

St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

November 29, 2020

www.stwilliam.com



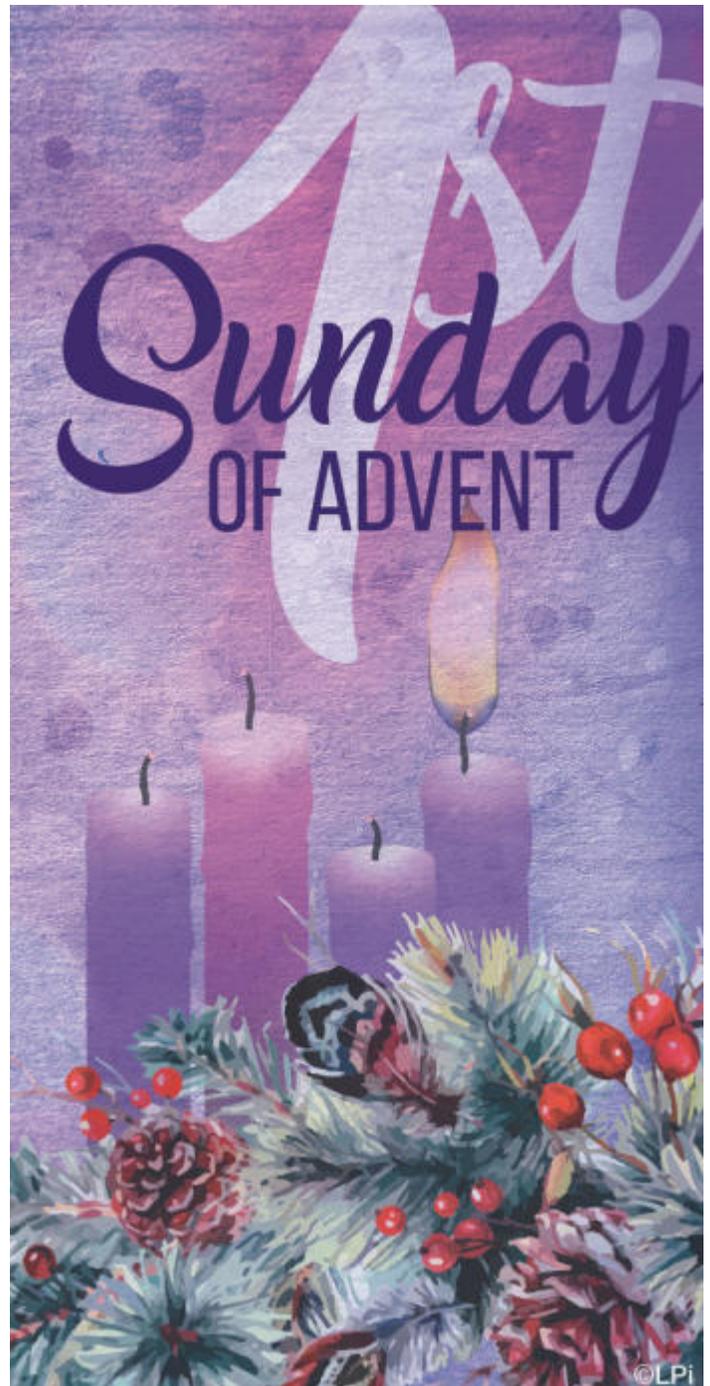
With this Sunday we begin the season of Advent, and it is the beginning of a *new liturgical year*. New beginnings are always a time of hope. Advent is the immediate preparation for Christmas, which seems to be a happy and hopeful time for most people. But this exciting, new beginning—Advent—always starts off with...*waiting!*

But “waiting”, whether for Christmas or for the second coming of the Lord is not simply “waiting around”. Rather, it is a time of *preparing*. An important element of preparation—when preparing for something important—is to assess where you stand at this point. Reflecting on where we are in our life is an important task. It provides a platform on which we can build our future. It provides a basis for new beginnings and a foundation for openness to God's grace. This assessment especially involves calling to mind God's gracious gifts within our lives, and *reflecting on how well we have gratefully responded to those graces*.

Perhaps there are times that we haven't responded well, and have missed opportunities. Perhaps there are times that we haven't even been *aware* of God's blessings—which makes it **really** hard to respond! Recognizing such failures, repenting of them, and determining to change is part of the process that leads to reconciliation with God, with others, and with ourselves.

Maybe this is why so many people typically

(Continued on page 3)



Parish Mission: *"To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can't help but proclaim it!"*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm,
Sunday *10:00 am (*also Live-streamed)
and Sunday 12:30 pm
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call Deacon Bob Dreyer at 624-1421, ext. 345. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

RECTORY

Email: Rectory1@stwilliam.com
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

Pastor	Rev. Michael G. Savickas	Ext. 346
Deacons	Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer Rev. Mr. John Liddle	Ext. 345
Baptisms	Dcn. Bob Dreyer	Ext. 345
Business Office		Ext. 341
Business Manager	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
Christian Service:	Mrs. Karen Sommers 248-624-8870	Ext. 344
Maintenance: Supervisor	(248) 669-5522 Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

Office of Faith Formation		(248) 624-1371
Dir. of Rel. Ed.	Dcn. Michael McCrandall	Ext. 307
Dir. Of Initiation	Mrs. Nancy Thomas	Ext. 306
Youth Ministry	Mrs. Karen Trojniak	Ext. 308
Music Ministry Dir.	Mr. Bill Richart	Ext. 310
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
School Office		(248) 669-4440
Principal	Mrs. Betsy Gabrish	Ext. 303
Secretary		Ext. 302
CYO Sports		
Athletic Director		ad@saintwilliam.net

Since Sunday Masses have been reduced to the public, contributions have greatly declined.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to Faithdirect.net, or follow the link from our website, www.stwilliam.com.



Offeritory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of Oct., 2020	*\$271,824	\$333,332	(\$61,508)

*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

(Continued from page 1)

choose to go to the Sacrament of Confession during Advent, which is the beginning of the new liturgical year. A new year, liturgical or calendar, is a natural time to reflect, and resolve to change what needs changing.

Typically during Advent we schedule additional times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, often with visiting priests to help. This year, I need not tell you, is far from typical. I don't anticipate the help of additional priests, and I am not yet sure when—or even if—we can schedule a Communal Reconciliation Service. (In the past, our communal celebrations relied on those extra priests to hear Confessions afterwards and give sacramental absolution individually.) I realize that with the lack of additional priests and the restrictions dictated by COVID, there won't be quite as many opportunities for sacramental Confession this Advent. That said, I'm going to extend myself as best as I can to offer additional times for private Confessions.

Whether you celebrate Confession sacramentally or not, it is still important for all of us each in our own way to come before the Lord prayerfully, contritely, and with the desire to turn from sin. Reflecting, repenting, and reconciling is a great way to open ourselves to embrace the *mission* the Lord has given us, to share the Good News and make disciples. Our Parish has embraced the Archbishop's challenge to reclaim that mission and "Unleash the Gospel".

In the Archbishop's letter (see **Marker 2.1**) he points out that "for many of us, even for clergy, there is a need for a renewed encounter with Jesus." And while he also points out that the aim of evangelizing is to lead others to life-changing encounters with Jesus, he notes that you can't give what you yourself don't have. At this parish, we're taking this "encounter" business seriously, so—although it's not firm yet—we are trying to once again pull together a special opportunity to encounter and reflect: an Advent "Candlelight Mass" with special guest musicians joining our own Bill Richart. The candlelight Mass was very warmly received last year. Stay tuned.

Yes, Advent is an ideal time for encounter and reflection, to be followed by a new beginning: a re-

commitment and a renewed determination to truly be disciples—or, more properly, "a joyful band of missionary disciples"! Each Liturgical Year is referred to as a "Year of Grace". On Saturday evening, November 28, we end the "Year of Grace, 2020". We might each take a moment to reflect on how grace-filled this past year has been. How well have I responded to the many opportunities, both joys and struggles, that have come my way? Have I had a real "attitude of gratitude"? (It's hard to truly be a disciple, to be a good steward awaiting the Master's arrival, without that attitude!) What, if anything, do I need to do differently during this new year, beginning now?

What's important is to choose to do *something*, and then follow through. It could be almost anything: setting the date for confession once the times are announced, using a meditation aid such as *The Word Among Us*, inviting someone who really needs it to join you for the Candlelight Mass, or setting aside special time for prayer. The question is, "What will I do to make this coming year, for me, truly the *Year of Grace, 2021*?"

In Jesus,
Fr. Michael

Mrs. Nancy Thomas, Director of Initiation
248-624-1371, ext. 306
nthomas@stwilliam.com



How Do I Become Catholic?

St. William Parish has a year round process for those adults who have not been baptized, or have been baptized in another tradition and wish to become Catholic. You may join the process at any time of the year.



The Giving Trees are up in the Tower Entrances filled with many tags. If you are able, please pick a tag to help a less fortunate child have a Merry Christmas. Please note, the tags indicate a due date when the gifts need to be returned. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Sommers at 248-624-8870. If you are not comfortable coming into the church due to the pandemic, call the rectory office, and we would be happy to pick a tag for you. You could then come to the office to get the tag, or we would be happy to email you the information on the tag. Please help us spread Jesus' love to others.

Welcome the Newly Baptized

Logan Ahad-Sabah

Sean Lee Oliver



St. Vincent de Paul Society

First Sunday of Advent:

As we begin Advent we are called to "Be watchful! Be alert" as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

The advertisement for Faith Direct features the logo at the top, which consists of the words "FAITH DIRECT" in a serif font with a white arc above the word "FAITH". Below the logo is the tagline "inspiring secure giving" in a smaller, lowercase font. The main image shows three people—a woman, a young girl, and an older woman—sitting together and looking at a tablet computer. They are all smiling and appear to be engaged in a shared activity. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark blue banner with white text that reads: "VISIT FAITH.DIRECT/MI1009 TO ENROLL OR MAKE A ONE TIME GIFT".



Right to Life — Lifespan

The First Three Months

So many people are willing to terminate the life of an unborn child during the first three months of pregnancy. This is really difficult to understand. The baby, infant, toddler, teen-ager, adult, senior citizen are ALL THE SAME PERSON. Size, development, age—none of these make the person any different from what he or she was when conceived—a new, unique, never to be repeated human being. For more information, please call the LIFESPAN office, 248-816-1546.



A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

First Sunday of Advent

Today's gospel tells us to "Be watchful." This comes natural to families. Parents are watchful of their children's health, grades and friends. Children are watchful of parental moods. Today's gospel encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love and forgiveness of your family. "Be watchful," the Lord is already with you.



USCCB Word of Life

"Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"
respectlife.org/gospel-of-life-summary

In the Unexpected

"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

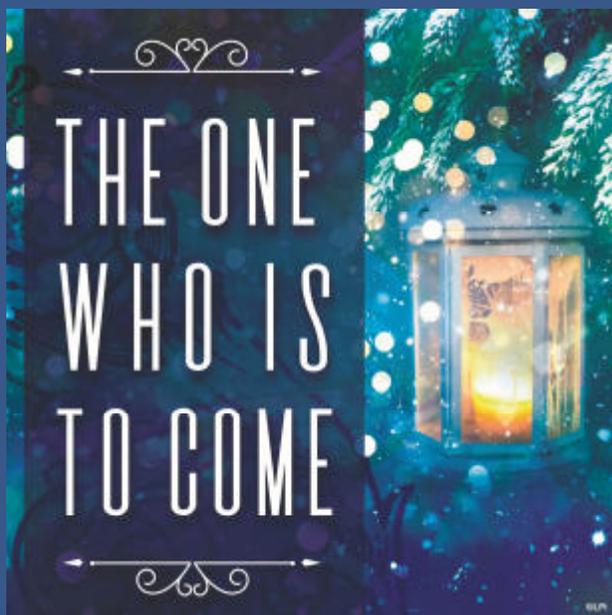
This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, ©LPi



Live the Liturgy

Be watchful! Be alert! The core message of Advent cannot be more direct or simple. As those who are postured in a spirit of readiness and anticipation, we must always be attentive and vigilant. We have to be ready not only for the anticipated arrival of our Lord, but watchful and attentive to the unexpected visit as well. While we know that the Christ is coming, we also do not know the exact time. Cultivating this expectant attitude is the purpose of this season. It is easy to grow slack, inattentive, and too self-assured. We can easily deaden ourselves to the wonder and surprise of God's presence. We get so absorbed in so many other distractions that it can seem like Christ's second coming, and even Christ's coming in time are of lesser importance. When it finally dawns on us that we have wandered far away from where we need to be, and lost our attentiveness and focus, we will wonder how this all happened. We may even try to put the onus on God and blame God for a lack of involvement or presence. We are the ones, who through our own choice, put the distance in our relationship and lost touch. Now it's time to come back and perk ourselves up a bit!



SACRED HEART
MAJOR SEMINARY

“Behold Thy Mother: Getting to Know the Blessed Virgin Mary”

Why did God choose Mary to be the one through whom Jesus would come? How can she help us be better missionary disciples of Jesus? Prepare yourself for Christmas with a free interactive online study hosted by Sacred Heart Major Seminary: *Behold Thy Mother: Getting to Know the Blessed Virgin Mary*. Dr. Robert Fastiggi, a renowned Mariologist, will offer reflections on the beautiful teachings of our Catholic faith about our Blessed Mother. Each week a different member of the Sacred Heart faculty will also introduce us to one of Mary's apparitions (Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, and Kibeho).

Come and join us this Advent as we get to know better the Blessed Virgin Mary! The course starts November 29, but you can access the course now. Learn more and register for this wonderful opportunity at shms.edu/mary.



Plenary Indulgence Opportunity Extended Through November

A plenary or full indulgence for the remission of temporal punishment due to sin can typically be obtained for a soul in purgatory during the first week in November. This year, because of the pandemic, the plenary indulgence may be obtained throughout the whole month of November.

The full indulgence is traditionally offered on All Souls Day, November 2, for those who visit a church or oratory and recite the Our Father and the Creed.

This year, those who cannot leave their homes may also receive the plenary indulgence if they recite prayers for the deceased or reflect on the Gospel reading used in a Mass for the dead before an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary. The indulgence may also be received by performing an act of mercy.

In all cases, the normal requirements set by the Church for obtaining a plenary indulgence must be fulfilled:

- Having a spirit detached from sin
- Going to confession as soon as possible
- Receiving the Eucharist as soon as possible
- Praying for the Pope's intentions (an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be)
- Being united spiritually with the faithful

Only one plenary indulgence for a soul in purgatory may be received on a given day.

OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”

Let’s Learn about the Saints!

The middle school students recently completed their Saint Research Projects. There were many points of interest to research, including virtues, symbols and sacraments that are associated with the saint.

Pictured here are just a few of the projects that make up our "Saint Museum" his year!



upcoming events

December

2 No School

21 Christmas Break begins

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Amazon Smile
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Select St. William School as charity
We will receive 0.5% of all
eligible purchases

Mass Intentions:

Tuesday, Dec. 1

8:00 am

Bernadine Pepple (D) St. William Parish

Wednesday, Dec. 2

8:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

Thursday, Dec. 3

8:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

Saturday, Dec. 5

4:30 pm

Dave Kozora (D) wife; **Pham, Ngoc & Hoang families (D)**; **Cas & Dorothy Kowalczyk (D)** Norine; **Howard Phillips (D, 17 yr. Anniv.)** family; **Columb Harrison (D)** St. William Parish; **Thomas Roe (D)** and **Stanley Swazes (D)** Roe family

Sunday, Dec. 6

10:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

12:30 pm

Marie Hibbeln (D) Ray; **Victor Micallef (D)** St. William Parish; **Geraldine Matkowski (D)** St. William Parish; **James O'Flynn (D)** Family; **Sadler-Geoffrey family (L&D)**

Intercessory Prayers

Intercessory prayer boxes have been placed in the tower entrances. Our Intercessory Prayer Teams will lift your intentions up in prayer for two weeks. You may also email your prayer requests by clicking the link on our website, www.stwilliam.com. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

Readings for the week

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

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

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

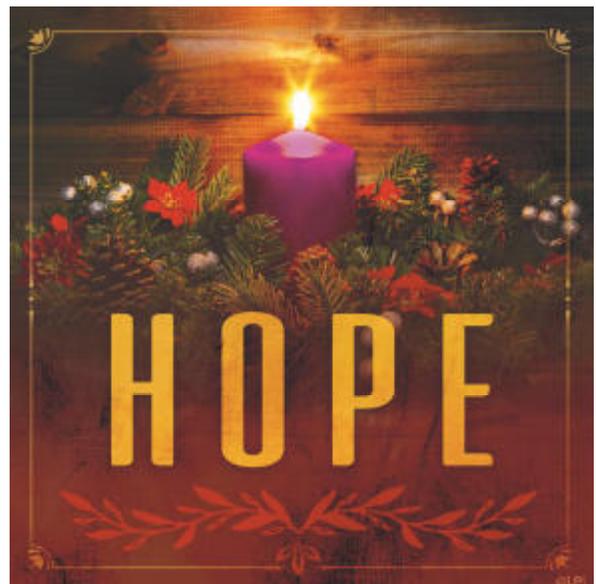
All-powerful and ever-lasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ♦Andrew Hailo | ♦Mary Beth Walsh |
| ♦Baby Henrik | ♦Mary Ellen Trott |
| ♦Baby Lilith | ♦Michael McCarthy |
| ♦Carol Lyons | ♦Morgan Elliott |
| ♦Colleen Wolf | ♦Pam Flanigan |
| ♦Courtney Kirby | |
| ♦Dustin Bachman | Residents of: |
| ♦Frederick Counts | ♦Bloomfield Villa |
| ♦Fr. Christopher Rozdilski | ♦Brookdale |
| ♦Ginny Thompson | ♦First & Main |
| ♦Jack Moores | ♦Henry Ford |
| ♦Jim Bertin | ♦Maple Manor |
| ♦Joe Schuld | ♦Novi Lakes |
| ♦John Shubsda | ♦Serenity |
| ♦Lilith | ♦Sunrise Senior Ctr. |
| ♦Marty Lada | ♦Waltonwood |



Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them—Rev. 14:13

James Babel



Gospel Meditation

1st Sunday of Advent

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate!

Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent.

Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they



come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them!

God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of

Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

©LPi

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

Answer:

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.



©LPI

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel.

WATCH
READY
TIME

COME
MASTER
EVENING

MIDNIGHT
DAWN
MORNING

U W A T H O W Y S W U
M O R N I N G T I E L
A T Y U T K U A G V P
S U N H A Y C O M E Y
T I M E W I H P A N D
E C B W U E W I E I A
R E A D Y L A N O N L
Y H O A E I T E H G E
S A R W L S C P Y H W
M I D N I G H T W O R
A T E K U A O U S F I

MISSION

Play a quick game of baseball. Cheer for one another. End the game with a prayer that you will keep your eyes on Jesus.

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