

The Work of the People
The First Sunday of Advent

Each new Liturgical Year begins with the First Sunday of Advent. Every Advent, we celebrate Jesus coming as an infant long ago, his ongoing presence with us now, and his return in glory in the future. Advent is also a season of repentance; John the Baptist calls us to "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". We know, as Christian disciples in the twenty-first century, during each Advent God calls us anew to figure out how to live in relation to a world that frequently wants little or nothing to do with getting ready to celebrate the Incarnation, without giving into an "us versus them" paradigm. We are in the world, but not of it. Ours is the mission to prepare the Lord's way.

The prophet Isaiah speaks the first words we hear this Advent. Mountains are sacred, mysterious places, where God is often found. "The mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain. All nations shall stream toward it." Here, we see the initial move toward Jerusalem, a theme we just saw in Luke's Gospel account.

In his holy *Rule*, Benedict tells his monks to "Keep death daily, before your eyes". That is what Paul is telling us in the letter to the Church in Rome. Sometimes, it is easy to fall asleep, to become complacent in our faith. The Romans were returning to some of their earlier ways, and Paul tries to shake them awake with this reminder to leave earthly things behind.

In this new Liturgical Year, we move to Mark's Gospel. It is rather brusque today, but Mark takes up right where Paul left off, telling us to "Stay awake!" It is not a question, or a suggestion; it is in order. We must do this. It also means we must be in it for the long haul. Our faith is not an hour on Sunday – a switch we turn on and off. Our lives must reflect the Gospel. The best way to be ready for God's coming is to live in every moment.

The reflection this Sunday is from Edward Hahnenberg, PhD who is author of *Theology for Ministry: An Introduction for Lay Ministers*.

Jesus' warning to "Stay awake!" terrified me as a kid. The idea that death would come like a thief in the night sounded like a threat. God was watching. God was waiting for me to doze off, like the disciples in Gethsemane, in order to catch me and send me into the hell of his disappointment. Be good. Don't sin. Stay sharp. Because you never know when the end will come.

What if you did know? What if you knew the hour of your death? What if the Son of Man told you that he was coming tonight? Would it make any difference in how you spent today?

One of my most important teachers died of cancer just a few days before the end of the school year. Over the course of that final semester, my classmates and I watched her prepare for death.

It looked just like life.

I remember thinking that she could be anywhere, doing anything. Yet each day she came to class with a kind of serenity that said, "I am exactly where I ought to be, doing exactly what I ought to do."

Would that I could do the same: to live each day in such a way that I wouldn't change anything about it, even if I knew it would be the last.

Advent is our time of anticipation. Let's not start off with worry about what is to come. Tomorrow will take care of itself. All any of us ever have is today.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is. 4:2-6/Mt. 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is. 11:1-10/Lk. 10:21-24

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18/Mt. 4:18-22

Thursday: Is. 26:1-6/Mt. 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is. 29:17-24/Mt. 2:27-31

Saturday: Is. 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt. 9:35; 10:1, 5a, 6-18

Sunday: Is. 11:1-10/Rom. 15:4-9/Mt. 3:1-12

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus advises: "Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" fear cripples! Instead "pray for the strength" to be courageous.

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 12 - St. Bernadette Mission
4 pm - 5 pm

Friday, December 17 - St. Anthony of Padua
4 pm - 5 pm

Tuesday, December 20 - St. Bernadette Mission
4 pm - 5 pm

Friday, December 23 - St. Anthony of Padua
4 pm - 5pm

Also, please check the Parish Event block for weekly confession schedule.

WORSHIP

Monday, November 28
 8:00 am + Tom Osiecki (Josie Osiecki)
 Tuesday, November 29
 8:00 am + Amber deSaint Pol
 (Dale & Carol Schoiack)
 Wednesday, November 30
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, December 1
 8:00 am + Gertrude Christie (Christie Family)
 Friday, December 2 - FIRST FRIDAY
 8:00 am + Charles Metzler (Bill & Lisa Dylewski)
 Saturday, December 3
 4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners
 Sunday, December 4
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Rick Baker (Pauline Baker)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Richard T. Miller (Jeanne Miller)

*Thank you, Lord
 for all the beautiful and wonderful things we
 experience in our life;
 and for your infinite love that meets our daily needs.
 May our love, too, be known for its abundance,
 its readiness to bless and heal,
 to offer peace and promote justice,
 to serve in Jesus' name.
 Amen*

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Edinboro/Cambridge Springs Knights of Columbus will serve their next Sunday Breakfast December 4 from 9 - 10am or until sold out at Our Lady of the Lake Social Hall. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of sausage, ham, eggs, home fries, French toast sticks, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, orange juice, coffee, tea or milk immediately following the 8 am Mass at Our Lady of the Lake. Take-outs are available. Price is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 29
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Wednesday November 30
 12:00 Noon - Advent prayer service & luncheon
 At St. Paul's Lutheran
 Saturday, December 3
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, December 4
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession
 10:30 am - Faith Formation Classes
 Monday, December 5
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

**ST. ANTHONY/ST. BERNADETTE
 CALENDAR LOTTERY FUNDRAISER**

This is the last weekend to purchase additional tickets for the Calendar Lottery fundraiser available after all Masses.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual Community Christmas Program will be held this year at St. Anthony of Padua on Sunday, December 11 beginning at 6:00 pm. Refreshments follow the program. All are welcome!

*“Lord,
 let your light in me grow throughout Advent!”*

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 ALTAR SERVERS**

Saturday, December 3 - 4:30 pm
 Payton Leandro
 Sunday, December 4 - 9:30 am
 Max Marteeny

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$791.00
Maintenance	247.00
Energy	51.00
CSA	145.00
Campaign Human Dev.	210.00
Candles	10.00
Lottery Tickets	270.00
All Saints	10.00
Pumpkin Rolls	<u>1,071.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,805.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$34,819 Paid: \$33,504	

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$225.00
Candles	3.00
Campaign Human Dev.	<u>35.00</u>
TOTAL	\$263.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
