



ADVENT

Time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving

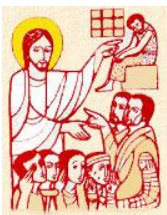
Advent, from the Latin word *adventus* meaning arrival, is a 4-week-period of waiting prepared for Christmas. Advent wreath is made of evergreen shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God is ornamented with four candles. At the beginning of each week, we light each candle reflecting on hope, peace, joy, and love the virtues of Christmas season.

Advent is a time of penance. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the ways we may observe the penance and prepare us for the coming of the Savior, who has come to save us from our sins. Fasting is a form of penance, which at first glance seems out of step in the season of hope. This action of penance prepares us to see things beyond this material world.

In Dec. 1, 2013, Pope Francis taught; “The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God; a hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!”

Have a grace-filled time of Advent!

Fr. Gigi Philip



Is 35,1-6.8.10
Gc 5,7-10
Mt 11, 2-11

La liturgia di oggi ci chiama ad attendere con fede e gioia la venuta del Signore. Il profeta invita il deserto a rallegrarsi e la steppa a fiorire (I Lettura). Giovanni Battista è il messaggero inviato per preparare la strada al Signore che viene (Vangelo). Entrambi fanno il loro annuncio profetico da una posizione difficile: Isaia annuncia la liberazione e il ritorno al popolo mentre vive la deportazione dell'esilio; il Battista si rivolge a Gesù dalla prigione rivelando con sincerità cristallina i pensieri che abitano le profondità della sua anima.

Did You Know ...

The Advent wreath was introduced in the Christian preparation for Christmas in the middle ages. By the 17th century it was a common practice for Catholics. The evergreen that the wreath is made of signifies continuous life, while the shape, a circle, having no beginning and no end, symbolizes everlasting life and also the never-ending love of God. Other decorations also have significance: the laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing.



Becoming the hands of Christ to those in need ...

We are called to be the hands of Christ to those in need. For some, this may mean providing a place to stay for and supporting an elderly relative, volunteering at a food bank, or supporting a parish Out of the Cold or outreach programs. Through our support, we provide resources to over 40 agencies, informed by Catholic values, offering much needed programs and services to those both here in our communities and around the world. Your support of the ShareLife appeal has touched the lives of thousands of people both here and around the world. In this Christmas season, we thank our parish communities for all that they do to support the work of ShareLife agencies through the year. Together we are indeed fulfilling the Gospel value to 'love another as I have loved you.'



The Knights of Columbus Annual Panettone Sale

The sale will take place outside the church, weather permitting; or in the Hall in case of inclement weather, after all Masses on the weekends.

\$7 per cake
\$20 for three cakes **or**
\$72 for a box of 12."

DATE

DAY OF CONFESSIONS GIORNO DI CONFESSIONI

December 15 (THURSDAY)
15 dicembre (GIOVEDÌ)
7:00 PM – 9:30 pm



The Altar Server Christmas Party will take place in the church hall on Saturday, December 17 at 11:00 AM. All Altar Servers and parents are invited.



RED POINSETTIAS

Parishioners are welcome to help us decorate the altar during the Christmas season by bringing in RED POINSETTIAS on the weekend December 17/18.

Thank you for your generosity!

FIORI ROSSI PER NATALE

Se vuoi aiutare nelle decorazioni della Chiesa per Natale, puoi farlo portando SOLO poinsettias e fiori di colore rosso non prima dicembre 18. Grazie



DECEMBER 24 – SATURDAY

05:00 pm – Children's Mass and Carolling
10:00 pm – Carolling (Inni Natalizi)
11:00 pm – Christmas Vigil Mass (Italian/English)

DECEMBER 25 – SUNDAY

09:00 am – Mass (Italian)
10:30 am – Mass (English)
12:00 pm – Mass (English)

CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO NEEDY



Let us celebrate our Christmas with those who need our support. This year let us support the organization, **Horizons for Youth**. Its mission is to shelter, prepare and guide homeless and at-risk youth to be contributing community members.

At the back of the church you will see gift tags describing different items required to help a child or youth during this Christmas. Please decorate our Christmas Tree with your gifts. We hope to provide bath towel, face cloth, toiletries to the youth men and women ages 16 to 24. For the children we are seeking books and new hats, gloves, scarves and socks.

Select an item you wish to purchase and return it to the church by no later than **Thursday December 15th**. Thank you for your generosity.



PARISH SUPPORT

DEC 04 2016
Weekly Offering \$1,874.00
Maintenance \$1,298.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY/sabato – Dec/dicembre 10

05:00 PM – +Ines & Rosa Forte

SUNDAY/domenica – Dec/dicembre 11

09:00 AM - +Domenico & Maria Battista

10:30 AM – +Clarita Baruela

+Giovanni & Concetta Pinelli

+Rocco Fullone

12:00 PM – For the People of the Parish

TUESDAY/martedì – Dec/dicembre 13

07:00 PM – +Mario di Paolo

+Michele Di Luca

In honour of St. Lucy

WEDNESDAY/mercoledì – Dec/dicembre 14

07:00 PM – +Dorothy Livera

THURSDAY/giovedì – Dec/ dicembre 15

08:00 AM –

07:00 PM – Advent Confession Service

FRIDAY/venerdì – Dec/dicembre 16

08:00 AM – +Saverio Ladisa