



First Sunday of Advent
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Hamburg, Iowa November 28, 2021

Advent: Awakening to New Light

Advent is the time of anticipation of the coming of Christ, a time of special preparation of our hearts to experience the spiritual awakening to the new light of Christ dispelling the darkness in life. "Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace, and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time the patriarchs and prophets eagerly awaited, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced to see. This is the season that the church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery" (St. Charles Borromeo).

I want to reflect on the three signs that you have expanded your awareness of the Spiritual Awakening of Christ.

- **Self-Witness.** The first sign of the expansion is that you can observe yourself from a place of neutrality in all your human fear, emotion, pain, and conflict. This is self-witness: *a spiritual presence* within yourself that *observes and accepts without judgment or emotion*. With the company of self-witness, you can gain a bit of breathing room around what you are experiencing from a human perspective. You can be curious about yourself without the need to change what you are going through. Come before the Lord daily for a few minutes and close your eyes, relax and see what is happening within you “Be vigilant at all times” (Luke 21:36) so that you are well aware of what is going on within you and able to be present to the presence of Christ within you.
- **The Lens of Love.** The next sign that you are expanding into spiritual consciousness is that you meet everything and everyone that comes your way through a lens of love and gratitude. *Love invites in*. Love trusts that everything that happens has been manifested *for you* in service to your growth. “Abound in love for one another and all” (1Thess 3:12). Welcome people as Christ.
- **Breaking free of polarities.** Because you can go beyond the mind of polarities and separation into the spiritual consciousness of wholeness and oneness in Christ, the mind is no longer in control. Still, the Spirit takes over and helps you to see the life beyond. Addictions and attachment to the material things go away to the new appreciation of hidden wholeness in people, nature, and animals becoming a reality. The ever-green Advent Wreath reminds us of the wholeness of life beyond the polarities of division, distress, and darkness. “To you O’ Lord I lift up my soul” (Ps 25:4). The friendship of the Lord is really powerful to break free addictions and manage the polarities of life. Welcome to the experience of the new freedom and joy in Christ during this Advent season.



Advent: Setting our spiritual priorities.

Advent should be a calm and peaceful time, but its often the busiest time of the year! The season of Advent is meant to point us towards heaven. Draw closer to each other, in our families, our friendships, and in our parishes, to remind each other of the end goal. This pathway to heaven leads to eternal life in the holy presence of God. All of our long held family customs have drawn us closer to Christ this time of year. Be encouraged to pass the light of Christ on to your children and grandchildren!

Advent Spiritual Practices for young and old:)

- 1) The Advent Wreath, put it in a special place in your home, a place you gather, and pray. Light a new candle each Sunday of Advent.
- 2) Advent Calendar, would help small children be aware of the happy expectancy of Advent, opening a "door" for each Day of Advent.
- 3) St. Nicholas' Day, DECEMBER 6th,,,"this saint discreetly threw alms through a window as a dowry for three young girls, who would otherwise have been sold into slavery, according to the custom of the day. For this good deed God rewarded him by giving him permission to walk the streets of the earth on the eve of his feast, bringing gifts to all good children"...Some places Children put their shoes by their door on the Eve of St. Nicholas' Day, and find them filled with candy or fruit the next morning. Taken from "Around the Year with the VonTrapp Family."
- 4) Your home Nativity. Set it up in stages, and each week add more visitors to the Nativity, with the Christ Child at Christmas. Small children may love to find the Three Wise Men, moving about your home, closer and closer to the Nativity scene to arrive at Epiphany (Sunday January 2, 2022, this year)
- 5) At the beginning of Advent, choose a person who will be in your special care for the season of Advent. You can do many little favors for him or her, including offering your prayers, as often as you can. This person is your Advent Angel!

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.



The Jesse tree was created to help people link the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading up to Jesus birth. The tradition of decorating Christmas trees actually predates the arrival of Christianity in western Europe and was adopted by the early Church. In order to associate the custom more clearly with Christianity, people made Jesse trees—Christmas trees with decorations related to the events of Jesus’ birth and the prophecies about him in the Old Testament. Many parishes and families make Jesse trees during Advent to remind them of these events as they prepare for Christmas. The Jesse Tree is a beautiful Advent tradition that many Christians use to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It’s a kind of special Advent countdown calendar that is focused on the true meaning of the season, and it is a great way to teach children about the plan of redemption from creation through salvation, tying the Old Testament to the New Testament! It is not hard or complicated, and it does NOT have to involve a ton of work or money! This is a very doable Advent tradition for families, and even classrooms.



Hearty Condolence and Prayers for Eunice Travis.

Our beloved parishioner Eunice passed away on November 22nd at 8:05 pm at the Hamburg Hospital surrounded by Family. Fr. Tom visited with her and offered prayers and the sacrament of Anointing for her final journey. May God grant her eternal peace and glory in heaven. Our prayers also with the bereaved Travis Family.

The Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Monday, November 29th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary’s Hamburg. The visitation will be on Sunday from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Marshall Funeral Home in Sidney with Rosary @ 6.

Coming Soon.....

Nov. 28—NO Religious Ed Classes—1st Sunday of Advent

Dec. 1—Mini Retreat—6p.m-7:15p.m.

Dec. 5—Religious Ed classes—Pageant practice.

Dec. 8—10 am bible study

Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception mass @ 6 pm (Holy Day of Obligation)

Dec. 12—Religious Ed classes—Pageant practice

St. Mary's Video

The links for the videos that were done for us have been sent via email. Hope you have had a chance to view them. If not, the they are available on 'You Tube -St. Marys Hamburg Ia'. or **St. Mary's facebook page**. We are very grateful to our Diocese, Bishop Joensen, and 79 other parishes for supporting our parish project. May God bless all of us.

Readings for the week of 11—28—21

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

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

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: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES
JOSH SIMMONS
JACOB ANDERSON
DERRICK HUBARD
STEVEN ANDERSON



Your Contributions

Nov. 14, 2021

Tithes--\$1260.00

Plate--\$64.00

Coffee--\$33.00

Nov. 21, 2021

Tithes--\$1300.00

Plate--\$206.00

Coffee--\$42.00

Thank You!!

12-1— Marvel Travis

12-3—Joe Whitehead

12-4— Andrew Welch

12-5 —June Van Scyoc

12-6 —Cora Hirner



12-4-Jim & Cheryl Owen

12-7-Henry & Helen Martin

12-13-Dean & Shelly Mount

12-26-Dan & Lori Goodman

12-27-Marty & Ruth Paper

12-29-Jeff & Lisa Phillips

Greg Andersen
Grady Secht
Reese Kemp
LeRoy Herscheid
Mary Lou Miller
Dottie Dankof
Isacc Durr
Todd Quick
Verona Mitchell
Joel Loggins
Kenneth Russell
Bill Long
Henry Johnsen
Lawrence DuBois
Pat Sheldon
Joe Kirk
Tim Konecny
Esther McCowan
Shawn Collins
Drake Travis
Martha Gude
Bill & Gloria Green
Larry Dalton
Zayne Osborn
Anna Weber
Alan Briggs
Dee Ann Crews
Robert Haughton
Maurie Maher
Janet Rummel
Jennifer McAllister
Lowell Dankof

2021	November 28 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30	December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30	December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30	December 19 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30	December 24 Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 p.m.
Lector	Kathleen Lorimor	Linda Dewhirst	Michael Gallagher	Rick Jamison	Dave Dowling
Mass Setup	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie
Cantor	Kim /sons	Youth Choir	Beth	Youth Choir	Youth Choir
Accompanist	Donna	Guitars	Donna	Guitars	Guitars
Server	Mia Foster	Keeley Mount	Kylee Foster	Emily Hutt	Joe Roberts Seth Ettleman
Usher and Greeter	Joe & Robbie Travis	Marty & Carolyn Maher	Rick & Teresa Jamison	Vince & Susan Hilton	Joe & Robbi Travis
Coffee & donuts	Dave & Kate Roberts	Terry & Kim Travis	No Coffee and Donuts HS kids and parents meet	Tim and Donna Whelan Annie Wakefield	Christmas gathering
RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES	No Pre k - 8	Pre k - 8	Pre k - 8	Christmas Pageant	
PASTOR		PASTORAL ASSISTANT		BOOKKEEPER	
Fr. TomThakadipuram 712-246-1718 Shen(office) 712-382-4316 (Hamburg)		Cheryl Phillips 712-350-0169 (c) cheryljphil@gmail.com		Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.350.0368 (c)	

"If you are really humble, if you realize how small you are and how much you need God, then you cannot fail."

MOTHER TERESA

