



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” - Mk 13:33



**SATURDAY, November 28**

- 4:00PM † Mary Ellen Lasch by the Trustees & Foundation Directors of Albany LaSalle School
- † Robert Leyden by Lawrence Clarke
- † Michael D Filuta, Jr by the Hayes Family

**SUNDAY, November 29**

- 8:00AM † Robert & Katherine Langdon by the Cromie Family
- † Frances & Paul Ready by Dottie & Warren Roberts
- 10:30AM † Woody Maxwell by the Family
- † Amice M Bonomo by Mary Agnes Malkonian
- † Andrew Stanislaus Cole by the Cole Family
- 12:30PM (Latin) † Pasquale Tommarello by Catherine Tommarello

**MONDAY, November 30**

- 7:00AM Celebrant's Intention

**WEDNESDAY, December 2**

- 7:00AM † Margaret A Joyce by Deb & Andy Phelan

**FRIDAY, December 4**

- 7:00 AM † Laura Margaret Teresi by Bob Wolfgang

**SATURDAY, December 5**

- 4:00PM † Jessie Olivan by Kathy Olivan
- † John M Hayes by Lawrence Clarke
- † Patricia Sim by Arthur Fealey
- † Barbara Zupan by Ken & Mittsie Shannon

**SUNDAY, December 6**

- 8:00AM † Robert Leyden by Deb & Andy Phelan
- † James D'Agostino by Rory & Bernie Flannery
- 10:30AM † Suzanne Dunn by the Family
- † Paul & Virginia Longthon by Andrew Bigness
- † Bob & Barbara Roy and Frank & Esther Bulan by Family
- 12:30PM (Latin) † Joseph Dooley by Mary Dooley

**AWAKE AND ALERT**

Most people know the difference between right and wrong and even how they should live. But one of our many weaknesses as human beings is a lack of staying power. It's easy to stay on track for a while - propelled by a burst of enthusiasm or fear - but the

fire eventually cools and goes out. Think of the many New Year's resolutions that are made. They all go to that weird limbo-like place called "good intentions."

The first Christians faced the same problem: maintaining their spiritual and moral fervor, as they waited for the return of the Lord Jesus. The gospels are filled with parables of a sudden surprise visit by the Lord and the necessity of always being ready. Paul deals with it and adds that he prays that the people will also be found blameless on the day of the Lord - when Jesus returns for the resurrection and judgment.

Time passes, however, and Jesus has not made an appearance. People start to slide into moral and spiritual laxity. There's plenty of time but maybe he isn't coming. Maybe he already came and we didn't know it. But like a drumbeat, the warnings of the New Testament keep up the pace. The time is short, so be vigilant.

So how do we remain alert and awake centuries after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus? Our time on earth is short and fragile. Some live well into old age, others depart this world in the prime of their life. We could sit in silence and listen for the still inner voice of God. God has been trying to get our attention for some time. Being alert means becoming sensitive and aware of those around us, their needs, hopes and fears. Not to be outdone, there are many opportunities each day for simple but important acts and words of kindness, compassion and encouragement.

Jesus' exhortation to stay awake and alert is just as important now - maybe even more so - than it was in the first century, even if the reasons have shifted. Not knowing the moment of the Lord's return is positive and should not be the cause of fear. If we know Jesus could arrive on the scene at any moment, the proper response is a joyful desire to please and surprise him when he does.



Get ready for Advent - starting November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. You'll have a once-in-a-lifetime experience of Christmas because you've prepared for it in a unique way. Go to <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever> to sign up and to start receiving your daily Advent message.



**1st CANDLE** - (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** - We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

**2nd CANDLE** - (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** - God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

**3rd CANDLE** - (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** - The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

**4th CANDLE** - (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** - The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

**5th CANDLE** - (white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"** - The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

**OUTREACH APPEAL FOR CHRISTMAS**

Fall is in the air with cool days, chilly nights and color bursting forth. At the Outreach Center we are preparing for the Christmas Holidays. Out of an abundance of concern for all, we are changing how we do the holidays. We will not be putting Christmas gift requests on a giving tree in Church. We are asking if you could provide gift cards to either Target or Walmart so that our parents can purchase gifts for the children. You can place the gift card(s) in an envelope marked Outreach and place it in the collection basket, or mail it to the Parish Office, again, marked Outreach. If you wish, the Center is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 – 11:30 AM if you would like to drop it off. In order to give our parents time to shop, we would like to have the cards to distribute as soon as possible. Thank you for considering this request as we continue to serve those who are less fortunate than we, especially our children.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

Christmas will be here before we know it. Because of the ongoing Corona Virus and the need to limit the amount of people in church at any one time, we need to plan ahead. St. Mary's will keep the following Mass schedule this year: Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated at 2:00pm, 4:30pm, and 7:30pm. The Traditional Latin Mass will be celebrated at Midnight. On Christmas Day, Mass will be celebrated at 8:00am and 10:30am. We are requiring everyone to pre-register for the Mass that they plan to attend. We apologize for this inconvenience, but we wouldn't want to turn people away in the event that more showed up than we are permitted to accommodate. When your letter arrives in the mail, you can fill out the slip and drop it off in the collection basket, or you can put it in the mail to the parish office. If you have already made your reservation either by phone or email, then it is not necessary to duplicate the RSVP by filling out the slip. If you do not want to wait for the letter to make your RSVP, please email Holly at [holly.hayes@rcda.org](mailto:holly.hayes@rcda.org) or call (518)462-4254 to make your mass reservation. Thank you for understanding. It is our hope that as many people as possible will be able to celebrate the birthday of our Savior at Historic St. Mary's and that all will come together safely. God bless you and your loved ones as this time of preparation for Christmas is about to begin!

**PANDEMIC GOT YOU DOWN?**

If you have not already done so, we would recommend checking Rev. Tom Konopka's on-going series "Managing Stress and Anxiety during Difficult Times" on the diocesan website. His most recent series touches on a lot of our worries and anxieties during these strange times. To find the full series go to: <https://www.rcda.org/coronavirus>

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES SENDS THANK YOU!**

We recently received a letter from Catholic Charities extending a thank you to the people of St Mary's for your generous donation to the victims of the Beirut explosion.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL— HAS OPENINGS**

Blessed Sacrament School has immediate openings available for their 5 day in-person learning for grades Nursery through 8 Full day program 7:15am-3pm.—Aftercare to 5:25 Free breakfast & lunch—financial aid— call 518-438-5854.

**PARISH FINANCES**

**Thank you to all who continue to make their donations. It is a HUGE help. Please do what you can to assist the parish financially during this pandemic crisis. Over the past 6 months our collections are down significantly. Please do whatever you can to assist. Even though some cannot meet on a weekly basis at church, the bills must be paid and payroll must be met. Your contributions may be sent to the parish office or you may participate by using our "on-line" giving program (located on our parish website: [www.histstmarys.org](http://www.histstmarys.org)). Your help is greatly appreciated!**

**THIS YEAR'S BISHOP'S APPEAL IS DIFFERENT**

What stays the same is our participation. Every parish continues to have a target goal (an assessment). Therefore we count on your generous participation to help us meet our goal. Every bit of your donation will help St. Mary's since we must make up the difference at the end of the campaign. Please do your best to give what you did in past years. If you can do more— please do so, since a number of our parishioners have suffered financial loss and difficulties because of the pandemic. Parishioners should have received an appeal request. **We need your help—our goal is over \$143,000 and so far our donations total \$34,601.**

**MASS INTENTION REQUESTS**

Due to the CoVid Pandemic and the precautions we must take until the pandemic is over PLEASE do not come to the rectory to schedule mass intentions. Instead—please call the parish office or email Holly at [holly.hayes@rcda.org](mailto:holly.hayes@rcda.org) to schedule your intentions. If you are in need of a mass card immediately, please call the office so that Holly can have the card ready for you to pick up. Thanks you for your understanding and cooperation.

**MARIAN CONSECRATION & RENEWAL****WITH 33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY OR ANOTHER MARIAN CONSECRATION BOOK**

Bishop Ed is inviting everyone in the diocese to join him in a 33-day preparation period beginning this week. The preparation will culminate with the renewed Consecration to Jesus through Mary at our Cathedral on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Tuesday December 8 at 12:15 PM. Please join via Livestream: [rcda.org/Livestream](http://rcda.org/Livestream) or find the recording later at your convenience on the [diocesan YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...). Please check out [rcda.org/marianconsecration](http://rcda.org/marianconsecration) for more information.

**BE A PRAYER PARTNER TO POPE FRANCIS**

For those who have made the commitment to pray every day for the monthly intentions of Our Holy Father, Pope Francis: - for December he asks that we pray for: **For a Life of Prayer** We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

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