

St. Stanislaus

Parish Family

November 28, 2021
1st Sunday
Of Advent

PARISH STAFF

Msgr. John J. Siekierski, Administrator
Sister Gloria Jean Kozlowski, Director of
Religious Education
Angelica Agosto, School Principal
Dora Castellanos, School Secretary
Heladia Rivera, Church Secretary

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (by appointment)

Office Closed: Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

TELEPHONE

Parish Office/Rectory	398-2341
Convent	397-7059
School	398-1316

MASSES

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 8:30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

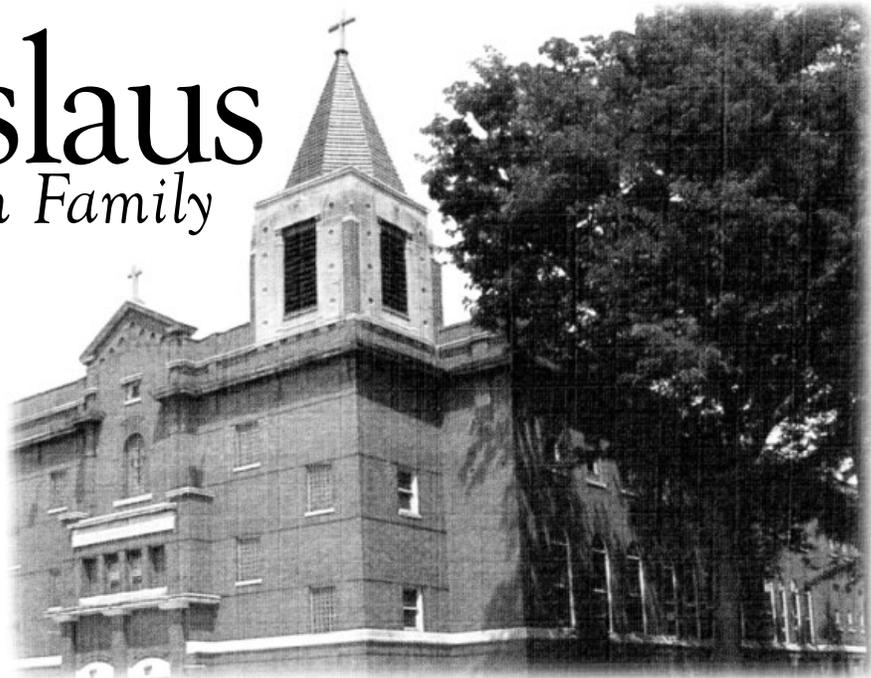
There are no weekday Masses or Word &
Communion Services at this time.

CONFESSIONS

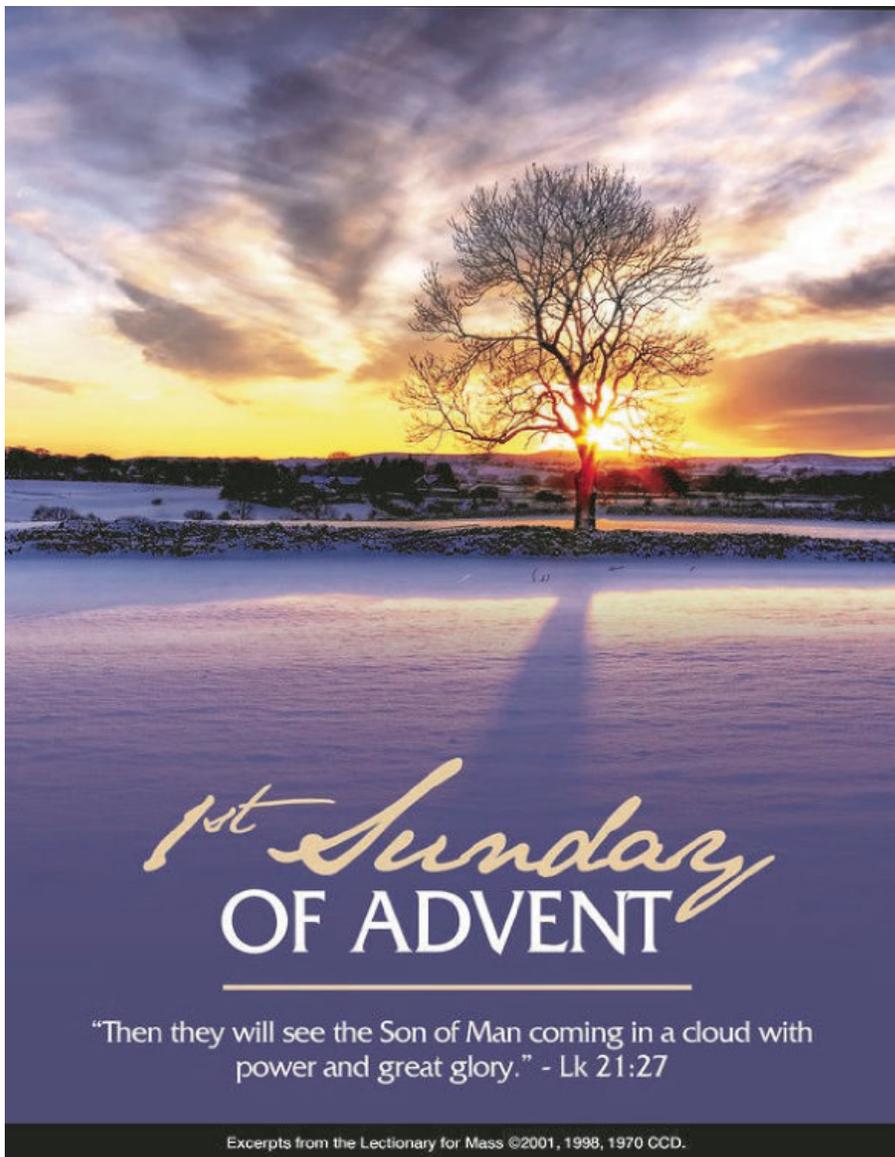
Saturdays from

4:00pm-4:15pm

and after the 4:30pm Mass.



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Liturgical Notes for the Week

As we come together on this the first day of the new liturgical year, we gratefully observe the things that have been done to prepare for this 2021 Advent Season. Someone has switched our “old” song books and worship ones. Someone has prepared the sanctuary environment and set out the purple vestiture. The Advent Wreath has been placed in its honorable position. To You “some ones” all we give thanks for your help in enabling us to prepare the way of the Lord’s coming to us.

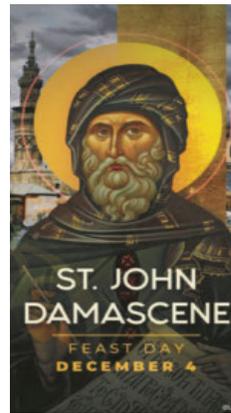
How good it is to be here now — for all around us “out there” the holiday hoopla has begun and perhaps our anxiety is increased and our anxiousness somewhat eased as Jerry Galipean’s words are read. Advent indeed comes year after year. Every Advent, we celebrate Jesus’ coming as an infant long ago. His ongoing presence with us now, and His return in glory in the future. The Latin word *adventus* means “a coming” or “an arrival”. Theologians use its Greek equivalent, *Parousia*, to refer about getting ready to celebrate Jesus’ birth, but also about anticipating the arrival of God’s Kingdom in its fullness at the end of time. Christ came in history. Christ comes in mystery. Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and of His Kingdom there will be no end.

So it is that Advent is also a season of repentance; John the Baptist calls us to “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). We know, as Christian disciples in the twenty-first century, during each Advent God calls us anew to figure out how to live in relation to a world that frequently wants little or nothing to do with getting ready to celebrate the Incarnation, without giving into an “us versus them” paradigm. We are in the world, but not of it. Ours is the mission to prepare the Lord’s way. We are plunged into the First Sunday of Advent. We are to be prepared for the Lord’s coming, not knowing precisely when that will be. We, like the gatekeeper, keep watch in the evening, at midnight, at dawn, and in the morning. Like the early disciples, we know not when He Comes, but that He is coming.



The Symbols of Advent

The colors of Advent and the Advent Wreath are probably the most popular symbols of this liturgical season. In antiquity, purple dye was expensive, so that color was reserved for royalty. The color purple that we see in the vestments and three of the candles on the Advent Wreath symbolize repentance as well as reminding us that during Advent we anticipate the coming of The King of Kings in glory — Jesus Christ, the Lord — the only begotten Son of God. The rose candle lit on the Third Sunday of Advent symbolizes the joy we anticipate while awaiting Christmas, as reflected in the first word of the entrance antiphon: “Rejoice.” If used, white is the color of the center candle, representing the purity of Christ. An Advent wreath is usually a circle of evergreens. The symbol of the circle is a reminder that God has no beginning and no end, and that our souls are immortal. The green color of the wreath’s branches, which have retained their color long after other trees and shrubs have shed their leaves, reminds us of the eternal life we have found in Christ. Another symbol, The Jesse Tree, represents the family tree of Christ. It tells the story of God’s salvation plan, beginning with creation and continuing thru the Old Testament, to the coming of the Messiah. Each day of Advent, a homemade ornament is added to the Jesse Tree, a small tree made of evergreen branches. These symbolic ornaments each represent a prophecy foretelling of Christ.



St. John Damascene Feast Day December 4

St. John Damascene (676 -749) was the son of the chief of the revenue department in the city of Damascus. Through his father, he received a classical and theological education and attempted to follow in his footsteps by serving in a government position. However, the Lord was calling him to a different life, and a few years later he resigned from his position and went to the Monastery of St. Sabas, where he wrote books and composed hymns along with his adopted brother, Cosmas.

St. John Damascene is best known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images; his treatise, *Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*, a summary of the Greek Fathers; and his work as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church. His devotion to the Blessed Mother and his sermons on her feasts are well known.



Scripture Reflection

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops. And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short. Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.



Financial Blessings

YOUR GIFTS TO YOUR PARISH TWO WEEKS AGO IN THE COLLECTION AMOUNTED TO.....\$3,023.00

Adult envelopes issued.....293 (November, 2021)

Adult envelopes used.....101/35% (November 14, 2021)

Food Pantry3 donations.....**\$130.00**

Thank You for your continued support! May God Bless You!

CONSIDERATION: The human imagination cannot be programmed by a computer. Our imagination is our greatest hope for survival. — Artist Keith Haring

Everyday Stewardship

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger. Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master. It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap." So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger? — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Inspiration For The Week

Any human success requires vigilance. Opportunities and powerful moments of encounter can easily be missed when we are not attentive. It is all too easy today to live distracted and preoccupied lives. There is so much vying for our attention that it can be hard to be selective and really focus. Caught up in this whirlwind of busyness and anxiety, we become tired and almost sleepwalk through life. Advent is a time to selectively focus. These beautiful four short weeks are a time to look backward and forward and be attentive to the human journey and God's revelation. From the beginning of time, God has been seeking our attention. He constantly reminds us of the justice he desires to bring and the promise of his abiding unconditional love. Understanding and growing in these truths requires alertness so that we can be strengthened in our faith and prepared for whatever will come.



NOVEMBER 28, 2021 •
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday, November 29

Tuesday, November 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle

Wednesday, December 1

Thursday, December 2

Friday, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Saturday, December 4 - St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

4:30pm †Kenneth Magiera - Anniversary of Death
int. Mackowiak Family

†Miguel A. Mendez, Sr. - 1st Anniversary of Death
int. Mendez Family

Sunday, December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30am †Stella Almason - Anniversary of Death int.
Health & God's Blessings for our Parishioners

Quote from Pope Francis

Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return.



Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained

Question: How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

Answer: The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana. The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers. Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C. These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

Question Of The Week

First Reading:

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of God's promise to fulfill the covenant made with King David, four hundred years earlier in 1000 B.C. As we enter into the season of Advent, how might you show your fidelity to God?

Second Reading:

Paul's prayer for the believers in Thessalonica is to abound in love and strength for one another in preparation for the return of Christ. How do you think communities of faith can support each other during the Advent season?

Gospel:

In Jesus teaching the disciples about the coming end times and judgment day, he warns them not to be too distracted by the stresses and anxieties of daily life. How do you keep focused on your spiritual life amongst the many daily challenges we face?



Community Events

Join Mayor Copeland Presents

Celebration of Lights

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1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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St. Cecilia Choir News

The choir will once again be selling Christmas Wafers (oplatki) for Christmas! Starting November 28th, a pack of 3 Wafers will be \$3.00. We will sell at the 8:30am Mass as well as at the Rectory. Thank You for your support!

The Oplatki Tradition

The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland during Early Christian times. This Christmas Custom began with a simple white wafer, baked from flour and water. The wafers are wonderfully designed to display Christmas images, such as the Nativity.

HOW TO CELEBRATE THE OPLATKI TRADITION

The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal. The entire family will gather around the table with the Oplatek. Generally the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing. This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year - whether it be good health, success, or happiness. The purpose of this act is primarily to express ones unconditional love and forgiveness for each member of his or her family.

THE SYMBOLISM

The significance of the Oplatki Christmas wafer is in that it shadows the Eucharistic meal that Catholics participate in at each Mass. Just as we share in the Eucharist as one family in Christ and receive Christ's love through the Eucharist, the Oplatki allows for one's immediate family to come together and share the love they have for one another. This symbolism is deepened by the fact that the name of the town where Jesus Christ was born, Bethlehem, means "House of Bread," which makes the Oplatki tradition an especially beautiful way to celebrate the charity and unity so characteristic of the Christmas season.

A SYMBOL OF FAMILY UNITY

The Oplatki tradition is one that is easy, fun, and deeply meaningful to introduce to the family anytime during the long Christmas season. All it requires is a simple wafer paired with love and affection, and the willingness to share it. This is a heartwarming tradition that will complete your family's time together during the Christmas season.



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