

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

Sunday, December 5, 2021

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Waiting is hard. In our age of instant gratification with smartphones giving us immediate information and Amazon giving us any product under the sun in two days, waiting can feel agonizing. We live in a society when everything seems to happen at the speed of light, so if we are told that we have to wait for something, we almost feel cheated. God, on the other hand, seems to have no problem with waiting. St. Peter tells us in his second letter, “But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day” (2: Peter 3:8). God, who lives in the reality of eternity, does not deal with time in the same way that we do. While we look for instant gratification, God is in the long game, slowly preparing and working to achieve his plan of love in the world. Just think, scientists say that the Universe is nearly 14 billion years old; this means that God waited 14 billion years to create you and me. And I think that if we were to ask God, he would say it was worth the wait!

The Church wisely gives us a season to practice waiting. It is the season of Advent that we are currently living. It is a season of preparation. It is a season to curb our desire for instant gratification by entering into the eternal reality of God. This can be illustrated with the tradition of putting presents underneath the Christmas tree.

Every single person wishes he or she could open gifts right away. Yet, we know that there is grace in waiting till Christmas. In fact, the waiting is part of what makes opening the gifts so enjoyable. As we waited, our desire for the gifts grew so that our pleasure in receiving the gifts could grow too. Herein lies the wisdom of waiting. Waiting increases our desire and when our desire grows, so too does our capacity to receive the good. In other words, we can actually receive more goodness by waiting.

I realize that it is nearly impossible to avoid the consumeristic nature of secular Christmas. We are bombarded by Christmas music, Christmas decorations, and constant messaging that we are in Christmas now. Yet, as hard as it is, we should do what we can to appreciate the period of waiting that we are in during this season of Advent. Perhaps, we can take some time for some extra prayer, silence, and even fasting as we wait for Christmas. The waiting is not easy, but it will make the joy of Christmas that much more profound. Remember, God takes his time. He is not rushed. He is eternal. May this Advent be an opportunity for us to slow down and wait with God.

**God bless,
Fr. Tyler**

Email: frtylerrmattson@sfcatholic.org

WEEKLY MASSES— St. Christina

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 5th: Mass 11:00AM

++Tuesday, December 7th: Confessions 5:00PM

**“Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary” Holy Mass 6:00PM**

**(Patronal Feast Day of the
United States of America)**

Int: Tom Even & family

**++TEA: Wed., Dec. 8th Masses: 7:00AM & 6:00PM
“Feast of the Immaculate Conception”**

**++Thursday, December 9th: Holy Mass 8:00AM
Int. +Ken & Rosemary Dains**

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 12th: Mass 11:00AM

Confessions: 3:45 to 4:45PM

Before Christmas Program

+++++

Religious Education Christmas Program

Sunday, December 12th at 5:00PM

Pre-Kindergarten thru 6th Grade

Practice Times: Sunday, December 5th 9:30 to 10:30am

Wed., Dec. 8th-6:00pm - EVERYONE –PRACTICE

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

Pot Luck Lunch Following Program:

East Side bring Salad/Desserts;

West side bring Sandwiches.

Second Sunday of Advent

Bud Ozar

Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families.

This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"

+++++++

St. Christina Church Support: Deposited

Monday, November 29th, 2021:

**44 Env. Reg. Giving \$2049.00; Loose Giving \$81.00;
Candles \$5.00; 1 Env. Fuel \$600.00; 1 CFSA \$65.00;
1 Env. Hall Rent \$35.00; 2 Env. Christmas Flowers \$60.00.
Thank You for your Generous Treasure.**

+++++++

If you have not sent a Pledge for CFSA 2021, please be a generous as you are able. Several of the CFSA Pledge Payments are not complete at this time.

CFSA helps so many different programs for the young and old in the Diocese. Please help as you can and Thank You for your Generous Treasure.

+++++++

"PARISH POTLUCK TODAY"

Following Mass

PLEASE, JOIN US.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather as a parish and build community."

Fr. Tyler