

# 1st Sunday OF ADVENT



**Our Lady of Peace Church  
November 29, 2020**

## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN



My dear friends,

### Advent begins: Stay alert!

Can you believe it? The Season of Advent has arrived, and Christmas is just around the corner. With this First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year, designated Year B, with a special focus on the Gospel of Mark. The Church teaches: “Advent has a two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.”

A symbol that we use in worship during the Advent Season is the Advent Wreath. The circular nature of the wreath, which does not have a beginning or an end, suggests the eternal nature of God, as does the material from which wreaths are made: ever green. As the weeks of Advent progress, the number of candles, and thus the amount of light grows. This symbolizes our expectant waiting, during this darkest time of the year, for the coming of the Light: Jesus Christ, who is forever the Light of the World.

In our first reading we meet one of the great Advent characters, the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, who captures the longing of the people for God to re-create the world, to awaken people from their slumber, and to bring joy and fulfillment to those who have gone astray. “You, Lord, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.” Based on the memory of God’s mighty deeds in the past, the people now hunger for God’s redemption of the present. However, Isaiah is realistic, for he acknowledges the people’s lack of fidelity: “Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people....There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you.” In the end, though, Isaiah returns to his reason for hope: “Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are the work of your hands.”

Mark’s gospel, the earliest to be written, is often rather stark and to the point. Today’s passage, Mark 13:33-37, invites the people, much as Isaiah did centuries before, to rouse themselves from slumber, to be attentive, and to have their hearts ready and open for the coming of the Lord. “Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: “Watch!”’ The Advent Season of watchful expectation has begun.

#### *Lord’s Day Masses*

Saturday 4:00P

Sunday 8:00A & 10:00A

*DAILY MASS* 8:00A

Monday thru Thursday

*COMMUNION SERVICE* Fridays 8:00A

*HOLY DAYS* Vigil 6:00P

Holy Day 8:00A

*CONFESSIONS* heard before each Mass

*Rectory:* 90 7th Street

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#### *Office hours:*

Monday – Thursday 8:30A–12:00P

Visitors by appointment only

Closed Friday

Closed for Thanksgiving 11/26–11/29



## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Saturday, November 28**

4:00P *Natalie/Donald Regan & Anna/Larry Regan*  
by their family

**Sunday, November 29**

8:00A *DeeDee Bergeron*  
by the Singley family

10:00A *James Viens*  
by his family

**Saturday, December 5**

4:00P *John & Eva Crowley*  
by Tami

**Sunday, December 6**

8:00A *Jerry O'Connor*  
by his family

10:00A *John Cominoli*  
by K of C Council 737

**DAILY MASS****Monday, November 30**

8:00A *Alex & Pauline Litskoski*  
by Dennis & Cyndee Grader

**Tuesday, December 1**

8:00A *Pat Caloon*  
by her family

**Wednesday, December 2**

8:00A *Maurice Fugere*  
by the Creek family

**Thursday, December 3**

8:00A *Holy Souls in Purgatory*  
by Dennis & Cyndee Grader

**Friday, December 4**

8:00A *Communion Service*

## Our Lady's Window

**November 30** *Pat & Peg Lewandowski*  
by JoAnn

**December 1-31** *Loretta Patterson*  
by her family

**December 4** *Julianna Sak*  
by her family



The holy day of obligation and Masses will be Tuesday, **December 7** (Vigil) at 6:00P and Wednesday, **December 8** at 8:00A.

## 5 Things to Know about Advent:

1. **Meaning of Advent:** Advent comes from the Latin word for "arrival" or "coming." It is a time for preparing for the commemoration of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. It also anticipates his Second Coming.
2. **No Christmas Carols:** Christmas carols should not be sung during Advent but reserved for the Christmas season. One of the most ancient chants of the Church, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is often sung during Advent.
3. **Advent Wreath:** Candles on the Advent wreath are lighted the four Sundays of Advent, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World.
4. **Symbolic Colors:** The liturgical color of the season is purple/violet, a sign of penance. The third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday," taken from the Latin for the first words of the opening antiphon for the day's Mass, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Priests wear rose vestments that day as a sign of rejoicing.
5. **New Beginning:** The beginning of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 22, 2020

Regular collection/mail	\$2,605.00
On-line	\$679.00

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