



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

December 3, 2023 ▪ The First Sunday of Advent

Mass prep – 30 seconds/3 points: 5 Tips from Jesus for Advent

Fr. Paweł Rytel-Andrianik



Let's turn to Our Lord himself for advice on how to live this joyful season.

1. Joyful Expectation

Advent – a time of joyful expectation. The Gospel of the first Sunday of Advent tells us about the waiting for the Son of Man. And Advent itself is precisely a time of joyful waiting for Christmas. In this climate, **Jesus gives five practical pieces of advice.**

2. Key Words

Take heart

Advent is a time to **take care of your life and spiritual health**, which is why you need retreats – including online retreats, days of recollection, and other ways to get to your heart.

Lift up your heads

In other words: Be courageous, do not be afraid! **Look with courage and optimism at your life and your future**, and at the same time, lift your heads above what you are doing, see more, expand your horizons.

Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy

Jesus does not say to look out for others, but to keep watch over oneself, which means **starting with oneself**. So that as Jesus warns in today's Gospel: "that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life and that day catch you by surprise like a trap" Luke 21:34–35.

Be vigilant

Being vigilant means keeping our eyes and ears open to what is happening around us. It consists in recognizing the signs of the times that God gives us each day, and also seeing how He cares for us. **Being vigilant means being sensitive to the signs of God in our lives.**

Continued next page . . .



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Randall Roberts, 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

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

(727) 867-3663

FAX

(727) 864-2679

WEB SITE

<http://btsp.org>

Like us on FaceBook

... Continued from cover

Pray at all times

God Himself—Jesus Christ—found time for prayer. Prayer is like the air we breathe. Saint John Paul II said that **time spent in prayer is never time lost**. Prayer is a conversation with a Friend. It can be said that “pray at all times” means not only when we are in church, but on various occasions, for example, on our way to work, when walking, etc. You can turn to the Lord God on any occasion.

3. Today

Advent is a time for making resolutions. The spiritual fathers say that this does not mean making many resolutions that, later, are not put into practice, but making **a specific one** that can be carried out.

Now, it is best if this resolution is related to the most important commandment, what is most important in life, that is, the commandment to love God and your neighbor as yourself.

Do I already have my concrete resolution for Advent?

Reprinted with permission aleteia.org

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.

12/03 • Rev. John J. Blum
12/04 • Rev. Dominic J. Corona
12/05 • For All Priests on Leave
12/06 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
12/07 • Rev. Philip Clement
12/08 • Rev. Krzysztof Gazdowicz
12/09 • Msgr. Robert C. Gibbons

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.



Cookie Exchange

Join the Blessed Trinity Social Group for a Christmas Cookie Exchange
Sunday, December 17, 2023 at
12:30 pm in Courtyard Hall.

Bake three dozen of your favorite holiday cookies to share. Please no store bought cookies.



December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7 | 1 Cor 1:3-9 | Mk 13:33-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

In a nineteenth-century sermon, St. John Henry Newman wrote of today's Gospel: "[Jesus] mercifully whispers into our ears ... not to share in the general unbelief [around us], not to be carried away by the world but to 'beware, keep alert' and look out for his coming." I love the thought that Jesus is "mercifully whispering" to us. Welcome to Advent! We know that Advent is a time of anticipation and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ, but today's readings also speak to me of training ourselves to be alert for God's presence in the small, everyday moments of our lives. In his Letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes that "[we] are not lacking in any spiritual gift" as we await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are gifted with his grace. Our loving God bestows countless graces on us each day, and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can seek ways to be more aware of these graces. Yes, we can be more "alert" to them, but can also be thankful for these small moments of God's presence with us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Advent is a season of joyful hope. "I hope I can get my Christmas shopping done in time ... I hope I have time to get my house decorated this weekend." We all have "hopes and dreams" for this time of year, and, God-willing we will be blessed with a truly festive and joyous holiday season with our families. For Catholics, though, this season of "joyful hope" is one that has a much deeper meaning. We long for the return of Christ and our eternal union with him with a hope that is built on the promises of Jesus in the Scriptures. Our hope is not passive, but active. We know that God is always there for us, comforting us in bad times and rejoicing with us in times of happiness. Let us give thanks for our Triune God who desires to be in relationship with us enough that he sent his Son to take on our humanity. And let us silence any noise in our hearts so as to hear Jesus' merciful whisper of encouragement to be on the watch for his coming.

SING *People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.*



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

Journeying Through Grief

"Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache."

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support "group" or you would prefer "one on one" support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 2, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Ann Deakins (dec)

Saturday, December 2, Vigil for The First Sunday in Advent

4:00 p.m. Lionel Roberts, 46 Years a Deacon (liv)

Sunday, December 3, The First Sunday in Advent

8:00 a.m. Bill Isaac (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Congiu Family (dec)

Monday, December 4, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Ronald Russo (dec)

Tuesday, December 5, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Alice Ann Lyons (dec)

Wednesday, December 6, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, December 7, Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Lolita Basio (dec)

Friday, December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. Philomena Russum (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

7:00 p.m. Patricia Dubois (liv)

Saturday, December 9, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Frank and Sofia Gawlik (liv)

Saturday, December 9, Vigil for The Second Sunday in Advent

4:00 p.m. James Lawler and Pat Sullivan (dec)

Sunday, December 10, The Second Sunday in Advent

8:00 a.m. Silvana Bellini (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Rosa Tomassi (dec)



Christmas Concert

Mark your calendars for the Blessed Trinity Christmas Concert on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.

The concert will feature a variety of organ and choral music for the Christmas season with works by Pietro Yon, Richard Purvis, Natalie Sleeth, and Diane Bish. It is also the world premiere of Wayne Dietrich's Christmas piece, "When Mary's Baby Cried," with Tracy Torrance as guest soprano.



Merry Christmas!

The Gathering of Women, Inc. invites
you to attend a

Free Senior Christmas Luncheon

At Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
1600 54th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Sunday, December 17, 2023
From 2:30-5 p.m.

A delicious dinner of turkey, ham, rice, sweet potatoes, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, green beans, collard greens, salad, rolls, and an array of delicious pies and peach cobbler will be served.

Santa will be coming to bring gifts for all our Seniors.

RSVP at 727-490-8914

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

For those wishing to contribute towards the Altar flowers, you may do so in one of 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 and also placed on the Altar. **Deadline for inclusion of your name in the Christmas bulletin is December 21.**

Please Check One:

☐ In Honor of _____

☐ In Memory of _____

Donor's Name: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Weekly Offering

including online donation

Weekend of November 19

Offertory totals and other donations will be posted in next week's magazine.

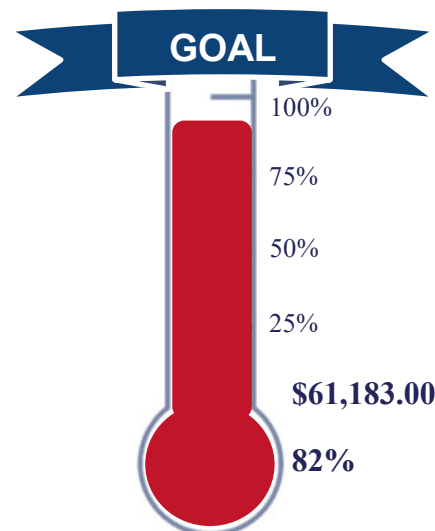
**Thank you for
your continued generosity!**



DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG
**CATHOLIC
MINISTRY**
Appeal

**Thank you for your
prayerful giving!**

2023 Goal \$74,446.52



A New Way to Pray this Advent

Daily Scripture Reflections
via Email or Text

Local writers share their personal reflections
to help you grow closer to Christ.

SIGN UP at: www.dosp.org/reflections
or text REFLECTION to 84576



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 3

ADVENT STARTS

Monday, December 4

7:00 pm Christmas Concert CH

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 am Scripture Class CYH

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting PH

Wednesday, December 6

6:00 pm Adult Choir MR

Friday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception- Holy Day of Obligation

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 and 10:30 am Coffee and Donuts PH

Monday, December 11

7:00 pm "Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group CYH

Tuesday, December 12

10:00 am Scripture Class CYH

Wednesday, December 13

6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal MR

Thursday, December 14

7:00-8:00 pm Advent Penance Service CH

Sunday, December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 and 10:30 am Coffee and Donuts PH

12:30 pm BT Social Group Cookie Exchange CYH

2:30 pm Gathering of Women Senior Lunch PH

Monday, December 18

7:00 pm "Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group CYH

Tuesday, December 19

10:00 am Scripture Class CYH

Wednesday, December 20

6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal MR

Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 and 10:30am Coffee and Donuts PH

Santa visits after the 4pm Mass

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day!

7:00pm "Life in the Spirit" Prayer group CYH

Tuesday, December 26

10:00am Scripture Class CYH

PH= Parish Hall, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church



Social Group

The Blessed Trinity Social Group is meeting regularly now. Please join us at the Kahwa coffee shop @ 400 45th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 after the 8:00 am Mass on the Last Friday of each Month. Bring your ideas!

All are welcome!

Full-Time Cook Needed

The Missionaries of Africa Retirement Home in St. Petersburg, total of 8 men, needs a full-time cook Monday-Friday from 10:30 am to 6:30 pm. Health and pension benefits apply after a 3 month probation period.



If you, or someone you know is interested, please send your resume to star30@verizon.net

Questions? Please contact Denise Starkey, 813-215-9535.

Keep in touch with us!

Text BTSP to 84576 or connect with us online at [flocknote](https://www.flocknote.com)
[btsp.flocknote.com](https://www.flocknote.com)

Everything you wanted to know about your faith

Discover all the best Catholic content in one place. Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks and audio dramas, and a great selection of popular e-books—all just a click away!

It's free, it's Catholic, and it's our gift to you!
[formed.org](https://www.formed.org) TJQ622 access code



Blessed Trinity Giving Tree St Vincent de Paul Society

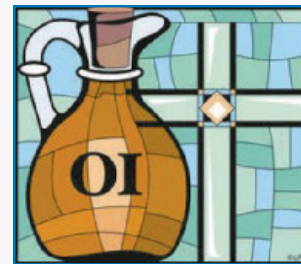
All gift cards with angels attached should be returned by Tuesday, December 5.

Thank you and God Bless you for your generosity.

Arnold, Barbara
Austreng, Dick
Barr, Bill
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Carlo, Danielle
Christ, Kathryn
Cisek, Marilyn
Comeau, Teresa
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Gawlik, Frank
Gawlik, Sofia
Genreux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt

Irvin, John
Joyal, Christina
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Klima, Sue
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Matthews, Daniel
Mays, Susan
Membrano, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Oliphant, Sean
Parmigiani, Valerie
Powers, Jim
Preeper, Helen

Riley, Marie
Roberts, Deacon Li-
onel
Romani, Angelo
Schulz, Ingrid
Shelby, Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and
Lil
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



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.

THANK YOU! Johnnie Jones Plumbing

For all your great and professional work in my Home!!

Cecile Maharne



Questions about Medicare, Affordable Care Act, Medicaid. Call, email or visit my website for more information!

Rebecca Haugland
727-326-2452

rhaugland@veracity-insurance.com
rebeccaknowsinsurance.com



MARSHALL LAWN & PEST CONTROL

Lawn Spraying • Fertilizing
Household Pests
Serving Pinellas County Since 1983

727-528-3224

NEVER MISS OUR BULLETIN!

SUBSCRIBE

Have our bulletin emailed to you every week.

Visit www.parishesonline.com



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

catholicmatch®
Florida



CatholicMatch.com/FL

Complete Plumbing Services & Supplies Johnnie Jones Plumbing Co.

Founded by Carl H. Jonasson Sr.
Barbara J. Pace CFC 1427395

727-323-2300

27247 23rd Ave. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713-4318



Parishioner

DEBRA ARCAMONTE

Realtor® | Luxury Property Specialist

(727)409-0754

debra.arcamonte@floridamoves.com
www.DebraArcamonteFloridaRealtor.com

3637 4th Street N. Suite 100
St. Petersburg, FL 33704

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
Owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group LLC.

Brett Funeral Home & Cremation Services

4810 Central Avenue
Tel. 727-321-3321
www.brettfuneralhome.net
Catholic Owned & Operated Since 1960

Conklin Financial Group LLC

Providing help with all your Medicare needs



1-727-541-3043 (TTY 711)
john@conklinfinancialgroup.com
Pinellas Park, FL 33781



LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Peter Stewart

pstewart@4LPi.com
(800) 477-4574 x6123

DOES YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NEED A NEWSLETTER?

Engaging, ad-supported
print and digital
newsletters to reach
your community.



Visit lpicomunities.com



BOSS LAW

PROTECT YOUR FUTURE

Buying or Selling
Your Home?

Let Boss Law Handle
Your Closing

*Blessed Trinity
Parishioners Receive Friends/
Family Discount!*

Christopher W. Boss
Parishioner



727-471-0039 | BossLegal.com



For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

16-0289

ADVENT

God Comes Among Us

More than just a memory of the past, Advent is a celebration of the seeds of our faith, the gift of God's grace gradually growing to fulfillment in the world. Like the people of ancient Israel, we long for the completion of God's reign on earth. At the same time, we know that our redemption has been won for us and that our sins have been forgiven. As we celebrate Advent in the liturgy of the Church, we experience the longing for Christ in our lives as we wait in a hope that is joyful because we have been redeemed. Just as our world is in desperate need of God's grace, our own lives are in need of reform to live more fully in Christ. The rituals of preparation at home and in church remind us that this special time of the year is more than just a winter holiday. Miraculously born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus continues to come among us through the sacraments, Scripture and the Christian community gathered in prayer. May we experience the presence of Christ, the proclamation of the Kingdom and the call to conversion this Advent season.

History of Advent

Advent began after the 4th century as a time of preparation for Epiphany—not in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrated the birth and manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early Church instituted a 40-day period of fasting and repentance.

Later, in the 6th century, Pope St. Gregory the Great was the first to associate this season of Advent with the coming of Christ. Originally it was not the coming of the Christ-child that was anticipated, but rather, the second coming of Christ.

By the Middle Ages the Church had extended the celebration of Advent to the familiar format we know today. The early weeks are rich with the prophecies of Isaiah, reminding us to wait and prepare for the coming Messiah. Later, the pace quickens and we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.



Celebrating with the Advent Wreath

One way to prepare for Christ's coming into our lives is to make an Advent wreath for your daily household worship. This traditional circular wreath reminds us that God, like the circle, has no beginning and no end. Evergreens on the wreath symbolize our everlasting relationship with God, the source of continuous new life.

The wreath has four candles, three purple or violet and one rose. On the First Sunday and Week of Advent, we light the first candle and then an additional candle on each Sunday until Christmas. Purple is a royal color, reflecting the kingship of Christ and also repentance. The rose candle, lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, represents joy. Thus, the colors of the candles illustrate the themes of Advent: kingship, repentance and joy. The candles also remind us that the incarnation has transformed the darkness of hatred and evil into the light of joy and love.

Let your Advent wreath become the center around which your household gathers together each night during this joyous, but sometimes frenzied, season of celebration. And as you celebrate with the Advent wreath, include your favorite Advent hymns and songs, scripture readings and prayers focusing on Christ's threefold Advent—past, present and future.

Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath

Lord God of all creation,
you came among us as an infant
in Bethlehem long ago.

Come to us now
as we prepare to celebrate your birth
and look forward to your coming
in glory at the end of time.

May the light of this wreath remind us
of the power of your steadfast love for us
over the darkness of fear, evil and death.

May we praise you all the days of our lives.
Bless our preparation for your coming. *Amen*

THE "O ANTIPHONS"

The **O Antiphons** refer to the seven verses that are recited (or chanted) preceding the *Magnificat* during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23. These antiphons form the basis of the Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," put to music in 15th century France.

December 17—*O Wisdom*, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

December 18—*O Sacred Lord* of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

December 19—*O Flower of Jesse's Stem*, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

December 20—*O Key of David*, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

December 21—*O Radiant Dawn*, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 22—*O King* of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

December 23—*O Emmanuel*, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

MASS READINGS FOR ADVENT 2023

1st Sunday..... Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7;
1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

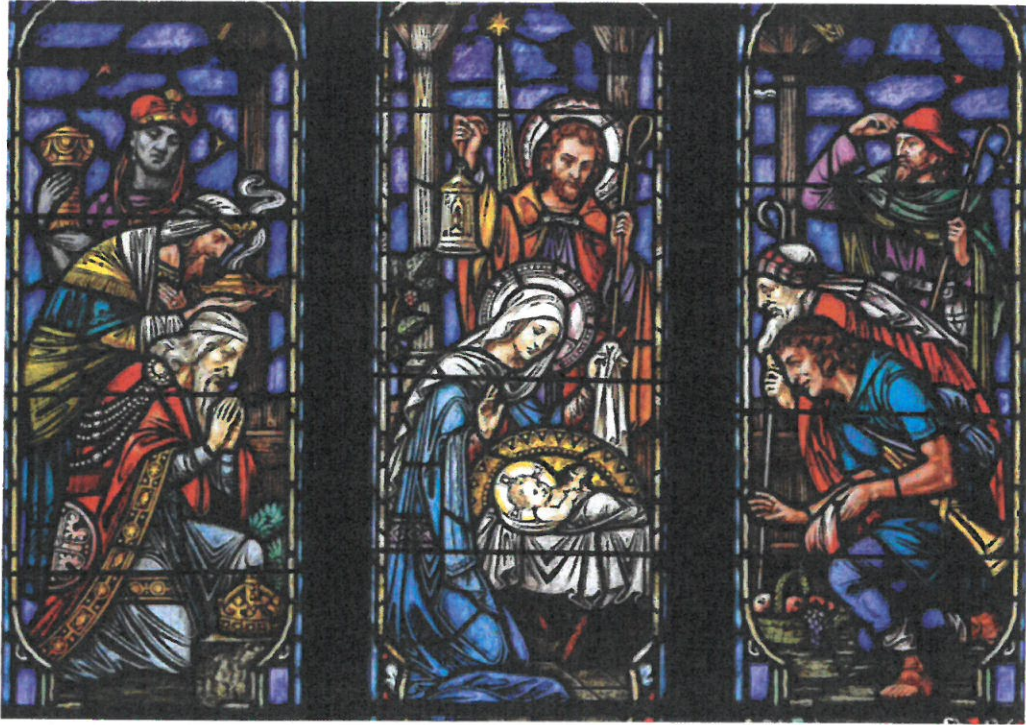
2nd Sunday..... Is 40:1-5, 9-11;
2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

3rd Sunday..... Is 61:1-2a, 10-11;
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

4th Sunday..... 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Christmas Day..... Is 52:7-10;
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

CHRISTMAS IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD



Advent Prepares us for the
THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



BLESSED TRINITY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Courageously Living the Gospel for Over 60 Years

Dear Friends in Christ,

During the past several weeks, I have studied Pope Emeritus Benedict's Encyclical on Hope, and the messages of his Pastoral Visit to the United States in April of 2008. In my Advent Message, I am sharing with you some of the highlights expressed by Pope Emeritus benedict, XVI, and some of my personal thoughts.

The Advent season is a joyful time of year as we prepare to celebrate the great Solemnity of Christmas. It is an invitation to hope, pointing to the horizon of history and to the light of the Savior who comes. On Christmas a great light will appear in the darkness of the night. The Lord will come in all his glory. His splendor fills the whole world. Advent is a favorable time for the rediscovery of a hope that is not vague and deceptive, but certain and reliable because it is anchored in Christ, God made man, the rock of our salvation.

In the days ahead we will be captivated by the ancient story of a baby born into poverty and persecution, whose destiny it was to lift the iron burden of despair of his fellow man. In the twenty-one centuries that have transpired from that sacred moment of his birth, mankind has never been free of the ravages of disease, illiteracy, hunger, and man's inhumanity to man. Yet the star of Bethlehem burns in our hearts with a warmth that is not diminished by the years or discouraged by our failures.

However, at the same time a sadness covers the whole world in this epoch of history, because of an absence of God in the global community. Who can deny that the present moment is a crossroads, not only for the Roman Catholic Church, but also for mankind? We are living in a dangerous time, especially in the Middle East. The world is at war to bring down the reign of terrorism, that strikes at the heart of humanity. It is also a time of great promise, as we see the human family in many ways drawing closer together and becoming ever more interdependent. However, at the same time we see clear signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society: signs of alienation, anger and polarization on the part of many of our contemporaries; increased violence; a weakening of the moral sense; a political climate not open to working together for the people; a society and a government filled with greed and corruption that leaves the people groaning out of desperation; a coarsening of social relations; and growing forgetfulness of Christ and God. We also see signs, even painfully, of the presence of division in our midst, as well as the troubling realization that many, rather than acting as a spiritual leaven in society, are inclined to embrace attitudes contrary to the truth of the Gospel.

On this first Sunday of Advent we are reminded that Christ is the hope of a restless searching humanity. In hope we are saved. As the Church in America gives thanks for over two hundred years, we are invited to trust in the power of grace and to create a future of promise for God's people in this country and throughout the world. I ask you in the Lord Jesus, to set aside all division and to work with joy to prepare a way for Christ in fidelity to his word and in constant conversion to his will. Above all, I urge you to continue to be a leaven of evangelical hope in American society and the wider world, striving to bring the light of truth to the Gospel, and the task of building an even more just and free world for generations to come.

The Lord bestowed the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and granted them the authority to forgive sins. Through the surpassing power of Christ's grace, entrusted to frail human ministers, the Church is constantly reborn and each of us is given the hope of a new beginning. Let us trust in the Spirit's power to inspire conversion, to heal every wound, to overcome every division, and to inspire a new life of freedom. How much we need these gifts! How much, and how near they are, particularly in the sacrament of Penance! The liberating power of this sacrament, in which our honest confession of sin is met by God's merciful words of pardon and peace, need to be rediscovered and appropriated by every Catholic. The renewal of the Church, our parish, our country, and the world, depends on the renewal of the practice of penance and the growth of holiness which the sacrament both inspires and accomplishes. *Our Penance Service at Blessed Trinity will take place on December 14, at 7:00 p.m. followed by individual confession. Several priests and religious will be available to hear confession.*

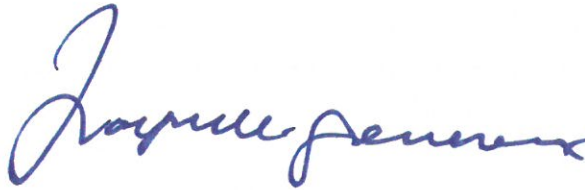
Those who have hope must live different lives! I encourage all parishioners to join me in renewing our spiritual heritage as Catholic Christians. *I am suggesting that that we all take time from our busy schedule to come to the Church in the presence of the tabernacle and pray for the conversion of all people throughout the world, and for peace among all nations. On December 6th, 13th, and 20th, the Church will remain open all day to come and pray. At 7:00 p.m. we will have Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration and at 8:00 p.m., Benediction.*

I urge everyone to make this the highest priority of your life. By your prayers, by the witness of your faith, and by the fruitfulness of your charity, and may you point the way towards the vast horizon of hope, which God is even now opening in his Church, and to all humanity the vision of a world reconciled and renewed in Christ Jesus, our savior. Jesus is the way that leads to eternal happiness, the truth that

satisfies the deepest longings of every heart, and the life that brings new joy and hope, to us and to our world.

May the Advent Season, and the joy of the coming of the Christ Child in the manger be that light that guides you to your greater destiny.

Kind personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wayne C. Genereux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'W'.

Father Wayne C. Genereux, Pastor