

BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

WEEKEND MAGAZINE

December 9th, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

Preparing for Christmas? Consider making a Jesse tree



A relatively new family tradition that aligns the Christmas tree more with the spirit of Advent.

Originally the Christmas tree itself was not brought into the family home until Christmas Eve and then stayed in the house throughout the liturgical season of Christmas, which extended into January.

It wasn't until the mid-20th century, primarily in the United States, that the Christmas tree was brought into the home immediately following the celebration of Thanksgiving in November. Several generations have past since this custom was introduced and many different families, wanting to retain the spirit of Advent as a season of preparation, created a new custom that blended the two traditions.

It is called the "Jesse tree" and is focused on the biblical ancestors of Jesus.

The concept comes from a passage in Isaiah where the prophet says, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots" (11:1). Jesse is the father of King David and Jesus was born into that same line of David through his foster-father's (Joseph) ancestry.

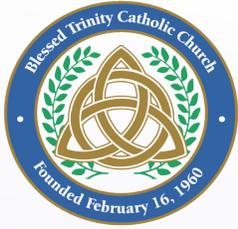
Over the centuries artists would depict the "Tree of Jesse" in various forms of religious artwork, depicting the genealogy of Jesus according to the Gospel accounts.

In regards to the Advent tradition, the tree is placed in the family's home at the beginning of Advent and is initially left bare. Then each day a new ornament is added that corresponds to an episode/character in the Bible. By Christmas day the tree is entirely filled with ornaments and some families switch out the Advent ornaments for the traditional Christmas ornaments.

It is a great way to prepare for Christmas by learning about the events and characters who prepared the way for Jesus. There are many different ways to create a Jesse tree, including this option from Our Sunday Visitor. Simply search Google for "Jesse Tree Ideas" and there will appear countless other options. Chose one that best suits your family.

If you are looking for a different way to prepare for Christmas, consider making a Jesse tree.

By Philip Kosloski, reprinted with permission from Aleteia

**PASTOR**

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACON Bill Lovelace

DEACON John Schaefer

PASTOR EMERITUSMsgr. Anton Dechering
RetiredDEACON Lionel Roberts
Retired**CLERGY ASSISTANCE**Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Tom Kirchhoefer, VA
Chaplain**MASS SCHEDULE**Saturday: 4:00 PM Vigil
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 am**HOLY DAYS**8:00, 9 am & 7 pm
Weekdays: 8:00 am
Saturday: 8:00 am**RECONCILIATION**Saturdays
3:00 -3:45 pm
or by Appointment1600 54TH AVE S.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
33712**PHONE**

(727) 867-3663

FAX

(727) 864-2679

WEB SITE<http://btsp.org>

Upcoming Special Events Christmas

Thursday, December 13

Penance Service - 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Jack McDowell, Celebrant

Franciscan Friars from the St. Anthony Friary will help with confessions

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve - 8:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. Special Christmas Eve Vigil Mass for Children

9:00 p.m. Christmas Mass at Night - Fr. Wayne, celebrant

(please note the time change!!)**There is no midnight Mass****Tuesday, December 25**

Christmas Day

Mass Schedule: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 1

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

There will only be one Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 6

Feast of the Epiphany - Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 13

The Baptism of the Lord

Regular Sunday Mass times - 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

THOUGHTS WORTH SHARING

The History of the Advent Wreath

By Rev. William Saunders, reprinted from <https://www.catholiceducation.org>

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

Article cont'd on page 3

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.



The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

In family practice, the Advent wreath is most appropriately lit at dinner time after the blessing of the food. A traditional prayer service using the Advent wreath proceeds as follows: On the First Sunday of Advent, the father of the family blesses the wreath, praying: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.” He then continues for each of the days of the first week of Advent, O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg thee, and come, that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.” The youngest child then lights one purple candle.

During the second week of Advent, the father prays: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.” The oldest child then lights the purple candle from the first week plus one more purple candle.

During the third week of Advent, the father prays: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.” The mother then lights the two previously lit purple candles plus the rose candle.

Finally, the father prays during the fourth week of Advent, O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.” The father then lights all of the candles of the wreath.

Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.



Pancake Breakfast

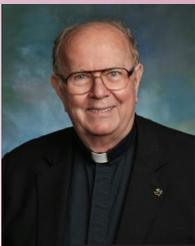
**Sunday,
December 9
9~11 a.m.
Parish Hall**

- Pancakes
- Sausage Links/Patties
- Fruit Cocktail/ Orange Juice
- Coffee/Tea/Bottled Water

The new "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets will be available for \$5.00 each after Masses this weekend and next as well as in the Pancake Breakfast, while supplies last. There are a limited number of the older magnets also. All profits are going to St. Vincent DePaul.

Knights of Columbus Council 15862

Looking to send a Christmas card to our friends who have relocated? Look no further!



Rev. Monsignor Anton Dechering
Bon Secours Place, Apt. 114
10401 Roosevelt Blvd. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33716



Rev. Michael Eguino
St. Elizabeth Church
268 Wadsworth Ave.
New York, NY 10033



Sister Jean Barrett
Franciscan Villa
6900 Buckley Rd.
Syracuse, NY 13212

On November 27th, the Ladies of Mercy delivered 6 bags of personal hygiene items to the free clinic. They were very busy and appreciative for the donation. The free clinic helps people on the street and those who are trying to get a job. For example, those who are going for an interview for a job can receive help with dental services from dentists who donate their services for free. Imagine if you will that you lost your job or pension - what would you do until you got a job? Jesus is alive and well in our hearts. Can you donate a small item or one more item than last month? PLEASE KEEP YOUR PRAYERS COMING!

MASS INTENTIONS

2nd Sunday of Advent

- Sat., December 8** - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
 - 8:00 a.m. Blessed Trinity Parishioners
 - 4:00 p.m. James Lawler (dec)
- Sun., December 9** - 2nd Sunday of Advent
 - 8:00 a.m. Edward Crader Jr. (Dec)
 - 9:30 a.m. Blessed Trinity Parishioners
 - 11:30 a.m. Lorraine Burque (dec)
- Mon., December 10**
 - 8:00 a.m. Julie Ann Knox Amaral (dec)
- Tues., December 11**
 - 8:00 a.m. Alan Frick & June Nardin (dec)
- Wed., December 12** - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 - 8:00 a.m. Vocations
- Thurs., December 13** - Mem. of Saint Lucy
 - 8:00 a.m. Petar Kanis (dec)
- Fri., December 14** - Mem. of Saint Ambrose
 - 8:00 a.m. Peg Stark (dec)
- Sat., December 15** - Mem. of Saint John of the Cross
 - 8:00 a.m. Drew Squires (dec)
 - 4:00 p.m. Frank Zaweski (dec)
- Sun., December 16** - 3rd Sunday of Advent
 - 8:00 a.m. The Congiu Family (liv & dec)
 - 9:30 a.m. Blessed Trinity Parishioners
 - 11:30 a.m. Angela M. Wehbe (dec)

Sacred Vessels for communion are donated in memory of John (Jack) R. Aselage

SACRAMENTS

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call the Parish Office for an appointment with a parish priest 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 the Parish Office for information regarding the Pre-Baptism Class before scheduling a Baptism.



OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9 AM - 4 PM
CLOSED FOR LUNCH
NOON TO 1 PM

How to Donate Your Required Minimum Distribution to Charity

A few parishioners recently asked me to publish the following information regarding direct gifts from their IRA or tax deferred 401(k)s.

If you are 70½ or older you may be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals. An IRA Required Minimum Distribution to charity is a way you can save on taxes and help your parish.

Benefits of an IRA Direct Distribution

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to our organization
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Help further the work and mission of our parish

How to make your IRA Charitable Distribution

1. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to us.
2. Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to the charitable organization you select. (*We hope you pick us!*)

Normally you will be instructed to fill out a form. On the form you would write in the charity's name. In our case you should name: "Gregory L. Parks, as Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, and his successors in office, a Corporation Sole". Now that's quite a line. Call me if you forget.

Then somewhere on the form make a note that the gift is:
"For the use of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church".

Have your donation sent to:
Office of the Bishop
Diocese of St. Petersburg
PO Box 40200
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200

The Bishop's Office will make see to it that your generosity is given to Blessed Trinity. If your plan person tells you different I can help. Simply call me at 867-3663 and I will talk, or email them, or defer their questions to the Diocese. I am happy to help in any way I can.

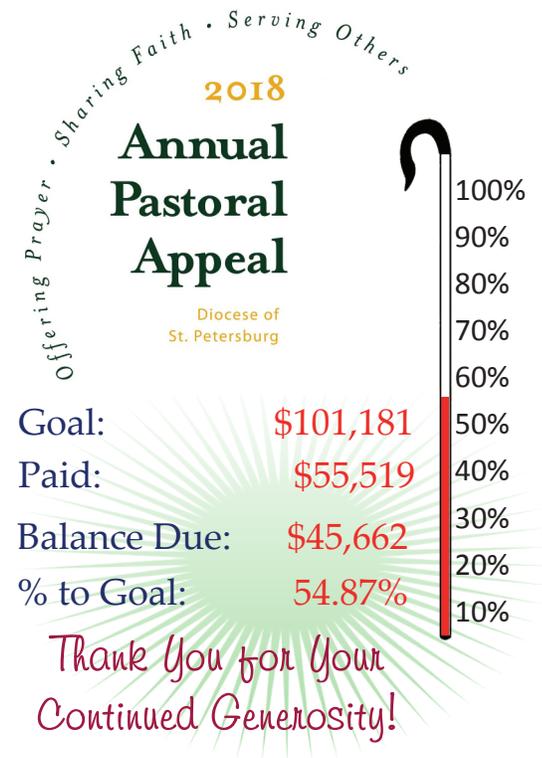
Thank you to those parishioners who have already given their gift in this way. It is a wonderful and welcome donation. May God bless you.

Note: mlw@dosp.org Meegan Wright handles this stuff.

Donations 12/02/18

Offertory Collection	\$6,759
Building Fund	\$1,364
Gift shop	\$243
Christmas Flowers	\$471
TOTAL:	\$8,837
St. Vincent DePaul	\$706

Want to try Online Giving?
Go to our website at btsp.org and click the online giving button.



Publication deadline for the bulletin is on **Monday** of each week. Please email any announcements to:
BTKGallagher@gmail.com



This Week at Blessed Trinity

- Sun. 12/9 9:00 a.m. - K of C Pancake Breakfast
10:45 a.m. - Family Faith Formation - FFR
7:00 p.m. - Men's AA - Rm 4
- Mon. 12/10 1:00 p.m. - "Shepherd Me..." retreat - FFR
7:00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting - FFR
- Wed. 12/12 6:30 p.m. - Choir - Music Room
- Sat. 12/15 7:00 p.m. - Women's AA

Please call the Parish Office. (727) 867-3663, for information regarding ministries & organizations



In response to the sexual abuse scandal in the clergy:

Please join us for

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Every first Friday of the month for the near future, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass we will have Eucharistic exposition, homily, meditation, and benediction at 11:45 a.m. You might want to pray for healing and for the victims of the scandal. Invest one hour with God, one on one.

Our next Adoration will be on Friday, January 4th.



If you are a senior (55 years and older) we invite you to come to a FREE Senior Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 16, from 3-5 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 2101 22nd Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712. Chaperones and drivers are welcome to stay for the meal.

A Delicious Meal is prepared by the Gathering of Women, non-profit, served by the Youth and Young Adult Ministries at St. Joseph Catholic Church. A small gift will be given to each senior ...and a candy table is available for your enjoyment.

Christmas Altar Flowers

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

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

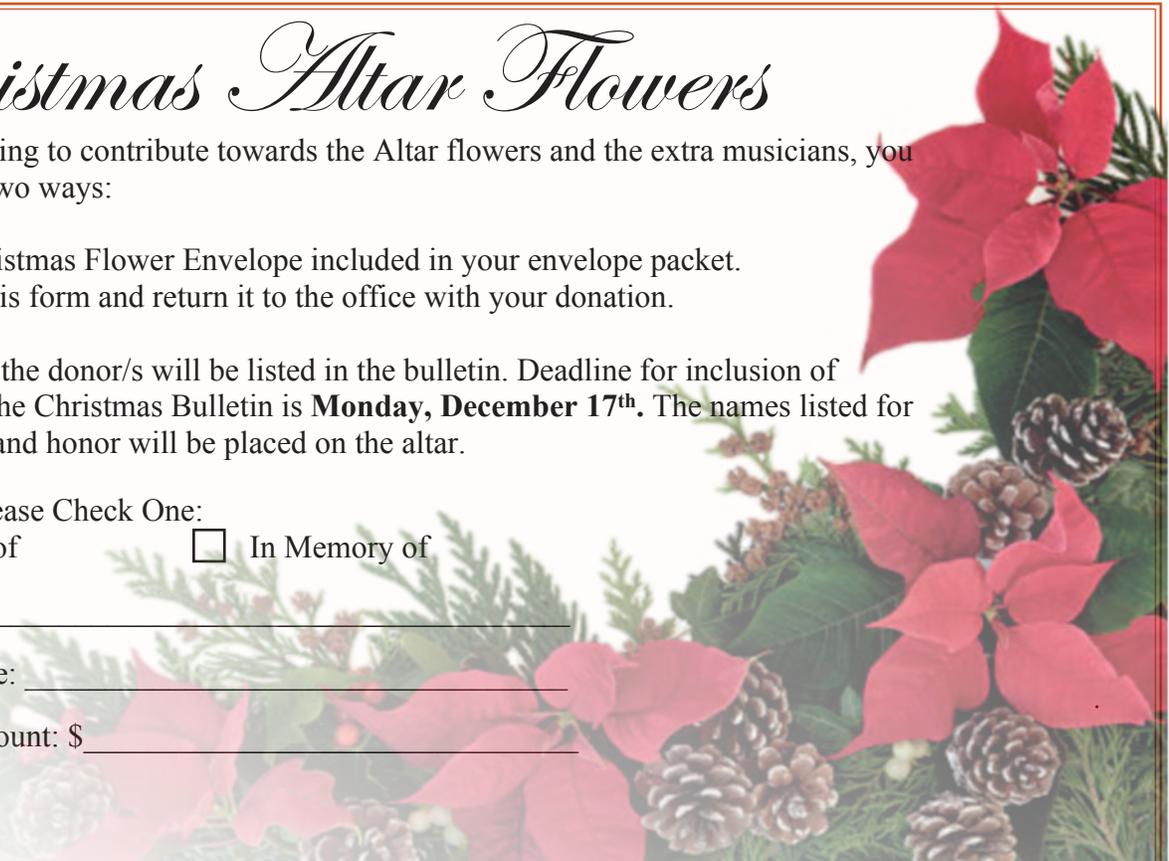
The name/s of the donor/s will be listed in the bulletin. Deadline for inclusion of your name in the Christmas Bulletin is **Monday, December 17th**. The names listed for remembrance and honor will be placed on the altar.

Please Check One:

- In Honor of In Memory of

Donor's Name: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____



Adkins, Chantale	Dawson, Anthony Peter	Huff, Walt & Carole	McGarry, Jean	Robinson, Agnes
Albertson, Michelle	Deacon Lionel Roberts	Iglesias, Olivia	McManus, Elly	Romani, Angelo & Marlene
Anonymous	DeLucca, Rosemary	Irvin, Victoria	Membreno, Mary & Gus	Rosa, Joe & Nina
Antczak, Harriet	Detore, Alice	Kantowicz, Jan	Merchant, Geraldine	Sanders, Kimberly
Aselage, Karl	Favero, Beverly	Keithly, Claire	Merchant, Rhoda	Sanders, Marilyn
Attard, Stephanie	Fazio, Mary	Kincaid, Kevin & Tammie	Mesick, Phil & Nancy	Sharp, Jennett
Banks, Cathy	Feehan, Joe	King, Ada	Mitchell, Stella	Shelby, Ron & Montez
Beekman, Connie	Feltes, Chuck & Lauren	Kleinberger, Donovan	Monahan, Sheila	Sheridan, Samantha
Bennett, Elizabeth	Fiedler, Meghan	Kline, Irene	Morton, Donna Abby	Simpson, Rose
Blondheim, Carmen	Forbes, Monica & Tom	Kwesell, Eugene	Murdock, Cheryl & Evan	Sister Elaine Taylor
Bogensberger, Rosemary	Forbes, Rahim	Lanigan, John	Neumann, Janet	Smith, Anita
Brown, Bob & Beverly	Forbes, Tina May	Lashley, Diana	Nichols, Robert	St. Pierre, Rick
Brown, Dorothy	Fraser, Sue Chapman	Leath, Bill	Nuñez, Marleny	Stankiewicz, Cy
Brown, Buck	Freda, Eileen	Lee, Donald	O'hara, Debbie	Thompson, Sue
Brown, Shaquita	Gilberto, Josie	Leininger, Carol	Pezzulo, Irene	Thore, Isabelle
Browning, Rea	Graeme, Mary	LeVan, George	Pope, Stoney	Timm, Carol & Linda
Buckwald, Diane	Grimberg, Carol	Lindsay, Jane	Post, Michael	Van Dusen, Caroline
Carfora, Palma	Hamilton, Tom	Lucas, Laura	Privitera, Sandy	Watson, Doug & Claire
Ceci, Shirley	Harris, Melonie	Lyons, Laura	Ramsey, Gerald	Whalen, Dorothy
Chris, David	Hawkins, Ashlyn	Mack, Jackson	Ray, Terry	Wilson, Dolores
Christ, Jackie	Hawkins, Barbara	Maharne, Cecile	Reardon, Kevin	Wood, Jena
Christ, Kathryn	Hepp, Loren	Mahoney, Colleen	Reardon, Kara	
Cline, Wayne	Herman, Mary	Maitland, Steve	Reed, Edward, Jr.	
Cramer, David	Heylan, Edward H.	Mark, Jacqueline	Remp, Al	
D'Agostino, Frances	Hildebrand, Bud	Marois, Mar	Rivera, Joel	
	Horne, Francesca		Reyes, Nila	