



PASTOR'S CORNER



Advent is not Christmas

A simple straightforward truth, and yet so many of us are still confused about what to do at the beginning the new liturgical year. Perhaps it was easier to understand this truth during the pandemic, which is that Advent is a season uniquely its own, very much like Lent, for each day of Advent has its own proper Mass. It is not four weeks of celebration but preparation for that holy night we will remember on December 24. Keep in mind that Advent is focused on the past, the present and the future: Christ has come, Christ is here, and Christ will come again at the end.

Someone described this Advent journey as a glorious crescendo increasing in power and intensity until its climax, outshone only by Easter Sunday. Unfortunately, many people give up too soon when “enough is enough,” so to speak. Would you change, however, your mind if Jesus sent you an email from heaven and told you to try again, but this time do it from a different angle and take a different approach? But sometimes, Jesus does want us to quit when we are casting pearls before swine. At other times, he wants us to quit because we are not doing his will in the first place. And sometimes he tells us to try again but differently, in a strange, perhaps foolish way. This usually occurs when success is only a few steps ahead, but we cannot yet see it. Weary and losing hope, we are unwilling to take one more step. We think God is not giving us any helpful guidance, but that’s only because we are expecting him to say or do something that makes sense only to us.

Remember who God really is. Even when his guidance does not make sense, God is still God. But first you have to give up your own ideas of how a problem should be fixed. Trust Him and He will open the right doors for you, perhaps during our first parish Advent retreat next week. So will you allow God to do something special for you that you cannot do for yourself? But for the time being, try to remember that Advent is a sacred time of listening, longing and patiently waiting for the commemoration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ on December 25 and beyond as we will celebrate this season of joy and peace for 12 days until the Epiphany, for as someone once wrote, *“This is the season that the church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery.”*

Fr. Slawek



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, November 29

9 a.m. Intentions of thanksgiving for Sean & Swphana Sebastian.

Wednesday, November 30

9 a.m. Private Intentions.

Thursday, December 1

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Albert K. Nichlous req. by Vivian Alfred.

Friday, December 2

9 a.m. Intentions of Ludwina Sebastian req. by the Sebastian family.

Saturday, December 3

4:30 p.m. Repose of the soul of Angeline D’Souza req. by the D’Souza family.

Sunday, December 4

9 a.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

11 a.m. Repose of the soul of Joseph Lee Nam Kwong req. by the Lee Nam Kwong family.

2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Assigned envelopes are available for pick up at the back table in the church. New envelope can be pick up from the Parish office during office hours.

Please use 2022 envelopes starting Jan. 1. Print your full name, address, phone number and donation clearly on the envelope for the month so the Parish office can record the number to your name.

If you have a change of address please list it on your envelope or notify the office.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE, 2022/2023 HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

ADVENT RETREAT

Wednesday, December 7th – Friday, December 9th

The theme of our retreat: "Walking with Mary to Bethlehem in the silence of our hearts."

7 p.m.

Thursday, December 8th

Sacrament of Reconciliation

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

(Arrive 1/2 hr. before First come First Seated)

Saturday, December 24th

Mass 6 p.m.

Mass 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th

Mass 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Saturday, December 31st

6 p.m.

Sunday, January 1st

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office will close Thursday, December 22nd at 1 p.m. and will reopen Tuesday, January 3rd at 8:30 a.m.

Please keep this schedule and refer to it during the season of Christmas, thus cutting down on calls to the Parish Office.