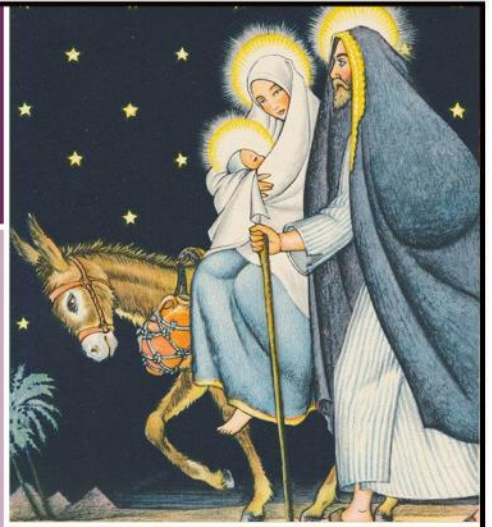


St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main, Bluffton 46714 (260)-824-1380 stjosephchurch@adamswells.com stjosephchurchbluffton.org

What is Advent?

A season of HOPE, PREPARATION, EXPECTATION & CELEBRATION



“Advent” (Latin)
MEANS
“a coming or arrival”



The ADVENT WREATH is a popular symbol used as the focus of prayer throughout the season

Advent is made up of four weeks and divided into two periods:

1 First Sunday of Advent until December 16

FOCUS: Christ's second coming at the end of time

2 December 17 to 24

FOCUS: Preparing for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ

The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year

Through prayer, spiritual reading, acts of charity, and attending Mass, ADVENT helps us to expand the meaning of our lives, so that we are not ends in ourselves, but a people who seek Christ as our hopeful end and joyful fulfilment.



CANDLES mark the steps in our Advent journey

Advent is more than the preparation for Christ's birth. It also celebrates the three-fold coming of the Lord:

- REMEMBERING the events that surrounded the Lord's coming long ago
- CELEBRATING His coming among us today
- LOOKING forward to His final coming in glory.



Our prayer at ADVENT is one of hope and love:

*Come,
Lord
Jesus!*

1st Sunday of Advent

----- (cut here) -----

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
e-mail address: _____

[] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form [] We've Moved, here is our new information

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 28

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
4:00 p.m. Confessions
4:35 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Genevieve Lohmuller +

Sunday, November 29

- First Sunday of Advent -

7:10 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Parish Family
9:40 a.m. Rosary
10:00 a.m. Rose Mary Helm +
12:10 p.m. Rosary
12:30 p.m. Special Intention

Monday, November 30

No Morning Mass

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Adoration
8:00 a.m. Jane Witwer +
8:30 a.m. Confession

Wednesday, December 2

6:00-7:00 p.m. Adoration
6:00-6:45 p.m. Confession
7:00 p.m. Nancy Wagner

Thursday, December 3

8:30 a.m. Daniel Braun +

Friday, December 4

8:30 a.m. Gertie Wyss +
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. First Friday Adoration
6:00 p.m. Low Mass (Latin)

Saturday, December 5

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
4:00 p.m. Confessions
4:35 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Trent Patterson & Bob Haecker +

Sunday, December 6

- Second Sunday of Advent -

7:10 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Dale Pearson
9:40 a.m. Rosary
10:00 a.m. Parish Family
12:10 p.m. Rosary
12:30 p.m. Special Intention

MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Nov. 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle - Rom
10:9-18/ Mt 4:18-22

Tues., Dec. 1 - Is 11:1-10/ Lk 10:21-24

Wed., Dec. 2 - Is 25:6-10a, Mt 15:29-37

Thurs., Dec. 3 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest - Is
26:1-6/ Mt 7:21,24-27

Fri., Dec. 4 - St. John Damascene, Priest and
Doctor of the Church - Is 29:17-24/ Mt 9:27-31

Sat., Dec. 5 - Is 30:19-21, 23-26/ Mt 9:35—
10:1,5a,6-8

Sun., Dec. 6 - Second Sunday of Advent - Is
40:1-5,9-11/ 2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mt 1:1-8

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - NOVEMBER 29, 2020

It's beginning to look a lot like **Christmas**, even though **Advent** has only just begun! As we prepare our homes and our hearths for the coming **Christmas season**, let us never forget to prepare our hearts for Christ. These four weeks of **Advent** are meant to serve as a penitential and preparatory time. During this time, we await both the yearly celebration of the Nativity of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day and the *Parousia*, which is the second coming of Jesus Christ, at the end of time. Jesus Christ has come into the world and He will come again. The **season of Advent** is meant to both look backward at the Incarnation and forward to the second coming.

For this reason, our readings over the next four weeks will be broken into two sections. For **the first three weeks of Advent**, our readings focus first on the second coming of Jesus. These readings will call us to repentance and conversion, preparing our hearts to always be ready for Christ. For **the last eight days of Advent**, our readings will then focus on our celebration of Christmas Day itself. These readings will be taken from the infancy narratives of the Gospels of both Sts. Matthew and Luke, filling our hearts with expectant joy as we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation.

The penitential and preparatory themes of **Advent** are reflected not only in our readings, but throughout our whole liturgy. Over the next four weekends, we will not recite the *Gloria*, a prayer of joy, at Mass. Our altar crucifix and candlesticks have been replaced with our simple wooden crucifix and candlesticks with unbleached beeswax candles. The priest will wear violet vestments. Throughout **Advent**, even the Church's adornments and ornamentation take a muted tone. All of this is meant to help enter us into this spirit of preparation to receive for the Lord Jesus Himself (*Revelation 3:20*).

Our **Advent** preparation itself is one of great spiritual value. Jesus desires to grow within our soul. During **Advent**, I would encourage you to make use of the **Sacrament of Confession**. Within this sacrament, the mercy of God heals the wounds that sin has inflicted upon our soul. Through the healing of our woundedness, we are able to be more open to Jesus' love. **Confessions are scheduled every Tuesday from 8:30 - 9:00 AM, Wednesday from 6:00 - 6:45 PM, and Saturday from 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM. Confessions are also always available by appointment.**

Throughout **Advent**, we will also have several other opportunities to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. This includes the chance to participate in our **Advent Food Drive**, helping to provide for those in need within our community (*Matthew 25:35*). We will also have the opportunity for a brief "retreat" with our upcoming **Advent Parish Mission**. Mark your calendars and plan to attend, either in-person or live-stream, **each evening at 7 PM from Monday, Dec. 7th, through Wednesday, Dec. 9th.**

As we enter into our **Advent** preparations, we must also never lose sight of what (and who!) we are preparing for. All of this preparation is made so that we are prepared to rejoice as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. In the Church, times of preparation always gives way to the joy of Jesus Christ. As a part of our parish preparations, we want our parish campus to reflect the light of our joy throughout the **Christmas season**. I invite you to join us on **Saturday, Dec. 5th, at 9 AM (following the 8 AM morning Mass) to help string Christmas lights throughout our campus** that will be lit throughout the **Christmas season**. Many hands will make quick work of this project.

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David



Sharon Miller, Becky Biberstein, Betty Meyer, David Carr, Bonnie Burns, Michael Green, Rick Cotterman, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Carol Leitner, Pat Pfeifer, Troy Cook, Cheryl Jackson, Sandy Arnold, Jimmy Robbins, Jean Steele, Andrea Holte, Tom Williams, Jen Coyne and Marty Lohmuller.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

Due to the rise in COVID cases, the Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting via Zoom Tuesday, December 1st. The call will be started at 6:40 p.m. for recitation of the Holy Rosary followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Watch your Inbox for a link from Jeff Miller a day or so ahead of the meeting.



COME AND HELP string Christmas lights on the shrubs and trees in front of the Church and around our campus on Saturday, December 5 at 9:00 a.m. (after 8:00 morning Mass). Lights will be provided!!

PARISH CALENDAR

- Sat., Nov. 28 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Sat., Nov. 28 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 29 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 29 - No Religious Education Classes - Thanksgiving Break.
- Sun., Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent - Advent Food Drive to support the Wells County Food Bank.
- Tues., Dec. 1 - Knights of Columbus - 6:40 p.m. recitation of the Holy Rosary in Church / meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Please bring a mask to wear.
- Wed., Dec. 2 - Parish Council meeting - 7:30 p.m. (after 7:00 Mass)
- Fri., Dec. 4 - First Friday - Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass 8:30 a.m. / Adoration 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. / Low Mass at 6:00 p.m. Sign up sheet is in the narthex.
- Sat., Dec. 5 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 5 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 6 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 6 - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- Mon., Tues., & Wed., Dec. 7, 8, 9 - Advent Parish Mission - 7-8:00 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Masses will be offered at 8:00 a.m. / Noon / and at our Mission - 7:00 p.m.
- Sat., Dec. 12 - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Sat., Dec. 12 - Confession 4:00-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 13 - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. / 12:30 p.m.
- Sun., Dec. 13 - Discussion Forum - *Liturgical Seasons* - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- Sun., Dec. 13 - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- Tues., Dec. 15 - St. Joseph Women's Group Meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the social hall.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday Adoration/Mass
December 4
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Low Mass (Latin) 6:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Parish Finance Report November 21/22

Adult Envelopes- \$3,092.00
Child Envelopes- \$3.00
Loose- \$62.00
Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$320.00
Religious Ed. Fund- \$10.00
Advent Wreath Kits- \$120.00
Funeral Donations- \$100.00
All Saints Day- \$5.00
Total- \$3,712.00

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40
We are \$1,404.40 behind our weekly budget for November.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$23.00

*Thank you for your gifts
to St. Joseph's!*

osvonlinegiving.com/4741



Please remember to bring back your Karing for Kids Blessing Tree gifts before Tuesday, December 1st. Angel tags should be attached to the specific gift and unwrapped. They may be dropped off in the narthex at weekend Mass times or by the Parish office during office hours.

HEY KIDS!

If you took a St. Nicholas coloring paper home to color for the Maria Stein coloring contest, please make sure to drop it off at the Parish office no later than Tuesday, December 1st before 4:00 so I can get it mailed out so they can receive it by Friday, December 4th. Thanks! Michelle

DISCUSSION FORUM

Fr. David will hold a Discussion Forum - *Liturgical Seasons* on Sunday, December 13 from 8:30-9:45 a.m. in the social hall and also on Wednesday, December 16 7:30-8:30 p.m. (after 7:00 evening Mass).



Little Blue Advent books and Advent Calendars are available in the narthex. A limited number of Little Blue Advent books also available in Spanish.

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Parishioner





Before you speak...
THINK!

T - is it true?
h - is it helpful?
i - is it inspiring?
n - is it necessary?
k - is it kind?

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-St. Mother Teresa

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Us!

