CHURCH OF ST. ANN

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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"Prepare the way of the Lord." - Mk 1:3

PARISH LIFE



Monday 8:00am	12-7-20 David Palmer Jr. rq by Loving Sister
<i>Tuesday</i> 8:00am	12-8-20 Jim Killeen rq by Loving Wife & Children
Wednesday	12-9-20
8:00am	Albie Hickey rq by Joe Dickey
Thursday	12-10-20
8:00am	Special Intentions for Sr. Edwardine Brown rq by Loving Friends
Friday	12-11-20
8:00am	Josephine Missimer rq by Loving Daughter
<i>Saturday</i> 5:00pm	12-12-20 Arlene Tighe rq by The Loving Friends Killeen & O' Donnell Families rq by Loving Family Barbara Puglisi rq by Jeanie Keith & Family
Sunday 8:00am	12-13-20 Dec. Mbrs. of the Graham & Byrn Families rq by Loving Family Barbara Puglisi rq by Jim & Kathleen Byrne
10:30am	The Sparacello Family rq by Loving Family
6:00pm	Purgatorial Society of St. Ann





The Sanctuary Lamp is available for special intentions. The Lamp burns weekly for deceased members of a family or requests for a special intention. The donation is \$20. Please call the Rectory for further information.. This week's Sanctuary Lamp burns for

> Barbara Puglisi rq by Loving Friends and Family

<u>Masses</u> Mon - Fri 8A, Sat 5P, Sun 9A. <u>Office Hours</u> Mon - Fri 9A - 1P. <u>Church Hours</u> Mon - Fri 8:30A - 12P. <u>Confessions</u> Sat 1P - 2P *inside* the church sacristy.

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WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

SUN 12/6	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
MON 12/7	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
TUE 12/8	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
WED 12/9	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
THR 12/10	ls 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
FRI 12/11	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
SAT 12/12	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/
SUN 12/13	ls 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [ls 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday:	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Friday:	St. Damasus I, Pope
Saturday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Prepare the way of the Lord! The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Given the humble means of our lives, how can we do this? It certainly does not require that we stand on street corners announcing God's future coming! We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing our lives of unnecessary, distracting clutter. By creating solid and deep spiritual lives, we can heighten our awareness of God's presence and help people point to and discover God's presence around them. By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know. As the world sometimes frantically unfolds around us, we can be people of patience who show others that it's okay to wait for God's gift to come. Conducting our lives in this manner, we will know the peace that comes from doing what we have been asked to do.

2nd OF ADVENT



ALC A Quiet your heart.

SIR



FIRST READING:

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! (Is 40:3)



PSALM:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)



SECOND READING:

The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. (2 Pt 3:10)



GOSPEL:

"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mk 1:7b-8)

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WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

LITURGICAL LIFE



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments Jubilation to Share

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!





WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?

Answer:

Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have "endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life." (Amoris Laetitia, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, "The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty." (AL, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect," but "a powerful medicine and nourishment" (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

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Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths."

- Mk 1:2b-3

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LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Five hundred years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied these words of comfort and hope to the Israelites captive in Babylon. What would bring comfort and hope to you in this season of Advent?

Second Reading:

Today we hear how Peter challenged those in his day who denied that Christ would return. Peter argued that our human timeline is not God's timeline. How do you reason with people today who deny the fundamentals of our faith?

Gospel:

Mark opens his Gospel by presenting the words and activities of John the Baptist in the context of fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy heard in our first reading. Why do you think connecting Isaiah to John the Baptist was important to Mark and his community?



LITURGICAL LIFE

3 EASY STEPS

To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



Wash Your Hands

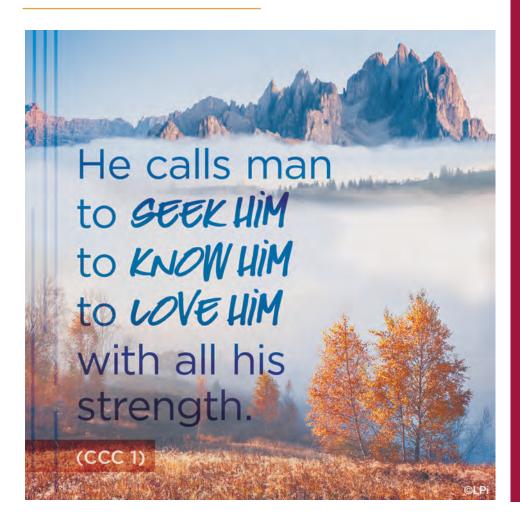
Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

Don't Touch Your Face

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

Keep Your Distance

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. *John was clothed* in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. *He fed on locusts* and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." - Mk 1:4, 6-7a

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