

First Sunday of Advent - 2024



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

As we enter the sacred season of Advent, we are invited to prepare our hearts and souls for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, at Christmas. This season of waiting is not merely a countdown to the festive day of His birth, but a time of deep spiritual renewal and reflection. It is an opportunity for us to grow in faith, hope, and love, and to open ourselves more fully to the presence of Christ in our lives.

The word *Advent* itself means "coming," and during this time, we are called to focus on three comings of Christ: His coming in history, when He was born in Bethlehem; His coming in mystery, as He comes to us each day in the sacraments and in our lives; and His final coming in glory, when He will return to judge the living and the dead.

To prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus anew, we are encouraged to examine our hearts and lives. Is there space for Him to be born in us this Christmas? Are we allowing His grace to transform us? Advent is a time to clear away the clutter of sin, distractions, and selfishness, so that we can make room for His peace, joy, and love.

I believe one of the most powerful ways to prepare for the Lord's coming is through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation. In the Eucharist, we encounter Christ, body, blood, soul, and divinity. Each time we approach the altar, we are nourished and strengthened by His grace. This Advent, let us make a conscious effort to participate fully in the Mass, approaching the Eucharist with reverence and gratitude, allowing it to deepen our relationship with the Lord.

In a special way, Advent invites us to seek the healing grace of the sacrament of Reconciliation. As we reflect on our lives and prepare for the coming of Christ, we are reminded that His mercy is always available to us. Confession is not just about acknowledging our sins, but about receiving the forgiveness and healing that Christ offers. It is a beautiful opportunity to be reconciled to God and to one another, restoring our hearts and souls to a state of grace.

I encourage all of you to take time during this Advent season to participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Whether it's been a long time since your last confession or you go regularly, this sacrament of healing is a gift of great peace and grace. It allows us to prepare our hearts to welcome Christ into our lives more fully.

As we journey through Advent together, let us make the effort to be more intentional about prayer, repentance, and reconciliation, so that we may celebrate the birth of Jesus with hearts that are open, joyful, and renewed in His love.

May this Advent be a time of true transformation, as we prepare to meet the Lord who comes to us, not just in the manger, but in the depths of our hearts.

United in the holy Eucharist,

-Father Ricky

ADVENT CALENDAR [ADVENT GIVING TREE - Return all Gifts by Wednesday, December 11 to the parish hall.]

December 6 –

7:00 pm Christmas Concert in the Church

Monday, December 9 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Holy day of Obligation]

9:00 am Mass and Confessions afterwards

6:30 pm Mass and Confessions afterwards

Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18 –

9:00 am Mass and Confessions afterwards

6:00 pm Confessions

6:30 pm Mass

December 19 and 20 –

9:00 am Mass and Confessions afterwards

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Confessions



Saint Katharine Drexel Parish – Phone: (239) 283-9501

Monday, December 9—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

[Holy day of Obligation]

9:00 am—Mass and Confessions afterwards

6:30 pm—Mass and Confessions afterwards



ADVENT INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS:

Wednesdays—December 4, 11 and 18

After 9:00 am Mass in Adoration Chapel

6:00 pm Confessions before 6:30 pm Mass

Fridays—December 6 and 20

After 9:00 am Mass in Adoration Chapel

6:00 pm Family Holy Hour with Confessions

Saturdays

After 9:00 am Mass and 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

December 19 and December 20

After 9:00 am Mass in Adoration Chapel

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Adoration Chapel



December 24—Christmas Eve

[1/2 Hour Sacred Music before each Mass]

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm—Confessions

4:00 pm—Children's Mass

6:00 pm—Mass

12 Midnight—Mass



December 25—Christmas Day

[1/2 Hour Sacred Music before each Mass]

8:30 am—Mass

10:30 am—Mass

12:30 pm—Mass



December 31—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4:00 pm—Vigil Mass

January 1—Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

9:00 am—Mass

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!

Daily Mass—Monday to Friday 9:00 am
Wednesday Masses—9:00 am and 6:30 pm
Saturday Masses—9:00 am and 4:00 pm (Vigil)
Sunday Masses—8:30 am / 10:30 am / 12:30 am



24-Hour
Eucharistic Adoration
(Door code: Call Parish Office)