

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

*“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.” Lk. 3:4, 6*



Mass Intentions for the Week



Dec 9, Saturday, Advent Weekday

12:05 Eligio Adamsi
5:15 Leone, Cuccurullo, Kenny deceased
family members

Dec 10, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 Pro Populo- For the People of the Parish
9:30 Lena Quici
11:00 Lisa Dooley
12:30 Jeffrey Francis
6:30 Pro Populo- For the People

Dec 11, Monday, Advent Weekday, St. Damascus I, Pope

7:15 Lucy Gentile
12:05 Elizabeth Aldinger
9:00 Intention of the Priest Celebrant.
Mass in Honor of O.L. of Guadalupe
(in Spanish)

Dec 12, Tuesday, Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:15 Mary Yoder
12:05 Charles Lauer

Dec 13, Wednesday, Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

7:15 Dominic & Lucy Gentile
12:05 Mary Harvey

Dec 14, Thursday, St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:15 Gayle O'Keefe
12:05 Joseph Van Horn

Dec 15, Friday, Advent Weekday

7:15 Rita Helaine
12:05 Bernard Helldorfer

Dec 16, Saturday, Advent Weekday

12:05 James L. Vollrath
5:15 Peg, Gene, & Maureen Janda

Dec 17, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 Pro Populo- For the People of the Parish
9:30 Arthur Quici
11:00 Edward & Veronica Chudzinski
12:30 Esther Torres
6:30 Pro Populo- For the People

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent! Yes, it is the Second Sunday already! Advent is only three full weeks and a day this year. The Fourth Sunday Advent, December 24th, quickly becomes Christmas Eve. This is all the more reason to invest in these days of preparation with a real seriousness to prepare the soul for the Birth of the Lord. Perhaps of all the types of preparation that come to mind, the most fitting is the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Come to Confession this Advent, especially if it has been a long time since you have received the forgiveness of Jesus in this Sacrament. If any of the scheduled times are not possible for you, then call anyone of us priests. We want to make this Sacrament available to you this Advent Time.

This Sunday afternoon, December 10, 2017, we will have our annual Christmas Concert at 3:00 PM in the Basilica. All of our choirs will come together—the Cathedral Choir, the Archdiocesan Adult Choir, the Archdiocesan Boy and Girl Choir—to delight us with the songs and sounds of Advent and Christmas. Tickets are still available and everyone is welcome.

*This Tuesday, December 12, 2017, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. This Advent feast of our Blessed Mother reminds us how close Mary is to us as we prepare for the Nativity of her Divine Son. She is ever ready to help us with her prayers and the witness of her life to follow after her Son, listening attentively to His word and seeking for a greater share in His grace to be faithful to His ways. When Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin in Mexico, she appeared with her expected Son in her womb. This particular manifestation of our Blessed Mother vividly reminds us of the sacredness of life in the womb and our duty to protect this unborn life in whatever way possible to us. One of these ways is to ask the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe to pray for the legal protection of all of human life, especially the unborn. *Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!**

This Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 3:00 PM the Blessing of the Nativity Scene on the front lawn of the Cathedral Basilica will take place. Everyone is welcome to this brief service. This blessing reminds us of the wonder and gift of Christmas, God becomes man. As Jesus takes on our humanity, He shares with us His divinity. This message is not only for those who gather inside our Cathedral Basilica for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, but for all people everywhere. May our outdoor Nativity Scene turn the hearts of many to the Lord as they pass by 18th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The Nativity Scene should have a special place in all our homes and even in our work places.

*The second collection next Sunday will be directed to the liturgical music program of the Cathedral Parish. Thank you so very much for all of your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish in so many ways, especially to the annual *Fall Collection* and to the *Annual Catholic Charities Appeal*.*

God bless you, Father Dennis Gill

Advent Giving Tree



Please participate in the *Advent Giving Tree!* The *Advent Giving Tree* in the Basilica is decorated with gift tags which identify gift ideas for the less fortunate in our area. This year the gifts will be distributed to St. Francis Inn, Women of Hope, St. John's Hospice, Sacred Heart Home and other neighborhood institutions that service the homeless and needy.

Please take a gift tag or tags. The gifts may be dropped off in the Sacristy before or after Mass, wrapped and **with the identifying tag on each gift** by the Third Sunday of Advent, December 17. Gifts may also be mailed to the Parish Office. This will allow for the distribution of these gifts for Christmas. Thank you in advance for your generosity to the many men, women and children who will benefit from your kindness this Christmas.

Please **don't** leave the presents under the tree.

Our Parish children did a beautiful job decorating the ornaments/tags! Thank you !!!

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION



The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is the doorway to the Christian life and to all the other Sacraments. As such, preparation of the parents and for the Baptism itself deserve very special attention. The celebration of Baptism at the Cathedral Parish takes place on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 PM after the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass. Everyone is welcome. The celebration will be carried out with liturgical music and with a great sense of hospitality.

A *Baptism Preparation Session* takes place on the third Sunday of each month in anticipation of the celebration of the Sacrament. Parents in the Cathedral Parish are obligated to participate. The session is open to all of our neighbor parishes and to godparents as well. Parents are encouraged to participate during pregnancy, if at all possible. Please call the Parish Office - 215-561-1313 - to register for the Baptism Preparation Session.

CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS NEXT WEEK

The Spirit Given Through Jesus

Thursday, December 14, 7:00 PM
Meeting in the Neumann Room

The weekly catechetical session is primarily for the adults among us who are preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments. However, anyone interested in the topic for better understanding and faith formation is most welcome to attend. Anyone, especially our parishioners, seeking more information on the reception of the Sacraments or assisting as a sponsor, please call the Religious Education Ministry line, 267-570-0074. <http://www.cathedralre.org/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY

All program schedules, registration and e-tuition payment options have been posted on our new website. You may register, or contact us with questions, via the website, phone, text, or email. All Cathedral Catechetical Programs are in English, (with Spanish speaking supports as needed). Volunteers needed, (necessary training, certifications and support will be provided). Phone: 267.570.0074 (text messages acceptable). Website <http://www.cathedralre.org/> Coordinator Email: patty.smith@CathedralRE.org To speak with a representative in Spanish, contact Nora Martin in the Parish Office, (215)561-1313.

Readings for Mass for this Week

Please see the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. usccb.org/bible/readings

Excellent faith formation at your fingertips!

Subscribe to this exciting online platform. To register go to www.FORMED.org. Type in our parish code, 07854f.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Financial Support of the Cathedral Parish is the duty of our parishioners. Here at the Cathedral Parish we are greatly supported as well by our many visitors. If you only put \$1 in the collection would you consider \$5, if you put \$10, would you consider \$20? The Offertory Collection for 12/03/17 was \$8,615.50. **Thank you very much for your generous financial support.**

Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers/ Ora por los enfermos:

Paul Spiro, Sheila Litvin, Mary W., Joan Decker, James Pinto, Mary Frances McElhare, Joan Decker, George Gunning, April DeMatto, Laura Kerr, Cris Burbage, Robin Abate, Bryan Anderson, Glen Jackanis, Susan Silverstein, Joshua White, Ed & Shirley Pinto, Susan Kirk, Robert Dove, Doreen Quinn, John Zelez, Charlotte McLaughlin, Philip Costantini, David O'Shea, Mary McManus, Christopher & Stephanie Tama, Marilyn Mullen, Carolyn Jacobs, Stephen Garramone, Kim Cantwell, Janet Campellone, Nancy Rice, Frank Byrne, Gerald Leo, Eileen Swartz, Dan Moyer, Rose Johnston, William Zawacki, Carla McCollaum, David Hernandez, Edward Panek, Irene McCarthy, Paige Bednarsky, Patrick DiGiovanni, Patricia Capone, Rosemary Lovett, Grace Teti, Nick Capozio, Darcel Burney, Fred Hankinson, Renee Kenny, Thomas J. Kenny, Stacey Smit, Anadelia Cacique, Alis de Pachecho, JoAnn Stein, Francis Pham, William Spiro, Scott Towers, and those in nursing homes or hospitals and all the sick.. **Please call the Parish Office with the name of anyone who is sick, to be included in our prayer list. Por favor llamar a la oficina parroquial para añadir a la lista los nombres de personas que estén enfermas.**

What's Happening at the Parish Outside the Liturgical Schedule

- Dec 11** Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Basilica, 9:00 PM
- Dec 12** Gospel Reflection Meeting,
Neumann Room, 11:00 AM
Legion of Mary Meeting,
Neumann Room, 7:00 PM
- Dec 13** Morning Scripture for Lawyers,
Neumann Room, 8:00 AM
Charismatic Prayer Group,
Neumann Room, 6:00 PM
- Dec 14** Catholic School House Meeting,
Neumann Room (must register to attend)
Catechetical Session, Neumann Room, 7:00 PM

LA CORRESPONSABILIDAD

¿ESTÁS LISTO?

Algunas personas que son expertas en contar historias consiguen llevarnos con suavidad a identificarnos con sus relatos por la manera en que describen las escenas, presentan a los personajes, desenvuelven la trama, y van aumentando el interés para llegar al punto culminante. ¡Marcos no se molesta en usar esos métodos! En su Evangelio no se describen los nobles antepasados de Jesús, ni el embarazo de María, ni el nacimiento en Belén. No se habla de los pastores ni de los reyes magos como tampoco del malvado Herodes, ni de la huida a Egipto. Todo su Evangelio está resumido en las primeras palabras del mismo: “Éste es el principio del Evangelio de Jesucristo, Hijo de Dios” (Marcos 1:1). La palabra evangelio significa “buena nueva” y Marcos le da una urgencia particular al mensaje. El nombre de Jesús es una versión del hebreo Yeshua o Josué, “el Señor salva”, y Cristo es la versión griega del título hebreo Mesías, que significa “ungido”. La unción era una acción sagrada conferida normalmente a los reyes. Así es que aquí, en una sola frase, se nos da una buena nueva: Dios está aquí para salvar al pueblo por medio del Rey ungido, descendiente de reyes. La llegada de Jesús la anuncia su primo Juan, que es la “voz . . . que clama en el desierto” (Marcos 1:3), también mencionado por el profeta Isaías. Tal vez los mismos discípulos de Juan el Bautista lo tratan de convencer de que él es el Mesías prometido, pero Juan sabe bien que no es así. Él no es el Mesías, su tarea es preparar el camino. Él bautiza con agua para perdonar los pecados, pero el que viene dará su vida para el perdón de los pecados y bautizará a sus discípulos con el Espíritu Santo. Cuando se nos habla de este Salvador que ha de venir la pregunta que debemos hacernos es: ¿estamos listos para recibirlo? Recibirlo quiere decir estar preparados a seguirlo y hacer su voluntad.

La Corresponsabilidad Viva Ahora

Adviento es un tiempo de espera paciente. Haz un esfuerzo para cultivar la paciencia. Recen en familia para adquirir la paciencia, especialmente para ser pacientes con los niños, con las personas que no nos son fáciles de soportar y con las insignificancias de cada día.

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*Come and Experience
Great Music in the Cathedral*

Christmas at the Cathedral Basilica
Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 3:00 PM

The choirs of the Cathedral Basilica and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia join forces in beautiful carols and the traditional music of Christmas. Resounding brass add to the spectacle as hundreds of voices sing in celebration of festive season!

Repertoire:

Lux arumque. Eric Whitacre,
Veni veni Emmanuel. Kodaly
Hodie Christus. Poulenc
Angel carol. Rutter
Hark the herald
First Noel
Adeste fidelis
Messiah solos
And more!!!

Tickets may be purchased at the door
or at the Cathedral Concert Series website:

www.CathedralPhilaConcerts.org



Sta. Misa en español en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Lunes, 11 de diciembre de 2017

8:00 PM - Procesión

9:00 PM - Sta. Misa

En la Basílica. ¡Acompañenos!

Bendición del Pesebre

Miércoles, 13 de diciembre a las 3:00 PM

Los niños del colegio St. Francis cantarán villancicos

Lugar: afuera de la Basílica frente al pesebre

Las Posadas

Viernes, 15 de diciembre:

7:00 PM en el Salón de la Capilla (Chapel Hall)

Sábado, 23 de diciembre:

6:00 PM en el Salón de la Capilla

Del 16 al 22 las posadas se llevarán a cabo en los hogares de diferentes feligreses, por favor este atento a los anuncios de la misa

Natividad de Nuestro Señor

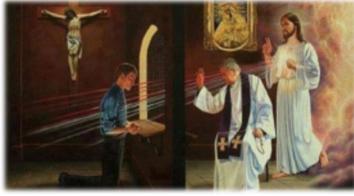
24 de diciembre, Vigilia en la Basílica

9:00 PM - Representación Navideña

9:30 PM - Santa Misa en español

Por favor sea puntual, se celebrarán varias Misas

WHY SHOULD I GO TO CONFESSION?



“Your Holiness, I was taught that the Lord sees and reads inside us. I wonder why is absolution delegated to priests? If I asked for it on my knees alone in my room, turning

to the Lord, would he absolve me? Or would it be another kind of absolution? What would the difference be?

Yes, you are asking me an important and true question. I would say two things. The first: naturally, if you kneel down and with true love for God pray that God forgives you, he forgives you. It has always been the teaching of the Church that one, with true repentance — that is not only in order to avoid punishment, difficulty, but for love of the good, for love of God — asks for forgiveness, he is pardoned by God. This is the first part. If I honestly know that I have done evil, and if love for goodness, a desire for goodness is reborn within me, repentance for not having responded to this love, and I ask forgiveness of God, who is the Good, he gives it to me. But there is a second element: sin is not only a “personal”, individual thing between myself and God. Sin always has a social dimension, a horizontal one. With my personal sin, even if perhaps no one knows it, I have damaged the communion of the Church, I have sullied the communion of the Church, I have sullied humanity. And therefore this social, horizontal dimension of sin requires that it be absolved also at the level of the human community, of the community of the Church, almost physically.

Thus, this second dimension of sin, which is not only against God but concerns the community too, demands the Sacrament, and the Sacrament is the great gift in which through confession, we can free ourselves from this thing and we can really receive forgiveness in the sense of a full readmission to the community of the living Church, of the Body of Christ. And so, in this sense, the necessary absolution by the priest, the Sacrament, is not an imposition — let us say — on the limits of God’s goodness, but, on the contrary, it is an expression of the goodness of God because it shows me also concretely, in the communion of the Church, I have received pardon and can start anew. Thus, I would say, hold on to these two dimensions: the vertical one, with God, and the horizontal one, with the community of the Church and humanity. The absolution of the priest, sacramental absolution, is necessary to really absolve me of this link with evil and to fully reintegrate me into the will of God, into the vision of God, into his Church and to give me sacramental, almost bodily, certitude: God forgives me, he receives me into the community of his children. I think that we must learn how to understand the Sacrament of Penance in this sense: as a possibility of finding again, almost physically, the goodness of the Lord, the certainty of reconciliation.”

Pope Benedict XVI's remarks during his pastoral visit to the Rebibbia District Prison, December 18, 2011.

<https://w2.vatican.va>



YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Upcoming Events

Join us in praying the **ROSARY** prior to the **6:30 PM Mass each 2nd Sunday of the month**. We gather at 5:45pm in the Basilica, sitting in the front right side of the church.

Date change! Sunday, December 17, 2017, 5:00 PM:

Discipleship Series - Session Four (last session): Christian Disciples as Witnesses to Jesus and his Church to Others. Presenter: Fr. Dennis Gill, Rector & Pastor of the Cathedral. **Where:** The Neumann Room (behind the Cathedral, next to the Queen of the Apostles Garden).

All of the other sessions have been marvelous and even if you haven't made any of the previous sessions, do not worry, just plan to join us for the our final session. Spread the word and bring friends too!

youngadults.cathedral@gmail.com



Jesus' Disciples for Today

Please join us for a brief time of reflection and sharing around the coming Sunday Gospels. The group meets at **11:00 am in the Neumann Room**, right off of the back parking lot. **We meet every Tuesdays during Advent.** The coming Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Advent is: Mark 1: 1-8. All are welcome.

THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE COMMITTEE
cordially invites you to join in celebrating
THE 21ST ANNUAL
Blessing of the Nativity Scene



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 2017, 5:00 PM
18TH & RACE :
ADJACENT TO THE CATHEDRAL

CAROLS BY THE STUDENTS OF
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

SPONSORED BY:
THE AOH &
KNIGHTS OF COLOMBUS

Jesus' Disciples for Today—Advent

Recently, some of us have had a chance to be with our extended families and were able to share stories of past gatherings and traditions. These family ties are gifts to many of us, where we once again become grounded in our familial roots, with rich heritage. When we delve into the past years and decades, we begin to claim an identity, fostering a renewed pride or perhaps, a deep sadness in how days of long ago, were marked by hardships overcome and successes won, or where deep divisions of years past, made for lingering family fractures. In spite of “what was”, as members of the Family of God, we Baptized Catholic Christians may react in many ways to such varied histories. Through God’s grace, we are able to move on from here with courage and hope-filled resolve to make things better, or live in peace and gratitude for the blessings brought forward to us today.

The ancestors of Jesus were not unlike our own, for they struggled for freedom which the “Promised” Messiah would bring; they lived in the hope of the words of the prophets, Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and very immediately, John the Baptist. When would peace, love, joy - God’s holy Presence itself, become a reality among them? When would these Chosen People realize the fulfillment of God’s many promises? Then the real meaning of being Chosen would become a reality. They were **The Elect**, the ones from whom Jesus would spring forth. These faithful remnant of the Chosen People did indeed stay loyal to the messages of hope which came down through the centuries. In the midst of darkness, waiting and longing, these staunch people of faith, recognized the truth of the coming of Jesus as Messiah. Was it the faith of Isaiah who in Chapter 61 realized that the profound presence of God was upon him? Likewise, this Word of God was heard by John the Baptist, who, as the last of the prophets, announced the profound need for repentance as the One who was there with them in the Holy Land, was indeed the Messiah.

Now the test of faith is ours, where we might be graced to glimpse the presence of the Holy: is the spirit of Reverence and Awe within our hearts? This would indicate that our unworthiness of a close encounter with the Divine, is indeed graced. Perhaps such a spiritual gift presents questions and even a bit of fear: if so, that too is a grace. Our dear Blessed Mother encountered the Angel Gabriel and God’s message caused her to stir with questions and a felt sense of true unworthiness. As we celebrate her feasts of the Immaculate Conception and as Our Lady of Guadalupe, may we pray for a true spirit of humility, like that of Mary.

Although Advent is not a season of Penance, it is a Season where we pray for the grace to turn away from the darkness of sin. When we practice sacrifice, penance, good works (charity) we take the Gospel literally. Through a lifestyle which is deliberately built on grace, we put ourselves aside, and make room for the Presence of Christ. Let us pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

S. Eleanor McCann, R.S.M

LIVING STEWARDSHIP NOW

ARE YOU READY?

Some storytellers lead you gently into their tale by setting the scene, introducing characters, unfolding the plot, and building up tension toward a climax. Mark does not bother with such methods! In his Gospel there are no descriptions of Jesus’ noble ancestry or of Mary’s pregnancy or the birth in Bethlehem. There are no accounts of shepherds and wise men, wicked Herod or the journey into Egypt. The whole Gospel is summed up in the words of the very first sentence: “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God” (Mark 1:1). The word gospel means “good news,” and Mark brings a particular urgency to the message. The name Jesus is a version of the Hebrew name Joshua—“the Lord saves”—and Christ is the Greek version of the Hebrew title Messiah, meaning “anointed one.” Anointing was a sacred act usually conferred on kings. So here, in just one sentence, we are given good news: God is here to save the people through this anointed one, descendent of kings and a King himself. Jesus’ arrival is announced by his cousin John, who is the “voice . . . crying out in the desert” (Mark 1:3) also mentioned by the prophet Isaiah. Perhaps John the Baptist’s own disciples are trying to convince John that he is the promised one, but John knows otherwise. He is not the Messiah; his task is to prepare the way. He is to baptize with water for the forgiveness of sins, but the one who is to come will give his life for the forgiveness of sins and will baptize his followers with the Holy Spirit. As we hear again about this coming Savior, the question we must ask ourselves is, are we ready to receive him? To receive him means being prepared to follow him and do his will.

Living Stewardship Now

Advent is a season of patient waiting. Make an effort to cultivate patience. Pray for patience with family, especially small children, with people who are hard to take, with the petty annoyances of everyday life.

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Tours of the Cathedral Basilica



A guided tour of the Basilica is available **after the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass**. Please gather in front of the Side Altar of the Sacred Heart, which is located to the right of the Main Sanctuary.