

**Saint Christina Parish of Turner County
PO Box 610 Parker, South Dakota 57053**

Sunday, November 28, 2021

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light” (Is 9:2). Have you ever tried to walk around in pitch black darkness? Have you ever stumbled around with your arms stretched out trying to feel for anything that you recognize? Have you ever felt the fear of not knowing what or who was in a room as you strain your eyes to make out any shape whatsoever? It is not a pleasant experience. It makes you feel small, vulnerable, and powerless.

Now imagine that in your awkward stumbling you finally find the light switch and turn it on. What is that experience like as soft light completely illuminates what was just total darkness? Maybe it is slightly uncomfortable at first as your eyes adjust to this burst of light. Once your eyes have adjusted, however, you can feel that sweet feeling of safety and security as you can see everything in that room. Perhaps it is a familiar room, and you have the joy of recognizing your couch, your table, and your TV.

The feeling of walking in the darkness is just a pale comparison of what the world felt like before Jesus. Instead of just the darkness of a room without light, the world before Jesus had to experience the darkness of a life without hope. Before the birth of Jesus, human beings had to live in the terrible darkness of despair.

This was because there was the ever-present reality of sin and death, but there was no way out of it. It is the feeling of having a disease without a cure. With the birth of Jesus, a new light shines and hope is born. Jesus is the remedy to sin and death; he is holiness and life. Jesus is the healing for the disease. Jesus is hope that overcomes despair; he is light that overcomes any darkness.

Before Jesus was born, the people of God longed for the hope that he would bring. They were tired of walking in darkness. They were sick of being afraid and without hope. As we start Advent this week, we can lean into this same longing. Maybe we can take some time this week and call to mind those places where we struggle to hope in our families, our careers, our nation, or our Church. We can then long for the light that shines with the coming of Jesus. Zachariah, Jesus' uncle, sings a song of hope right before the birth of his son John the Baptist and the birth of his nephew, Jesus. In that song he says "Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from Heaven is about to break upon us." (Lk 1:78). This is our reason for hope as we begin Advent. We do not need to find the light switch. God, in his merciful love, turns the light on for us. The light will turn on in a manger during a quiet night in Bethlehem when a baby is born.

**God bless,
Fr. Tyler**

Email: frtylermattson@sfcatholic.org

WEEKLY MASSES—— St. Christina

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 28th: Mass 11:00AM

Tuesday, November 30th:

**Confessions 5:00PM Holy Mass 6:00PM
Int. +John Cink**

**Thursday, December 2ⁿ Holy Mass 8:00AM
Int. +Kevin Leber**

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 5th: Mass 11:00AM

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**Religious Education Christmas Program
Sunday, December 12th at 5:00PM
Pre-Kindergarten thru 6th Grade**

**Practice Times: Sunday, Nov. 28—9:30 to 10:30am
Wednesday, Dec. 1st-5:30 to 6:30pm Choir Practice
and Regular Class
Sunday, December 5th-9:30 to 10:30am
Wednesday, December 8th-6:00pm :
EVERYONE report to Practice for run-through.**

**Sunday, December 12th 9:30 to 10:30am (if needed)
Students report at 4:30pm before the program.**

**Pot Luck Lunch:
East Side bring Salad/Desserts;
West side bring Sandwiches.**

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**If you are able to serve in any way at the Masses
for Christmas, please contact the Parish Office.**

**Christmas Eve Mass at 6:30pm;
Christmas Day Mass at 11:00am.**

Office: 297-4983

First Sunday of Advent

Bud Ozar

At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. Today's gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciate the gift of people in our life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.

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St. Christina Church Support: Deposited

Monday, November 22nd, 2021:

**33 Env. Reg. Giving \$1844.00; 1 Env. Reg. Giving \$80.00;
Loose Giving \$48.10; 1 Env. Fuel Fund \$100.00;
1 Env. Hall Rent \$35.00.**

Thank You for your Generous Treasure.

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**The Christmas Flowers are being ordered.
There is an Envelope in your box if you wish to donate
for a plant with your family members name on it.**

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**“PARISH POTLUCK!
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th,
Following Mass**

**Pork loin and potatoes will be provided and
Served by the Parish Council!**

**Please bring an item to share depending on
what side of the church you normally sit on:**

EAST SIDE: Salads

WEST SIDE: Desserts

We hope to see you all there!

**“This is a wonderful opportunity for us to
gather as a parish and build community.”**

Fr. Tyler