

First Sunday of Advent • November 27, 2022



St. THOMAS the APOSTLE

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Advent helps us walk more fully in His light

Whether it is the surgeon performing an operation or the pilot directing a flight, one expects them to be alert. When we entrust our lives to someone, we presume that they will attend to them with the utmost care and vigilance.

If we have this expectation of others, why would we not have it of ourselves? Our lives are precious vessels on an eternal journey. We can only stay afloat and on the course because of God's love and mercy.

It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming.

For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and savor. God's word transforms all that it touches, even a lukewarm heart. Let us seek God's grace this Advent season so that we can walk more fully in His light. Then, finding ourselves more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful, we will be eager and well prepared to meet our Lord when He comes.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekends

Sunday 10 am

Weekdays

Monday-Thursday 8:15 am

Reconciliation

Sundays: 9:15 - 9:45 am
Wednesdays: 7:30 - 8:10 am

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday from 9 am - 5 pm

Decatur Catholic Radio

WDCR 88.9/96.5

CONTEMPLATE

Ever hopeful

This is the thrust of Advent. We know Jesus came once; we believe, because of that, he comes again to bring the Reign and Kingdom of God to completion. We, now, are in between those two comings. How are we to live? Not dismayed or anxious. No, we are to be vigilant and strong, ever hopeful, full of right action, justice, and mercy. We stand erect because God does not abandon us.

- What dismays me about life today?
- What will I do to please God, trusting I am and we are not abandoned?



A WORD FROM FR. PETER

Here I am, Send me

This Sunday is the first Sunday of advent. Advent is the first of the five liturgical seasons in the Church's calendar. The four others are Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. These five liturgical seasons have various unique elements that make each of them especially important in the spiritual life and growth of individual members of the Church. One of the distinctive elements of the season of advent is the first readings that come from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah is the prophet who, despite his unworthiness for the call of God, answered, "Here I am, send me" when God was looking for someone to send to minister to his people. (Is 6:8).



Fr. Peter Chineke,
*Parochial
Administrator*

Isaiah, one of the most prominent prophets in the Old Testament, was called by God to minister to the people at a critical time in the history of Israel. It was a time of confusion, faithlessness, and sociopolitical unrest. There were many misunderstandings, wars, and desecration of holy places across the northern kingdoms and beyond.

In the midst of all that, God needed to send a loyal and courageous prophet for a unique prophetic ministry among his people. This ministry would involve declaring the impending doom that awaits sinners who persist in their sinfulness and the proclamation of the sovereignty

of God among the people. In proclaiming God's power, the chosen prophet shall also announce the coming of the Son of God – the Emmanuel. This Son of God shall save sinners if they repent from their sinfulness and accept God as their Lord and Savior. The task was enormous and would require someone of high intelligence, holiness, and integrity. Although highly unqualified in every way, God chose and sent Isaiah for this prophetic ministry.

Isaiah was the least qualified. In Isaiah 6:5, he cried out: "Woe is me. I am doomed. For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips...." Isaiah was humble enough to acknowledge his absolute unworthiness for the ministry that God called him. But as God wills, "He calls the unqualified and qualifies them. He chooses the weak to strengthen them." (Is 40:29; 1Cor 1:27).

Almost every day from this weekend until Christmas, our first readings shall come from the book of Isaiah. The Church intentionally arranged these liturgical readings this way to help us prepare in humility and joyful anticipation, the birth of our Lord. While this humility defines the circumstances surrounding the birth of our Savior, we also see it in the Prophet Isaiah. He humbly acknowledged his unworthiness for the call of God. After this act of humility, the Prophet also had the courage to say, "Here I am, send me," when God was searching for whom to send.

As we begin this season of hope, let us ask God to grant us the grace of the virtues of humility and courage. HUMILITY to acknowledge God's blessings, love, and mercy in our lives. And COURAGE to accept and welcome God's will and plan for our lives.



Advent is a season of waiting, patience and looking at our lives in preparation for remembering Christ's birth, but also His second coming. We need to take time during Advent to pray, celebrate the sacraments and read Scripture, meditation books, and

Advent-themed books. It is truly a beautiful season. Don't get caught up in the Christmas rush and miss the Advent season. Take the time to celebrate and feel the peace and joy of the Advent season. Blessed Advent!

ADVENT EVENTS

1. **St. Thomas Parish Confessions** on Friday 12/2 3 to 5:00 pm
2. St Thomas Parish **Day of Reflection Sunday** 12/11 at 4:00 pm
3. **City-Wide Confessions** at St. Patrick's Church on Sunday 12/18 at 2:00PM (all Decatur priests).

Host the Vocations Crucifix

Praying for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life is a great way to pray together as a family during the week. Why not sign up to host the Vocations Crucifix in your home for a week.



Please pray for our Sister Parish, Immaculate Conception, in Comapa, Guatemala as they pray for us.

Congratulations **Virginia and Bob Lees** celebrated their 69th Wedding Anniversary on November 11th! Congratulations Jinny and Bob! May God bless you and grant you joy. May He deepen your love for each other. May He bless you in your family and friends, lead you to unending happiness in Heaven, and keep you in His love for ever and ever. Thank you for witnessing to God's great love through the example of your marriage.



Recipe from St. Thomas

CAROL'S BAKED FRENCH TOAST

1 (1 pound) loaf of French bread cut diagonally in 1-inch slices. You can use Texas toast.

- 8 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1 1/2 cups half and half cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1 1/3 cups brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons light corn syrup

Butter 9x13" baking dish. Arrange the slices of bread in the bottom. In a large bowl, beat eggs, milk, cream, vanilla and cinnamon. Pour over bread slices, cover and refrigerate overnight.

The next morning, preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a small saucepan combine butter, brown sugar, and corn syrup. Heat until bubbly. Pour over bread mixture and eggs.

Bake in the preheated oven, uncovered, for 40 minutes.

-- Carol Brinkerhoff

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, November 27
10 am – **For all parishioners**

Monday, November 28
8:15 am – **Fr. David Zimmerman †**

Tuesday, November 29
8:15 am – **Laura Brosamer Senger †**

Wednesday, November 30
8:15 am – **Lorraine and John Sullivan †**

Thursday, December 1
8:15 am – **Greg Kuse †**

Friday, December 2 – *First Friday Adoration*
8:15 am – **Children who suffer**

Saturday, December 3
No Mass

Sunday, December 4
10 am – **Fred Luckenbill †**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Remember in your Prayers

All who are Ill at Home or in the Hospital and their Families and Caregivers

- Betty Althoff, Rachel Flick,
- Kevin Henry, Polly Hensley, Jim Hertel,
- Ann-Marie Hillyer, Sawyer Dale Hunter,
- Anonymous, Amber Johnson, Edwin Jones,
- Patricia Jones, Kelly McLean, Trey McLean,
- Lucia Molloy, Christina Mooney, Lucia Mounce,
- Rev. Msgr. James O'Shea, Joe Perry,
- Andy Richards, Kay Russell, Carolyn Thorpe,
- Roz Sandage, Ed Schanuel, Ron Shinall,
- Brenda Sullivan, Virginia Thompson, JoAn Wayne,
- Pete Wayne, and Tami Wittenauer

Thank you for
your donations



CHRISTMAS

Food Basket Project

St. Thomas will sponsor 25 Christmas Food Baskets for Catholic Charities this year.

During the month of November, baskets in the back of church will collect donations to purchase Aldi gift cards for families. Thank you for your support and generosity!



REGISTER TO

RING™

Sign Up to Be a Bell Ringer

Fr. Rick is recruiting bell ringers for the Salvation Army. If you're interested, you can choose the location and time when you're available. To register, please go to:

<http://RegisterToRing.com>

and pick any place and time.

Thank you for your help! — Fr. Rick

A Safe Parking Reminder

Please don't park around the church near the shrubs or the wooden fences containing the heating and cooling units. It is a fire lane.

The area around the church should be clear of parked vehicles at all times. Parking there can impede emergency personnel from entering the church and parishioners from leaving the church in an emergency.

Thank you!

Advent Activities

Christmas Card Lists

If you would like to mail Christmas Cards to our parishioners who are Homebound or in the Nursing Home, **a list is available in the back of church.** You can mail them directly, or place them by **Sun., Dec. 18** in the Christmas bag with the person's name on the table in the back of church. Thank you!



Warm Hats, Socks, and

Mittens of all sizes can be brought in and placed on the Christmas Tree by **Sun., Dec. 11.** They will be dropped off at Catholic Charities and Oasis for distribution to adults and children in need. Thank you for your generosity.



Next Sunday:

St. Nicholas at Mass

Next weekend, at the Mass on the **Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 4,** we'll welcome Saint Nicholas, the historic 4th-century saint and Greek Bishop of Myra. His feast day is Dec. 6. We'll learn about the true St. Nick and his radical love for Christ and his compassion for the poor. **After Sunday Mass** please join St. Nicholas in the chapel area for a special treat and challenge for the children of all ages, and join in fellowship as we enjoy donuts, bagels, and coffee.



Confession Schedule

St. Thomas Church:

Sundays: 9:15 - 9:45 am

Wednesdays: 7:30 - 8:10 a.m.

Citywide Penance Service:

St. Patrick Catholic Church

December 18 at 2 p.m.

5 priests will be available for confessions



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