



Second Sunday of Advent

December 3 / 4, 2022

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Fr. Prashanth Lobo

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MASS SCHEDULE

St. Boniface:

Saturday

5:00 pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sunday:

8:00 am-8:45 am Rosary

8:30 am Confession

9:00 am Mass

Tuesday & Thursday:

5:30 pm

Bible Study

Thursday 8:00 pm

Mission Statement: We are a welcoming parish of Roman Catholic Christians with diverse roots deep in Appalachia and beyond. We are committed to growing in our faith and community through our worship and celebrations, with particular attention to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and The Holy Eucharist. We are a community gathered together by the Holy Spirit, filled with hope, to love and serve God and neighbor in the name of Jesus Christ; and through our sharing of Good News in word and deed, we seek to live and reveal to all the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit.



May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 15:5

Pretend the Dream

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When I was in college, we had a professor who would often say that if, instead of acting the way we feel, we would act the way we would like to feel, then we would soon begin to feel the way we hoped. Over the years, I've found a fair amount of wisdom in that advice, although I don't always remember to tap into it. I know it's all a kind of pretending, but somehow the pretending does seem to make a difference.

Each year, we make our journey into Christmas with a year's baggage. We come with good memories of moments of lazy fun, sun-drenched summers, and dappled autumns, vacations, and birthday parties. But we also make our way into this red and green season with a generous share of hurts and pains, failures and even sins, just because most years are lived that way.

And so, during this last month of each year we play at being happy and pretend that all is good. We sing carols

and toast friendships and wish each other blessings and goodness. And we do it all with an unspoken honesty, knowing full well that life is not always so, but maybe by pretending, and by some freakish twist of godliness, we can find for some short time the harmony once prophesied by Isaiah. Maybe the wolf and the lamb will be kind, and the calf and lion will forget their history, and for at least one brief shining moment we will live in harmony with one another. ●

Reflect

This Advent, once a week, try to skip doing something that stresses you.

Once a week, act the way you would like to feel. Fake it if you must.

<i>Date</i>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>Saint Boniface</i>
<i>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8:00 – 8:45 am Adoration & Rosary 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass Decorate Church & Hall 5:00 pm ~ Christmas party	5:00 pm ~ Mass
<i>Tuesday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>Thursday</i> IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Holy Day Obligation	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>	8:00 – 8:45 am Adoration & Rosary 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass	5:00 pm ~ Mass

	<i>OLPH</i> <i>Mass 9:00 am</i>		<i>ST. BONIFACE</i> <i>Mass 5:00 pm</i>	
Date	December 4	December 11	December 3	December 10
Lector	Hannah Steen	Mandy Hall	Mary Jo Leygraaf	Jerry Nowak
Server	Joe McNaughton	Creed Farthing		

Mass Intentions	OLPH	St. Boniface
December 3 / 4	† David Gayhart	† David Gayhart
December 10 / 11	Intentions of Parishioners	Intentions of Parishioners

Our Gifts	OLPH	St. Boniface
November 26 / 27	\$190.00	\$ 60.00
Cemetery Fund		\$600.00

Next weekend there will be a Second Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious - Please give generously.

May God bless you for your generous contributions to our Church.

Please join us this weekend, immediately after Mass, for refreshments in the Parish Hall and to decorate the Church and Parish Hall for Advent

Reading 1

Is 11:1-10

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:

a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

a spirit of counsel and of strength,

a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,

and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

Not by appearance shall he judge,

nor by hearsay shall he decide,

but he shall judge the poor with justice,

and decide aright for the land's afflicted.

He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

Justice shall be the band around his waist,

and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,
together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra's den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.
There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD,
as water covers the sea.
On that day, the root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the nations,
the Gentiles shall seek out,
for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
he shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;

the lives of the poor he shall save.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

May his name be blessed forever;
as long as the sun his name shall remain.
In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed;
all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Reading 2

Rom 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters:

Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction,
that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have hope.

May the God of endurance and encouragement
grant you to think in harmony with one another,
in keeping with Christ Jesus,
that with one accord you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God.

For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised
to show God's truthfulness,
to confirm the promises to the patriarchs,
but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.
As it is written:

*Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles
and sing praises to your name.*

Alleluia

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea
and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

John wore clothing made of camel's hair
and had a leather belt around his waist.

His food was locusts and wild honey.

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea,
and the whole region around the Jordan
were going out to him
and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River
as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees
coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.

And do not presume to say to yourselves,

'We have Abraham as our father.'

For I tell you,

God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees.

Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit

will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I.
I am not worthy to carry his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing fan is in his hand.
He will clear his threshing floor
and gather his wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

REFLECTION

We are already in the second Sunday of the advent. The popular figure that pops up during this time is John the Baptist. Who without bothering anything that was happening around him Just focused on doing his business.

His simplicity teaches us how to acquire a holy life. By staying focused and doing our work.

Have you noticed that we see him specially during two seasons in the liturgical year definitely? That is advent and Lent. He looks like a person of those two seasons too. Have you ever reasoned it out why it might be? No doubt it is because of his holy life. And probably also because his way of life was very different from all the others who lived at his time.

In the words of the evangelist: He lived in wilderness. John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. To put it in a simple way, ***He helps us stay focused and not to lose balance during seasons like Advent and Lent.***

On the one hand, salvation is God's doing, and we are saved by His grace. On the other hand, we must cooperate with God's grace because God cannot force his bounty upon us. That is why John the Baptist in today's Gospel summons us to play our essential part by leading lives of repentance, conversion, and renewal, thus preparing the way for the Lord's second coming. We start this process by spiritually preparing for the annual celebration of Christmas, the Lord's first coming, as we reform and renew our lives by repentance and works of charity.

We need to prepare for Christ's coming by allowing him to be reborn daily in our lives: Advent is the time for us to make this preparation by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and the sharing of our blessings with others. Let us humbly admit the truth with the German mystic Angelus Silesius "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me.". He means that Jesus must be reborn in our heart during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, radiating his love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and spirit of humble service to the world through our lives.

UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

December 6

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church ~ Memorial

December 7

***THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ~ Holy Day of Obligation***

December 8

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin

December 9

Our Lady of Loreto

December 10

If you wish to receive **text messages** from the Parish Office, please provide your name and phone number.
Sign up sheet in the Parish Hall

Upcoming Events

Penance Service – December 18, immediately after Mass

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, Geneva Couch, Judy Delisle, Dal Macon, Linda Mills, Judy Patrick, Bob and Marie Alvaro, JoAnn Brown, Cathy Sims, Eric Vore, Robert Moses, Kristina Neitsch, Danny Ezell, Sharon Nowak, Jean Sharp and Iva Lee Hamblin.



Dear Padre,

Many LGBTQ+ youth are homeless, suicidal, or even murdered because of who they are. How can we support them?

Your desire to be compassionate is very much in keeping with the Church's teaching. In 1986, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, led by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now emeritus Pope Benedict XVI), issued a strongly worded call for civility and respect for homosexual persons. On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons emphasized, "It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses that homosexual persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity" (CCC 2358).

"The Church actively asserts and promotes the intrinsic dignity of every person. As human persons, persons with a homosexual inclination have the same basic rights as all people, including the right to be treated with dignity," wrote the US Bishops in "Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination" (2006). In terms of offering support, this document reads, "As baptized members of the Catholic community, persons with a homosexual inclination continue to look to the Church for a place where they may live in authentic human integrity and holiness of life. Being welcomed into and participating in their local faith community is the foundation of spiritual support that the Church offers to them. Full and active participation is encouraged. Participation in a worshipping Catholic community is a support for living a life of chastity and integrity and an encouragement to an ongoing personal conversion." ●

— **The Redemptorists**
DearPadre.org



VECTOR GOODNESS / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Many people today are constantly using social media, but are not themselves very social: they are caught up in themselves, prisoners of the cell phone in their hand. What appears on the screen is not the reality of other persons: their eyes, their breath and their hands.



ADDRESS IN A MEETING
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE,
ATHENS, DECEMBER 6, 2021

MONDAY

December 5
Advent Weekday
Is 35:1–10
Lk 5:17–26

TUESDAY

December 6
Advent Weekday
Is 40:1–11
Mt 18:12–14

WEDNESDAY

December 7
*St. Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church*
Is 40:25–31
Mt 11:28–30

THURSDAY

December 8
*The Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin
Mary*
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

FRIDAY

December 9
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17–19
Mt 11:16–19

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

SATURDAY

December 10
Advent Weekday
Sir 48:1–4, 9–11
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

SUNDAY

December 11
*Third Sunday
of Advent*
Is 35:1–6a, 10
Jas 5:7–10
Mt 11:2–11