



# Blessed Trinity

## Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

December 7, 2025 • Second Sunday of Advent



### What is the Immaculate Conception and why does it matter?

Philip Kosloski - published on 12/09/18 - updated on 12/08/23

*A brief guide to a great mystery of the Christian faith.*

In the liturgical calendar of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, there exists the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary on December 8. It is a feast that is often confused with the conception of Jesus Christ, which is celebrated with the Solemnity of the Annunciation on March 25 (nine months before Christmas day). The December 8 feast, though, refers to *Mary's conception* in the womb of her mother, Ann.

#### What does the "Immaculate Conception" mean?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* lays out a basic definition. To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace." In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

**The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.**

For some, it is a difficult teaching to understand, as it centers on the teaching that God, outside of time, applied the merits of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to the Virgin Mary at the moment of her conception.

The *Canonry of St. Leopold* expounded on this truth, as described in a previous article at *Aleteia*.

[God] took the grace and salvation which would come from His plan to enter into the world, become a man, suffer, die and rise, and he gave the grace to Mary before He actually did it.

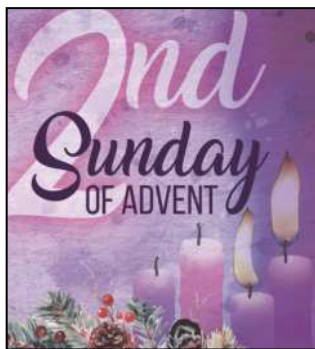
This is not a time-traveling episode in a science fiction series (although maybe we are fascinated with time travel because of the Immaculate Conception!) but rather what the theologians call **prevenient grace, the grace that worked before (in time!) its source had appeared!**

So, God lifted up Mary with this grace — to be, as it were, as if it had been she, Mary, in the Garden, without the burden of Original Sin. And so, she is the Immaculate Conception — conceived in the womb of her mother without the stain of Original Sin.

It is a great mystery of the Catholic faith, one that may be difficult to comprehend, but fits into the "logic" of salvation history. He sought to prepare a vessel for him to come into the world as Savior and Redeemer, and chose Mary, the daughter of Joachim and Ann, to fulfill his plan. It shows his tenderness to humanity and the great love he poured out upon the Virgin Mary, to grant her such a grace. He wanted the best for his earthly mother!

If you struggle with this teaching, it is appropriate to say the prayer of the father whose son was cured by Jesus Christ, "I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

Originally published at [Aleteia.org](http://Aleteia.org), reprinted with permission



## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 6, Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Paula Dubinsky (dec)

**Saturday, December 6, Vigil for Second Sunday of Advent**

4:00 p.m. James, Matt, and Annette Lawler (dec)  
and Patricia Sullivan (dec)

**Sunday, December 7, Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a.m. Sarah Tabor Hosford (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners and  
Nicole Bistany (dec)

11:30 a.m. John Gray (dec)

**Monday, December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:00 a.m. Alice Abstetar (dec)

7:00 p.m. Stanley Abstetar (dec)

**Tuesday, December 9, Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Carol Shandersky (dec)

**Wednesday, December 10, Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

**Thursday, December 11, Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Dolores Kania (liv)

**Friday, December 12, Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Tom and Marie Cullen (dec)

**Saturday, December 13, Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

8:00 a.m. Ana and John Strzeszynski (dec)

**Saturday, December 13, Vigil for Third Sunday of Advent**

4:00 p.m. Patricia Carman (dec)

**Sunday, December 14, Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00 a.m. Loretta Crown (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. The Gallace Family (dec)



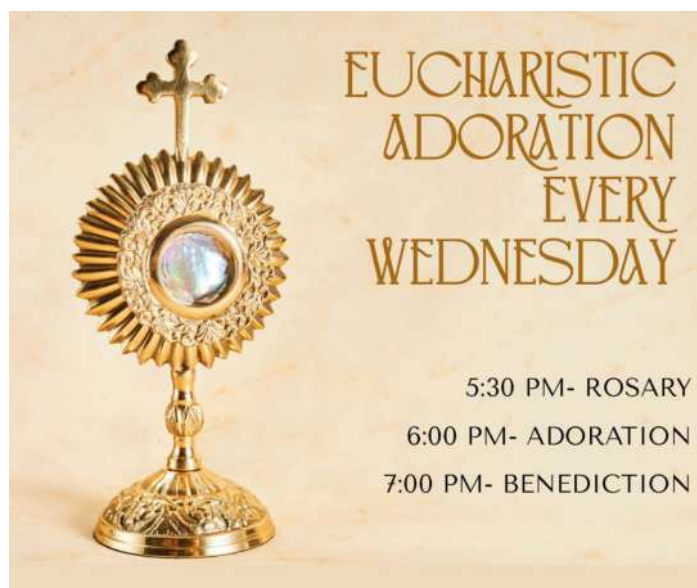
## Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Following Sacraments With Us?

### 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 to schedule an appointment.







December 7, 2025  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

Today's Gospel is a challenging one, inviting us to consider how much spiritual fruit we are bearing in our lives. St. John the Baptist tells us, "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," reminding us that the depth of our conversion will be measured by our fruit. Speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, John says it is not enough to say that "We have Abraham as our father." If he were speaking today, John might put it this way: it's not enough to say "I'm Catholic!" or "I belong to X Parish." Our lives must show outward evidence of the inward conversion we have undergone. The good news for us today is that we can pause and take stock of how well we are bearing spiritual fruit. Pay attention to what areas might need pruning or fertilizing to ensure that when we come to the Lord's threshing floor at the end of our lives, there is a bountiful harvest he can gather into his barn.

## **REFLECT**

In the Gospel, John the Baptist says of Jesus, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Our ability to bear spiritual fruit comes from the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Take a moment to reflect on where you see the gifts (see the first reading from Isaiah!) and fruits of the Holy Spirit in your life. How might the Spirit of God be working to increase your spiritual fruitfulness this Advent?

## **GO EVANGELIZE**

### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Our first reading gives us a glimpse of God's kingdom: The Son of David will rule with wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge, judging "the poor with justice" and striking "the ruthless with the rod of his mouth." In his kingdom "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb" and yet "there shall be no harm or ruin." What a poetic way of describing the harmony and wholeness that God longs for in society! As disciples, this is our mission. We're called to work so that God's kingdom vision can become reality. As we work for peace and justice, we're doing our part in the Church's work of evangelization. As the U.S. bishops reminded us in their letter *Communities of Salt and Light*, "social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission."



## Music Ministry Moment

### *Why does Music during Mass change at Advent?*

Music at Mass changes during Advent to reflect the season's themes of anticipation, watchful waiting, and spiritual preparation for the arrival of Christ. Music is more subdued, reflective, and somber than Christmas music, with a focus on themes of longing and preparation *rather* than the full celebration of Jesus' birth.

### *Why don't we sing the Gloria during Advent?*

Music at Mass should always reflect the liturgical season and set the appropriate tone of the scriptures from which music is chosen. The first words of the Gloria come from the Angels singing it to the shepherds the night Jesus was born, so it shouldn't be sung as we await the birth. When we sing the Gloria at Midnight Mass, it introduces the great celebration of Christ's arrival!

Blessed Trinity and St. Vincent de Paul presents:



## Christmas Angel Giving Tree

The Angels on this tree assist our SVDP families celebrate Christmas. All Children deserve to open a gift on Christmas morning.

The tree will go up on Sat. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and will be filled with ornaments for our Parish families to choose from. The tree will stay up till all Angels have been claimed.

Return gifts unwrapped with the Angel attached to the bag. **(It is imperative to not lose the Angel, as it is attached to a special child.) ONLY NEW GIFTS.**

All gifts must be returned under the tree by **Dec. 7th**.

## Learn About the Parish Trip to Rome in 2027!



There will be an information session on Thursday, **December 11, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the church, a ZOOM link will also be available.** We will discuss the Blessed Trinity trip to Rome to attend a Papal Mass and Audience.

The Blessed Trinity Festival Choir will also sing a concert for the City of Rome and sing Masses at St. Peter's Basilica

and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

For more information email Lisa Screeton at [LSS@btsp.org](mailto:LSS@btsp.org)

## 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 Parish Office along with your donation.

The donor's names will be listed in the bulletin and the honorees names will be placed on the Altar.

**The deadline for inclusion of your name in the bulletin is Dec. 17.**

**Please Check One:**

☐ IN HONOR OF:

☐ IN MEMORY OF:

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Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TONIGHT!  
TICKETS AVAILABLE  
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*We Await...*



An Evening of Lessons and Carols  
Wine reception to follow

DECEMBER 7, 2025  
6:00 P.M. IN THE CHURCH  
\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION



## Second Collection will be for Employee Appreciation

### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Jesus Is Headed Your Way

One day, we heard the news that a possible tornado was heading our way. We live off of a highway, and it was traveling along that very road. My wife and kids huddled in the downstairs bathroom. Not many tornadoes surface in North Carolina, so our children were particularly worried because it was something they had never contemplated happening before. The tornado never did come into our neighborhood, but it did cause one of our sons to express that he needed to go to Confession as soon as possible. He hadn't done anything too over the top sinful, but coming face-to-face with a tornado had caused him to have some second thoughts about his preparedness for meeting God. Hopefully, a tornado doesn't make a path through your city or town this Advent.

Sometimes, reminders of our mortality find their way into life. The passing of a loved one, a car accident, or a health scare can all cause us to reflect on where we are in our relationship with God. Without those moments, we can find ourselves living daily without a mindfulness of where God is in our life and if our actions are pleasing to Him ... or if they drag us further away into the world.

Advent is the time to take inventory of where we are with God. How are we living as good stewards and mature disciples? What do I need to make amends for in the healing power of the sacrament of Penance? A tornado may not be coming, but Jesus will be returning someday. Hopefully, you will run outside of your home to meet him, and he won't find you huddled up afraid in your bathroom.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

### Music is Instrumental!

Help Blessed Trinity build an instrumental ensemble! We currently have vocal and handbell choirs, but want to build a group of instrumentalists for the Music Ministry.

Did you play an instrument in high school? College? Community Band? Professionally? Just for fun?

If you play guitar, strings, trombone, tuba, trumpet, saxophone, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, or percussion we NEED you!

Call Lisa in the office or email [lss@btspp.org](mailto:lss@btspp.org)



### Weekly Offering

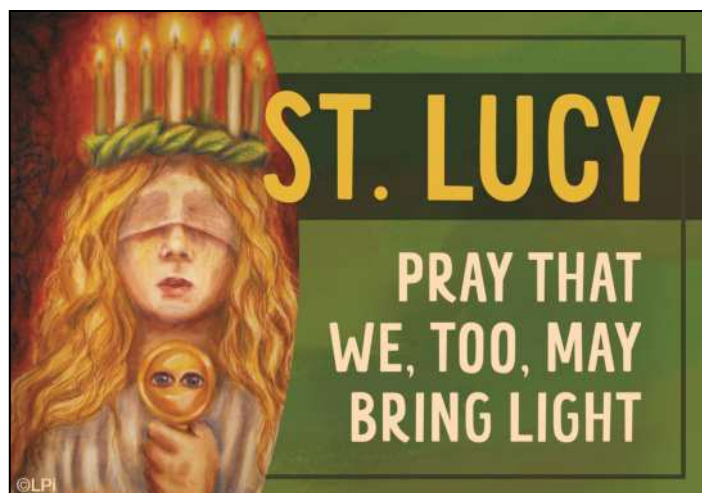
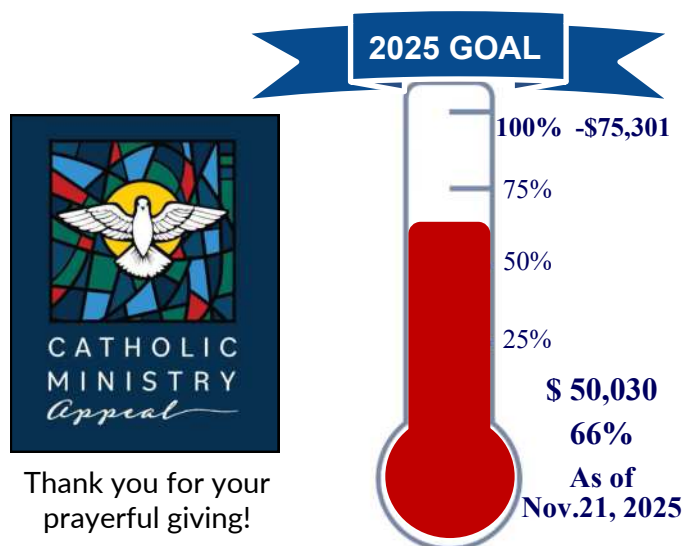
#### Weekly Giving 11/23/25

Offertory	\$ 8,193
Other Donations	\$ 36,841
Restoring the Sacred	\$ 100
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 747
National Collections	\$ 580

#### Weekly Giving 11/30/25

Offertory	\$ 8,451
Other Donations	\$ 2,608
Restoring the Sacred	\$ 1,035
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,350

Thank you for your generosity!



## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 7

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC  
 6:00 pm "We Await..." Advent Concert CH  
 Reception to follow in the Parish Center

### Monday, December 8 Immaculate Conception-Holy Day of Obligation

9:00 am Mass CH  
 6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH  
 7:00 pm Mass CH

### Wednesday, December 10

#### Adoration

5:30 pm Rosary CH  
 6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation CH  
 7:00 pm Benediction CH

### Thursday, December 11

4:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting CYH-1  
 5:00 pm Rome Info Session CH  
 6:30 pm Choir Practice MR  
 7:00 pm Advent Penance Service CH  
 Followed by individual confessions

### Sunday, December 14

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

### Monday, December 15

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

### Wednesday, December 17

#### Adoration

5:30 pm Rosary CH  
 6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation CH  
 7:00 pm Benediction CH

### Thursday, December 18

5:00 pm Handbell Practice MR  
 6:30 pm Choir Practice MR

### Sunday, December 21

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

## Key for Events

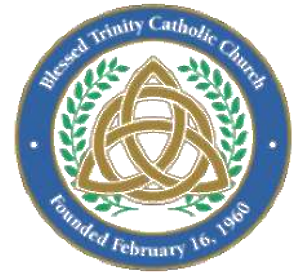
PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church,  
 CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1, CR=Choir Room, FF=Faith Formation Room,  
 PL=Parking Lot



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## Pastor

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

## Deacon

Deacon Bill Lovelace

## Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM  
 Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM  
 Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM  
 Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM  
 Fr. Victor Bartolotta  
 Fr. Eric Peters

## Mass Schedule

### Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 am

### Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm

### Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, [btsp.org](http://btsp.org)

## Confessions

Saturdays 2:45-3:45 pm

## Parish Office

Monday-Friday  
 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm  
 Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm

1600 54th Ave S  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33712

**Phone**, (727) 867-3663

**FAX**, (727) 864-2679

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 Henry  
 Clark, Brittany Noel  
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 Curcio, Louis  
 Daniels, Joshua  
 D'Azzo, Lina  
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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.

## Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office. Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed. For more information call 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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