

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Prepare the way of the Lord.” - Mk 1:3

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays Our Lady of Lourdes:
Tue. 12 PM, Wed. - Fri. 8 AM

Saturdays

Our Lady of Lourdes: 4 PM
St. Joseph's (Memorial - Labor Day) 5:30 PM

Sundays

Our Lady of Lourdes: 8 AM
Saint Joseph's: 10 AM

PHONE LISTING

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Email CCD	stjgar@outlook.com
NH Catholic Charities	1-800-562-5249

PARISH STAFF

Rev. John B. MacKenzie	Pastor
Jeannie Garcia	Religious Ed. Coord.
Ellen Barbasso	Secretary

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8 AM - 12 PM

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 3 PM

BAPTISM

Families must be registered parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes or St. Joseph's. Please call the rectory for arrangements.

MARRIAGE

Couples must contact the rectory at least six months before intended date to fulfill preparation requirements.

Mission Statement

We the faith community of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Joseph, strive to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ through the Catholic Tradition. We are called by Baptism to proclaim the Good News using our time, talent, and treasure. We aim to grow in our relationship with God through our worship, education, service, fellowship, and by loving our neighbor.

"We await new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13)

Question of the Week

What are the signs of a dawning "new creation" that you perceive?

HIS WORD TODAY

A time of crisis is a time of opportunity for change, for newness, for fresh beginnings. When all is well, there is little reason to want a change. When our world is shattered, however, we hearken to those who can help us find a way forward toward a new state of well-being. So it was with the exiles to whom Isaiah prophesied in today's first reading. Hope for a new beginning dawns as the prophet gives them the comforting news that the time of enslavement to Babylon is at last ended.

The new beginning that John the Baptist announces has everyone abuzz. The free gift of forgiveness awaits any who acknowledge their sins and let God's grace wash over them. This fresh start is brought to completion by the one coming after John, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Mark raises our expectations that God is doing something new with the coming of Jesus—a new creation that begins again in our own way, every time we turn to God and let our hearts be moved to follow the "straight way."

The second reading speaks of the newness for which we long in terms of "new heavens and a new earth." Other biblical authors speak of such a new creation but only in 2 Peter does the writer envision a fiery consummation and destruction of the whole of creation before the coming of the new. This reading also assures us that God is patient and does not use the same timetables we do. The delay, says Peter, is so that all have time to accept the transforming love of God that enables them to reshape their lives.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, (Is 40:5). The Gospel from Mark picks up on the language of preparing the way by connecting it with John the Baptist and his role as herald for the arrival of the Messiah. Unlike Matthew's and Luke's Gospels, which begin with infancy narratives, and John's Gospel, which begins with a prologue about Jesus' divine origins, Mark starts his Gospel with the prophet John the Baptist's proclamation in the wilderness. Mark's prologue focuses on the birth of Jesus' ministry, and John's prophetic announcement frames how we are to understand Jesus.

FATHER JOHN'S JOTTINGS

He will prepare your way. (Mark 1:2)

Clearly, John the Baptist was a man of God. He was an ambassador called to prepare the way of the Lord by pointing the people to Jesus.

How did John fulfill his calling? By his witness and by his words. His witness was that of a detached, ascetic man who dressed in rough clothes and lived in the wilderness. And backing up his witness were his words--words that cut people to the heart and moved them to examine their lives. Because of John's witness and his words, people from all over Judea came to see him. And once they saw and heard, many repented of their sins and turned back to God. (Mark 1:5).

We often think of John the Baptist as a fire and brimstone kind of person. And he was to some degree. But fire and brimstone without love and mercy don't do justice to the message of Christ. John was also humble and compassionate. He was concerned for the people around him, so much so that he attracted disciples who committed themselves to following him and learning from him.

Like John, we all have a part to play in God's plan. We are called to be Jesus' messengers and to bear heavenly fruit by the witness of our lives and by the words we speak. So as Christmas draws near, let's set our hearts on preparing the way for Jesus. As John called the people of his day, let's repent and go to Confession. Let's also tell our families that we need to go to Confession and get right with the Lord--not in a threatening or self-righteous way but as loving ambassadors of God who care about our families.

Peter's letter tells us that Jesus will come again. It says that he will usher in "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). It will be glorious. Until he comes, let's try our best to be Christ's ambassadors, through "holiness and devotion" (3:11)

"Lord, help me to be like John, a living, loving ambassador for your kingdom."

Meditations for Catholics

He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. Luke 1:14--15

YOUTH RELIGIOUS FAITH FORMATION

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Coordinator, Contact Phone: 942-8716 /
269-4143**

Email: stjgar@outlook.com

**Our Lady of Lourdes/St Joseph's Faith
Formation: ourladyoflourdes-stjosephs.org.**

K of C 'Keep Christ in Christmas' Poster Contest!

The Knights of Columbus is hosting a 'Keep Christ in Christmas' poster contest for children ages 5-14 years old. The poster contest helps to reinforce that Christmas is not the commercial holiday portrayed on TV, but an ultimate celebration of God's love of mankind through the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The entry form and details can be found in church and on the parish website. Posters are due Sunday, December 6th.

Our annual Christmas Giving Tree tags are available this week at both churches. Items requested on the giving tags will be made into festive care packages for local Senior Citizens. If you are unable to pick up a tag, we are in need of toiletry items, packages of Christmas cookies, chocolates, candy, coffee, or tea. Donations should be returned as soon as possible. This event is joyfully hosted by the Parish Youth Council.

The Advent Season

For us Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new liturgical year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent Season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.

Interfaith Community Kitchen

Thank you to all who have made monetary donations, offered their time and cooking talents to the Interfaith Community Kitchen over the past year. Due to the increase in COVID19 cases, we have suspended all meals until further notice. Our annual distribution of Christmas Care Packages for Seniors will be available Saturday, Dec 5, and Monday, Dec 7, during food pantry hours. Wishing all our volunteers and dinner guests a Blessed Holiday Season!

PARISH NEWS FLASHES

- ◆ *Father John wishes masks to be worn by all who attend any Mass. Thank You all for your anticipated compliance.*
- ◆ *December 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and is a holy day of obligation. If you are able to attend, Mass times are on page 1.*

Eucharistic Adoration

The last Thursday for Eucharistic Adoration at St. Joseph's Church for this year will be Thursday, December 19. Weekly Adoration will begin again on February 18, the first Thursday of Lent (weather permitting). Adoration at Our Lady of Lourdes will continue on Tuesdays after the 12pm Mass until 4pm. Thank you to our volunteers who help make this most holy ministry possible in our parish.

Distribution of Holy Communion Outside of Mass will now be available after the dismissal of Mass at the following times:

Saturdays from 5:00 to 5:15pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Sundays from 11:15-11:30am at St. Joseph's Church. Please wear a facial mask when entering the church and sanitize your hands before receiving the sacrament.

Distribution of Communion is only for parishioners who are unable to attend Mass due to personal or family related health concerns. Receiving the Blessed Sacrament alone does not take the place of Sunday Mass. Parishioners who receive the Blessed Sacrament outside of the Mass should also prayerfully participate in the Liturgy by viewing a Live Stream or Recorded Mass at home. If you have additional questions, please contact Father John at the rectory.

Due to the increasing number of Covid19 cases in the state, there will be a sign-in sheet at both church locations for contact tracing purposes. Please sign in your name and phone number. If you do not wish to leave a number, please contact the rectory to make sure we have your current contact information on file. We also ask that you stay at home if you are feeling ill, wear a mask, and sanitize your hands before Mass and Communion if possible.



Three boys are in the school yard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$25."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money!"

Sharing the Gospel

John the Baptist had an important message. When you make sinful mistakes, and when you turn away from God, stop. Learn from your mistakes, and do things God's way. Were you bossy or rude? Be thoughtful and kind. Did you tell a lie? Be honest instead. God wants you to share his love with other people.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to learn from my mistakes. Thank you for forgiving me.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself being kind to a friend.

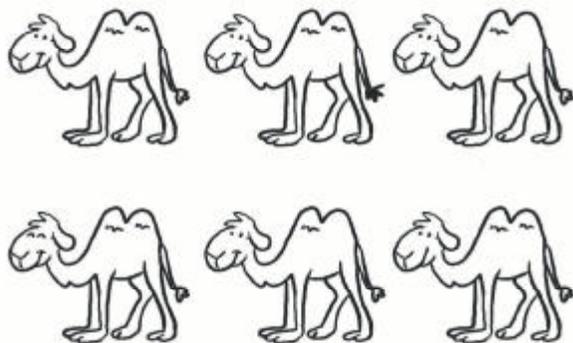
Mission for the Week

Ask your family if you have hurt their feelings. Ask them to forgive you.

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PUZZLE

Find the 2 identical camels.



MISSION

Ask your family if you have hurt their feelings. Ask them to forgive you.

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



2nd Sunday of Advent • Mark 1:1-8



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