



The Seasons of Advent & Christmas

Solemn Vespers

Sundays of Advent at 6:00pm

Vespers, or Evening Prayer, is part of the public prayer of the Church called the *Liturgy of the Hours*. Based on the psalms and Jewish synagogue worship, in the *Liturgy of the Hours* the Church sanctifies the significant hours of the day: matins (early morning); lauds (the beginning of the workday); terce, sext, and none (midmorning, midday and midafternoon); vespers (the end of the workday); and compline (nighttime). These will be prayed in the Adoration Room in the Parish Center and will be streamed via Facebook Live on the parish Facebook group page.

Visits to Church and Eucharistic Adoration

Any parishioner is always welcome to get away from the hectic nature of your schedules and stop into the **Adoration Room** to pray in a quiet place without interruption. Contact the Parish Office for side door access to the Parish Center. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed will be available as always from Tuesday at 8:30am to Wednesday at 7:00pm and from Saturday at 6:00pm until Sunday at 7:00am.

Sacrament of Penance for Children

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance for our children in full-time school in various grade level groupings on the afternoons of December 7th, 10th, 14th and 17th. Our children in the Parish School of Religion will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance during their regular class time on the evenings of November 30th and December 7th and 14th. Please take the opportunity in your family life at home to prepare the children to celebrate God's forgiveness and mercy. Here are some resources

<https://www.ncregister.com/info/confession-guide-for-adults>,

<http://www.johnpaul2center.org/JohnPaulIICenter/LayFormation/AdultFormation/SeasonofMercyFaithFormationRes/10Commandments Child EC.pdf>

FORMED.ORG

Advent

<https://watch.formed.org/advent-1>

Advent Online Resources

Advent in 2 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eC0FGQLBp7w>

What is Advent?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8_lah83UY0

The True Meaning of Advent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WD357YYDk1A>

Advent More than A Chocolate Calendar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SA-gx-PWB0A>

Waiting for Christmas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PS74S_dD7o8

You Don't Know Jack About Advent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnzKhbDFGMw>

Brother Francis Intro to Advent

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pxPALw2abo>

"Inspiration Daily" can be delivered right to your email box. Click

https://diocesan.com/blog/?goal=0_c9cbe2f44f-ad3e414997-304361874&mc_cid=ad3e414997&mc_eid=291ed18b11 to subscribe.

Listen to beautiful Advent music. "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" is a favorite. Enjoy this beautiful version from The Piano Guys. <https://youtu.be/iO7ySn-Swwc>

Advent Music

December 6

Patience, People. Music for Advent by Orin Johnson & David Brinker will be livestreamed on Sunday, December 6, at 7:00pm. To view go to facebook.com/orinj or bit.ly/patiencepeople

Honorarium to the Blessed Mother

In addition to being a central figure in the Season of Advent as a whole, giving us all example for how best to *wait for the coming of the Lord*, the Blessed Mother is honored in two special feasts during the Season of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There is an image of the Blessed Mother both in our temporary worship space at the Care Service and in the Adoration Room in the Parish Center. All are encouraged to heighten your Marian Devotion during the season through the praying of the rosary, and the praying of the Angelus at the beginning, middle and evening of the day. Consider making Mary a prayerful guest in your home in this way during Advent.

Adoration for Life

December 8

Please join fellow Catholics around the country in praying for the respect for Life on Tuesday, December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Eucharistic Adoration will be available according to our customary Tuesday schedule.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8

This Solemnity honors the Blessed Mother until the title which proclaims her as having been conceived without the influence or effect of sin in the womb of her mother, St. Ann. It is under the title of the *Immaculate Conception* that Mary is Patroness of the Church in the United States. *Because of the pandemic, all obligation for worship has been suspended by our Bishop. This includes not only Sundays but also holy days of obligation.* We will celebrate Eucharist at 6:30, 8:00 and 10:00am on this day to afford our schoolchildren the opportunity to be catechized about this component of the content of our faith. Please consider joining us for worship in the gym as well as other ways to make this a prayerful day for your family.

Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) for Adults

December 10

The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated every Saturday afternoon from 4:00 until 4:45pm. At any time, it can be celebrated by making an appointment with one of the priests. An extended opportunity for celebrating the Sacrament will be available on Thursday, December 10, beginning at 6:00pm until all have been heard.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

This Feast provides important opportunity to contemplate Our Lady's appearance to St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac in Mexico. It is under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe that the Blessed Mother is Patroness of all the Americas and it is under this title that her intercession is sought, in particular, for the causes of Life. This feast bears particular significance for our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

Adopt-a-family weekend

December 12 & 13

Due to the pandemic, the "Miracle on McClay" is being streamlined this year and is actually returning to our campus. It will still be a tremendous outpouring of Christian generosity and Christian service, this year with its hub once again in our cafeteria. Please be patient and compassionate regarding traffic patterns on campus that weekend. If you are coming for worship please use the main entrance to our campus from McClay Road and avoid the Shepherds Hill entrance.

Decorating

Due to the logistical challenges of needing our worship space in the gym to be portable and to allow for the gym to be variously used throughout the season for different activities, our Christmas décor will be streamlined but as festive as possible. If someone contacts you about the possibility of helping to decorate, please be as generous with your time as you can.

Christmas – the Nativity of the Lord

December 24-25

Vigil Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve

4:00pm & 6:30pm

Midnight Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve

11:00pm

Mass at Dawn on Christmas Day

7:30am

Mass during the Day on Christmas Day

11:00am

Feast of the Holy Family

December 27

Let the example of Jesus, Mary and Joseph become an inspiration for your own efforts to fashion the *domestic church* that is every Christian home. The Feast falls on a Sunday this year. It is an opportunity to pray together as a family and spend the day celebrating the blessing that family life affords us by doing something special as a family at home.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 1

Again, because of the pandemic, all obligation for worship has been suspended and this extends to holy days of obligation as well as Sundays. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is nonetheless still a great way to begin the new year on solid spiritual footing. We will gather to celebrate Eucharist January 1 at 9:00am. Let Mary, the First and Greatest Disciple be your guide in your resolution-making for the new year.

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 3

The risks taken by the Magi as they search for the Christ Child challenge us to trust that the Savior we have been given is sufficient for all our needs.

The Baptism of the Lord

January 10

This Feast brings the celebration of Christmas to a close. Instead of joining society in tearing down your Christmas decorations on the day after Christmas, bask in the joy of the Season all the way through this Feast!