



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

November 28, 2021 ▪ First Sunday of Advent



How St. Margaret of Scotland prepared for Christmas

By Philip Kosloski

St. Margaret had a deep prayer life that also included fasting before the feast of Christmas.

While the modern world has fully embraced a period of feasting before the celebration of Christmas, many saints in the past would fast in preparation of Christ's birth.

St. Margaret of Scotland was no exception. According to the biography *St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland*, the royal saint led a **deep life of prayer**.

Let me speak first of all about her prayerfulness. In church no one was so silent and composed as she no one so wrapped in prayer. Whilst she was in house of God she would never speak of worldly matters or do anything which savored of the earth; she was there simply to pray and in praying, to pour her tears. Only her body was then here below, spirit was near to God, for in the purity of her prayer she sought nothing but God, and the things which are God's.

She was adopted a life of **fasting**, which may have been on the extreme side and harmed her health.

As for her fasting, I will say this alone, that the strictness of her abstinence brought upon her a very severe infirmity.

St. Margaret took upon herself such a fast before Christmas.

She kept a fast of forty days in preparation for the Feast of Christmas, although troubled with great pains thereby.

This 40-day fast is similar to what many other Christians have embraced over the centuries, **making the season of Advent a season of fasting**.

Today's celebration of Advent has become so mixed with Christmas that it is difficult to understand it as a season that was similar to Lent. Yet, this is how past Christians approached Advent, wanting to prepare their bodies and souls for the great feast of Christmas.

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PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions can be arranged with
Fr. Wayne. Call his private
number to make your
appointment, 727-401-0487.

PARISH OFFICE

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm
1600 54TH AVE S.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712

PHONE

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FAX

(727) 864-2679

WEB SITE

<http://btsp.org>
Like us on FaceBook



Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Advent Mission

November 30, December 1-2 7:00pm in the church

Presenter: Rachel Dutilly

It's All About "GIFTS!"

Gifts received ▪ Gifts needed in today's world ▪ Gifts given

Together we will remember why Jesus was born and the many
"gifts" He has given us.

We will re-discover the importance of and the urgent need for the
"Isaiah Gifts."

*Gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Piety,
Fortitude and the Fear of the Lord*

~Isaiah 11

In the "Light" of the "Isaiah Gifts" we will also look at some of
the heartfelt concerns of our country and in our Church.

We will give Jesus our gifts and prepare the "Inn" of our hearts to
receive the personal gifts Jesus wants to give to each one of us
this Christmas.

Everyone is welcome!



Blessed Trinity Knights of Columbus Christmas Pancake Breakfast

December 12 and December 19
after 8:00am and 9:30am Masses

Meal is \$7.00 per person
Kids under 12 eat free

**Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will make an
early appearance after the 9:30 Mass**

Bring your camera
and take pictures with Santa



November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16 | 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 | Lk 21:25-28,34-36

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As the days grow shorter and darker, I am especially ready for Advent wreaths and nativity sets; sparkling lights and singing angels. More than ever, I eagerly anticipate the joyful celebration of Christ's birth. But today's readings for the first Sunday of Advent point us to the end of time, when Jesus returns in glory. Wait a minute, what? I don't want to think about the dismay and fright that Jesus foretells in the Gospel, I want to think about shepherds and holy nights. We really can't do one without the other, however, and the underlying message of the readings is one of hope and reassurance: Our God keeps his promises. He is faithful to the covenants he makes. He loves us so much; he offers us new beginnings. Our God became one of us, died to save us, and will give us the strength to be ready to greet him when he comes again. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand," Jesus says. Pray that our preparation for Christ's birth will make us all the more ready for his return.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We are a society and culture that focuses a lot on the outward signs of preparation, and there is a lot of pressure to make it all perfect. Pinterest boards, social media groups, magazine photos, clothing catalogs: all show perfectly dressed people with perfectly adorable dogs standing in front of exquisitely perfect Christmas trees, on perfectly unblemished snow. But perfection on the exterior is not the Christian goal. Our interior preparation – how we make ourselves ready for Christ now, and at the end of time – is the focus of Advent. It is an opportunity for repentance, and a joyful new beginning in our relationship with God. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the covenant he made with us, and the psalm and the second reading offer assistance in doing so. Make time each day to dive in and explore what Scripture reveals about "conducting yourselves to please God."

PRAY Pray the psalm from the first Sunday of Advent each morning. Ask God to open your heart to ways you can be more just. He will teach you, guide you, and strengthen your heart so that you can stand upright to face whatever challenges come your way.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior,
and for you I wait all the day.





Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Geneux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Geneux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Website Mass

The church is open for our regular schedule of Masses. Recognizing that many will still be unable to attend Mass we will continue to record the Mass and upload it to the website. To view the Mass go to our website: btsp.org and click on the red words to start the video. The recorded Mass is from the Saturday vigil.

We are very grateful to Brent Beauchamp who has been volunteering his services to record the Mass each week. Thank you Brent for your continued support!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 27, Weekday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Larry Roberts

Sunday, November 28, First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Nick Colandra (dec)

9:30 a.m. For Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Rebecca Del Carmen (dec)

Monday, November 29

8:00 a.m. Louis Lunghi (dec)

Tuesday, November 30, Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle

8:00 a.m. Chris Roberts (liv)

Wednesday, December 1

8:00 a.m. For Vocations

Thursday, December 2

8:00 a.m. Zachary Maas and Kolbe Buonomo (liv)

Friday, December 3, Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

8:00 a.m. Trudy Murray (dec)

Saturday, December 4, Saint John Damascene, Priest and
Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Athena Shaw (dec)

4:00 p.m. The Congiu Family (dec)

Sunday, December 5, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Janet McPartlan (dec)

9:30 a.m. For Our Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Francisco and Maria Barbosa (dec)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"THE DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD,
WHEN I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE
I MADE TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH."*

—JEREMIAH 33:14



The Blessed Trinity Giving Tree St Vincent de Paul Society

Come and see the “Giving Tree” in the back of the church for an opportunity to share your Blessings at Christmas with the less fortunate in our community.

Please take a paper angel and purchase a gift card for a child or a teen. This will help needy parents provide Christmas enjoyment for their families. There are also angels for gift cards towards a family dinner. These are all families your Blessed Trinity St Vincent de Paul Society has assisted in the past year.

If you do not have an opportunity to purchase gift cards, please consider dropping a check, made out to St. Vincent de Paul, or cash, in the poor box in the back of the church and we will obtain the needed gift cards.

All gift cards with angels attached should be returned by Tuesday, December 7. We will need the time between December 7 and December 10 to organize and prepare for distribution to the families on December 11.

Gift cards may be placed in the poor box or dropped off at the Parish office during regular business hours.

Thank you and God Bless you for your generosity.



Stewardship

Due to publishing deadlines over the Thanksgiving holiday, we will report offertory totals in the magazine dated December 5.

FORMED

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CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

For those wishing to contribute towards the Altar flowers, you may do so in two ways:

1. Use the Christmas Flowers Envelope included in your envelope packet.
2. Complete this form and return it to the office with your donation.

The names of the donors will be listed in the bulletin. **Deadline for inclusion of your name in the Christmas bulletin is Monday, December 13.**

The names listed for remembrance and honor will be placed on the altar.

Please Check One:

☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of

Donor's Name: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Listening with an Open Heart

The Catholic Church is journeying together to grow in communion, participation and mission as we look towards the future. This process, called for by Pope Francis, is known as the Synod on Synodality. This involves encountering others and listening to their experiences of faith. This helps us to discern how the Holy Spirit is speaking to us and to the Church at this moment in history.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the “Christmas-songs-in-November” debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There’s no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it’s not everyone’s cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It’s hard to miss that point — Lent doesn’t even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It’s harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — “advent” — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, “so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.”

So let us not forget — our master’s advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Matching Gifts for new online giving!

Online giving has provided a great service to our church and our parishioners, especially during the pandemic. **Now ParishSoft, our online giving platform, is offering matching gifts!** For every new recurring gift that is added between November 1 and December 31, 2021, ParishSoft will match the gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 per organization. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be transacted by December 31, 2021. To make a recurring gift, go to btsp.org and click on the green "DONATE" button.



Journeying Together

Synod on Synodality

After encountering and listening,
we are called to discern how
the Holy Spirit is speaking to us
and to the Church at this moment in history.

5

—Bishop Gregory Parkes

www.JourneyingTogether.org



Prayer for the Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may

journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

©LPi

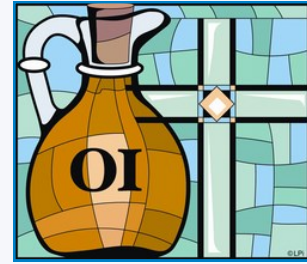
Please Pray for Our Sick and Homebound

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Arnold, Barbara
Bento, Ron
Bestow, Shawn
Boss, Kristin
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Brown, Buck
Brown III, George
Brown, Shaquita
Carfora, Palma
Cary, Joan
Chavez, John
Christ, Kathryn
Cline, Wayne
Comeau, Teresa
Dalence, Rene
Deacon Lionel Roberts
Detore, Alice
Deuel, Fred
Devyn & Donna
DeZarn, Vickie
Doiron, Gary
Feldes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Fr. Jim Klima
Garcia, Jose M.
Gaskin, Douglas
Genereux, Carol
Gregg, Joan

Griffin, Lynda Butler
Grimberg, Carol
Grondin, Gaetane
Hawkins, Ashlyn
Hawkins, Barbara
Holley, Gerry
Huff, Walt & Carole
Irvin, John and Marsha
Kirkpatrick, Donna
Kirkpatrick, Susan
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lynd, John
Lyons, Laura
Maharne, Cecile
Maitland, Steve
Manley, Jan
McAfee, Riley
McGarry, Jean
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Meyer, Patricia
Murdock, Cheryl
Murdock, Evan
Nicholson, Maria
Noguez, Armida
Oliphant, Brian

Parmigiani, Valerie
Phillips, James
Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Privitera, Peter
Quinn, Timothy
Roberts, Amanda
Romani, Angelo & Marlene
Schaefer, Jake
Schneider, Mary Jo
Scotlight, Kristin
Shannon, Tom Jr.
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Smith, Anita
Stankiewicz, Cy
Storey, Barbara
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James
Velez, Carmelita
Vishnisky, Wayne
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Kyle
Youngman, Ruthe



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.