

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

We may easily be confused when we arrive at Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent and hear the following prayer for the Collect:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Let us take a moment to reflect upon this prayer and to understand its content. First, we ask for what are we praying? We pray for the grace to resolve our will “to run forth to meet” Christ, accompanied by righteous deeds when He comes. The coming that is referred to in the prayer is not the coming at Bethlehem but rather the coming at the end of time. It is here that we can become puzzled, if we forget the dual meaning of the season that we begin on this first Sunday. We may ask the question, “are we not supposed to be preparing for the memorial of the coming of Christ in the past – Christmas?” It may seem shockingly out of place, in the time of preparation for Christ’s birth, that the Gospel of the day features a fully grown Christ, commanding us, “Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”² But we have to remember that Advent – a word signifying in the Roman culture, the coming of a king to a place – has both happened and is still yet to come.

In other words, yes, we are preparing for the memorial of the past events of salvation history. But additionally, and preeminently in these first two weeks of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ at the end of time. The season of Advent serves a dual purpose in the liturgical year. It reminds us of the past events of the salvation history and points towards the Parousia, the coming of Christ at the end of time. The Church in one of her documents concerning the liturgical year speaks about this season in the following manner:

“Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.”³

The beautiful thing is that in remembering the past saving events we are moved towards a consideration of the future. We must let Advent cultivate in our hearts a sincere and sure hope rooted in the memory of past events. Commenting on this, Cardinal Ratzinger wrote in a little book of meditations throughout the liturgical year: “Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is necessary to man. Advent’s intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope.”⁴ Advent is then a time of “joyful expectation of the feast of the Nativity but with a view to directing the thoughts of Christians above all to the glorious return of the Lord at the end of time.”⁵ The coming of the Lord at the end of time will be one of glory and one of judgement and we ought to be hopefully expectant of this coming. In accordance with this hopeful expectation, we ought to work to prepare ourselves, cooperating with the Holy Spirit to “be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”⁶ This is why it is appropriate that our prayer at the beginning of Advent begs the Lord to make our wills resolved towards pursuing Him and going out to meet Him at His coming in glory. We ask that we might be counted among the righteous, by His Grace, we can be amongst those who are “gathered at Christ’s right hand in the kingdom,” whom, “the king invites ...to come and take possession of the kingdom prepared for them.”⁷



² Luke 21:36
3 Congregation for Divine Worship, General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar (Vatican City, 1969). 39


⁴ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek that which is Above : Meditations through the Year* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1986). 12

⁵ Irénée Henri Dalmais, Pierre Jounel and Aimé Georges Martimort, *The Liturgy and Time*, trans. Matthew J. O’Connell, Vol. IV (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1986). 93

⁶ Romans 12:2
⁷ Patrick Regan, *Advent to Pentecost : Comparing the Seasons in the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms of the Roman Rite* (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2012). 31

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Advent Liturgy Reflection Day

December 9,
8:15 AM - 1:30 PM

Schedule

7:00 AM Holy Hour in the Church
 7:45 AM Lauds (Morning Prayer)
 8:15 AM Mass
 8:45 AM Breakfast and Registration
 9:30 AM *What is the Liturgy?* Presented by Fr. Will
 10:30 AM Time for Discussion and Reflection
 11:30 AM *How the Liturgy Shapes the Year*
 Presentation by Dr. Rebecca Spellacy, Dir. of the
 Office of Worship for the Diocese of Austin
 12:30 PM Lunch with reflective discussions
 1:15 PM Daytime Prayer and Closing thoughts with
 Fr. Will

**Contact Jim Mason at (254) 773-4541 or
james.mason@stmarytempletx.org to register**



WALK WITH THE HOLY FAMILY

Las Posadas

**Join us as we celebrate our
Annual Las Posadas Procession
Wed. Dec. 20th at 6:30pm**

Las Posadas is a remembrance the Holy Pilgrimage of Joseph and Mary and all are invited to walk with us around campus.

**Hot chocolate and refreshments will be
served in the O'Reilly Building**

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe
that you are one God in three divine Persons,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die.
Amen.

**Join us for a KC breakfast or lunch
Sunday, December 10th in the Regina Caeli Rm
After all Sunday Masses.**



**7:30am & 9:30am Masses will
serve Breakfast Tacos (\$2 each)**

**11:30am Mass will serve
Hamburger Combos
(Burger, Chips & Drink \$7)**



**Juice will be available for \$1
and Coffee will be Free**

First Sunday of Advent**December 3, 2023****December 9th and December 10th, 2023****5:30 PM Mass**

Lector: R. Henderson
 EM: Dcn. B. Rodriguez, L. & M. Lockhart
 Greeters: R. Beck, B. & D. Keller, E. Bigon
 Altar Servers: T. Lucksinger, A. & S. Upchurch

7:30 AM Mass

Lector: C. Warren
 EM: Dcn. B. Rodriguez, R. Oujezdsky
 Greeters: JR Maldonado, J. Wimberley,
 S. Hoelscher
 Altar Servers: O., A. & I. Ware

9:30 AM Mass

Lector: M. Pena
 EM: Je., N. & J. Glover
 Greeters: B. & S. McAtee, J. Pena
 Altar Servers: T. & X. Glover, A. Gonzales,
 V. Mosmeyer

11:30 AM Mass

Lector: B. St. Amour
 EM: J. Solis, D. Ramos, M. Velazquez
 Greeters: D. Stolp, J. Lambert, U. Applewhite
 Altar Servers: A. Pelawatta, R. Sagredo

THE WEEK AHEAD

Date	Event	Location	Time
Mon. Dec 4 th	Quilting Angels	O'Reilly Building	10:00 am
	Crafters	Regina Caeli Room	10:00 am
Tuesday - Friday	Adoration	Adoration Chapel	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tues. Dec 5 th	Knitting & Crocheting	O'Reilly Building	10:00 am
	Adult Bible Study	Regina Caeli Room	1:30 pm — 3:30 pm
	Boy Scouts	O'Reilly Building	6:00 pm
	Men of Joseph	Ave Maria Room	7:00 pm
Wed. Dec 6 th	Religious Education	O'Reilly Building	6:30 pm
Thurs. Dec 7 th	RCIA	O'Reilly Building	6:00 pm
	Vigil Mass	Church	6:00 pm
Fri. Dec. 8th	Mass	Church	7:00 am 9:45 am 6:00 pm
	Parish Potluck	Regina Caeli	7:00 pm

**CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS**

Open to all parishioners.
 To sign-up, call Debra Hollingsworth
 at (713) 586-9800.

Thank you for participating in this prayer initiative
 and may God richly bless you with every good gift as
 you pray for priestly vocations!

Dec 10th	Jeffrey & Veronica Lambert	11:30am
Dec 17th	Kevin & Rachel Oujezdsky	7:30am
Dec 24th	Debra Hollingsworth	9:30am
Dec 31st	Bruce & Stephanie McAtee	9:30am



It's that time of year again ... Christmas Flowers

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for a loved
 one (deceased or living) to help make St. Mary's
 Church look beautiful for the Christmas season,
 please pick up a flower donation envelope in the
 church entry. Write the donor's name and that of
 your loved one on the envelope.

Cost per flower \$15.00.
All Flower Orders due by Mon, Dec. 18th.

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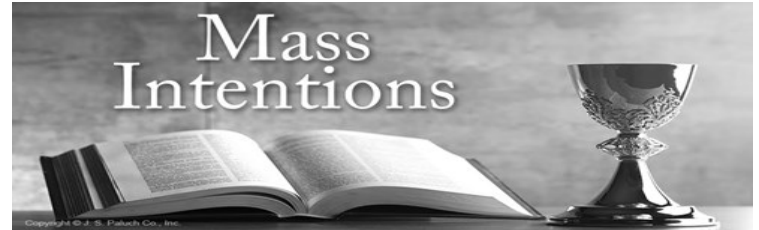
Parish Giving

November 26, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$	8,886.38
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$	7.00
Parish School	\$	163.00
Building Fund	\$	132.00
World Home Mission	\$	11.00
Helping Hands	\$	1,445.95
Total	\$	9,345.33

Note: totals include online giving

* Weekly Operating Expenses: \$11,500.00

December 4th - December 10th 2023

Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	8:15AM	† Lydia Rangel † Terry Simonton
Wednesday	5:30PM	† Vernon Odell Hein Sr. Richard Taylor
Thursday	8:15AM	† Maria Elena Pedroza Jan & Ken Bartz
	6:00PM	† Agnes Nowaski
Friday	7:00AM	Jay Wimberley Frances Pechal
	9:45AM	† Theresa Mireles
	6:00PM	For the People
Saturday	8:15AM	† Frank Turlip
	5:30PM	For the People
Sunday	7:30AM	† Terry Alessi Living & Deceased Members of the Kahlig & Chaffin Families
	9:30AM	† Albert & † Elizabeth Flentge
	11:30AM	† Herman & Adeline Wilde John Mikeska Family



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8

December 8th, Mass at 7 AM, 9:45 AM, and 6 PM. (Holy Day of Obligation)

and join us for a

Parish Potluck after the
6 PM Mass RSVP to
come and to bring
something if you can!



Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

Plan to join the WOMEN's Ministry
as they serve their Annual
Breakfast with St. Nicholas.

Sunday, December 3rd after the
7:30am and 9:30am Masses.

They will be serving pancakes and
all the trimmings. Parents
remember to bring your camera!

While you're enjoying your visit and
breakfast with St. Nicholas

the Altar Society
Knitters & Crocheters
will be selling various
homemade items
from scarfs &
blankets to warm
winter mittens.



Proceeds from this sale will be used
toward the beautification and maintenance
of the Altar.