

WATCH!

Happy New Year! The Church's calendar begins today. The word "Advent" means "coming" and starts with a message similar to the theme of last week's Mass. Be ready and watch for the coming of Jesus.



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Sacraments

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

Saturdays 3:00 PM and by appointment.

BAPTISMS: To arrange and prepare for the celebration of Baptism, please call the Pastor to schedule an appointment. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Sunday afternoon.

FUNERAL: Please call the parish as soon as possible to make arrangements for the Mass of Christian Burial.

VISITING THE SICK: If you or a family member are sick or in the hospital, please call the parish so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated in the parish before hospitalization. Please call also to arrange for a Eucharistic minister to bring Communion to the sick. If you would like to request prayers for someone who is sick, please call the parish so that the name may be placed in the bulletin.

MARRIAGES: Preparation must begin at least six months prior to the wedding. Please make arrangements with the parish before scheduling the reception.

ANNULMENTS/CONVALIDATION: Please arrange a meeting with the Pastor to begin the process of celebrating your marriage in the Church.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Catholics who would like to be registered as parishioners of Immaculate Conception and receive stewardship envelopes should call the parish secretary or fill out a form in the vestibule of the church.

RCIA: Adults who desire to explore the possibility of becoming a member of the Catholic Church should contact the RCIA (Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults) team. Preparation usually begins in September and Baptism or Reception is celebrated at the next Easter Vigil.

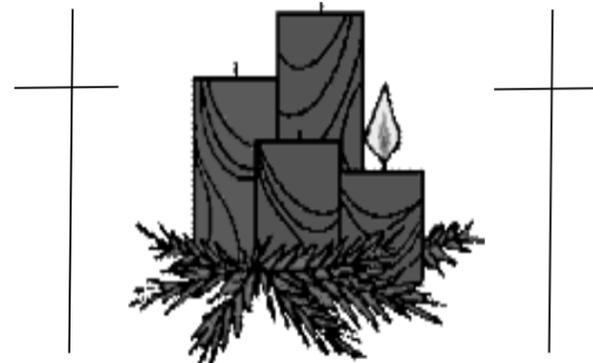
TUITION ASSISTANCE: Some financial aid for tuition assistance to Catholic schools is available to registered members of the parish. This is a one time grant of no more than \$1,000.00 to needy families to assist them during a time of financial crisis. Eligible families should write a letter to the Pastor who will evaluate the request with the Financial Advisory Committee.

To Whom Do We Go

- Adult Formation: Lovenia Watson.....778-1977
- Altar Servers: Bradley DeRouen218-8292 / 284-5970
- Child Protection Coord:.....Andrea Toles
- Eucharistic Ministers: Beulah Decuir.....229-6076
- Gospel Choir/Adult: Daphne Alex.....936-4051
- Gospel Choir/Youth: Tara Winder428-5981
- Hall Rental: Juliet Betts.....775-7067
- Ministry Council/Chair: Georgia Jenkins.....775-5824
- Pantry/Food and Vouchers:774-3661
- Sacristan: Rogers Jackson, Jr.362-0907
- Traditional Choir: Theresa Carmen..... 921-7315
- Usher's Coordinator: Walter Ennis.....775-7332

This Week's Prayer

Dear God, help me start anew. Teach me how to heal by learning new ways to live. Amen.





THE SEASON OF ADVENT



ADVENT

This weekend we begin the season of Advent, four weeks of preparation for the season of Christmas. Advent is a joyful season of anticipation and hope. We eagerly await the coming of the Lord. We remember his three comings: in history, when he was born in Bethlehem in a manger; in the future when he will return in glory; and in the present as he enters our life in word, sacrament, prayer and in the poor and those in need. How will you make Advent a special time for yourself? How will you be watchful and awake to receive the Lord in whatever way he comes into your life?

The new church year marks the beginning of a new cycle in the Lectionary. During Cycle B, we read from the Gospel of Mark and selections from John. Mark is the first Gospel to be written. It is the shortest Gospel but possibly the most profound. Let Mark be our guide as we enter this new year of grace.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Our Christmas Mass schedule will be: 4:00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass on Thursday, December 24; Christmas Midnight Mass at 12:00 AM on Friday, December 25; and Christmas Morning Mass at 10:30 AM on Friday, December 25. The Vigil and Midnight Masses will be livestreamed.



Christmas Mass Schedule

We must continue to observe social distancing at all the Christmas Masses. We must limit the number of people in church to 50. If needed, we will provide 40 additional seats in the Activity Center where the Vigil and Midnight Masses will be live streamed. Holy Communion will be brought to those in the Activity Center. Father Clark will post the Sign Up for Christmas Masses on Tuesday, December 1. You will not be able to sign up until December 1.

Father Clark recommends that we all stay home and participate in Christmas Mass through the live stream. We must take the pandemic seriously especially as we enter another spike in cases. We have great participation in the Mass through live stream. We just have to do what we have to do to keep ourselves and others safe.

POPE FRANCIS ON RACIAL JUSTICE



Pope Francis has published a book long interview, *Let Us Dream*, in which he comments on various topics of current interest. The pope speaks favorably a number of times about the protests for racial justice that emerged after the police killing of George Floyd in late May. He contrasts them with anti-lockdown protestors who “are victims only in their own imagination: those who claim, for example, that being forced to wear a mask is an unwarranted imposition by the state, yet who forget or do not care about those who cannot rely, for example, on social security or who have lost their jobs.” Describing people who “live off grievance” and only consider their own problems, he says, “It is the inability to see that we don’t all have the same possibilities available to us.” He continues:

You'll never find such people protesting the death of George Floyd, or joining a demonstration because there are shantytowns where children lack water or education or because there are whole families who have lost their income. You won't find them protesting that the astonishing amounts spent on the arms trade could be used to feed the whole of the human race and school every child. On such matters they would never protest; they are incapable of moving outside of their own little world of interests. (From America magazine)

Mark this season of Advent by loving and serving others with your whole heart.



Happy Birthday

VERA	DEQUIR	11/29
D'LANA	FRANCOIS	11/29
LATISA	SAM	11/29
KAREN	TUGGLE	11/29
ALBERT	JOHNSON, SR.	11/30
JOHNNY	HARRIS	11/30
BERNARD	WASHINGTON	11/30
ELIZABETH	BELLAIRE	12/1
KEVIN	GILLIE	12/1
CHRIS	HODGE	12/1
SUMMER	ZILAITIS	12/1
HELEN	TAYLOR	12/1
SHANITA	VANCE	12/1
ELAINA	HARLEAUX	12/2
SHAWN	WALLACE	12/2
RITA	BARTHELEMY	12/2
TEDRICK	NIXON	12/3
JODI	SLAN	12/3
TRINITY	SMITH	12/3
LINDA	BANKS	12/4
NZINGA	BERRY	12/4
MICHELE	BURBANK	12/4
THOMAS	HIVES, JR.	12/4
CHRISTI	HODGE	12/4
PRISCILLA	BRADLEY	12/5
JAMES	BROWN	12/5
BRADLEY	DEROUEEN, SR.	12/5
CHRISTOPHER	HUNT, JR.	12/5
JACQUELINE	MARSELLUS	12/5
ANTHONY	MORGAN, SR.	12/5
GENIEVA	RICHARD	12/5
GLORIA	THOMAS	12/5
MADISON	VITAL	12/5
EARLINE	WILLIAMS	12/5
HUNTER	WILLIAMS	12/5

BLUE BOOKS FOR ADVENT



Our Blue Books for Advent daily reflection are available in the foyer of the church after weekend and daily Masses. You may also pick one up in the office during regular office hours. If you know a parishioner who would like a book but is not coming to church during the pandemic, please take a copy for them.



Mass Readings

November 29th - December 6th
Sunday
First Sunday of Advent
 Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Psalm 80; 1 Cor 1:3-9
 Gospel: Mark 13:33-37
Monday
Feast of Saint Andrew
 Rom 10:9-18; Psalm 19
 Gospel: Matt 4:18-22
Tuesday
 Is 11:1-10; Psalm 72
 Gospel: Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday
 Is 25:6-10a; Psalm 23
 Gospel: Matt 15:29-37
Thursday
 Is 26:1-6; Psalm 118
 Gospel: Matt 7:21, 24-27
Friday
 Is 29:17-24; Psalm 27
 Gospel: Matt 9:27-31
Saturday
 Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147
 Gospel: Matt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday
Second Sunday of Advent
 Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14
 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Forms for new parishioners or changes are located in the vestibule of the church.

ADVENT GIVING TREE 2020



Once again we will provide Christmas gifts for the residents of the Colonial Care Nursing Home on Old Hammond Highway. To expedite this process during the pandemic, we are asking that you donate \$20 and a team of volunteers will purchase the gift that the resident wishes, wrap it and deliver it to Colonial Care. You may donate through the We Share site where a special collection has been designated or by placing a check or cash in the offertory. Please be sure that it is marked “Advent Giving Tree 2020.” Thank you for helping to make Christmas brighter for these residents.