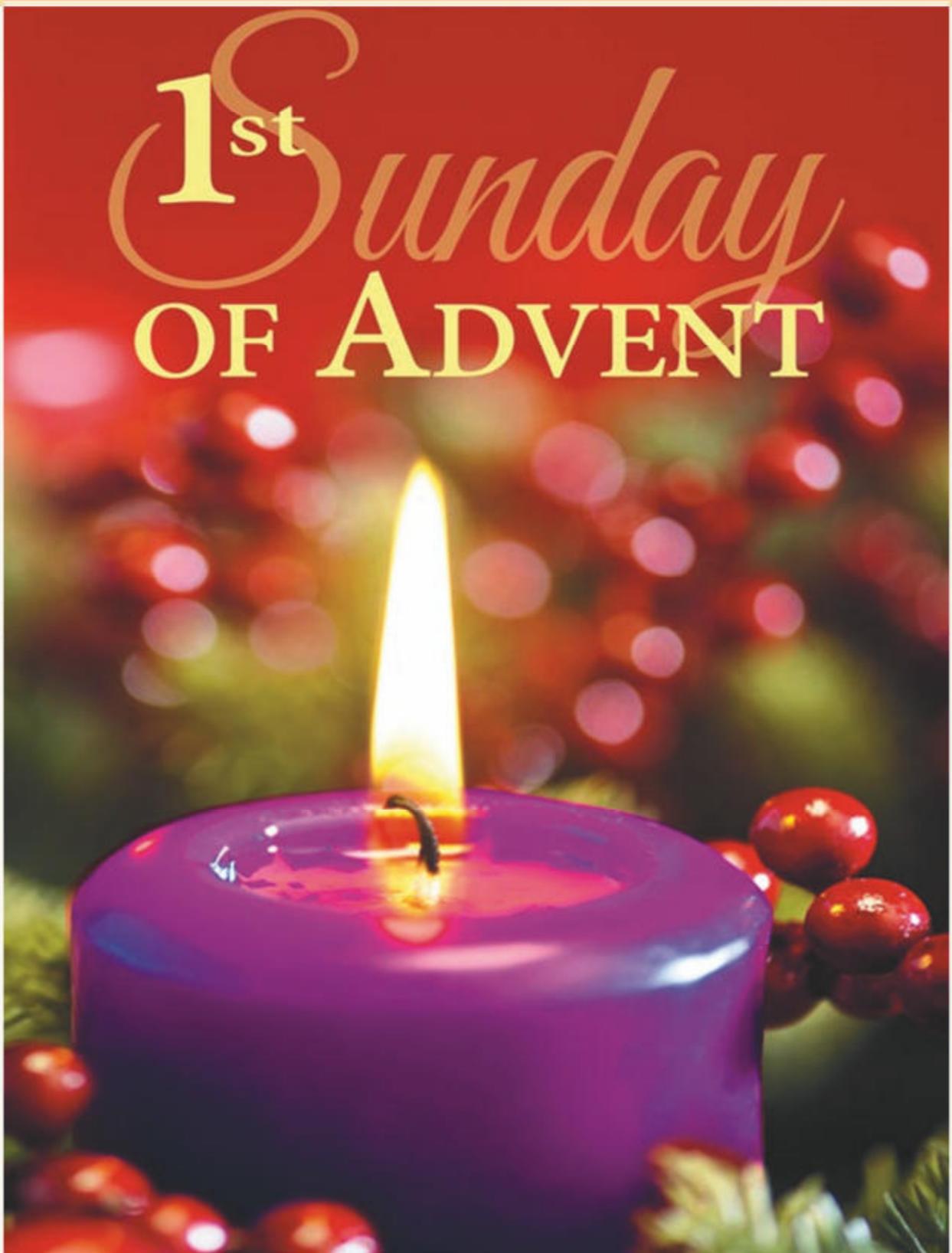


St. Joseph ~ Mother Church of the Berkshires
~ Established 1849 ~

1st *Sunday*
OF ADVENT



November 28, 2021

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST**

"How many of you say: I should like to see His face, His garments, His shoes. You do see Him, you touch Him, you eat Him. He gives Himself to you, not only that you may see Him, but also to be your food and nourishment."

~St. John Chrysostom

For more information and videos check out www.yearoftheeucharist.net

Msgr. Mike is requesting all Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers to attend the Holy Day Mass of the Immaculate Conception Wed., Dec. 8th followed by Evening of reflection and gratitude. The Mass begins at 5:30 in the church and will be followed by prayer, reflection and blessing. Refreshments will be available.

PREPARING THE MANGER

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger. Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master. It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap." So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

CCD schedule for
December~
kindergarten through
9th grade

December 5th,
December 12th and

December 19th. Christmas pageant will take place Sunday December 19th at the 9 o'clock mass. CCD to follow. Confirmation class for 2022 will take place December 12th from 5:30 to 8 pm. at St. Joseph's Parish Center with mass and penance service. If you have any questions please contact me, John Arasimowicz at 413-822-1297 or johnnacd@gmail.com





ADVENT VESPERS

Each Sunday evening starting at 6 pm on

Nov. 28th, Dec. 5th, 12th, & 19th. Vespers

are the evening prayer of the church and will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Following the Vesper service, all are welcome to view the video series of the Creed photographed and narrated by Bishop Robert Baron. This is a series well worth your time to view. Coffee and dessert will also be available. All are welcome.



Please consider signing up to give your donations to our parish online. It is very easy to do. You can donate either with a credit card or a check and choose how much you would like to give and how often: weekly, monthly, semi-monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. You can go directly to the website at <https://stjoepittsfield.weshareonline.org> to sign up. We thank you for your generosity during these difficult times.

LECTIO DIVINA GROUP

Starting this Advent, a Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) group will meet in the North Chapel every Monday from 6:30-7:30pm, led by Fr. Michael. The goal of this group is to hear, listen, pray and contemplate the Word of God. We will normally use the Gospel for the up coming Sunday for this. There will be group sharing and some Bible study, however, the main focus is contemplating the Word. First meeting will be Monday, Nov. 29th at 6:30.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. 4:00 p.m.	Sun. 9:00 a.m.	Sun. 11:30 a.m.
Pat Momnie	Anne Kozlowski	Sharon McClusky
Juliette Ekouah	Betty Kirby	Jackie Weatherwax
Robin O'Brien	MaryKay McClintock	Jeff Gerard

LECTORS

Sr. Jean Bostley	Sharon Vincent	Paul Mays
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**NOVEMBER 28, 2021
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

**MASST
REQUESTS**

Saturday, November 27th Gene Momnie Requested by Pat	4:00 PM
Sunday, November 28th Lena Scapin Requested by Rosemary Polidoro	9:00 AM
Alfonso Cirillo Requested by Family	11:30 AM
<i>Sanctuary Candle</i> Bob & Mary Traversa Requested by Vivian & Family	
Monday, November 29th Claire Karnoutsos Requested by John Caruso	12:10 PM
Tuesday, November 30th Anna Arace Requested by John Arasimowicz	12:10 PM
Wednesday, December 1st For the Parish	12:10 PM
Thursday, December 2nd All Souls	12:10 PM
Friday, December 3rd Kathy Broderick Requested by Nicolene & Paul Wendling	12:10 PM
Saturday, December 4th Bill Gilmore-1st Anniversary Requested by Family	4:00 PM



<p>READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Nov. 28, 2021 Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11 Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8</p>

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