

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

“Raise your heads, your redemption is drawing near”

Hope



How good are you at reading signs, especially signs which God sends our way? The people of Jesus' time expected that the coming of the Messiah would be accompanied by extraordinary signs and wonders. Jesus' first coming was clouded in mystery and surprising wonderment: Even though he was the rightful heir to the throne of King David, he was born in obscurity in a cave at Bethlehem, near the place where David had watched over his father's sheep some 1000 years before. A choir of mighty angels chose to announce the good news to a small band of lowly shepherds keeping their night watch nearby. Learned magi from the East, who recognized a great omen in the heavenly sky, followed the star until it led them to Bethlehem. They alone found the child with his mother and paid him homage as the newborn king of Israel. When Jesus humbly submitted to baptism at the River Jordan, the heavenly Father spoke audibly for those nearby who were willing to listen, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

Jesus, during his public ministry performed numerous signs. While many believed in Jesus, many also questioned his signs and refused to believe his claim to be the Messiah sent by the heavenly Father to suffer and die for our sake and for our salvation on the cross of Calvary. Jesus' last and greatest sign during his earthly ministry was his rising from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. This sign demonstrated his power to defeat death itself and to give abundant everlasting life to all who believed in him.

Jesus told his disciples that his final great sign would be his return in glory at the end of the age. He would come this second time as Judge and Merciful Redeemer to vindicate those who accepted him as Lord and Savior and to punish those who rejected him. Jesus declared that this last sign at the end of the world would be unmistakable. All would recognize and "see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27).

Jesus' prophetic description of the end of time and the day of judgment was not new to the people of Israel. The prophets had foretold these events many centuries before. Jesus speaks of the second coming as a known fact, a for certain event we can expect to take place. This coming will be marked by signs that all will recognize; signs which will strike terror in those unprepared and wonder in those who are ready to meet the Lord. When the Lord returns he will establish final justice and righteousness over the earth by overthrowing his enemies and by vindicating those who have been faithful to him. The anticipation of his final judgment is a sign of hope for all who trust in him.

The Advent season which precedes Christmas and Epiphany reminds us that we are a pilgrim people, aliens and exiles in this age who long for our true home with God in his heavenly kingdom, and who await with joyful hope the return of the Lord Jesus at the end of the age. When will the Lord Jesus come again? No one but the Father in heaven knows the day. The end times begin with the first coming of Jesus Christ (his Incarnation which we celebrate at Christmas and Epiphany) and culminates in his final return on the Day of Judgment.

SUNDAY MASS ON YOUTUBE



Mass is being live streamed on our Parish YouTube Channel on Sunday morning beginning at 10:00 a.m. and every Wednesday at 7pm (preceded by the Rosary at

6:40pm).

The link to our parish YouTube channel is:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCokoBfidkSQAZ_Buk3g-bhw?

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET ON FRIDAYS



We have resumed the practice of gathering in St. Francis of Assisi Church for Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. Since congregational singing is still not permitted, a recorded version of

the sung chaplet will be played. Each participant must wear a face covering and physical distancing (6-feet) between members of different households is required. All are welcome.

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Joseph Rego
+ Jean Zielinski
+ Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and Theresa Bellefontaine

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 – 8:30 A.M.

+ Parish All Souls Intentions

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Jim Donaldson
+ Trinidad Peralta

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. For an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, Religious
Life and Permanent Diaconate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Joseph and Angela Camilleri
+ Fred Quinless

S.I. Janet Tan

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 – 5:00 P.M.

Intention Available

DECEMBER 1 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

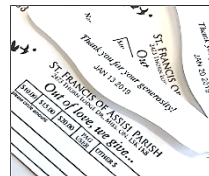
S.I. Parish Community

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**



The Christmas Collection for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will take place the weekend of December 4 & 5. Special donation envelopes are in your offertory envelope boxes or you may take a collection envelope located on a table at the back of the church. Your generosity to families in need at Christmas is most appreciated.

2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES

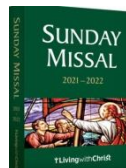


Offertory envelope boxes for 2022 are now available at the back of the church. Please take any box and **PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS** on the first 4 envelopes you use in JANUARY 2022. Thank you for your continued support.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

If you would rather make your regular offerings through Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG), kindly complete a PAG Form, which are available at the back of the Church with the envelopes, and return to the Office. Please note you still need a box of envelopes for the other Special Collections.

SUNDAY MISSALS FOR 2021-2022



Sunday Missals for the new Liturgical Year, which starts on the weekend of November 28, will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. The cost is \$5 each and the correct change would be greatly appreciated.

**RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF
FIRST RECONCILIATION DURING THE
SEASON OF ADVENT**

Please remember to pray for the young people of our parish who will be receiving God's love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in the month of December.

FORMED

Our parish now has a subscription to FORMED, a premier online platform. Best of all, this material is free to you.

There are 3 easy steps to Sign Up on FORMED:

1. Visit <http://signup.formed.org/>
2. Enter our parish code: L5K
3. Enter your name and email

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

November 28, 2021



**THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY:
THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS**
Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent.

WATCH

LEARN
ADVENT
This Advent prepare your heart through this exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus Christ.



**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING
BY DR. SCOTT HAHN**
Your Advent journey will take on new meaning with Dr. Scott Hahn's illuminating presentation on the greatest gift ever given to mankind-Jesus Christ.

LISTEN



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.