



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

December 5, 2021 ▪ Second Sunday of Advent



The Immaculate Conception: how does Mary illuminate Advent?

Why is this mystery of the Virgin Mary so important in our lives?

Lourdes-en-Bigorre, March 3, 1858: On the banks of the river Gave, in the damp and dark cave of Massabielle, a woman appeared for the 14th time in about 20 days to a local girl named Bernadette. Pushed by her priest who wanted to know the identity of this “Beautiful Lady” the young Bigourdane questioned her. For an answer, she received a smile, and this smile was the Lady’s first answer to the teenager who wanted to know her name.

Before presenting herself, on March 25, as “the Immaculate Conception,” she gave her smile to be contemplated as the most appropriate doorway to her mystery. **What does the Virgin Mary’s smile tell us about her mystery?** How does it illuminate Advent, a time of vigilance and confident waiting for the Savior? How is it a sign of hope?

The Virgin Mary, certain that God’s love will be victorious

As Benedict XVI meditated in Lourdes on September 15, 2008, during the Mass for the Sick, “The Virgin Mary is today in the joy and glory of the Resurrection. Her tears at the foot of the Cross have been transformed into a smile that nothing will erase, and her maternal compassion for us remains intact.” This smile is thus a sign that in the midst of the greatest pain—her son dying

on the Cross—that in the midst of the greatest injustice—the innocent Son of God is condemned by men—the Virgin Mary remains certain of the victory of God’s love over sin and death.

And Mary lived this victory of grace beginning from her own conception. Daughter of St. Anne and St. Joachim, Mary was conceived immaculate, that is, preserved from original sin, in anticipation of the benefits of Christ’s death and resurrection. “In her shines forth the eternal goodness of the Creator who, in his plan of salvation, chose her to be the Mother of his only Son” (Benedict XVI, Rome, December 8, 2005).

We are all called to be holy and immaculate

The biblical foundation of this dogma is found in the words that the angel addressed to the young girl of Nazareth: “Hail, you who are filled with grace! The Lord is with you” (Luke 1:28). “Full of grace” is the most beautiful name of Mary, the name God himself gave her, to indicate that she has always and forever been the beloved, the chosen one, the one chosen to receive the most precious gift, Jesus, “the incarnate love of God” (Deus caritas est, no. 12)” (Benedict XVI, Rome, December 8, 2006). Mary is the perfect receptacle to be filled with grace.

And if “the Cross is the place where God’s compassion for our world is perfectly manifested,” Benedict XVI said in Lourdes in 2008, “Mary shares the compassion of her Son. Because she lives and thinks with God, her heart is enlarged. **In her, God’s goodness has come very close and is very close to us**” (Benedict XVI, Rome, December 8, 2005).

In fact, this immaculate conception, which distinguishes Mary from our common condition, does not distance her from us but, on the contrary, brings her closer to us. “While sin divides and distances us from one another, Mary’s purity makes her infinitely close to our hearts, attentive to each one of us and desirous of our true good. ...] What many, out of embarrassment or modesty, do not dare to entrust even to those closest to them, they entrust to her who is the most pure, to her immaculate heart: with simplicity, unblemished, in truth,” explained Benedict XVI when he returned to Lourdes in 2008.

Her immaculate design reflects on us

This mystery of the Immaculate Conception is not only for us to contemplate, but also to live it — as long as we

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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

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believe in it and love it. This mystery is for us. **“The grace of the Immaculate Conception given to Mary is not only a personal grace, it is for everyone. It is a grace given to the entire People of God,”** Benedict XVI said in 2008. “First of all, because as sons and daughters of Mary, we benefit from all the graces given to her, and the incomparable dignity that her immaculate conception gives her reflects on us, her children,” he said. He added: “Mary loves each of her children [...]; she loves us simply because we are her children, according to the will of Christ on the Cross. In Mary, the Church can already contemplate what she is called to become. Every believer can already contemplate the perfect fulfillment of his or her own vocation.”

And our vocation is to live by the mercy of God who frees us from sin. In Mary, this was accomplished from the moment of her conception, gratuitously and instantaneously. For us, although we were immersed in God at our baptism and washed of original sin, we still suffer the consequences. Therefore, our sanctification is accomplished gradually. It takes time for Christian grace to fully take hold within us. However, even if this will only be fully realized in Heaven, where we will be immaculate, it must nevertheless be realized on earth, starting today. “In the Mother of Christ and our Mother the vocation of every human being is perfectly realized,” the Apostle Paul reminds us, “all men are called to be holy and immaculate in the presence of God in love (Eph 1:4),” Benedict XVI, Rome, December 8, 2005.

A magnificent sign of hope

Mary’s immaculate conception is therefore a magnificent sign of hope for us. For hope means being certain that in Christ we are already victorious over sin and death. If we want it, God’s grace will fill everything. We do not hope for something that is to come, we hope for what is already present but veiled, a beatitude that is already present in us. And the Immaculate is given to us for this: *“Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra ...”* [Our life, our sweetness, our hope], as the *Salve Regina* goes.

“By presenting herself to Bernadette as the Immaculate Conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary came to remind the modern world, which was in danger of forgetting her, of the primacy of divine grace, stronger than sin and death,” Benedict XVI, Rome, February 11, 2006. “In the presence of Mary, by virtue of her purity, we are not afraid to show our weakness, to ask questions and express our doubts, to formulate our hopes and our most secret desires. **The motherly love of the Virgin Mary disarms all pride;** it makes us capable of looking at ourselves as we are and inspires in us the desire to convert in order to give glory to God,” said Benedict XVI in Lourdes in 2008.

The quest for Mary’s smile

“Mary dwells before God and also before all humanity as the immutable and intangible sign of God’s election of which the Pauline Letter speaks: in Christ, ‘he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love: having foreordained us unto adoption as sons through Jesus Christ’ (Eph 1:4-5). There is more power in this election than in all the experience of evil and sin, than in all the ‘hostility’ that has marked the history of man. In this history, Mary remains a sign of assured hope” (John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*, no. 11).

In this time of Advent, and even afterwards, let us seek out Mary’s smile, the source of invincible hope. “In this simple manifestation of tenderness that is a smile, we understand that our only richness is the love that God has for us and which passes through the heart of the one who has become our Mother,” said Benedict XVI in Lourdes. His desire is that, by becoming attached to her, we allow ourselves to be led to the only source of salvation, her Son, Jesus.

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December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9 | Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 | Lk 3:1-6

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today we have blogs and life coaches, Facebook groups and self-help books, all of which can help us become better human beings. These resources come to mind as I read St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians – I think St. Paul would be the ultimate life coach! All of his letters to the early Church offer wisdom, encouragement, and instruction, and the words we heard today are particularly significant as we prepare for Jesus' coming this Advent: "the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Unlike some of our modern-day resources, Paul's words go beyond simply helpful advice; they are rooted in faith and prayer, and in the truth of the Paschal Mystery. These words assure us that we are not alone on our journey, that what God has promised in the person of his Son will come to fruition: Christ will come again! And so, as John the Baptist did, we who are disciples are meant to witness to his coming, announcing the Good News and preparing for his – second – coming. Repent. Believe. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." How do we do this? Engage with Scripture – read it and really hear what the Word of God is saying to you. Pray for insight, that the grace of God might transform you to go forth and announce the Gospel.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Even pre-Google, I spent more time than perhaps I should have hunting down the perfect gifts, especially for my young boys. I'd scour the ads, then get up early on Black Friday and hit the stores in search of deals and hard-to-find items. Perhaps that's why these words from St. Paul stopped me in my tracks: "And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, *to discern what is of value* [italics added], so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ." During Advent, these words can both assure and challenge us – to grow in love, knowledge, and a sense of what really matters during our time on earth. For me the challenge will be to spend less time shopping this season and more time focusing on deepening my relationship with God, who is preparing to turn the darkness into light. This doesn't mean we can't take delight in finding that perfect gift; but we ought also to increase our recognition that all gifts come from God, including our ability to have access to and means to purchase material gifts. We can find joy in God's presence (and presents?) among us.

ACTIONS

Re-read today's Gospel, and then consider how Saint Paul followed in John the Baptist's footsteps in his Letter to the Philippians. Think of ways you, like John and Paul, can encourage one another, and be a voice crying out in the desert. Participate in the sacrament of reconciliation and pray that God may cleanse your heart to welcome him at Christmas, and when he comes again.



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 Gene-reux, 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 Genereux, 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, December 4, Saint John Damascene, Priest and
Doctor of the Church
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)

Monday, December 6, Saint Nicholas, Bishop
8:00 a.m. Lionel Roberts, 44 Years as Deacon (Liv)

Tuesday, December 7, Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop
8:00 a.m. Blanche Grimes (Liv)
4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Wednesday, December 8, Immaculate Conception
8:00 a.m. For Vocations
9:30 a.m. For Our Parishioners
7:00 p.m. William Isaac (Dec)

Thursday, December 9, Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
8:00 a.m. Beddoe Family (Dec)

Friday, December 10, Our Lady of Loreto
8:00 a.m. Owen Muir (Dec)

Saturday, December 11, Saint Damasus I, Pope
8:00 a.m. Margarite Israelson (Dec)
4:00 p.m. Jim Lawler (Dec) and Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, December 12, Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m. Trudy Murray (Dec)
9:30 a.m. For Our Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Joe Bispo (Dec)



Blessed Trinity Knights of Columbus Christmas Pancake Breakfast

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 9:30am Mass**
Bring your camera and take pictures with Santa



*I would like to say **Thank You** to Fr. Wayne, the staff, and the parishioners of Blessed Trinity Parish for the wonderful Mass of Thanksgiving, luncheon, kind words and prayers, cards, and gifts on the occasion of my retirement. They are all greatly appreciated. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with and for so many wonderful and dedicated people, and I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers.*

~ God Bless, Aimée Holley



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.



Weekly Giving

Online Giving November 15-28

Offertory	\$ 2,431
Building Fund	\$ 40
Campaign Human Dev	\$ 125
Religious Retirement	\$ 100
Thanksgiving	\$ 100
Christmas	\$ 250

November 21, 2021

Offertory/Donation	\$ 7,414
Building Fund	\$ 30
Campaign Human Dev	\$ 130
Other	\$ 90
Christmas Flowers	\$ 115
Funerals	\$ 730
Gift Shop	\$ 138
Parking	\$ 100

November 28, 2021

Offertory	\$ 5,371
Campaign Human Dev	\$ 78
Thanksgiving	\$ 946
Christmas Flowers	\$ 858
Other	\$ 220
Gift Shop	\$ 70
Funeral	\$ 365
SVDP	\$ 622

Thank you for your generosity!



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: \$ _____

Courageous Encounters

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. We are called to encounter those who are different from us with openness, courage, and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by their presence and their stories. To learn more visit

www.JourneyingTogether.org.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

— 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.



Thank you

Fr. Victor would like to thank everyone who came out, enjoyed and supported the concert supporting the Lynn Bartolotta Endowed Memorial Scholarship at USF.

Your generosity is to be commended. God bless you.



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.

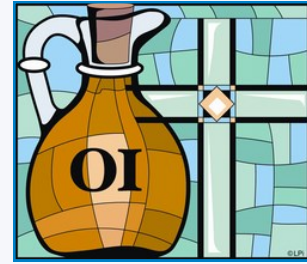
Please Pray for Our Sick and Homebound

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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.