

The Work of the People

The First Sunday of Advent

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!" Our sanctuaries and homes ring with these ancient words of the *O, Antiphons*, an invitation and welcome as we embrace the season of Advent. Quieting ourselves, much as the coming of winter stills and quiets the natural world, we seek to prepare a place for Christ to come again and to be born anew – for his coming or "advent" – into our hearts and into our world.

During the Season of Advent, we often hear from the prophets who proclaimed the coming of the Messiah. In today's reading, Isaiah's prayer of lamentation is the cry of the people who believe that God has abandoned them in their distress. The tone of the lament appears to blame God who has allowed them to wander from the ways of God. But God's anger may be justified because the people have been sinful. The passage, however, ends with the statement of hope: "O Lord, you are our father; we are the work of your hands."

At the beginning of his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul greets the people with the typical salutation of grace and peace. He gives thanks to God for the many gifts bestowed on them, reminding them that their good fortune is rooted in the grace of God. The end of the passage has an advent tone; he reminds them that it is God who will keep them faithful until "the end."

As we begin this new liturgical year and move into Cycle B of the Readings, we hear God's Word from Mark's Gospel. The account we hear today sets the tone for our Advent spirituality: "Be watchful! Be alert!" A brief parable about the master and his servants underlines the urgency of Jesus' message. Just as the servants are to take care of the master's possessions until his return, so too are Jesus' disciples to take care of the gifts entrusted to them by God. Neither the servant nor the disciple knows when the master will return.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Kathleen Norris who is an oblate of St. Benedict and the author of many books.

Advent is my favorite liturgical season, as its readings encompass so much of both the Old and New Testaments. In order to prepare to celebrate the birth of the infant Jesus, we revisit the whole of salvation history. With Isaiah as our guide, we can't go wrong. We journey forth on a highway where even fools can't go astray.

But Advent is also a challenge, as it requires us to begin again. We go to great lengths to attain status as experts, and not beginners. We regard repetition, going back to stories we've heard a thousand times over, as a waste of our precious time. The familiarity of the readings of Advent and Christmas can deaden our hearts.

Maybe that's why today's readings insist that we wake up from our self-absorbed stupor. The Collect asks us to "run forth" towards Christ; Isaiah asks God to return to us with awesome deeds. The psalmist prays to God: "rouse your power, and come to save us." St. Paul reminds us that our job is to wait, not only for the incarnation of Jesus but for his second coming. And in the Gospel Jesus says: "Be watchful! Be alert!"

Advent reminds us that God's ways are not our own. It asks us to take a realistic look at who we are, people in need of God's grace, beginners who must start all over again in this season to be reminded of the good news that is our salvation in Jesus Christ.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom. 10:9-18/Mt. 4:18-22
 Tuesday: Is. 11:1-10/Lk. 19:21-24
 Wednesday: Is. 25:6-10a/Mt. 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is. 26:1-6/Mt. 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is. 29:17-24/Mt. 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is. 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt. 9:35; 10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sunday: Is. 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt. 3:8-14/Mk. 1:1-8

SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMINDER

As COVID cases rise, pastors and people are reminded that Bishop Persico continues to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days. This dispensation also applies to the upcoming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, and the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Everyone is reminded that if they are not well or are high-risk or have contact with someone who is high-risk for COVID, they are not obligated to attend, and it may be safer to stay home. Those unable to attend Mass in person are warmly encouraged to visit www.ErieRCD.org to find a list of Masses that are livestreamed by parishes in the diocese.

WORSHIP

Monday, November 30
8:00 am + Tom Osiecki (Josie Osiecki)
Tuesday, December 1
8:00 am + John E. Auer
Wednesday, December 2
8:00 am + NO MASS
Thursday, December 3
8:00 am + Living & Deceased Members of
PNA Lodge 1540
Friday, December 4 - FIRST FRIDAY
8:00 am + For the Repose of the Soul of
Rev. Msgr. Gerald Orbanek
Saturday, December 5
4:30 pm + Leo Wronko (Joan Rembielak
and Phyllis Wronko)
Sunday, December 6
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Rick Baker (Pauline Baker)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 1
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
Saturday, December 5
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
Sunday, December 6
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

ANY LITERATURE THAT ONE WISHES TO BE
PLACED IN CHURCH MUST FIRST BE APPROVED
BY THE PASTOR. ANYTHING THAT IS POSTED OR
DISPLAYED THAT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED WILL
BE DISPOSED OF.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$190.00
Human Development	40.00
Candles	3.00
TOTAL	\$233.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$5,605.00 Paid: \$5,555.00

#iGiveCatholic

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

<https://erie.igivecatholic.org/donors>

Choose parish from drop-down list
and make an online donation of \$25 or more
a gift directly to the parish.

Donations also can be made at any time during
the advanced giving period now
through November 30, 2020.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Sometimes marriage is like our computers. You learn a lot of information, but with time bugs and viruses can creep in. Things get messy and work slower. When all else fails try rebooting your relationship. Let go of old hurts and start from scratch with the same spouse. Programs like Marriage Encounter and Better Marriage can now be done online.

St. Anthony of Padua is still looking for someone interested in doing general maintenance work, starting January, 2021. If you are interested, please contact the office between 9am - 3 pm. Mon, Tues, Thurs or Fri.

*"Father, I want to experience your blessing
as I wait and watch
and prepare this Advent."*

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, a collection to support those on the margins who are living in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give!

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$536.00
Maintenance	181.00
Candles	4.00
Needy	350.00
Human Development	80.00
CSA	20.00
TOTAL	\$1,171.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$26,638 Paid: \$25,558

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
