events Calendar

All are invited to attend our many opportunities for prayer, fellowship, and formation during this blessed Season of Advent.

#### WEEK 1

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Let us walk in the light of the Lord! (Is 2:5)

**DECEMBER 8**
Advent Giving Tree
Help a family in need by purchasing gifts.
Tree will be in the vestibule Nov. 23-Dec. 8. Take a tag and return your wrapped gifts with the tags attached by December 8.

**DECEMBER 6**
Feast of Saint Nicholas
This is a wonderful feast day to celebrate at home. Children leave shoes out the night before hoping to find a small treat in them on St. Nicholas Day!

For information on Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, visit StNicholasCenter.org

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#### WEEK 2

**ADVENT MISSION WEEK**
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. (Mt 3:3)

**DECEMBER 8**
St. Nicholas Breakfast
Pancakes and a special visit from St. Nicholas after Masses. 9:15 am & 11:30 am in the gym

**DECEMBER 9**
Immaculate Conception
Masses at 8:15 am & 5:30 pm

**DECEMBER 10**
A Visit From the Saint John's Bible
Presentation & Vespers 6:30 pm in the church

**DECEMBER 11**
Advent Lessons & Carols
Grade School Students 6:30 pm in the church

**DECEMBER 12**
Parish Penance Service
4 Priests available for reconciliation 6:30 pm in the church

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#### WEEK 3

**GAUDETE SUNDAY!**
They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song! (Is 35:2)

**DECEMBER 14**
Giving Tree Gift Delivery
We need your help!
9:00 am in the church

**DECEMBER 14**
Anointing of the Sick
For healing of body & spirit for those suffering from illness or frailty.
Sacrament will be available after the 4:15 pm Mass

**DECEMBER 17-23**
**O Antiphons**
On each day in the octave before Christmas, an antiphon with an ancient title for Messiah is recited. For the antiphons and information about how you can incorporate them into your daily prayers and family traditions visit stasb.org/AdventAndChristmas

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#### WEEK 4

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. (Mt 1:23)

**DECEMBER 22**
Church Decorating
Help decorate for Christmas and enjoy cookies & cocoa
11:30 am in the church

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

- **Christmas Eve,** 4:15 pm
  - Carols at 4:00 pm with the Children’s Choir

- **Midnight Mass,** 12:00 am
  - Preludes at 11:30 pm, Schola

- **Christmas Day,** 10:00 am
  - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, December 31 at 5:30 pm
  - January 1 at 10:00 am (Holy Day of Obligation)

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### Faith Resources for Advent

Discover ways to grow closer to the Lord throughout Advent, at home or on the go, with your family or solo.

#### PRAYER, DAILY REFLECTIONS & SCRIPTURE

**Best Advent Ever**
from DynamicCatholic.com
Quick, daily reflection videos delivered to your inbox

**Hallow**
from Hallow.app
A new Catholic meditation and prayer app

**Advent Gospel Reflections**
from AdventReflections.com
Bishop Barron, from Word on Fire, offers daily reflections on the Gospel reading via email

#### FAMILY ACTIVITIES, GUIDES, AND BLESSINGS

**3D Nativity Coloring Kit**
from McGrath.nd.edu/Resources

**Treasury of Digital & Print Resources and Activities**
from LoyolaPress.com/Advent
Advent Wreath Blessing, Jesse Tree Crafts, Advent Calendars, Crafts, Digital Retreats for Kids and Adults, & more.

**Reconciliation Guide**
from stasb.org/Reconciliation
Video, guide on the sacrament, and a step by step cheat sheet for the confessional

For more information visit stasb.org