



ADVENT

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE



Blessing of an Advent Wreath

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/) **Who made heaven and earth.**

Then the Scripture, [Isaiah 9](#): (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or [Isaiah 63](#) (lines 16-17 & 19) or [Isaiah 64](#) (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: **The Word of the Lord.**

R/. **Thanks be to God.**

With hands joined, the leader says:

**Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.**

The blessing may conclude with a verse from
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":



The word 'Advent' is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.

Advent begins on the Sunday after the Solemnity of Christ the King and continues for four weeks until Christmas Vigil Mass.

Food Pantry

Our food pantry is low on several items.

Please donate some of the items listed below so that we can help our neighbors in need.

- Cookies/Crackers
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Beans
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Meals (ex. Chef Boyardee)



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MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Name	Intention/Request
1	8:00	Americo D'Amico	9 yr. Ann. By wife & Family
4	4:30	Frederick Chearino	15 yr Ann. By Wife Josephine & Daughters Dawn & Natalie
5	8:30	Angelo & Mamie Carlino	Christmas Ann. By Children
	10:30	Louise Spremulli Chiaromonti Anthony & John Spremulli	By Joe & Eleanor
6	8:00	No Mass	
7	8:00	No Mass	
8	8:00		Major Donors
11	4:00	Lucille Zoglio	5th Anniversary By Family
12	8:30	Frank & Peter Susi	Memorial By Friend Richard & Family
	10:30	Vito Gesualdi	By Family
13	8:00	Alice Kane, Alice Couto, Walter Doyle	By Dorothy Sacchetti
14	8:00	Caterina Colapietro	By Daughter & Grandson
15	8:00	Mary Mancini	Husband & Son
18	4:00	Maryann Vita	By Family
19	8:30	Domenic & Florence DiDonato Emilio & Fernanda Giudici	Memorial By Family
	10:30	Audrey Gesualdi	By Family
20	8:00	Elaine M. Ricci	2nd Anniversary By Family
22	8:00	Jesse Gomez	Christmas Rem. By Wife Marcia & Children
24	4:00	Tom Caramante, Jr.	37th Ann. By Family
	Midnight		
25	9:00	Mary & Pasquale Civetti	Ann. By Son Richard & Family
26	8:30	Gloria Mancini	1st Anniversary
	10:30	Lena A. Mansolillo	5th Anniversary By Sons & Family
27	8:00	Christopher Nunes	Mem. By Elvira, Rose, Chris & Ann
31	4:00	Maria & Antonio Vigorito	By Family

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Christmas Card Sale



After all Masses

First, Some Simple Things to Pray For During Advent:

Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.

Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.

Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.

Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.

Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of a loving community.

Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.

Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.

Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.

Pray for joy and a sense of humor.

Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.

Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.

Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.



When Tom was in his mid-forties, he woke up one morning with a lot of pain and stiffness in his leg. At first, he thought he had just tweaked a muscle or that it was a bout of arthritis. He hoped that if he just took a few aspirin and ignored it, he'd start feeling better. However, the pain would not go away, and he was finding it increasingly more difficult to walk. Though his wife encouraged him to go to the doctor, he kept putting it off thinking that it would take care of itself with time. However, when it became clear that his leg wasn't getting better, Tom scheduled an appointment with his doctor. After running a battery of tests, the doctor gave him the news. Tom had a malignant bone cancer that was very advanced. Even with aggressive treatment, the doctor didn't give him much hope of surviving it.

Tom was devastated. It appears his whole world was caving in on him. He had no idea how he would break the news to his wife and children. In those moments, he thought about all the time he had missed with his family because he was too busy working. He always thought he had plenty of time, but it became clear to him that he never really had as much time as he thought.

The next few months were difficult. He went back to church with his family, and he found some consolation and strength in his faith. He was glad to have the opportunity to get right with God. Tom had always intended to go back to church but never got around to it. But knowing that his time on earth was short, he made an appointment with his pastor to go to confession. With a lot of prayer and through many tears, he eventually came to peace with his illness and made it a point to enjoy what little time he had left.

Even as his health declined, Tom would tell his family and friends not to feel sorry for him. He came to see his sickness as a gift. It helped him to see how precious his life was and to appreciate what really mattered. He was thankful that he had time to enjoy what was left of his life on earth and that he was able to realize all that God had blessed him with before it was too late.

Time is one of the most precious things we have. Like many other things in life, however, we often don't appreciate it until it's gone.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells us, "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." Jesus is warning us that this world is passing away. Our lives are short, and we have much less time than we think.

No matter how we have chosen to spend our time up to this point, God never ceases to call us back to him and remind us that we were created to live with him forever in heaven. From the perspective of faith, we can take a look at how we have used our time and make a new commitment to what is most important. It is never too late to start over and make up for lost time with God and our loved ones.

Reverend Peter J Gower

“View from the Pew” by George W. Reilly

Pope has successful trip to Slovakia

Pope Francis was in great form on his recent trip in mid-September to Slovakia where 73 percent of the population is Catholic. Slovakia became a sovereign state when it separated peacefully from the Czech Republic in 1993.

After the state welcome involving a military guard, a band and a private conversation with President Čaputová, she escorted the pope to the state’s palace gardens where they addressed a gathering of state authorities and the diplomatic corps.

She recalled that “Christianity and the Catholic Church have been a firm part of our cultural identity for centuries” and welcomed Pope Francis as “a bearer of much-needed inspiration for the future of humanity” and “for the future of our Slovakia and for the future of Christianity.

Later, after having bid farewell to the president and the authorities, Francis set out by car for Saint Martin’s Cathedral for his encounter with the bishops, priests, religious and seminarians. On route, he spotted a group of women with children on the roadside waving to him, so he asked the driver to stop the car and then he got out, to the consternation of the police and his security detail, and went to greet the women and children and gave them rosary beads.

Francis was given a rapturous welcome as he entered the restored 14th-century Gothic cathedral, where 11 kings of Hungary were crowned between 1563 and 1830 when Slovakia was part of Hungary. “I have come as your brother,” he told them as he began a talk in which he frequently departed from his prepared text, at times drawing laughter and applause.

Francis told the bishops, priests and religious, “We need to become immersed in the real lives of people and ask ourselves what are their spiritual needs and expectations? What do they expect from the church? It is important to try to respond to these questions.” He said three words came to his mind as partial answers: freedom, creativity and dialogue.

He urged the bishops, clergy and religious, “Do not be afraid to train people for a mature and free relationship with God. This approach may give the impression that we are diminishing our control, power and authority, yet the church of Christ does not seek to dominate consciences and occupy spaces but rather to be a ‘wellspring’ of hope in people’s lives.”

Referring to “dialogue,” Francis said, “A church that trains people in interior freedom and responsibility, one able to be creative by plunging into their history and culture, is also a church capable of engaging in dialogue with the world, with those who confess Christ without being ‘ours,’ with those who are struggling with religion and even with those who are not believers. It is a church that unites and holds together East and West, different traditions and sensibilities.”

Departing from his prepared text, Francis spoke at length about the vital need for pastors to prepare their homilies well and told them to limit homilies to 10 minutes. When he finished speaking on this, they applauded vigorously, but he quipped, “It was the nuns who applauded most because they are the victims of our homilies!” The line got a good laugh.

He concluded, “I encourage you to persevere in your journey in the freedom of the Gospel, in the creativity of faith and in the dialogue that has its source in the mercy of God, who has made us brothers and sisters and calls us to be builders of harmony and peace.” After he imparted his papal blessing, they gave him a standing ovation. And rightly so, as his words hold such great meaning for us all. Stay healthy and calm as the Christmas pressure mounts.

Jacqueline M. Grasso, Esq.
Attorney at Law

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