

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# St. Stephen's Catholic Parish

NOVEMBER 28-29, 2020



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when  
the time will come.”  
- Mk 13:33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

CLP

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## MASS INTENTIONS

### *1st Sunday of ADVENT*

**Saturday, November 28th**

5:00p + Bob Folk

**Sunday, November 29th**

9:00a - For the People of our Parish

**Monday, November 30th**

++*Saint Andrew*++

- No Mass at St. Stephens

**Tuesday, December 1st**

- No Mass at St. Stephens

**Wednesday, December 2nd**

8:00a - For the People of our Parish

**Thursday, December 3rd**

+*Saint Francis Xavier*+

- No Mass at St. Stephens

**Friday, December 4th**

+*Saint John Damascene*+

8:00a - For the People of our Parish

**Saturday, December 5th**

+ *First Saturday Devotion* +

**8am Confessions / 9am Mass**

- For the People of our Parish

### *2nd Sunday of ADVENT*

**Saturday, December 5th**

5:00p + Nick & Barbara Doll

**Sunday, December 6th**

9:00a + Fred Hildebrandt

## WEDNESDAYS

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Benediction 7:50 p.m.



Dear Friends of St. Stephen's,

*Be watchful! Be Alert!*

No doubt 2020 has been a year many of us could never have predicted nor imagined. We challenged to adapt each day to new news or health orders. We learned to expect the unexpected. Yet, in all this, we have been given the opportunity to focus on the essentials in life and what is truly most important. At times this may have felt as if we didn't have any other options, yet we find joy and consolation in knowing that our generous God can bring good out of anything.

Focusing on the essentials in life, we are thankful for our families, our health, and our faith. As we begin the liturgical new year (Happy New Year!) we are provided more opportunities to focus all the more on what is truly important in life – the coming of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Yes, Jesus in a historical sense has already come, yet we prepare each year to not only recall how He took on flesh to become one of us. We also call to mind how this event reminds us to perpetually prepare and be watchful for when He will come again.

My friends, let us end 2020 and begin the new liturgical year on a strong foot. Let us focus on what our hearts truly long for, and make way for the only one that will truly satisfy us. Let us take some extra time of quiet and reflection to prepare a place for the Word to become flesh in our own hearts. **May we be watchful and alert to how Jesus is working in our own lives, so that we may allow Him to be the King of our hearts, and His saving mission – and our cooperation in it! - may be the most essential thing in our lives!**

*Know of my daily prayers! Happy Liturgical New Year!  
God Love You and I Love You!*

In Christo per Mariam

Fr. Andrew

## FAITH FORMATION

### CLASS - Wednesday, Dec. 2 @ 6:30p

Please be early so we can start on time. It is very important that students attend each week.

### PRAYER CHALLENGE

The students are working on learning some of the more common prayers of our faith. PDFs of the prayers will be e-mailed to all the parents. Please help and encourage them to learn these treasures!

### UPDATE

Due to the current state of the virus, we have decided to move **First Reconciliation** to **Wednesday, January 20th**. Thank you in advance for understanding and we look forward to partaking next month.

If you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Coordinator  
Heather Schneider 608-676-7329.

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE

### ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS

Advent Reflection Books are available in the Gathering Space. Please feel free to take one and use to guide your prayer during this season.

### 2020-2021 MISSALETTES

Missalettes for the new liturgical year are also available for anyone that would like to take one to help them pray during Mass.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Dec 7th-8th

Mass = 5pm Vigil, 8am, and 6pm

Reminder – this is a *Holy Day of Obligation*

### Bless Our Priests Collection Dec. 12-13th

Opportunity to offer support to retired priests of our diocese by helping provide for their retirement needs.

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEN OF CHRIST

Saturday, Dec. 5th

Join your fellow Catholic men in the area for a morning of prayer, fraternity, and reflections on how to live out our faith. Reflections by +Bishop Hying and other great speakers. Confession are available from 8-8:45a, with 9:00a Mass, breakfast, and talks to follow. Please RSVP to Fr. Andrew so he can make sure there is enough food and space.

+ There are many openings for Mass intentions. The Mass is the greatest possible prayer of intercession and special graces may be obtained when the Priest applies the Mass to a particular intention. Please contact the Parish Office at 608-676-2241 to schedule.

+ If you know of anyone who is homebound and would like a call, please contact Fr. Andrew :  
frandrew.showers@gmail.com

+ If you or someone you know is too sick to attend Mass, please check out OLA ([www.olabeloit.com](http://www.olabeloit.com)) or St. Stephen ([www.ststephen.weconnect.com](http://www.ststephen.weconnect.com)) websites. Masses are recorded each week for you to view.



### GIVING TREE

We will again be doing the Giving Tree this year (sanitary precautions) for Alden Meadows Nursing Home and Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center. Take a tag from the tree and be sure to write your name in the book to help us track what has been fulfilled and what is still needed. After purchasing the gift, please wrap it, and place it under the tree with the tag attached to the top. Thank you for your generosity!

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There are envelopes in the Gathering Space designated for those who wish to contribute to the Christmas Flowers in memory/honor of a loved one. Please put their name(s) on the envelope indicating if it is in Memory or in Honor of the individuals and place the envelope with your contribution in the Collection Basket.



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