

ISSUE NO. 120

8 DECEMBER 2019

Cathedral

WEEKLY



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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ADVENT TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

Cathedral WEEKLY

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP
OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER A. HOUSE, V.J.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND MICHAEL FRIEDEL
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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Mass Times: SAT 4PM, SUN. 7AM, 10AM, 5PM
Weekday Masses: MON. thru FRI. 7AM, 5:15PM and SAT. 8AM
Reconciliation (Confessions): MON-FRI 4:15PM- 5PM, SAT. 9AM-10AM,
2:30PM-3:30PM, and SUN. 4PM-4:45PM
Adoration: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4PM to 5PM

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please contact: Patricia Kornfield at 321-1155.

Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or home-bound, to contact the Parish offices or Sr. Francella at 522-3342 x 142. Hospitals may know you are Catholic, but not know you are from Cathedral. We would be happy to visit.

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, I welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

I hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. I also hope that you will find this edition of the *Cathedral Weekly* to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!



Very Reverend Christopher A. House
Rector

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Monday – December 9

7 AM BETTY & GENE BARISH (FAMILY)
5:15 PM FOR THE PEOPLE

Tuesday – December 10

7 AM DORIS DREA (PHIL & RHODA CHAMPLEY)
5:15 PM MATHIAS BATES (BATES FAMILY)

Wednesday – December 11

7 AM ERIC GUNTHER (DIANE, JIM, RUBY MILLER)
5:15 PM MARY ANN MIDDEN (WILLIAM MIDDEN)

Thursday – December 12

7 AM CARL VENVERTLOH (MR. & MRS. RICO JOHNSON)
5:15 PM BETTY EDGAR (DEBBIE THEMIG)

Friday – December 13

7 AM BONNIE DONNALS (R. ZIMMERMAN)
5:15 PM ANN GUSTAFSON (JEANNETTE GIANNONE)

Saturday – December 14

*No 8 AM Mass

7 AM BETTY EDGAR (DEBBIE THEMIG)
4 PM FOR THE PEOPLE

Sunday – December 15

7 AM MARY ANN MIDDEN (WILLIAM MIDDEN)
10 AM IRVIN LARRY SMITH (FRIENDS FROM ISBE)
5 PM SPECIAL INTENTION FOR ASHLEY MATTOX
(ELLEN MATTOX)



New Year's Resolutions

Last weekend, as I was greeting people and shaking hands after Mass, I said to a few parishioners, "Happy New Year!" Some of the glances and puzzled looks that I received in return gave me the impression that for a few, I really took them off guard—and someone even warned me that I was a bit early for ushering in the new year.

What I meant, of course, was to wish people a happy beginning to the Church's new year, which commences every year with this season of Advent. As of last Sunday, we began a new liturgical cycle, reliving anew the mysteries of our salvation 'from the top,' starting appropriately with this season of postured anticipation of a Savior who will be born among us at Christmas. We move from studying Luke on most Sundays to Matthew in this coming year. In all of our liturgical books, we made what the seminarians I studied with used to call the "big flip," which was when we moved the ribbons from the very back of the books to the very front. All in all, there's just something satisfying about knowing we've completed another year in the Lord's grace, and so we begin again.

While I'm not sure it's ever necessarily been the practice to make resolutions at the beginning of a liturgical year, I think this 'new beginning' does present us with a perfect opportunity: to examine our spiritual lives with fresh eyes; to ask the Lord to illumine those ways in which He is calling us to grow deeper in the mystery and in the practice of our faith; and to resolve to adhere to some simple and achievable practices in this coming year. Ask yourself in prayer this week,

"How is God calling me deeper? What can I do to recommit myself to this life of discipleship and prayer? What is a small resolution that I can make to God in this coming year?"



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Important Announcements!

December 14th 8AM Mass Change

The 8 AM Saturday Mass on December 14th is cancelled. We will have Mass on Saturday, December 14th at 7 AM for our special Rorate Coeli Mass. All are welcome to attend!

Novena Closing Mass

The last night and closing Mass for the Novena this year is Monday, December 9th at 5:15 PM. The novena is moved one day this year because December 8th falls on the Second Sunday of Advent resulting in the transfer of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception to December 9th.

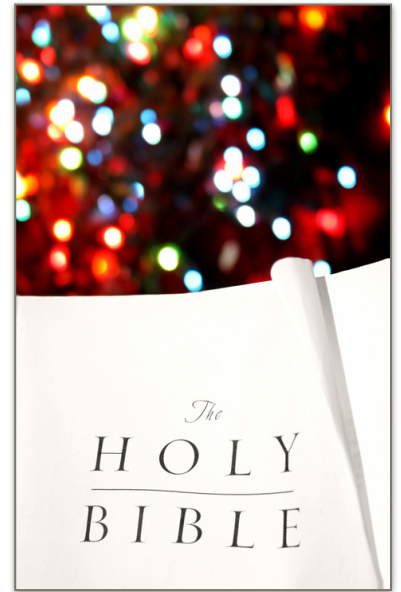
CCCW Cookie Walk Help

Are you interested in helping bake cookies or candies for our guests at the upcoming Cathedral Cookie Walk? The ladies of the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women would love to offer a variety of festive goodies and your help would be greatly appreciated. We will be accepting cookies and candies December 12th and December 13th from 10 AM to 7 PM. Please enclose the name of your cookies or candies and any special ingredients of note (for example, nuts, peanut butter, etc.). Thank you!

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Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ☒ If you haven't gone to confession in years (yeah, you!), there's no time like the present!
- ☒ Start praying before meals with your family, if you don't already. Kneel by your bedside every night and thank God for the beauty of another day.
- ☒ Commit to reading the Scriptures every day. Read a single chapter of one of the Gospels or start with the Book of Psalms. If you want something systematic, the Augustine Institute published a Bible in a Year that I find helpful, and it only takes about 20-30 minutes per day. (For the more technologically inclined, there are apps for this as well.)
- ☒ Spend a weekly or monthly hour in adoration. Start coming to Cathedral's offerings of adoration on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Come see what our Late Advent Holy Hour is about!
- ☒ Resolve to pray the Rosary daily or weekly or to spend your commute offering a Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- ☒ Look through this Weekly and pick one of the plethora of Advent Offerings and go. Invite a friend! Go to some of the many adult faith formation opportunities we host. Discover the beauty of prayer and song at Lessons and Carols. Come see what a Rorate Coeli Mass is.
- ☒ Ever tried going to a daily Mass? Try going one extra day a week. See what grace the Lord has in store for you.
- ☒ Pick a different thing to fast from every week (coffee, snacking, salt, dessert, social media/internet, etc.). Offer the little suffering for someone you know who is sick or in need of your prayers.
- ☒ Explore the world of Catholic podcasts. I'm a fan of Catholic Stuff You Should Know. The Diocese started a podcast called Dive Deep. There's even a podcast for praying the Liturgy of the Hours (called Pray Station Portable).



- ☒ Follow the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on Facebook or Instagram. Share a post every once in a while. Be that person.
- ☒ Up your weekly contribution by \$5. Pick a charity that you know and trust—local or global—and send them a donation. Commit to living discipleship in your financial life as well.
- ☒ Pick up a book for spiritual reading. Learn about the saints. Dive in deeper with some theology or spiritual classics. If you need suggestions, call me!

The options are endless. Pick something you can accomplish. Like our other New Year's resolutions, we don't want these to be a distant memory in just a couple weeks from now. Don't try and do everything; but as a spiritual director once told me, "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good." Resolve to do something good, even if we're never going to implement in perfectly. One thing I know is that our Lord can never be outdone in generosity—if you

commit to growing with the Lord, even a small effort can be met with great reward!

Father Michael Friedel is a Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral and Chaplain at Sacred Heart Griffin High School.



3 Saints Preach about Advent and Hope

For much of the world the Christmas season has arrived; or I suppose one could say, it arrived several weeks ago!

While the secular celebration of Christmas begins earlier and earlier each year, we as Christians are asked to reel things back in a bit, in order to prepare for the actual Feast of our Lord Jesus' Nativity. Whereas the world finds itself on a roller coaster, beginning around the night of October 31, slowly climbing up the tall mountain over the next two months only to find itself on the steepest of declines every December 26, the Christian is asked to prepare with the Advent season. No roller coasters in sight here, as we find ourselves on a much more serene bell curve.

The liturgical new year begins on the Feast of Christ the King, between November 20 and November 26 each year. We then begin the buildup for Christmas on the following weekend with the First Sunday of Advent, which then crescendos with Christmas Day, with a bell curve leading us slowly back down into Ordinary Time with the true twelve days of Christmas. The pacing of the Christian calendar helps us orient our focus on Christ much easier than the hustle and bustle of the commercialized Christmas season. And as we find ourselves just beginning our journey into Advent and Christmas, we would do well to look to the wisdom of the saints, both from times past and of more recent times. This way, we can refocus during this solemn time of Advent, in preparation for the awesome celebration of the Savior's birth.

St. Josemaría Escrivá

St. Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei in the mid-twentieth century, has left us with voluminous writings on the Christian life, particularly in regards to this season of Advent. In one sermon, St. Josemaría exhorts us to turn away from the evils of pride and sensuality, and to focus on our true vocation:



"On this first Sunday of Advent, when we begin to count the days separating us from the birth of the Savior ... we have considered the reality of our Christian vocation: how our Lord has entrusted us with the mission of attracting other souls to sanctity, encouraging them to get close to him, to feel united to the Church, to extend the kingdom of God to all hearts. Jesus wants to see us dedicated, faithful, responsive. He wants us to love him. It is his desire that we be holy, very much his own."

St. Josemaría's words remind me of something I recently heard in a homily. During these weeks that lead up to Christmas, our

culture seems to engage more in sensual pleasures. Company parties, feasts, shopping sprees. All these things cause distraction, taking our sights off what we've been called to do in the world, which is to be a contradiction of this current age. This is why Advent is such a perfect time to "extend the kingdom of God" to our friends and peers. Instead of indulging in all the various things that surround us in the commercialized Christmas season, we can live a bit more simply through increased fasting and prayer. Or if we must attend such functions before the true Christmas season begins, we can do more penitential acts during other days of the week. This way, our Lord will hopefully see us as dedicated, faithful and responsive to his will. St. Josemaría continues:

"This time of Advent is a time for hope. These great horizons of our Christian vocation, this unity of life built on the presence of God our Father, can and ought to be a daily reality. Ask our Lady, along with me, to make it come true. Try to imagine how she spent these months, waiting for her Son to be born. And our Lady, Holy Mary, will make of you alter Christus, ipse Christus: another Christ, Christ himself!"

Here we have the perfect example, and single boast of our human race, in the blessed Mother. Her life was certainly built on the presence of God, and we can experience that as well when we are oriented toward heavenly matters as opposed to the worldly matters of "the holiday season". This time of Advent will afford us a great opportunity to be "another Christ" to the world. But before we can be another Christ to the world, we must first let our Lord transform our very beings.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

This is something that the great Doctor of the Church, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, spoke about. Living during the twelfth century, St. Bernard wrote a series of sermons for Advent. Often called the last "Father of the Church" in the Christian West, his words are still relevant even as we experience the Advent season in the twenty-first century. He reminds us that we are in actuality preparing for "two advents":



"It is fitting, my brethren, that we should celebrate this season of Advent with all possible devotion, rejoicing in so great a consolation, marveling at so great a condescension, inflamed with love by so great a manifestation of charity. But let us not think of that advent only whereby the Son of man has 'come to seek and to save that which was lost,' but also of that other by which He will come again and will take us to Himself. Would to God you kept these two advents constantly in your thoughts, revolving them in assiduous meditation, pondering in your hearts how much we have received by the first, how much we are promised at the second!"

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The Advent season, then, helps us to bear in mind our ultimate destiny. It causes us to call to mind that, God-willing, we will at the end of our earthly lives be in union with our Lord for eternity. God came into the world to redeem the entire human race, but he will also come again as he promised us. To think about the Second Coming as we prepare to remember his First Coming brings everything full circle. Christ came into the world so that sin would have no reign over us. And when he returns again at the end of the world, he will bring all those that follow him into heaven, where only his love reigns supreme and where the effects of sin will be non-existent. This is what the season of Advent looks forward to in the truest sense. In the first Advent, God became man. But in the second Advent, when our Lord reunites our souls with our bodies, we as men will become like God. Truly, we must always ponder these two types of “advents”, especially at this time of the year.

Pope St. John Paul II

But even if we turn our attention just to this “first Advent”, we’ll see that the Lord’s Nativity, which Advent anticipates, is not merely confined to one point in time, or to one culture in the past. Pope St. John Paul II explains in a beautiful homily he gave in 1988:

“In Advent we await an event which occurs in history and at the same time transcends it. As it does every year, this event will take place on the night of the Lord’s Birth. The shepherds will hasten to the stable in Bethlehem; later the Magi will arrive from the East. Both the one and the other in a certain sense symbolize the entire human family. The exhortation that rings out in today’s liturgy: ‘Let us go joyfully to meet the Lord spreads to all countries, to all continents, among every people and nation.’”

The birth of our Lord and Savior is to be transmitted to all peoples across all points of time. This confirms exactly what



St. Josemaria had mentioned above, that we “extend the kingdom of God” into the hearts of all those we encounter. St. John Paul has this in mind when he talks of the Nativity transcending time itself. Our own personal meeting with the Lord, and cultivating that relationship with him, causes us to preach the Good News to the world in our words and actions. Once we have found solace in Christ, how could we not want to share it? As he continues, St. John Paul II also finds himself in agreement with St. Bernard:



“In today’s Gospel we heard the Lord’s invitation to be watchful: ‘[Watch, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming’ (Matthew 24:42) ... The exhortation to be watchful resounds many times in the liturgy, especially in Advent, a season of preparation not only for Christmas, but also for Christ’s definitive and glorious coming at the end of time. It therefore has a distinctly eschatological meaning and invites the believer to spend every day and every moment in the presence of the One ‘who is and who was and who is come’ (Revelation 1:4), to whom the future of the world and of man belongs. This is Christian hope!”

We proclaim this hope every Sunday in the Nicene Creed. We look forward with a hopeful view to the resurrection of the dead, and that wonderful life of the world to come. We prepare for that in a very special way during Advent, being watchful for our Lord just as the shepherds and wise men were as they anticipated the Lord’s birth. This eschatological dimension of the Advent season must always be at the forefront of our minds. So instead of celebrating Christmas early this year, let’s think in sync with the great saints, and let Advent be Advent so we may more fruitfully contemplate that triumphant moment when we will be face to face with our Lord Jesus at the end of time in the heavenly kingdom.

Nicholas LaBanca is a cradle Catholic and hopes to give a unique perspective on living life in the Catholic Church as a millennial. His favorite saints include his patron St. Nicholas, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. John Mary Vianney, and St. Athanasius of Alexandria.

Symbols and Customs of Advent Explained

The Advent Wreath and Candles

- The evergreen circle is a symbol of eternal life. Green from the evergreen is considered a symbol of hope. Started as a domestic tradition that entered into churches in the twentieth century.
- As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit, and sometimes a fifth candle is lit on Christmas. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness.
- Each of the candles represents an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent:
 - The Candle of Hope
Color: Purple
Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we look forward to Jesus' coming with hope.
 - The Candle of Peace
Color: Purple
During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming.
 - The Candle of Joy
Color: Pink
This third candle is pink, symbolizing anticipation and rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day.
 - The Candle of Love
Color: Purple
During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son.

Nativity Scene or Creche

- Nativity scene or Creche is used to commemorate the humble birth of Christ.
- Created by St. Francis of Assisi in the 13th Century to emphasize the humility of the Savior of the World coming as a poor child.
- There are many different designs and themes used, including stone or wax figurines, as well as human and animal actors.
- In some locations a variation is included that has the manger empty until Christmas Eve as a celebration of Christ's arrival as a child.
- Culturally, certain countries will change the look of the Creche, including more towers, houses, mountains, than what was traditionally used during the 13th Century.

For more information on Advent traditions or symbols and for the original articles referenced in this article, please go to Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/about-advent> and USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/about-advent-wreaths.cfm>

Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Prayer:

Are you setting aside time this Advent for prayer? Need some help? Write down how much time, where you will pray, and what you will do on a post-it note. Put the post-it on your bedside table, mirror, or door and you will notice that commitment everyday as a friendly reminder to spend time with God.

Stewardship of Service

Please consider joining us for the Cookie Walk Saturday, Dec. 14th and if you are able, contributing cookies or candies. Please see the Sunday Announcements for more information.

Stewardship of Gifts

Stewardship of Treasure November 23rd & 24th

Envelopes:	\$ 5,121.00
Loose:	\$ 2,407.71
Maintenance:	\$ 104.00

Total: \$7,632.00

Stewardship of Gifts

Stewardship of Treasure November 30th & December 1st

Envelopes:	\$ 6,654.00
Loose:	\$ 3,130.54
Maintenance:	\$ 997.00

Total: \$ 10, 781.54
November EFT \$19,650.30