



# SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

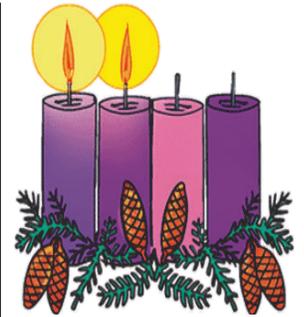
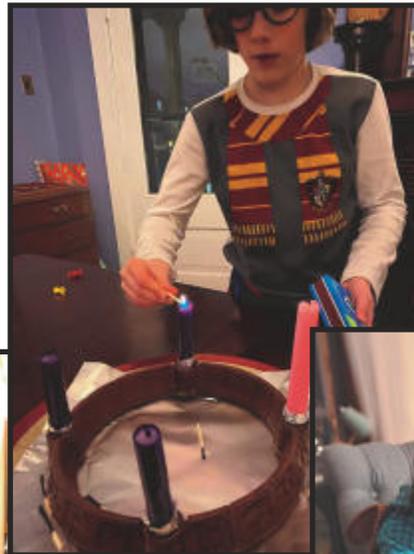
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

DECEMBER 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## MARKING THE ADVENT DAYS

Children around St. Margaret of Scotland light the Advent wreath candles in homes around the parish. This household tradition is a perfect way to observe the Sabbath as a family during a time of social distancing.



## CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:30 p.m. & Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Monday thru Friday at 6:30 a.m.

Holy Days and holidays as published in Sunday Bulletin

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 7

6:30 a.m. Fr. Matthew O'Toole - Happy Birthday!

5:30 p.m. People of the Parish

### Tuesday, December 8

6:30 a.m. Mary Bendzak +

8:15 a.m. Anna Rita Failoni +

### Wednesday, December 9

6:30 a.m. The Casey Family +

### Thursday, December 10

6:30 a.m. Rosalie Buckley +

### Friday, December 11

6:30 a.m. Robert Brake

8:15 a.m. Marie Cusamano +

### Saturday, December 12

4:30 p.m. George Thornburgh +

### Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Joseph Severtsen +

*To mark a special occasion or to remember a beloved family member or friend, living or deceased, with a Mass intention please call the Parish Office at 314-776-0363. The bishops of Missouri ask the faithful to make a \$10 offering for each Mass if they are able.*

## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. While it remains a holy day, the obligation of Catholics to attend Mass that day, like Sundays, is currently abrogated for health considerations during the pandemic. For those wishing to observe the solemnity, St. Margaret will have a 5:30 p.m. vigil Mass on Monday, December 7, and a 6:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, December 8. The 8:15 a.m. school Mass is closed to students only, however, it will be livestreamed, and parishioners may view it online through our website and Facebook.

## TOGETHER IN BAPTISM

We welcome to the church the newly baptized **Aiden Joseph O'Brien**, son of Casey and Joseph O'Brien; and **Charles John Stansfield**, son of Amy and Jacob Stansfield. Please join us in congratulating these parents upon the baptism of their children. We pledge them our continued, prayerful support throughout the journey of Christian parenting.

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM NEWS

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has developed a new system for safe environment compliance called **Prevent and Protect STL**. Everyone ministering to minors and vulnerable adults (clergy, employees and volunteers) in the Archdiocese are required and asked to **register in the new system before December 15, 2020**. **This includes those new to service and those who are currently in service.**

In addition to attending a live Protecting God's Children workshop, all clergy, volunteers, and employees will register for an updated background screening, view two new online training modules on abuse reporting and the Code of Ethical Conduct, and agree to the updated Code of Ethical Conduct. For those who have already attended a live Protecting God's Children workshop, your previous training date will transfer to this new system and you will not need to repeat this live workshop.

Please go to [www.preventandprotectstl.org](http://www.preventandprotectstl.org) click "**Register**" below the LOG IN button enter your name, enter the passcode **stlprotect** when prompted.

- Select type of location where you are a volunteer or employee **Parish or Parish School**.
- Select the specific location by name **St. Margaret of Scotland Parish or School**.
- Click the roles associated with your employment/volunteer service at the parish.
- If you are active at only St. Margaret of Scotland this will be your **primary** location. If you are active at more than one location, click the ADD PARISH/LOCATION button and repeat the steps to assign yourself to other locations/parishes.

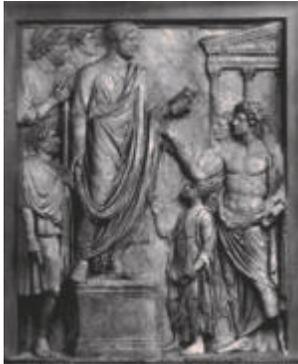
**Contact your parish Child Safety Coordinator Carmela Garza at 314-776-0363 with any questions or for further assistance.**



In its liturgical sense, the Christian word “advent” – *adventus* – is of pagan origin. The shift in the meaning of the word came about when the feasts of Christmas-Epiphany were instituted to celebrate the manifestation of the Lord in the flesh.



BY FR. MATT O'TOOLE



The adventus of Emperor Hadrian in a temple

Pagans of the ancient Roman world observed a manifestation of the divinity that came to dwell in its temple at a certain time each year. The feast honoring this divinity (god or goddess) was called *adventus*. On these days the temple, customarily closed, would be opened. Sometimes a statue of the divinity would be moved into a space much larger than the small sanctuary where it was usually placed. The *adventus* thus was in the nature of a return, an anniversary. In its imperial context, the *adventus* celebrated the anniversary of the coming of the emperor.

So the word was available to describe the coming of the Son of God in the temple of his flesh – his return, his visit. Moreover, the word’s usage gradually became limited to describe what was considered the only real coming – *adventus* – the coming of the Lord. In the same way, this *adventus*, this anniversary of the birth of Christ, replaced the *adventus* of the unvanquished sun of the winter solstice. This usage gained prominence at about the time when the emperor Constantine (306-337), in an effort to tolerate all religions, issued the Edict of Milan (313), allowing the open and free practice of Christianity. With the ensuing adoption of Christian feasts (Christmas among them), pagan festivals were soon supplanted and forgotten.

The ancient idea of the *adventus* is found underlying the prayers of Advent that evoke “the coming” of the Lord. This same vestige of meaning is discernable in one of the opening prayers for the Advent Mass (on December 20) which plays on the image of the temple:

At the message of an angel  
Mary welcomed your eternal Son  
and, filled with the light of your Spirit,  
she became the temple of your Word.



Christ enthroned in the womb of Mary

For most Christians, Advent remains a time to prepare for Christmas, which celebrates the first coming of the Lord. But it is just as important to remember that Advent is meant to be a time to attend to the glorious *return* of the Lord. From the seventh century on, Advent received a clearly eschatological orientation, that is, it was directed toward the end of the world, to the “last things.” Christmas and Epiphany – two feasts, each complete in themselves yet forming together one great solemnity – thus became celebrations of the birth of Christ the King.

Rev. Matthew O'Toole

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### *Gathering Hymn*

**A Voice Cries Out**

Michael Joncas

*REFRAIN* A voice cries out in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord!  
A voice cries out in the wilderness: Make straight a highway for God!

### *Kyrie*

*An Advent Mass, PFH*

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe, Christe, Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

### *First Reading*

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

### *Responsorial Psalm*

Scott Soper

**Psalm 85**

*Sung:* Lord, let us see your kindness; Lord, let us see your kindness.  
Your kindness and salvation grant us, O Lord.

*Recited:* Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

### *Second Reading*

2 Peter 3: 8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

## *Gospel Acclamation*

*An Advent Mass, PFH*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Sing, Alleluia, Sing, alleluia!

Show us, Lord, your love and grant us your salvation.

## *Gospel*

Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me.  
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
I have baptized you with water;  
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## *Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

# *Preparation of the Gifts*

## **Prepare the Way of the Lord**

Jacques Berthier, Taizé

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

## *Mass Setting*

*An Advent Mass, PFH*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection,  
Until you come again, until you come again.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy, have mercy on us; *(repeat)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. O grant us peace, O grant us peace.

## *Communion Hymn*

### **Jesus, Hope of the World**

Deanna Light and Paul A. Tate

*REFRAIN* Jesus, hope of the world, Jesus, light in our darkness,  
Here we await you, O Master Divine.  
Here we receive you in Bread and in Wine:  
Jesus, hope of the world.

## *Recessional Hymn*

### **City of God**

Dan Schutte

Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!

A new day is dawning for all those who weep.

The people in darkness have seen a great light.

The Lord of our longing has conquered the night. *To REFRAIN*

*REFRAIN* Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!  
For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night into day!

We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day,

The One who has loved us has brightened our way.

The Lord of all kindness has called us to be

A light for his people to set their hearts free. *To REFRAIN*

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

This week is one of my favorite weeks of the Church year. Not really because it is the second week of Advent, though that does move us one step forward in our time of joyful anticipation. More so because this week we get to celebrate Mary in two of my most favorite feasts dedicated to her: the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 (reminder: this is the day we celebrate that **Mary** - not Jesus - was without sin from the moment of conception), and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.



BY RUTH PERA  
COORDINATOR OF  
FAITH FORMATION

There is not enough space here to tell you all the reasons I love learning about Mary. But I will tell you one of my favorites: she is **fierce**. Despite the endless stream of images of a calm, peaceful - dare I say detached? - looking Mary, I can't help but dwell on the depth of this woman. This is not a woman who merely survived the hardships of her life, she approached each of them with a firm, fervent, and open "YES" to each step to which God called her. Mary was hailed by the angel and by Elizabeth as a woman who was blessed and favored by God. The only two other women in the Bible to receive such a high praise are Judith (Judith 13:18) and Jael (Judges 5:24) - who both cut off the heads of enemy army commanders in an act of radical hope to save their people. Seriously - let that sink in a minute. These are the women to which we compare Mary's *fiat*.



I could go on and on about the ways we see Jesus shaped by Mary's concern for others and her willingness to subvert the cultural norms of the time to advocate for those in need. But let's pivot for a moment to Our Lady of Guadalupe. You likely know the story: she appeared to Saint Juan Diego and sent him to the bishop to request a church be built in her honor. She provided Juan Diego with miraculous gifts to convince the bishop, including an image on his *tilma* which remains today. At that time, though, most of the Catholics in that area of the world were the Spanish conquistadores, and yet Mary came to an indigenous Nahuatl man, appearing herself as a young Indigenous woman, speaking his native Nahuatl language, asking him to be her voice in the world. "Am I not here," she asked, "I, who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?"

Look, 2020 has been long, tiring, and full of turmoil. The kind of turmoil that borders on trauma and changes your brain. But we are here, and Mary, our fierce, fierce mother, is here with us. And we are under her shadow and protection, and she will always intercede for us. As we wait further in this Advent season, choose to not just survive, but to answer our call to carry Christ into this world with the fervor of her *fiat*.

## ST. MARGARET RESPECT LIFE NEWS

We received a note of joyful thanks from Our Lady's Inn for the support St. Margaret parishioners gave to the Respect Life Committee's annual baby bottle drive. This year you contributed **\$3,179.09** to help Moms and their babies in need. This is a generous response to our Pro-Life efforts in the parish. Our Lady's Inn provides shelter and support for pregnant women who have chosen life for their babies. The Virgin Mary experienced challenges in finding a safe place to give birth to the Child Jesus. In the spirit of Christmas, your gift gives aid to women in similar situations.



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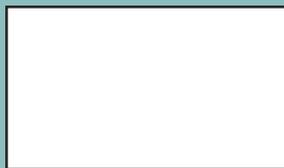
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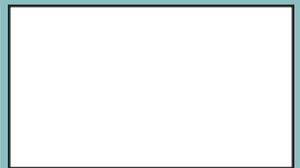
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