

November 28, 2021 • *First Sunday of Advent*



# *The Cathedral of* **SAINT JOSEPH**

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

[www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net)



DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Most Reverend Donald DeGroot, *Bishop*

## LITURGY GUIDE—First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to the Cathedral of St. Joseph and thank you for joining us for the celebration of Holy Mass today! Please silence your cell phones and refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum in the Cathedral. Please help keep our Cathedral tidy by utilizing the waste baskets found near the main entrances. Also, please refrain from taking pictures once Mass has begun. You are welcome to take pictures after Mass has concluded.

### INTROIT

(At 9:15 & 11AM, the Introit is sung by the choir, followed by the opening hymn.)

*Ad te levavi animam meam: Deus meus in te confido, non erubescam: neque irideant me inimici mei: etenim universi qui te expectant, non confundentur. (Verse) Vias tuas, Domine, demonstra mihi: et semitas tuas edoce me.*

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let not my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame. (Verse) Make your ways known unto me, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

### OPENING HYMN

489

STUTTGART

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking breast three times) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING

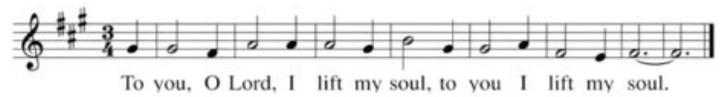
Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The Lord our justice."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14

(Refrain sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)



Text: Refrain trans., *Liturgical for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL, verses, *New American Bible*, © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, 1998, GIA Publications, Inc.

O Lord, make me know your ways. Teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth, and teach me; for you are the God of my salvation. I have hoped in you all day long. **R.**

Good and upright is the Lord; he shows the way to sinners. He guides the humble in right judgment; to the humble he teaches his way. **R.**

All the Lord's paths are mercy and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and commands. The Lord's secret is for those who fear him; to them he reveals his covenant. **R.**

### SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:12- 4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.

Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please Stand



Music: A. Gregory Murray, OSB, © 1958, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

(Refrain sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)

Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation. **R.**

### GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. 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."

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

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,  
 (*bow here*) 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.

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

#### OFFERTORY HYMN (4PM & 7:30AM)

KINGSFOLD

**572** I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
 Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast."  
 I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
 I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
 The living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live."  
 I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
 My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
 Look unto me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright."  
 I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
 And in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.



*Please Stand*

## OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (9:15AM)

*Ad te Domine levavi animam  
 meam: Deus meus in te confido,  
 non erubescam: neque irrideant me  
 inimici mei: etenim universi qui te  
 expectant, non confundentur.*

To you, I lift up my soul, O  
 my God. In you, I have trust-  
 ed; let me not be put to  
 shame. Nor let not my ene-  
 mies exult over me; and let  
 none who hope in you be put  
 to shame.

## OFFERTORY MOTET (11AM)

Alessandro Scarlatti  
 (1600-1725)

Ad te Domine levavi

*Ad te Domine levavi animam  
 meam: Deus meus in te confido,  
 non erubescam: neque irrideant me  
 inimici mei: etenim universi qui te  
 expectant, non confundentur.*

To you, I lift up my soul, O  
 my God. In you, I have trust-  
 ed; let me not be put to  
 shame. Nor let not my ene-  
 mies exult over me; and let  
 none who hope in you be put  
 to shame.

**Celebrant:** Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and  
 yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R.** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the  
 praise and glory of his name, for our good and the  
 good of all his holy Church.

## SANCTUS

San-ctus, San-ctus, San-ctus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth.  
 Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter-ra glo-ri-a tu-a. Ho-san-na  
 in-ex-cel-sis. Be-ne-di-ctus qui ve-nit in no-mi-ne  
 Do-mi-ni. Ho-san-na in-ex-cel-sis.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Re-sur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.

## AGNUS DEI

A-gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no-bis.  
 A-gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.

## ECCE AGNUS DEI

**Celebrant:** Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes  
 away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the  
 supper of the Lamb.

**R.** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my  
 roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*All Catholics who have prepared themselves to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward. Our brothers and sisters of other faiths are invited to approach with arms crossed over the chest to signal their desire to receive a blessing.*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4PM, 7:30AM)



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (9:15 & 11AM)

*Dominus dabit benignitatem: et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.* The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

### COMMUNION MEDITATION (9:15AM) WILLIAM BYRD Ave Verum Corpus (1540-1623)

*Ave, verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine: vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine: cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum, in mortis examine.*

*O dulcis, O pie, O Jesu, Fili Mariae. Miserere mei.*

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, who having truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind, whose pierced side flowed with blood: May this be for us a foretaste of the Heavenly banquet in the trial of death.

O sweet, O holy, O Jesus Son of Mary, have mercy on me.

### HYMN OF THANKSGIVING CREATOR ALME SIDERUM 497 Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
You came, O Savior, to set free  
Your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night,  
You came; but not in splendor bright,  
Not as a monarch, but the child  
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
All things on earth with one accord,  
Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might, we pray,  
Redeem us for eternal day;  
Defend us while we dwell below  
From all assaults of our dread foe.

To God Creator, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally.

### CLOSING HYMN 651

VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE  
O Come Devine Messiah

O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.

Dear Savior, haste; Come, come to earth, dispel the night  
and show thy face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away

O thou, whom nations sighed for,  
Whom priests and prophets long foretold,  
Wilt break the captive fetters; Redeem the long-lost fold.

Dear Savior, haste; Come, come to earth, dispel the night  
and show thy face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away

Shalt come in peace and meekness,  
And lowly will thy cradle be;  
All clothed in human weakness Shall we thy God-head see.

Dear Savior, haste; Come, come to earth, dispel the night  
and show thy face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away

### RECESSIONAL (9:15 & 11AM) Alma Redemptoris Mater

*Alma redemptoris mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo.*

*Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem.*

*Virgo prius, ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore, summens illud ave, peccatorum miserere.*

Nourishing mother of the Redeemer. thou who remains the open gate of heaven and the star of the sea, help the fallen people who strive to rise again.

Thou who gave birth, to the wonder of nature, to thy holy Creator.

Virgin before and after, From Gabriel's mouth accepting that Ave, Have mercy on sinners.

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## PARISH NEWS

### Community Outreach Thanksgiving Project

Please consider giving thanks for the Lord's blessings this year by helping those members of our parish family in need. To help these families get through the Christmas season, we kindly ask you to consider making a monetary gift for our parish's annual Thanksgiving project: Giving Thanks by Giving to Others. Please drop off at the parish office any cash or check amount (checks made payable to the "Cathedral of St. Joseph") in an enclosed envelope marked "Thanksgiving Project". You may also mail your gift to: Cathedral of St. Joseph, 521 N. Duluth Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Attn: Thanksgiving Project. Gifts must be received by December 12th. Fr. Morgan will distribute your gifts to families throughout December. Thank you for your generosity!

### Last chance to support Tuesday for Teachers!

Help support our valued Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools educators with Tuesday for Teachers all November long! Here's how you can help support our teachers now through November 30th: Give Online at <https://bit.ly/3jVw200> Or mail your gift to: Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools Foundation. Attn: Tuesday for Teachers, 3100 W 41st St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105. Or Eat out on Tuesdays!: Skip the kitchen and go out to eat at Zoup! — our participating restaurant for the final Tuesday of the month, November 30. Head to [ogknights.org](http://ogknights.org) for a list of participating restaurants!

**Next Day of Recollection @ Broom Tree— December 14**  
"St Bridget of Sweden: An Introduction to her Life, Revelations & Prayers" directed by Dr. Teri Kemmer. More info and registration @ [www.broom-tree.org](http://www.broom-tree.org)

### Sacred Arts Series—December 4th

The North Star Boys' Choir will be performing December 4th at 7pm. Free Admission. The NSBC was founded in 2011 and has its roots in the European boy choir tradition. It is linked to that tradition through the Artistic Director Francis Stockwell, who studied in England, Germany, and Austria, and worked with the Vienna Boys Choir.

### Saint Francis Mission

"I want to send a BIG thank you to all the parishioners who contributed to the winter clothing drive for St. Francis Mission among the Sicangu Lakota people of the Rosebud Reservation. They arrived just in time for a give-away we are planning this week. Though we have yet to have snow, the blizzard that hit East River brought cold winds that gusted over 60 mph out here. This really got the people of the Rosebud thinking of preparing for the coming cold and snow. Thank you for joining us in this work of sharing the good news of the Gospel through our actions as well as our words."

-Fr. Jim Kubicki, S.J., Director St. Francis Mission

### Thank you!

Thank you to the Cathedral Quilters for their generous donation of \$500 from their proceeds at the parish breakfast. The donation will be used for maintenance needs at the Cathedral.

## Liturgical Roles

### December 1-4

6:45 am Bill Early  
12:00 pm As Scheduled



### December 4/5

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm Julie Cleary, Jon Schmidt  
7:30 am Gerald Frisbie, Sharon Frisbie  
9:15 am Mary Canfield, Larry Canfield, Zeljko Juric  
11:00 am Laura Barnett, Bev Earley, Bill Earley  
4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

#### Readers

4:00 pm Shawn Cleary, Jessie Schmidt  
7:30 am Kym Osterberg  
9:15 am Ruth Bordewyk, John Moneke  
11:00 am Mary Enderson, Matt Enderson  
4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

#### Altar Servers

4:00 pm Pontifical Servers  
7:30 am **SERVERS NEEDED**  
9:15 am John Paul Beaner, Asher Hunt, Owen Rislov  
11:00 am Karl Benz, Dominic Ostermann  
4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

#### Dow Rummel

Deb Radio

#### Cathedral Bus

Susan Albers

## Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Mon: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tues: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22

Wed: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37

Thur: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

## CONGRATULATIONS

### The 500 Club

The fourth winner of the 500 Club for November 2021 is Mark Weber. We sent him a check for \$93 and gave Father \$407.50 for the Church. Currently we have 163 members; it is only \$5/month to join. Our hope is to have 200 members so the weekly winner receives \$115 and the Church receives \$500. So far we've given the church more than \$85,000 over the last 22 years! Applications are available in the Narthex (Duluth Ave. entrance) or the Parish Office. Those received by Nov. 29 will be eligible for the December drawings. For more info, call Verlyn at 334-2305.

## Mass Intentions

**Mon, Nov. 29** • *Advent Weekday*

12:00 pm † Lucille Anderson

**Tues, Nov. 30** • *St. Andrew, Apostle*

12:00 pm † Don Lowin

**Wed, Dec. 1** • *Advent Weekday*

6:45 am † Thomas Morgan

12:00 pm † Debbie MacKinnon

**Thurs, Dec. 2** • *Advent Weekday*

6:45 am Jeanne Hoffman

12:00 pm † Jim Glenski

**Fri, Dec. 3** • *St. Francis Xavier, Priest*

6:45 am Mother Amata Veritas, OP

12:00 pm † Mathew Birgen

**Sat, Dec. 4** • *St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

9:00 am † Elizabeth Dickes

**Sat, Dec. 4** • *Mass of Anticipation*

4:00 pm † Sally Holiday

**Sun, Dec. 5** • *Second Sunday of Advent*

7:30 am Kali Johnson

9:15 am Mason and Katie Oertli

11:00 am † Mary Abu-Ghazaleh

4:00 pm Pro Populo

## Sanctuary Candles

This week the five sanctuary candles in the Eucharistic Chapel have been requested for the following intentions:

- 1.) Dennis Nemmers Family
- 2.) Monroe Jensen
- 3.) Yvette Geraets
- 4.) Catherine Goraj
- 5.) The Unborn

## Cathedral Events Calendar

**Sunday, November 28**

NO FAMILY PROGRAM

**Tuesday, November 30**

Women's Group, 10am in Cathedral School

## FAITH FORMATION

### Family Program & Sacrament Preparation

Classes will not be meeting this weekend (November 28th).

### Next Theology on Tap: Cameo Anders on Nov. 30

Our next Theology on Tap event will be held November 30th at Blue Rock Bar & Grill with Cameo Anders as our speaker! Topic will be "Guidelines for Moral Decision-Making at End of Life from a Catholic Lawyer Bioethicist." Doors open at 5:30pm, with the presentation beginning at 7pm.

### Christmas at the Cathedral

The 25th Annual Christmas at the Cathedral will be taking place December 16-19! This year's theme, "Be Born in Me" is a first-hand account of God's Incarnation into the human race. Proceeds will benefit the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and the Cathedral of St. Joseph ongoing care and maintenance endowments. Please go to [ccfesd.org](http://ccfesd.org), call 605-988-3765 or email [events@ccfesd.org](mailto:events@ccfesd.org) for more information and to purchase tickets.

### Volunteers needed to help with gift card sales for O'G

We need volunteers to help sell gift cards (Catholic School Certificates/formerly SCRIP) after the Sunday morning Masses. We've taken an extended hiatus with after-Mass sales due to the pandemic but we would like to get this program back up and going again. If you'd like to help sell gift cards after Mass, please email [pamelaboyum@gmail.com](mailto:pamelaboyum@gmail.com).

### Holiday Grief Program December 9 @ St. Therese

Catholic Family Services is honored to host: "He is Stable" – A Night for Grieving Hearts to Find Rest in His Peace – on December 9 at St. Therese Parish in Sioux Falls. The evening will include presentations from individuals who have experienced grief along with a beautiful candle lighting ceremony. Christmas cookies and hot chocolate to follow! Children welcome! Register by calling (605) 988-3775 or emailing [cfs@sfcatholic.org](mailto:cfs@sfcatholic.org). [vocations/events/st-john-vianney-seminary-visit/](http://vocations/events/st-john-vianney-seminary-visit/)

### Eucharistic Ministers needed for Avera McKennan

The Catholic chaplains at Avera McKennan are aided greatly by a small corps of volunteer Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. We could use a few more. You designate which day works for you and the frequency you wish to volunteer. We provide simple training to supplement what you already know as a parish Extraordinary Eucharistic minister. Contact volunteer coordinator Julie ([Julie.holmes@avera.org](mailto:Julie.holmes@avera.org) or 322-7897)

### REMINDER — If you are sick/coughing/sneezing, please stay home

Please remember that if you are coughing, sneezing or just not feeling well, you are not expected to be at Mass. Please, for the good of yourself and the good of your neighbor in the pew, stay at home and catch Mass on TV. We want you back at Mass healthy ... and everyone around you at Mass to "stay" healthy as well. Peace in Christ. ~ *Fr. James Morgan*

**Parish Office:** 605-336-7390

**Parish Office Email:** cathedral@sfcatholic.org

**Office Hours:** 8:30am-5pm M-Th, 8:30am-3pm Friday

**Cathedral Church Hours:**

8am-5pm Monday-Saturday

7am-Noon & 3:30-5:00 Sunday

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:00am,  
& 4:00pm (St. J. Bakhita)

**Weekday Masses**

Wednesday - Friday 6:45am

& Monday - Friday 12 Noon

Saturday 9:00am in Cathedral

**Confessions**

Thursday 7:00pm

Saturday 12 Noon & 3:00-3:30pm in Cathedral  
(Chapel if a Wedding is scheduled)

**Adoration**

Thursdays 7pm-8pm

First Friday of the month at 11am  
in Cathedral

**Self Guided Tours**

1:00pm Monday-Friday (except Holy Days)

**Parish Staff**

**Rector,** Very Rev. James P. Morgan

**Assistant to the Rector,** Rev. Jeff Norfolk

**Deacon,** William Radio

**Deacon,** Tim Dickes (Prison Ministry)

**Administrative Assistant,** Laura Haatvedt

**Director of Operations & Finance,** Heidi Solem

**Director of Liturgical Music,** Dr. Jared Ostermann

**Director of Faith Formation,** Abigail Budan

**Counseling Services**

**Catholic Family Services** Counseling 988-3775

**Retrouvaille** Help for hurting marriages 988-3755

**Birthingright** 977-4781

**Sacraments**

**Baptism** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for our parishioners on Sundays after the 11AM Mass. Parents must attend a Baptism preparation meeting. To schedule preparation, contact the parish office.

**Matrimony** Six months preparation required. Registered parishioners, please contact parish office. All others, contact the pastor of your home church. For wedding information, go to [www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net), under Sacraments.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Please call the parish office to request the Sacrament if you have been diagnosed with an illness, in preparation for surgery, or in case of serious illness.

**Catholic Burial**—St. Michael's Cemetery, (605) 338-3376

At this time last year things were a bit strange. Remember? There was the apprehension of yet another COVID-19 super-spread. We cancelled Advent Vespers. Christmas at the Cathedral was not “live in-person” but “live-streamed.” We added more Christmas Masses for the sake of accommodation. And many families never spent Christmas together. Actually, though, the atmosphere of the day took on a truly “Advent feel,” as we hear in today’s Gospel: *“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.”* Watchfulness, alertness, vigilance, preparedness. Many of Christ’s parables deal with these themes. These are all themes of the Advent season. Without immersing ourselves in them, we cannot stand erect before the Son of Man with our heads held high seeking our redemption. Jesus spoke of his return in glory at the End of Time as a fact. God’s judgment is good news for those who are ready and prepared to meet the Lord when He returns. He gives us fresh hope each day so that we can keep our eyes fixed on eternal realities. December is a busy time of the year, no doubt. These four weeks of spiritual preparation can pass us by in no time, finding ourselves no better off than we were before. It’s important to be cognizant of the extra opportunities at the Cathedral and other parishes around the city where we can enter into that spirit of preparedness. Vespers (Evening Prayer) will be prayed once again during the four Sundays of Advent (Sunday, 6pm). It is an excellent way to enter into the Advent spirit. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) on December 8 unites us with the heart and mind of the Mother of Jesus. Going to confession during Advent prepares the soul to receive Jesus more fully at Christmas. Please check the bulletin for the city-wide Advent Communal Penance Services, and any extra confessions that may be offered at the Cathedral (\*Please note: Saturday confessions on December 18 will be in the chapel due to Christmas at Cathedral). Outreach to the needy unites us with the poverty of Christ at His birth. In lieu of the Advent Baby Shower, we encourage families to contribute baby items to the Teddy Bear Den, St. Vincent DePaul, the Alpha Center, or any other non-profit that benefits mothers, newborns and families. On this First Sunday of Advent we embrace the invitation to be vigilant and prepared for Christ’s Coming... Let’s do it!

*Fr. James Morgan*



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