

8 DECEMBER, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From Father Jacob

Prepare the way of the Lord!

We prepare for the coming of the Lord the same way we prepare for anyone to come.

1. We clean: spiritually we examine our lives, ask forgiveness, and go to confession. We talked about this the first week of Advent.
2. We make space: we might need to move things around in our lives and hearts to make space for the Lord. We will talk about this the second week of Advent.
3. We decorate: we adorn our lives with beautiful good works and loving acts to prepare for our guest, the Lord. We will discuss this more in the third Sunday of Advent.

Make Space

When a guest comes we might have to rearrange things to accommodate them. To *prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths* we will probably have to do the same.

What needs to get moved out of the way so there is space for Jesus?

One way to think about this is time. What fills up my day and pushes the Lord out? What would it look like to arrange my day so that there is enough time for Him?

Another way to think about this is with my attention and decisions. What occupies my thoughts? What dominates my decisions? Is the law of the Lord, or other things?

One of the chief ways we *make space* is by fasting. This doesn't just have to do with food but with any good thing that is taking up too much space in my life. Perhaps the tv needs to be "moved aside".

Maybe my phone needs to be put away. To make a *straight path for God* some things will need to be rearranged!

Birthright

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners we will be supporting mothers and children this Christmas. With an assist from the Knights of Columbus, our "lifesaver Sunday" collection will be donating about **\$2500** to Birthright of Council Bluffs.

The Youth Group and Religious Education have also teamed up to hold a "baby shower for Jesus" this Advent, donating **diapers, toys, clothes, and other baby items**. What a beautiful and appropriate way to welcome the birth of Christ! Thank you to the Knights and all of our parishioners for your generosity!

Immaculate Conception of Mary

This Monday (12/9) we will celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary.: that Our Lady was conceived and lived her whole life free from all stain of sin. Our Lady did not experience the division and internal conflict that original sin brings to us, and she never committed a personal sin during her entire life.

This truth about Mary is important to all of us because it means that Mary is the new Eve. It means she was able to give a perfect and unqualified "yes" to God on behalf of all humanity, and it means that Mary is the promise to all of us: God wants to make us immaculate too as His Saints in heaven.

Come celebrate the patronal feast of the United States with us:

Sunday, 12/8

6 pm

Monday, 12/9

8 am, noon, 6 pm



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READINGS FOR: December 15, 2024
1ST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
2ND READING: Philippians 4:4-7
GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

The Knights of Columbus will be selling the Gorilla Car Wash tickets at the Christmas Party this Sunday, December 8. These make wonderful stocking stuffers. Make your family happy, get several.

Up on the house top reindeers pause, Out jumps good old Santa Claus....Santa will be jumping into the Social Hall this Sunday, December 8 after the 10:00 mass. Ho Ho Ho. He's going to listen to all the good boys and girls tell him what they want for Christmas. There will be rolls, cookies, juice, milk, and hot chocolate. Mom's and dad's don't forget your camera's so you can get that perfect Christmas memory.

MASS SCHEDULE

Tue 12/10 8:00 am Linda Schmitt-RIP
Wed 12/11 8:00 am Bill & Ione Spitznagle-RIP
Thurs 12/12 5:30 pm Joe Burke
Fri 12/13 8:00 am Maxine Stienblock-RIP
Sat 12/14 4:00 pm Marvin McDermott & Yvonne Hanneman-RIP
Sun 12/15 8:00 am Frank & Ruth Holzer-RIP
10:00 am St. Peter's Parish
Noon Joe Franks Family & William E Roarty-RIP

ANGEL TREE: Gifts need to be wrapped and the tag securely taped to the top of the present. They need to be returned by DECEMBER 15 BEFORE THE NOON MASS.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES: December 24 at 4pm & 6pm
CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: December 25 at 8am & 10am
NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS: Vigil 6PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES: 8AM & 10AM

SATURDAY, 4PM December 14, 2024
ALTAR SERVERS: A J Smith, Jack Limpp, John Duitsman
LECTORS: Evelyn Duitsman, Rod Nuss
EUCH MINISTERS: Wayne Stangl, 2 Euch Ministers needed
USHERS: Jack Gross, Linda Bonham, Fred Schaben, Josie Limpp

LIFE ACCORDING TO JEAN.....

- Today I'll exercise...Today, I'll exer.....Today I'll....Today...To...Ta...Tac...Taco
- You know you're getting old when you watch Home Alone and wonder how much their mortgage is.
- December doesn't have afternoons, It's just morning until 2, then night.
- One day you'll find someone that's obsessed with you. It's probably going to be a dog but it is what it is.
- Remember as a kid when you fell on the trampoline and everyone would keep jumping so you couldn't get back up? That's basically life as an adult.
- Wedding vows should include..."do you promise to always help him find his stuff that is right in front of him" because you will be doing that forever.
- You know you're getting old when you and your teeth don't sleep together anymore.
- Hugh Hefner became a multi-millionaire staying home in his pajamas. I'm not having the same result.
- I'm not saying I order from Amazon a lot, but I just received a wedding invitation from one of their drivers.
- Hiking: an activity where you drive 350 miles so you can walk 7 miles.
- As we head into the holidays remember, the more you weigh, the harder you are to kidnap. Stay safe. Eat the pie.

SUNDAY, 8 AM, December 15, 2024
ALTAR SERVERS: Oliver & Owen Juranek, Audrey Garst
LECTORS: Tyler Juranek, Joan Goeser
EUCH MINISTERS: Roger Harvey, Nicole Juranek, Sheryl Garst
USHERS: George Garst, Andy Juranek, Gary Juranek, Jim Havermann

SUNDAY, 10 AM December 15, 2024
ALTAR SERVERS: Ben Rosenberger, Leighton Finnegan, Thomas Biederman
LECTORS: John Ross & Nathaniel Biederman
EUCH MINISTERS: Marian Brown, Chris & Ed Fink
USHERS: Dan Lighthipe, Dave Bristol, Bryan Carolus, Margine Henry

SUNDAY, NOON December 15, 2024
ALTAR SERVERS: Keegan McCaffery, two Altar Servers needed
LECTORS: Cindy Bussey, Aubree Brandau
EUCH MINISTERS: Susan Lorkovic, Janet Hogsed, one Euch Minister needed
USHERS: Rob Peters, Trevor Yanovich, Chris Olson, Emry Honkomp

HAVE A GREAT WEEK, STAY SAFE, BE NICE TO EACH OTHER

Father's Thought for the Week

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.

To make a straight path for the Lord in my heart and in my life will necessarily mean rearranging some things that are in the way! When we identify those things, let's be bold and make a change to move that thing out of the way, or maybe to remove it entirely if need be.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, December 8-Santa in the Social Hall after 10 mass
Sunday, December 8-Immaculate Conception vigil 6pm
Monday, December 9-Immaculate Conception masses
8:00 am, Noon, & 6:00 pm
Tuesday, December 10-Women's Prayer Group 6:30 hall

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