

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, MOBRIDGE, SD

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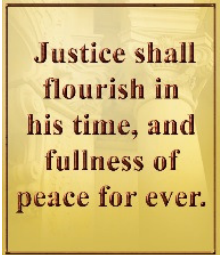
Meditation for the Second Sunday of Advent

The purpose of Advent is to prepare the way of the Lord, Who is coming to us in a new personal way this Christmas season. But there are different kinds and degrees of preparation. The Church teaches with John the Baptist that our preparation for Christ’s coming this Christmas needs to be very extensive. We even need a baptism of repentance, that is, to be immersed in repentance.

Our preparation for Christ this Christmas is comparable to a major excavation where mountains are made low and the fill dirt is used to fill in the valleys so as to make a rough road smooth and a crooked road straight. While the world gives us the picture of Santa Claus with a bag of presents, the Church presents the scene of the wild prophet, John the Baptist, driving a Komatsu super earth-mover to bury our sins.

Very few of us believe that Christmas is so great and we are so sinful as to require such an earthquake of preparation. However, the Church is right. We need a big Advent to have a true Christmas.

Prayer: Father, send the Holy Spirit so that I will not minimize but maximize Advent.



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Mon Dec. 9, 5:30 pm Cronin Family [Rdr:Audrey]
Tue. Dec. 10, 5:30 pm †Dick Erdmann [Rdr: JoAnn]
Wed. Dec. 11, 8:00 am †Maria Spilos [Rdr: Ida]
No Mass Thurs. *Fr. Bill’s day away*
Fri. Dec. 13, 5:30 pm †Harry Day [Rdr: Theresa]
Sat. Dec. 14, 5:30 pm †Margaret Erdmann
Sun. Dec. 15, 8:00 am *People of the Parish*
Sun. Dec. 15, 10:00am †Colleen Rohlfs

Choir this Wednesday 6:30 pm
Food Pantry Dec: Peanut Butter

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Curt Vojta, Bill Zacher, Marchell Phillips, Jim Volk, Kenny Holzer, Lolis Linde, Pat Laintz, Jack Perman, Jan Scherr, LaVonne Dietrich, Jim Krause, Colleen Froseth, Terry Lundberg, Ron Leibel, Maria Van Vliet, Sharon Neuharth, Dr. Mike Holland, Rachel Hoisington, Marilyn Bohlander, John Tillman, Nehemiah Bauer, Laura Goldade, Alyssa Keller, Mark Nordstrom, James Parisien, Doug Orth, Bobby Zerr, Lisa Anderson.

Christmas Eve Mass:
Tuesday, December 24 - 4:30 pm
Christmas Day Mass
Wednesday, December 25 - 9:00 am

Advent Confession Times
Fridays 4:15 – 5:00 pm
Saturdays 4:15 – 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 15 - 4:00 pm [2 priests]
Sunday, December 22 - 4:00 pm [4 priests]

Immaculate Conception of Mary is this Monday, December 9th: Mary was conceived in the state of perfect justice, free from Original Sin and its consequences, in virtue of the redemption achieved by Christ on the cross. In this sense, the privilege of the Immaculate Conception was the anticipated fruit of Christ’s saving passion, death, and resurrection. It was only fitting that she who was to bear the Savior of the world should herself be preserved by Him from sin and its consequences and so be the first to benefit from what He would obtain for the whole human race. Mass will be at **5:30 pm**. *Not a Holyday of obligation this year.*



LIFETOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY BEGINS THIS WEEK: We will begin picture taking sessions this Tuesday, December 10, continuing over the weekend, and ending on Monday, December 16. Please check your calendars and be on time. ***Go to the Parlor, not the parish hall, for your appointment, entering through the North West doors.*** If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call Audrey Lesmeister at 845-3035.

CRE Teacher’s Meeting Wednesday, Dec. 18th at 6:30 pm - NO CRE Classes.

Your help is needed after a snow event to help clean the church, school and rectory sidewalks.
Thank you to those who helped following the recent snowfall!

Parish Potluck and Christmas Decorating—Sunday, December 22 following the 10:00 am Mass. Please bring a dish to pass. Pitch in to help decorate the church or serve the meal. Child care will be provided.

First Reconciliation for our Second graders will be this Saturday, Dec. 14th at 10:30 am. Please be on time.

The flowers in the sanctuary this weekend were provided by the Maria Spilos family in her memory and by the Jan Scherr family in memory of Frank, Mike, Elizabeth, and Mandy. Thank you!

All are invited to attend the 80th birthday open house for Al Gorham in the Parlor on Dec. 21, 2:00-5:00 pm.

God’s blessings be with Terry & Nancy Schweitzer on Dec. 23 which marks their 30th wedding anniversary.

Advent Baby Shower: Please bring NEW gifts, including clothing sizes newborn to 12 months, and place them in the cradle set up in the main entrance. See posters at church entrances for further information.

Memorials for Christmas Wreaths may be given for loved ones. A limited number of 36" inside wreaths are available. You **must** call the parish office at 845-2100 prior to paying.

Flower Offering Envelope can be found in the pews to use for making an offering for Christmas flowers. If you would like to donate towards flowers as a memorial for deceased loved ones or in honor of someone living, please note the name/s clearly on the flap side of the envelope. Thank you.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is this Thursday: Mary appeared in Mexico as the pregnant Mother of God to Blessed Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, on December 9, 10, and 12, 1531. She left a Miraculous Image of her appearance on his cactus fiber cloak, or “tilma”, which still exists today for all to see in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Our Lady came to offer faith, hope and consolation to the oppressed natives of Mexico and to reconcile them with their Spanish rulers. She put an end to the bloody human sacrifice of the Aztecs and converted ten million natives in the next 10 years!

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:

- Have I put God first in my life by saying my prayers and going to Mass?
- Have I misused God’s name?
- Have I lied, not being honest in what I say?
- Have I stolen anything, taking and keeping what does not belong to me?
- Have I cheated in any way?
- Have I gossiped, saying bad things about others?
- Have I gotten angry at others, refusing to forgive them?
- Have I been slothful, not striving to grow in my faith?
- Have I been greedy, wanting to get more for myself than others?
- Have I been prideful, thinking I’m better than others?
- Have I been selfish, not sharing with God, the Church, and others?
- Have I failed to love by not being kind and doing good things when I can?
- Have I been jealous, sad because someone has more or is better than myself?

An Act of Contrition

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more, to amend my life, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

Alpha is for EVERYONE!
Sign up to reserve your spot today!

We have some exciting news to pass on to you! We are about ready to launch our second Alpha Course here at St. Joseph Parish. The team is hoping that many of you will accept the invitation to come together to get to know other members of the parish and build a sense of community as you share conversations about faith, life and Jesus.

Alpha is an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss the meaning of life in a safe and friendly environment. This happens as we share a delicious meal, watch a short, engaging talk and share in conversation about the topic. Don’t worry, there’s no obligation to say anything, no cost, no pressure and no commitment. Just come and relax and be our guest as you meet other parishioners.

We are overjoyed to share with you that St. Joseph’s first Alpha Course was a success! There were approximately 100 wonderful participants, including an amazing team of 35 faithful leaders who, together with the help of the Holy Spirit, worked as a team to foster and inspire participants to explore, learn, and grow in their faith. Alpha guests shared several inspirational messages with us:

- “Alpha made me feel like I belong”
- “Alpha improved my prayer life”
- “Alpha was the spark I needed to deepen my Catholic faith and my relationship with Jesus”

Alpha will take place at the parish hall on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm. The Alpha Course will run from January 15th to April 1st. An optional retreat day will take place Sunday, March 1st.

A childcare program will be available for the children of all guests of the Alpha Program:

- **Children grades K-9 of Alpha participants** will be served a meal and supervised from 5:30-6:30; attend CRE from 6:30-7:45 and be supervised from 7:45 until 8:30.
- **Children not yet of CRE age of Alpha participants** will be served a meal and supervised from 5:30-8:30.

Please complete the registration form attached to this bulletin to let us know whether you plan to become a first time guest of Alpha and whether you need childcare. Please return no later than **January 7th**. The number of people we can serve is limited so first time guests will be registered before returning guests. Returning guests are asked to bring a friend.

If you have questions, please contact Fr. Bill Hamak, or Jason Weisbeck.

The Alpha Team

Fr. Bill Hamak, Jason Weisbeck, Beth Jensen, Bob Fulkerson, Sarah Fulkerson, Jamie Weisbeck, Carmel Powell, Jeff Anderson, Lauren Lynch, Leo Vojta, Sheri Vojta, Marcy Roesler, Marilyn Anderson, Mary Bachmeier, Mary Nickels, Pam Wells, Val Ford, Derik Beitelspacher, Rachel Frailing, Kay Gill, Jackie Keller, Evie Pleinis, Tiffany Roebuck, Heather Stoick, Jenn Wiederholt, Carol Zimoski, and Helen Parisien.