

Advent

FROM THE RECTOR...

A TRULY MAGICAL PROGRESSION...



If we are searching for the two words which best describe the Advent Season...they would have to be HOPE and EXPECTATION...the themes consistent in all of the Advent Hymns. (*Hymns 1 through 11, The Hymnal 1940*)

Our late Rector, Father John Altberg, described the Advent Season as a **truly magical progression that carries us from prophecy to fulfillment of the Old Testament foretelling of the birth of Jesus**. This progression is evident in the Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath on Advent Sunday and in the lighting of the four Advent Wreath candles throughout the Advent Season.

The collects read during the Lighting of the Advent Wreath candles invite us to get "stirred up"...from the Latin "excitare"... "to awaken"... "to eagerly anticipate". Like the Advent hymns...the lessons from Isaiah and Malachi talk about HOPE and EXPECTATION...culminating with the Annunciation in Luke's Gospel spoken by Gabriel to Mary...she would give birth to a son...who would be called SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD!

Advent is the Season of preparing for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day. We light the candles on the Advent Wreath...

*...to proclaim the coming of the Light of God into the darkness,
...to proclaim the fire of his judgment, that we might be prepared for his coming,
...to proclaim the love of God, for just as God's love, this candle to give its light must give itself away,
...to proclaim that God does not speak to us in blazing flashes, but rather with a fragile flame, a baby.*

...and we enthusiastically proclaim, "Let there be light". It is our HOPE and EXPECTATION for the coming of Jesus the Light of the World that makes Advent...**A TRULY MAGICAL PROGRESSION!**

Father Craig Looney +

ABOUT THE ADVENT WREATH...

Advent is the first season of the Church Year, commencing four Sundays before Christmas Day.



The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus* and means *coming*. We use this time to prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas.

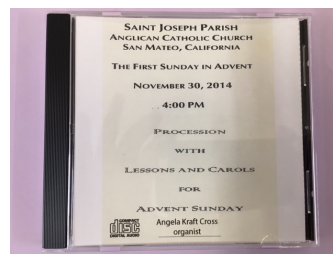
The concept of the Advent Wreath developed among German Lutherans in the 16th Century. However, it wasn't until the 19th Century the Advent Wreath, as we know it, took shape. Its use quickly spread throughout the Western Church and today it is a much-loved symbol of the four-week season leading up to Christmas.

The Advent Wreath at Saint Joseph Parish has been in use for more than two decades. It was a gift from a founding member of the parish, Mary Wheeler.

Three of the four candles on the Advent Wreath are violet...the historical color for the Advent Season. Violet is also the color of the vestments worn by the Celebrant at Mass and of the hangings on the Altar, Pulpit and Lectern.

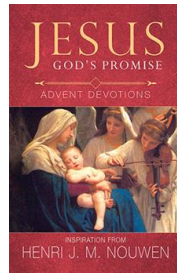
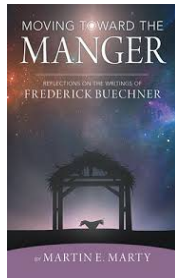
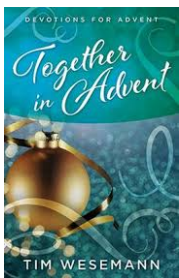
Rose-colored vestments are used on the Third Sunday in Advent...called *Gaudete* Sunday...Latin for *Rejoice*...from the opening words to the Introit sung at Mass. Advent was originally a much longer season...and like Lent is a penitential season. The rose-colored vestments and re-appearance of flowers for this one Sunday represent a pause in the penitential spirit of Advent.

ADVENT SUNDAY 2014 LESSONS AND CAROLS CD...



Fill your home or car with the music of Advent from the Saint Joseph Parish Procession with Lessons and Carols for Advent Sunday 2014, featuring Guest Organist Angela Kraft-Cross. CDs are available for \$20.00 each. Please make your check payable to Saint Joseph Parish. We will also be happy to mail one or more CD's to you.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS...



This year we have three Advent devotional booklets available...**Together in Advent** by Lutheran Pastor Tim Weesmann...**Moving Toward the Manger** by Lutheran Pastor Martin E. Marty offers reflections on the writings of noted theologian and author Frederick Buechner...**Jesus: God's Promise**...inspiring daily Advent devotions from Dutch Roman Catholic priest, Henri J.M. Nouwen. Each booklet contains Scripture readings and reflections by the various authors. The booklets are available free of charge.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first Crèche, also called a Manger or Nativity scene, in 1223 in the central Italian village of Greccio. When Francis arrived Greccio one Christmas Eve, he discovered the church was too small to hold all of the parishioners for Christmas Midnight Mass. Francis built a LIVING Manger scene...with live animals and people. He wanted it to be a Christmas Midnight Mass...“like no other”...celebrated in the fields...drawing people to worship the Christ Child.



ORDO KALENDARS...



2018 Ordo Kalendars which conform to the American *Book of Common Prayer (1928)* and *American and Anglican Missals*, will be available beginning Advent Sunday. In addition to listing the holy days throughout the year and the liturgical colors for the sacred vestments and hangings...the Kalendar includes a useful table for finding Easter Day through the

year 2050. If you are not a member of Saint Joseph Parish but would like an Ordo Kalendar mailed to you, please email Father Looney at: frcl2004@sbcglobal.net. Include your name, address and phone number. The Kalendars are available at no charge.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN 24 DECEMBER FALLS ON A SUNDAY?

When 24 December falls on a Sunday as it did in 2006 and does this year (and will again in 2023)...it is **BOTH** the Fourth Sunday in Advent **AND** Christmas Eve...

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT...



The 9:00 AM **Parish Mass** on 24 December will be for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. We will light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath. Coffee and fellowship will follow the Mass but Discussion Group will not meet.

***** VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS AFTER THE 9:00 AM PARISH MASS ON 24 DECEMBER. PLEASE SEE FATHER LOONEY OR A MEMBER OF THE ALTAR GUILD.**

CHRISTMAS EVE...

The 5:00 PM **Christmas Eve Mass at the Crèche for Children** is a Parish tradition. While the language of the Mass has been adapted for children to more easily understand the meaning, there is no alteration, change or omission of theology or meaning. The Liturgy is consistent with that found in the *1928 Book of Common Prayer* and *Anglican Missal*.



Our Celebration of the birth of Jesus continues with the 8:00 PM **Sung Mass for Christmas Eve**. The Mass Setting *Missa de Santa Maria Magdalena (Mass of Saint Mary Magdalene)* by Anglo-Canadian organist and composer (James) Healey Willan (1880-1968), is beautifully complemented by the awe-inspiring traditional Christmas hymns and the Blessing of the Crèche.

CHRISTMAS DAY...

The 9:00 AM **Mass for Christmas Day** on Monday 25 December will be a Low Mass with Homily. This will be a quiet Eucharist without music.

O COME LET US
Adore
HIM

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS...

Contributions for the purchase of flowers to decorate the High Altar and the church for Christmas must be received by Wednesday 20 December. The minimum amount is \$50. We will be purchasing poinsettias and floral arrangements. The total number and amount of the contributions we receive will determine how elaborate the arrangements will be. Contributions may be made for any reason with memorials and thanksgivings being the most common. Christmas Flower envelopes are available.



YES...THERE **IS** A SANTA CLAUS...



The jolly white-bearded guy in the red suit we call Santa Claus is more than a mythological character who gives presents to children on Christmas Eve. He is derived from the Dutch figure *Sinterklaas*...Saint Nicholas.

Nicholas was a very real person. He was born in 270 AD to wealthy Greek Christian parents who died when he was still young. Nicholas was raised by his uncle, who also named Nicholas, and who was the Bishop of Patara, a coastal city in Asia Minor. Bishop Nicholas ordained his nephew deacon and priest.

Nicholas later became the Bishop of Myra, modern Demre in Turkey. He was known as a compassionate man who used the wealth he inherited from his parents, to make life easier for the less fortunate people of Myra.

He once heard of a poor man who had three daughters but no dowry for them. With little chance of marriage or employment, his daughters would end up living on the street. Nicholas disguised himself and went out at night and threw three bags of gold coins through an open window into the house.

Nicholas traveled to Nicaea in 325 AD and was one of the bishops who signed the document we now call the Nicene Creed. He died in Myra in 343 AD. His feast day is 6 December.

Nicholas is the patron saint of children, sailors, merchants and pawnbrokers.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS...



In the days just after Christmas, sometimes the next day, the secular world quickly forgets about Christmas. Store displays of colorful lights and Christmas trees come down...it's time to get ready for the next big Hallmark event...Valentine's Day!

The Season of Christmas (Christmastide) is a twelve-day period beginning on Christmas Day and continuing through 6 January...the Feast of the Epiphany. Although the Christmas Season has narrowly been defined as this twelve-day period...the Season of Epiphany is really an extension of Christmas.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol first published in 1780. There have been numerous attempts to attach specific meaning to each of the twelve gifts...the song most likely originated as a children's memory game...without any particular religious meaning. But...there are indeed Twelve Days of Christmas.

We see the secular world planning for Christmas the day after Labor Day...and it seems we hear Christmas carols being sung earlier every year. If we hold off singing Christmas carols until Christmas Day (or Christmas Eve)...we can then enjoy singing them more during the Twelve Days of Christmas...and even into the Epiphany Season.

And yes...it's OK to leave the Christmas tree up until the Epiphany...maybe even a bit longer.

THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST...



On Sunday 31 December we will observe the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 105-106*). It is also the Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity of our Lord. The emphasis in the Epistle and Gospel is on the NAME of

Jesus. For this reason...the feast today is more often called the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus!

THANKSGIVING FILL-A-BOX/FEED-A-FAMILY A RESOUNDING PARISH SUCCESS...

The Saint Joseph Parish 2017 Thanksgiving Fill-a-Box/Feed-a-Family program in support of CALL Primrose was a resounding success. We delivered 19 boxes to CALL, which will help needy families have an enjoyable Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you all who participated in this year's program...special thanks to Jerry McDonnell and Dawn Cutler for delivering the boxes to CALL.



For the Month of December we will be collecting items from CALL's "Wish List"...

CANNED/DRY GOODS...Macaroni and Cheese, Pasta, Canned Vegetables, Hearty Soups/Stews, Chili with Meat, Canned Fruit

TOILETRIES...Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Diapers (Sizes 5 & 6), Pull-ups

PARISH HALL DEDICATED...



On Sunday 29 October coincident with our celebration of All Saints' Day...a memorial plaque was blessed and the Parish Hall dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Florence Tommy Young and Mary Lauman Wheeler. Tommy and Mary were original members of Saint Joseph Parish. Tommy sang in the Parish Choir for many years. Mary served as Altar Guild Chair and Senior Warden. They loved God and Saint Joseph Parish. It is appropriate we remember Tommy and Mary and the quiet way these two Saints of God went about their work.

A Prayer

REMEMBER thy servants, Tommy and Mary, O Lord, according to the favour which thou bearest unto thy people, and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, they may go from strength to strength, in the life of perfect service, in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever, one God, world without end. Amen.



EVERY MEMBER CANVASS...



We're kicking off the 2018 Pledge Campaign early...parishioners will be receiving their Pledge Letter during the third week of December instead of in January as in previous years. Please give prayerful thought when making your pledge...and if you have never made a pledge to the Parish, why not consider doing so? Every pledge DOES matter...your pledge will help keep the Parish healthy and strong. Return your signed and dated Pledge Card by Sunday 21 January 2018...this will allow the Vestry time to prepare a Proposed Budget to present at the Annual Parish Corporation Meeting on Sunday 28 January.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD...



Saturday 6 January 2018 is the Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 107-109*). We will observe the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday 7 January at the regular 9:00 AM Parish Mass. The Propers will be for the Epiphany rather than the First Sunday after the Epiphany. Immediately following the Mass there will be a potluck brunch in Young-Wheeler Hall. A signup sheet will be posted in the Narthex. Discussion Group will not meet.



A PRAYER FOR PARISH GROWTH

O GOD, WHO KNOWEST THE NEED OF ALL THY CREATURES, AND DOST BESTOW THE FAVOUR OF THY GRACE ALIKE UPON THE HUMBLE AND THE GREAT; BE WITH US IN ALL OUR ENDEAVORS DEVOTED TO THY SERVICE, AND GRANT US, WE BESEECH THEE, SUCH INCREASE OF NUMBERS AND OF MEANS AS WILL SECURE THIS HOUSE OF PRAYER TO THE WORSHIP AND GLORY OF THY SON, OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, WHO LIVETH AND REIGNETH WITH THEE AND THE HOLY GHOST, ONE GOD, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM SING MASS & SERMON
COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP

WEEKDAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church. (Affirmation of Saint Louis, 1977)



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