

O COME  
all ye faithful

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 First Friday	2
3 First Sunday Of Advent  Blessing of the Advent Wreaths  6:30-7:30 pm Confirmation Session I	4 6:30 pm Spanish Mass Choir 7:00 pm RCIA Newman Center  7:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting	5 5:15 pm Mass Newman Center 6:00 pm Penance Service Newman Center 6:00 pm Adult Faith Formation	6  5:30 pm Choir	7 Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception—5:15 pm at Newman Center 6:00 pm Youth Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm Spanish Mass Choir 7:00 pm Timeline Bible Study	8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation 7:00 am & 5:30 pm Masses at Saint Francis Xavier; 12:15 pm Mass at Newman Center	9 1:00 pm 1st Reconciliation for Second Graders and their families
10 Second Sunday Of Advent  PSR Child Protection Training 6:30-7:30 Confirmation Session II	11 6:30 pm Spanish Mass Choir 7 pm Baptismal Preparation Class 10 pm Guadalupe Welcoming of Virgin Mary	12 2-6 pm Blood Drive 5:15 pm Mass at Newman 6:00 pm Adult Faith Formation 7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass	13  5:30 pm Choir  7 pm Saint Andrew Penance Service	14 5:30 pm Mass at Saint Francis followed by 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration 7:00 pm Timeline Bible Study	15  24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration ends with 5:30 pm Mass	16  9:00 am-12:00 pm Cookie Walk  SIU Graduation
17 Third Sunday of Advent  2 pm Decorating Church for Christmas	18 6:30 pm Spanish Mass Choir  7:00 pm Penance Service at Saint Francis Xavier	19 No 5:15 pm Mass at Newman  6:00 pm Adult Faith Formation	20  5:30 pm Choir	21 11:30 am Mass	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday Of Advent 9:00 am Mass No PSR 5:30 pm Christmas Vigil Mass at Saint Francis and 7:30 pm Mass Newman No late Mass	25 9:00 am Christmas Mass  12:00 -2:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner At Saint Francis	26 Office Closed No Mass or Word/ Communion Service	27 7:20 am Word Communion Service	28 5:15 pm Word/ Communion at Saint Francis  6:30 pm Spanish Mass Choir	29	30
31 9:00 am Mass  No PSR	1 New Year's Day 9:00 am Mass Feast of Mary, the Mother of God NOT a Holy Day of Obligation	2 5:15 pm Mass at Newman  6:00 pm Adult Faith Formation	3			

**Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church**  
303 S. Poplar Street  
Carbondale, IL 62901 618-457-4556  
Email: sfrancis@clearwave.com website: stfxcarbondale.org  
Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 4:30—5:00 pm or by appointment  
**Regular Mass Schedule:**  
**Monday: 12:15 p.m. followed by Holy Hour;**  
**Wednesday: 7:20 a.m.;**  
**(Tuesday & Thursday, Mass at Newman Center 5:15 pm)**  
**Friday & Saturday: 5:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday: 9:00 am Mass & 12:15 Spanish Mass**

**Newman Catholic Student Center**  
(Partnership Relationship) email: san@siucnewman.org  
715 South Washington Street  
Carbondale, IL 618-529-3311 website: www.siucnewman.org  
**Regular Mass Schedule:**  
**5:15 p.m. Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**Tuesday Mass is followed by Holy Hour**  
**11:15 a.m. Mass on Sunday**  
**5:15 pm Mass on Sunday during school**

## DECEMBER, 2017

**Liturgical Year:** Advent leads to Christmas.

6 Nicholas, Bishop  
7 Ambrose, Theologian  
8 Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mary  
9 Juan Diego, First American indigenous saint  
12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
13 Lucy  
25 Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord  
26 Stephen, Deacon  
27 John, Evangelist  
28 Feast of Holy Innocents  
31 Feast of the Holy Family

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A **holyday of obligation** is given special attention in that we are expected to attend Mass, even though the feast is on a weekday. These feasts help us understand people and events of our faith.

In the U.S., we celebrate the feasts of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1), Ascension of Jesus (40 days after Easter or the next Sunday), Assumption of Mary into Heaven (Aug. 15), All Saints (Nov. 1), Immaculate Conception of Mary (Dec. 8), and Christmas (Dec. 25). Focus on the opportunity to praise God.

### MARK, GOSPEL WRITER

During this liturgical year, (Advent on), we read from the Gospel of Mark. Mark's Gospel was likely written before 70 A.D., and spoke to early Christians who were suffering persecution. Mark assures them that Jesus, who also suffered, is God's Son. Mark does not discuss the birth of Christ but during Jesus' baptism, God the Father announces "You are my beloved Son." Matthew and Luke likely used Mark's Gospel as a basis for theirs.

### SEASONAL PRAYERS

For prayers for the Advent wreath, Christmas tree or nativity scene, go to [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) and google these terms for home prayers.

Remove the blocks that hinder the coming of Christ in your life and participate in the Penance services at Saint Francis, Dec. 6. Bring joy to your life during the Out Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Dec. 12. Slow down for the Eucharistic Adoration, Dec. 14-15.

### ADVENT REFLECTION

The Church gives us four weeks to for preparing, watching, waiting, anticipating, hoping. The Advent wreath counts down our watching. "Our Advent yearning is not for Christ to come: He already has come in history. We long for our world to be saturated with the Gospel, permeated with Christ's presence, and for our hearts to become more compassionate.

[Advent invites us to look for surprises inspired by Christ's presence in the world.] Some surprises that should astound us: people's kind efforts to help us, the discovery of options in a situation that seemed dead-ended, a sympathetic friend in a wildly dysfunctional office, a window of time in a packed schedule, a flash of beauty, a check in the mail or a stimulating conversation in an otherwise empty day!" Excerpt from "Advent: A Season of Surprises." By Kathy Coffey, at [americancatholic.org](http://americancatholic.org)

### THE MEANING OF THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

An article entitled "Saint Francis and the Crib" imagines Francis of Assisi alive today:

"Look deeper than this pleasant scene. See your God become your food for eternity in a feeding place for animals. See the simple bands wound around the helpless baby, not the embroidered dress. See a man and woman wearing the clothes of the poor. See and smell the animals. Feel the cold and dirt of the cave, lighted only by a little fire. And adore your God, who took a human heart that could know the greatest love and the sharpest pain, arms that could embrace the sinners, the neurotics, the lepers, and hands that could touch cheeks running with tears, and be pierced with nails. Adore your poor and humble God."

**5 Second Prayer:** When you hear a Christmas carol, give God praise.

### LIVING THE FAITH AT HOME THIS MONTH

- +Be a Saint Nick to someone in need.
- +Participate in the cookie walk, Dec. 16.
- +Help decorate the church for Christmas, Dec. 17.
- +Focus on reasons for joy in your life.