

Bulletin # 102656

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Special Instructions:



No, we're not rushing it! In Catholic circles the first Sunday of Advent is the opening of the new (Liturgical) year. As parishioners leave Mass today it might not be a bad idea to shake hands with each other and with sincerity say "Happy New Year."

In recent years our bishops have been fighting the uphill battle of celebrating the 24 days of Advent without blurring them with the secular spirit of Christmas. They are to be commended for the effort but not yet congratulated for their success. Twenty-four days of anticipating Santa in most peoples lives sort of trump twenty-four days of preparing with great expectation for the coming of Christ in a new and different way in our lives.

One way of getting behind the bishops' effort is to do one's very best not to do anything Christ-massy Until the 24th.

Remember, although the Chamber of Commerce wants you to believe that the Christmas Season begins the day after Halloween, your Church - the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church founded by Jesus Christ celebrates the Christmas Season from December 25th until January 19.

Mon. 12/02 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**
 Feast Advent Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Denise Keagy, *Bernie and Michelle Dodson*

Tues. 12/03 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**
 Feast Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
 8:00 AM Mass Neil Cassarly, *C. Smith*

Wed. 12/04 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**
 Feast Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 8:00 AM Mass Bill Conrad, *Frank and Angie Lubert*

Thur. 12/05 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**
 Feast Advent Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Theresa McCall, *M/M Thomas Heasley, Jr.*

Fri. 12/06 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**
 Feast Saint Nicholas, Bishop
 8:00 AM Mass Janet Pufka, *Janice Jorkasky*

Sat. 12/07 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**
 Feast Second Sunday of Advent
 4:30 PM Mass David C. Riley, *Tom and Ricki Lantz*

Sun. 12/08 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**
 Feast Second Sunday of Advent
 9:00 AM Mass Ray Kelly, *B/day, C. Smith*
 11:00 AM Mass Our Lady of Fatima Parish Family

*Lord
 Jesus
 Christ
 Son
 Of
 God
 Have
 Mercy
 On
 Me
 A
 Sinner*

Happy Birthday:

12/03 Barbara Joan Raichle
 Myron Yeager

12/04 Wilson Carper

12/06 Gretta Levine

12/08 Connie Andros
 Ray Kelly

12/09 John Kasun, Sr.

Wedding Anniversaries

12/06 Dan and Denise Stitt

Choir Practice for Christmas Vigil is Tuesdays 6-7 pm, with the exception of Tuesday November 26th.

Nocturnal Adoration is scheduled for Friday, December 6th, at Our Lady of Lourdes, Altoona from 8-11 PM

*Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we pray the Holy Rosary Daily
 At O.L.F. before each Mass and privately from 8:30am to 7:00pm*

MONEY MATTERS for November 24th will appear in next weeks bulletin due to printing deadlines which are incompatible with our collection schedules.

Celebrating Advent with Your Family

When we think of New Year's celebrations, we usually think of party time. It's time to let the old year go. We anticipate the new year by making resolutions, promising changes in behavior.

As Christians, we celebrate the arrival of a new liturgical year differently. The new year that begins on the first Sunday of Advent is a quiet one. In the readings for the four Sundays of Advent, we remember the time when people waited in anticipation for the coming of the Messiah. And while we know that the Messiah has come in Jesus Christ, and we have remembered his life, death, resurrection and Ascension many times, we can still reflect on and celebrate the newness of his coming once again.

What is great about celebrating the coming of Jesus with children is that they help us approach the season with fresh eyes and insight. They present us with a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge they present is the way they soak up the values of the culture that has had them anticipating Christmas since the beginning of November. The opportunity they present is that we can introduce them to the timeless rituals celebrating the coming of the Messiah that will add depth to their spiritual lives.

There are a number of ways families can celebrate the season of Advent:

Make an Advent wreath and place it in the middle of the dining room table. An Advent wreath consists of a frame holding four candles placed inside a circle of evergreens. The greenery in the wreath symbolizes the promised new life in Jesus. The four candles denote the four Sundays of Advent. There are three purple candles and one rose candle. Purple is a sign of penance, and rose is the color denoting the anticipation of joy. Light a candle on each Sunday evening of Advent, saying a short prayer or singing a verse of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The light of the candles represents the light coming into the world as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Advent calendars are available at many gift stores. The calendar consists of two pieces of cardboard on top of each other. Twenty-four doors are cut out of the top layer. One door is opened each day from December 1 through December 24, revealing a picture.

There is a long tradition in Christian art of depicting the Jesse Tree, a symbolic tree or vine with spreading branches on which there are images depicting the genealogy of Jesus. There are several variations of the Jesse Tree. In one variation, each ornament has a picture on one side and a Scripture passage on the other. An ornament is hung on the tree every day during Advent.