



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

November 27, 2022 ▪ The First Sunday of Advent

4 Ways to Bring Mary and Joseph Into Your Advent

By Matthew Green



We are all journeying to Bethlehem...

As we begin this purple time of interior preparation, contemplation and mild penitential practices, it is good to consider Mary and Joseph, who are (in a manner of speaking) traveling with us on the road to Bethlehem. Here are four ways to invite the Mother of God and her silent but strong spouse into intimacy within Advent.

1. Make an Advent resolution.

We can think of our soul as the manger that is being prepared during Advent to receive Christ on Christmas night. Surely Joseph did what he could to clean the stable and make it comfortable for Mary and the baby Jesus. We should do the same with our soul: try to clean it of sin, and make it a welcoming place by loving God in our neighbor. We might make a resolution to be more generous with those around us who are in need, to reach out to someone who would otherwise celebrate the holidays alone, or to be patient and understanding of our relatives and in-laws at family Christmas celebrations. Also important would be to go to the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once during Advent to repair and strengthen our relationship with God.

2. At least once during Advent, pray a part of the Liturgy of the Hours.

During this season the Liturgy of the Hours presents us with psalms and texts that speak of the promise of the Messiah. Those Old Testament texts are drawn from Jewish sources; it's possible that Mary and Joseph were reflecting on some of these same texts as they awaited the birth of their Son, whose mission is foretold in beautiful, often mysterious and symbolic language. By praying with these texts we join ourselves to Mary and Joseph, and to the whole Church, awaiting the coming of the Lord.

Continued on page 2



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

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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 will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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It might seem intimidating if you pick up a print copy of the Liturgy of the Hours for the first time, but many churches offer directed community prayer of Morning Prayer or Vespers. If that isn't an option, you can pray on your own using a website like [iBreviary](http://iBreviary.org) or DivineOffice.org. It doesn't have to take long either; some of the shorter "hours," such as midday prayer, take no longer than five minutes or so when prayed privately.

3. Revive a family tradition, or start a new one.

Traditions are means of celebrating, teaching, and keeping alive values. I still remember the Advent calendars that my mother made for my brother and me when we were small. Each morning she would add something to the calendar for the day—a note with instructions, a small gift, a Christmas-themed image. Those notes might tell us to read a specific Scripture passage, or do a good deed, or tip us off to some treat that we had to search for in the form of a treasure hunt. It was a fun activity that also taught us about our faith and the importance of giving to others.

Mary and Joseph, faithful Jews, observed traditions every day of their lives. Advent is a great time to revive a tradition, or to create new ones, that will help everyone to grow in their faith and in their love during this season and beyond.

4. Don't use up all your Christmas spirit before Christmas.

For secular culture Christmas starts earlier and earlier each year and ends around midnight on December 25. For Catholics, Christmas begins at the evening Mass on December 24 and ends little by little over the next several weeks. For example, the famous "12 Days of Christmas" don't end until Epiphany, traditionally on January 6. But it's not over even then! The Christmas season technically extends all the way to the first Sunday after the Epiphany. In 2016, that's January 10.

At Epiphany, the Wise Men came upon the Holy Family; it was a day of discovery, but further discoveries await. On February 2, Candlemas, we remember Joseph and Mary bringing Jesus to the temple, and Simeon's prophecy.

In other words, Advent begins a journey, one that takes us through the entire liturgical year, one in which we are able to invite the Holy Family, day by day, to be with us.

Keeping Christmas alive in our homes after the commercial hype is over might actually help us to focus more on the real meaning of Christmas and to (like reformed Ebenezer Scrooges) "honor Christmas in our hearts, and try to keep it all the year." Consider keeping a nativity scene on display in a prominent place in the house, or praying the Angelus, each day—two things that return our minds, again and again, to the mystery of the Incarnation.

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November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:37-44

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Don't get me wrong. I love vacations and weekends away. But the night and day before? It's always a whirlwind of laundry, packing, and shopping for groceries and essential car snacks. I knew we were going away. I could have gotten my act together earlier. Next trip, I tell myself. Then the cycle repeats itself. Advent can be that way. This year's going to be the year! No rushing around, no crazy last-minute shopping, no stress: I'm going to study the daily readings, read that Advent devotional, settle into the season of waiting. Today's readings speak not only to procrastinators like me but also to the planners: Wherever we are on that continuum, Advent gives us an opportunity to ready our souls for Jesus' coming. It's less about what we do when than about preparing our hearts. Through prayer, study and the liturgies of this season, we can ask God to help us clean house within and prepare for Jesus' coming.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today is not only the first Sunday of Advent, but the first day of the liturgical year. Today's readings encourage us to prepare for Christ's coming. I love St. Paul's imagery: "Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us ... put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Just as we make resolutions for the new calendar year, Advent affords us an opportunity to start anew. However, the gift of our faith reminds us that we are not alone in this! We can seek the help of the Holy Spirit through prayer and turn to the accountability partners who sit in the pews next to us at Sunday Mass. We, in turn, can be a light to others through our words, attitudes, and actions. As we light our houses and light our Christmas trees this year, we can remember to put on the armor of light ourselves as we begin this holy season.

ACTION Even with the best of intentions, the holiday season can become busy. As you go about errands or prepare your home, make an effort to listen to Advent hymns or reflections.



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 Genereux, 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

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 26, Weekday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Mary Ann Fessler (Dec)

Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. The deceased family of Robert Smith

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Kristin Boss (Dec)

Monday, November 28, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Fred & Mary Lou Deuel (Dec)

Tuesday, November 29, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Lyliane Corvington (Dec)

Wednesday, November 30, Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, December 1, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Lyliane Corvington (Dec)

Friday, December 2, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Zachary Maas & Kolbe Buonomo (Liv)

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

8:00 a.m. Lionel Roberts 45th Anniversary as Deacon (Liv)

4:00 p.m. Jim Lawler & Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

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

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. William Porter (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

11/27 • Rev. Felipe Gonzalez

11/28 • Rev. Alexander Padilla

11/29 • Rev. Pedro J. Zapata

11/30 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

12/01 • Rev. Anthony Astrab

12/02 • Rev. Drew Woodke

12/03 • Rev. John J. Blum

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Being Surprised by Christ

Some people hate surprise parties. There are those who are uncomfortable with a last-minute vacation or even an unexpected travel upgrade. If it wasn't part of the plan, it's a cause for consternation.

There is a temptation to view these folks as curmudgeonly — sticks in the mud, obsessed with predictability. But I think if we're being honest, there's a little bit of the surprise-averse in all of us.

Deep within the very heart of the element of surprise is a kernel of shock. And shock, in the moment, can feel similar to trauma. If we reflect on the most traumatic occurrences of our lives — a loss, an accident, a calamity — it is likely that we will say this: "It was the shock more than anything that got to me." Grief or fear, those feelings were overwhelming as well, but they came later. In the first moment, all we knew was we were going about our lives on one path until we were thrust on a different one and then the whole future changed.

This is the natural rhythm of our life here on earth. We never know what is coming — which is to say, in a beautiful way, we always know what is coming. More importantly, we know Who is coming.

Like the early riser who sets the "pre-alarm" (the one on which he knows he's going to hit *snooze* just to take the edge off the disappointment of waking up), we are always being given a heads-up in Scripture. From the earliest prophecies of the Messiah to Jesus' reminders in the Gospel to the very last words of Revelations, God has communicated to His stewards: *You know the time. The time is now.* We are called to constant vigilance, perpetual renewal, steadfast accountability.

In the end, the coming of Christ may be the only event in history that was a surprise, but not a shock — and so it will only be beautiful, even for those who hate surprise parties.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

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ST. ANDREW ADVENT PRAYER

Hail and blessed be
the hour and moment
in which the Son of God
was born
of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight, in Bethlehem,
in the piercing cold. In that
hour vouchsafe,
I beseech Thee, O my God,
to hear my prayer and grant
my desires,
[here mention your request]
through the merits of Our
Savior Jesus Christ,
and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.



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A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a legacy gift made through the Catholic Foundation that can provide you with a secure source of fixed payments for life. By making a gift of cash, property or other asset to establish a CGA, you establish fixed payments from the CGA for life, receive a charitable deduction, and are able to name your parish, a Catholic school or your favorite Catholic ministry as beneficiary at the time it is set up.

For more information, please contact the Catholic Foundation at foundation@dosp.org or 727.374.0220.



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 toward 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.

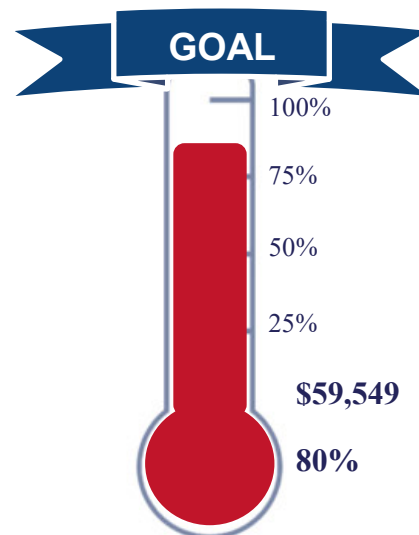
All gift cards with angels attached should be returned by Tuesday, December 6. We will need the time between December 6 and December 9 to organize and prepare for distribution to the families on December 10.

Gift cards may be placed in the poor box, or dropped off at the Parish office during the week.

Thank you and God Bless you for your generosity.



Our Goal \$74,741



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- Join our Scripture Reflection community!
- Receive a personal message each day via email or text.
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A Service of the Diocese of St. Petersburg & Bishop Gregory Parkes

Keep in touch with us!

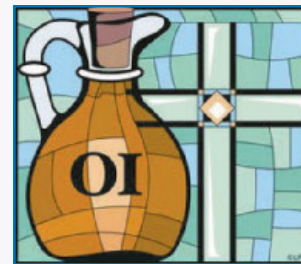
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Wanize, Tom
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Anointing of the Sick

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.



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