

ADVENT



The Season of Advent Begins on **Sunday, December 1st** with our regular weekend Mass schedule **Sat. 4:30pm, Sun. 8:30am & 11:00am.**

Monday, December 9th we celebrate **The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** We will honor Mary, the Mother of our Savior, with **Mass on Monday, December 9th at 8:30am and 6:30pm.**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered **Saturdays from 2:30-4:00pm.** In addition, a Communal Non-Sacramental Penance Service with opportunity for individual Sacrament of Reconciliation following will be offered on **Thursday, December 5th at 6:30pm at Holy Redeemer Parish with our CROSSROADS Parishes.** Please see the insert for additional reconciliation and liturgical opportunities.



One way to prepare for Christ's coming into our lives is to make an Advent Wreath for your daily household worship. This traditional circular wreath reminds us that God, like the circle, has no beginning and no end. Evergreens on the wreath symbolize our everlasting relationship with God, the source of continuous new life.

The Advent Wreath has four candles, three purple or violet and one rose. On the First Sunday and week of Advent, we light the first candle and then an additional candle on each Sunday until Christmas. Purple is a royal color, reflecting the kingship of Christ and also repentance. The rose candle, lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, represents joy. Thus the colors of the candles illustrate the themes of Advent: Kingship, Repentance and Joy. The candles also remind us that the incarnation has transformed the darkness of hatred and evil into the light and joy of love.



Let your Advent Wreath become the center around which your household gathers together each night during this joyous, but sometimes frenzied, season of celebration. And as you celebrate with the Advent Wreath, include your favorite Advent Hymns and Songs, Scripture Readings and Prayers focusing on Christ's threefold Advent—past, present and future. You will find a blessing and prayers for lighting the candles are on the last page of this flyer.

CHRISTMAS TIME

Christmas Time begins at sundown on **Tuesday, December 24th** and concludes on **Sunday, January 12th, The Baptism of the Lord**. Christmas is a festival, a day when business-as-usual stops, a time when time itself can be forgotten. Festivals are kept by people who believe that living deserves rejoicing and celebrating. To be festive is to get out of the ordinary. Festivals like Christmas happen when the time comes around to tell special stories about a special birth and a special life—Jesus! If that story of a birth tells us a lot about who we are, then there is a chance we can make Christmas a true festival.

We will celebrate **Christmas** with the following Masses: Please note that the **festival of song begins 30 minutes before each Mass to allow time for early arrival**.

Tuesday December 24th

4:00pm

7:00pm

11:00pm

Wednesday, December 25th

10:00am



BELLS FOR THE GLORIA

We would like to encourage assembly participation during our Christmas Masses by ringing bells for some of the carols and hymns. We invite you to bring bells from home if you have them or we will have some available as well.



Sunday, January 1st is **The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**, the church celebrates Mary as the Mother of God. She is called *Theotokos* (“God bearer”), for “God sent his Son, born of a women” (Gal 4:4). Because Mary found favor with God, His Son took the flesh of Mary—it is thanks to her that Jesus is *fully* human, with flesh like ours, except for sin, and also fully divine. This Solemnity will be celebrated on **Tuesday, December 31st 6:30pm Vigil Mass and Wednesday, January 1st at 10:00am**.



Come let us
Adore
Him

At our regular weekend Masses **Sat. 4:30pm, Sun. 8:30 & 11:00am** on **The of Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 5th**, we will proclaim the traditional announcement of the movable feast of the new year including the date of Easter. Epiphany is a word that means “manifestation” or “showing.” Let us go forth and show Christ to others in the new year.



As was mentioned before, Christmas Time concludes on **Sunday, January 12th**. **The Baptism of the Lord** will be celebrated at our regular weekend Masses **Sat. 4:30pm, Sun. 8:30 & 11:00am**.



ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

First Sunday of Advent

Advent is a time of eager longing, awaiting our revelation as children of God. It is the waiting for Christ's coming in grace on Christmas Day. It is the waiting for Christ's final coming, when God's plan will be fully realized in all who have put on Christ by faith and baptism. God gives us this plan in the words of the prophets, and the Church gives us their words in Advent: "On the day a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom, and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him." Let us pray: God our Father, you loved the world so much you gave your only Son to free us from the ancient power of sin and death. Bless this wreath † and may it be for us an outward sign of our inward preparation for the coming of Your Son. Help us, Father, during this Advent season to reject godless ways and worldly desires, and live temperately, justly and devoutly in this age, as we await our blessed hope, the appearing in glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Second Sunday

Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of Your love, and our minds are searching for the light of Your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Third Sunday

Father in heaven, the day draws near when the glory of Your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share His wisdom and become one with Him when He comes. Hear our prayer, Father, and prepare once again a world for Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Fourth Sunday

Father in heaven, in the wilderness of the Jordan, You sent a messenger to prepare people's hearts for the coming of Your Son. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.