



First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2014

Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

— Mark 13:33

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:30 AM Michael Boyer

9:30 AM All Souls Intentions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:00 AM People of the Parish

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00 AM Mary Ellen Murray

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:00 AM Janet Oswain

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 AM Anna Mihalik

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00 AM Madeline Weaver

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00 AM People of the Parish

4:30 PM Timothy Benscoter

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:30 AM Gerri Oleksick

9:30 AM Dr. & Mrs. Robert Brennan

SANCTUARY CANDLE THIS WEEK: In memory of Paul Troiani Sr. requested by his family.

PEACE CANDLE: In memory of Lilly Mule requested by Joselle Kinney.

RESURRECTION CANDLE: In memory of our deceased benefactors.

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE: In memory of Rosemary McDanel requested by the Kutza's

THE ALTAR BREAD & ALTAR WINE that will be consecrated at all our Masses this week are in memory of Kropettino Dante given by his son Krope.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

Barbara Branches are named after Saint Barbara, one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, who feast we celebrate on December 4. (The Holy Helpers are a group of saints who are invoked for aid against disease.) On her feast day, a small branch from a fruit tree is placed in a vase and kept in a warm, well-lit area. According to the custom, if the branch flowers before Christmas Day, the family will have good fortune all year. Barbara branches call to mind the prophecy from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." *A modern variation on this tradition is to plant amaryllis or paperwhite narcissus bulbs early in December and watch them bloom for Christmas!*

Due to bulletin deadlines our Parish Support will be reported at a later date.

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH DATEBOOK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ADVENT VESPER SERVICE: 4:00 PM

In the church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

BIBLE STUDY/SHARING: 1:30 PM in the meeting room.

NO YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL at 7:00 PM.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be celebrated at 9:00 AM.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

BLUE ARMY HOLY HOUR will be prayed at 8:00 AM for vocations.

FIRST SATURDAY MASS will be celebrated at 9:00 AM.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

CCD: Classes in session 10:40 AM to 11:55 PM
Parents Day.



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**The New Advent Wreath Stand and Candles
are a gift
by Margaret Ladonis
in honor of her 100th birthday**

SERVICE FOR THE LORD
Next Sunday, December 7

Saturday, 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Panzak, Eroh, Belford
Lector: Stashko, Ryan
Altar Servers: 3
Greeters: Panzak & Rinehimer

Sunday, 7:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Kilcullen, Monatesti, Curry
Lector: Kalie
Altar Servers: 1
Greeters: M & B Samsel

Sunday, 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Czajkowski, Yalch, Marston
Lector: Troiani
Altar Servers: 2
Greeters: Carter & Dent

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
Monday: World AIDS Awareness Day
Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier
Thursday: St. John Damascene
Friday: First Friday
Saturday: St. Nicholas; First Saturday

“The season of Advent, which we begin again today, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint because it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!” –Pope Francis, *Angelus, December 1, 2013.*

WATCH!

“Watch!” This word occurs three times in today’s Gospel passage. Moreover, it is placed at significant points: the beginning, the center, and the end. Though this is technically a parable, it is quite short (four verses). The threefold repetition of “watch” leaves no doubt as to what the story is about.

We often think of Advent as a time of waiting, but it truly is a season of watchfulness, a very active form of waiting for the coming Day of the Lord. It is that day, more than Christmas day, that the Christian community faithfully expects, using all of our gifts and talents for this purpose, as Paul reminds us in the Letter to the Corinthians. When we use these gifts in faithful watching and expectation, we become like the servants of the parable, set to their tasks, not waiting around idly, but engaged in the master’s work until his return. May our Advent be a time when we return or rededicate our lives and our communities to this work—the active and diligent faithfulness that the Lord will expect to find.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Each of the seven sacraments, like other aspects of the Church’s pastoral plan, is an attempt to be faithful to the image of Christ we discover in the Gospels. Anointing of the sick is rooted in Jesus’ saving deeds of healing and even rescue from death. What is your favorite encounter of Jesus with a sick person? Often, it seems that Jesus would go at once to the person in a crowd who was in the most pain, in the deepest need. A man born blind, Peter’s mother-in-law, a woman afflicted by years of uncontrollable hemorrhages, a little Roman girl beloved by her soldier father, a crippled man lowered from the rafters, and even a man who lost his ear to a swinging sword in the garden of agony. This list reads like an admissions chart in an emergency room, and perhaps that is the point. The whole human experience from childhood to old age, from sudden catastrophic illness to chronic debilitating conditions, is represented by those for whom Jesus has such great compassion. This we can name a treasure of tradition with a capital “T.” We are a people of compassion for our sick, who reach out in tenderness to listen, to keep vigil, to strengthen, to touch with reverence, and to anoint with precious oil.



ADVENT VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Sunday, November 30.....7:00 PM

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Thursday, December 11.....7:00 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, December 13.....2:00 - 4:00 PM

Saturday, December 20.....2:00 - 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24

Children’s Mass.....5:00 PM

Festival of Carols and

Blessing of the Crèche.....10:30 PM

Vigil Mass.....11:00 PM

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25..... 9:30 AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, December 31.....5:00 PM

Thursday, January 1.....9:00 AM