

O COME
all ye faithful

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 First Sunday of Advent Rite of Enrollment for Confirmandi at						1 1:00 pm 2nd Grade Reconciliation 5:30 pm Mass 6:00 pm Lights Fantastic Parade (No Saint Francis Xavier Float this year)
9 am Mass Coffee & Donuts after 9 am Mass 1:30—3:00 pm Immigration "Know Your Rights" at Newman	3 Feast of Saint Francis Xavier—Patronal Saint 12:15 pm Mass and Holy Hour 7:00 pm RCIA	4 5:15 pm Newman Center Mass and Advent Penance Service at 5:45 pm	5 7:20 am Mass 6:30 pm Youth Commission Ministry 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus	6 11:00 am Mass at Integrity 5:30 pm Mass followed by 24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration (No 5:15 pm Mass at Newman)	7 First Friday 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration ends with 5:30 pm Mass (Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception—A Holy Day of Obligation)	8 9:00 am Mass for The Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) 5:30 pm Mass
9 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Mass 1:00 pm Senior Citizen Meal at Eagles 2:00 pm Advent Penance Service at Holy Spirit in Cartersville	10 12:15 pm Mass and Holy Hour 6:30 pm Advent Penance Service at Saint Andrew	11 2-6:00 pm American Cross Blood Drive 5:15 pm Mass and Holy Hour at Newman Center 600 pm Interfaith Council at Beth Jacob	12 NO 7:20 am Mass 7:00 pm Mass and Fiesta for Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 7:20 am Mass 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm School Bus Meeting at Saint Francis	14 11:00 am Mass at the Landing 5:30 pm Word/Communion Service	15 5:30 pm Mass
16 Third Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Mass 2:00 pm Decorate Church for Christmas NO 5:15 pm Mass at Newman	17 12:15 pm Mass and Holy Hour 6:30 pm Advent Penance Service at Saint Francis	18 5:15 pm Mass at Newman Center	19 7:20 am Mass 6:00 pm Saint Andrew School Board Meeting 7:00 pm Gifts of Compassion	20 11:30 am Mass Heritage Club Lunch at Sunny Street Cafe	21 10:30 am Mass at Prairie Living 5:30 pm Mass	22 9-12 pm Cookie Walk, Christmas Sale and Raffle 5:30 pm Mass
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Mass NO PSR 11:15 am Mass at Newman NO 5:15 pm Mass at Newman	24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass at Saint Francis 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass at Newman Center	25 9:00 am Christmas Morning Mass at Saint Francis	26 Parish Office Closed— NO Mass or Word/Communion Service	27 NO Mass or Word/Communion Service at Newman or Saint Francis	28 5:30 pm Mass	29 5:30 pm Mass
30 9:00 am Mass NO PSR 11:15 am Mass at Newman NO 5:15 pm Mass at Newman	31 5:30 pm Vigil Mass for Mary, The Holy Mother of God—Holy Day of Obligation	January 1 9:00 am Mass for Mary, The Holy Mother of God—Holy Day of Obligation	January 2 7:20 am Mass	January 3 5:15 pm Mass at Newman Center	January 4 5:30 pm Mass at Saint Francis	January 5 5:30 pm Mass at Saint Francis

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 7:30 - 9:00 pm or by appointment

Regular Mass Schedule:

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**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

**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, 2018

Liturgical Year: Advent leads to Christmas.
3 Francis Xavier, Missionary, Patron of Japan
6 Nicholas, Bishop, Patron of children
7 Ambrose, Theologian, Patron of learning
8 Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mary
12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 Lucy, Martyr, Patron of the blind
25 Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
26 Stephen, Deacon
27 John, Apostle
28 Feast of Holy Innocents
30 Feast of the Holy Family

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"By the Holy Spirit was **incarnate** of the Virgin Mary and became man." In the Creed, we affirm our belief that God the Son became incarnate - took on a human body. Christmas celebrates the feast of the Incarnation. "Heaven and earth met in the person of Jesus Christ." **The Catholic Way**

SEASONAL PRAYERS

Prepare for the coming of Christ in your life and participate in the Penance service at Saint Francis. For prayers for the Advent wreath, Christmas tree or nativity scene, go to usccb.org and google these terms for home prayers.

ADVENT REFLECTION

When filled with the Holy Spirit, we manifest love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness, and chastity. Gal. 5:22-23. Develop one of these virtues during Advent.

When decorating, think of ways to bring joy to others – a smile, a listening ear. When shopping, be generous – charities, Secret Santa, gift of time and prayer. When rushed by tasks, practice patient endurance and take a deep breath. When hearing family or friends gripe, offer a word of kindness.

ME, HOLY?

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." ...Jesus offers a justice other than that of the world, so often marred by petty interests and manipulated in various ways. Experience shows how easy it is to

become mired in corruption, ensnared by the daily politics of *quid pro quo*, where everything becomes business. How many people suffer injustice, standing by powerlessly while others divvy up the good things of this life. ... This has nothing to do with the hunger and thirst for justice that Jesus praises. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness: that is holiness." **Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate, par. 78-9.**

ADVENT THEME: JUSTICE

Our Advent readings cry out for justice. One reading says God will bring back those "led away on foot ... as on royal thrones." A reassurance for us during moments of frustration or desperation but also a cry to work for justice as we pray "thy kingdom come." How can I help those marginalized?

REDISCOVERING THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY: SHELTER THE HOMELESS

"We think of shelter as a basic requirement of life, but many people simply don't have a roof over their heads or a safe place to live. For many of us, the line between our homes and being homeless is a thin one that can disappear with the death of a spouse, the loss of a job or an illness....

A powerful experience can come from volunteering to build through Habitat for Humanity or a similar program. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcomed and are trained for their tasks. Yes, it benefits the family who will own the house and works to build it – but the real transformation is in the hearts of those who meet the family and create this new future alongside them." **Creighton on-Line Ministries.** Remember Jesus, Mary and Joseph were homeless on Christmas.

5 Second Prayer: When you see Christmas lights, thank Jesus for bringing light into your life.

LIVING THE FAITH AT HOME THIS MONTH

- +Display an Advent wreath and a nativity scene.
- +Emulate Francis Xavier - spread the faith – forgive, be joy-filled, do good, be kind, work for justice.
- +Help clean or decorate the church for Christmas.
- +Pray for our parishioners who build homes for Habitat for Humanity.