

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ISAIAH. 63: 16b-17, 19b;64:2-7. We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands.

PSALM 80. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1 CORINTHIANS. 1: 3-9. God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son.

MARK. 13: 33-37. Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.



TODAY'S REFLECTION: *'Be on watch! Stay awake!' Life is a constant Advent experience: the world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be; we are constantly waiting to become, to discover, to understand, to change, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of life's Advent. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us-as **one** of us-gives us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned by our merciful Father in heaven. We are not a Christmas people but an **Advent** people living our lives in patient faith and joyful hope for the Lord's coming in our lifetimes.*



INTENTIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY LITURGIES:

MONDAY 11/30

8:00 A.M.

All Souls Day Novena Intentions

St. Andrew, Apostle

TUESDAY 12/1

8:00 A.M.

Michael Docalovich (Annette O'Bell)

Advent Weekday

WEDNESDAY 12/2

8:00 A.M.

Deceased of the Cummings & Brown Families (Janice Petorak)

Advent Weekday

THURSDAY 12/3

8:00 A.M.

Sophie B. Urbas (Andy & Margaret Franks)

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

FRIDAY 12/4-FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

8:00 A.M.

Frank Ryczak, Sr. (M/M Bruno Ealo)

St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

EUCARISTIC ADORATION BEGINS

8:30 A.M.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION CONCLUDES

12:00 P.M.

SATURDAY 12/5

4:00 P.M.

Paul Carachilo (Paul & Karen Konosky)

SUNDAY 12/6-THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 A.M.

Mary L. Serniak (The Family)

10:30 A.M.

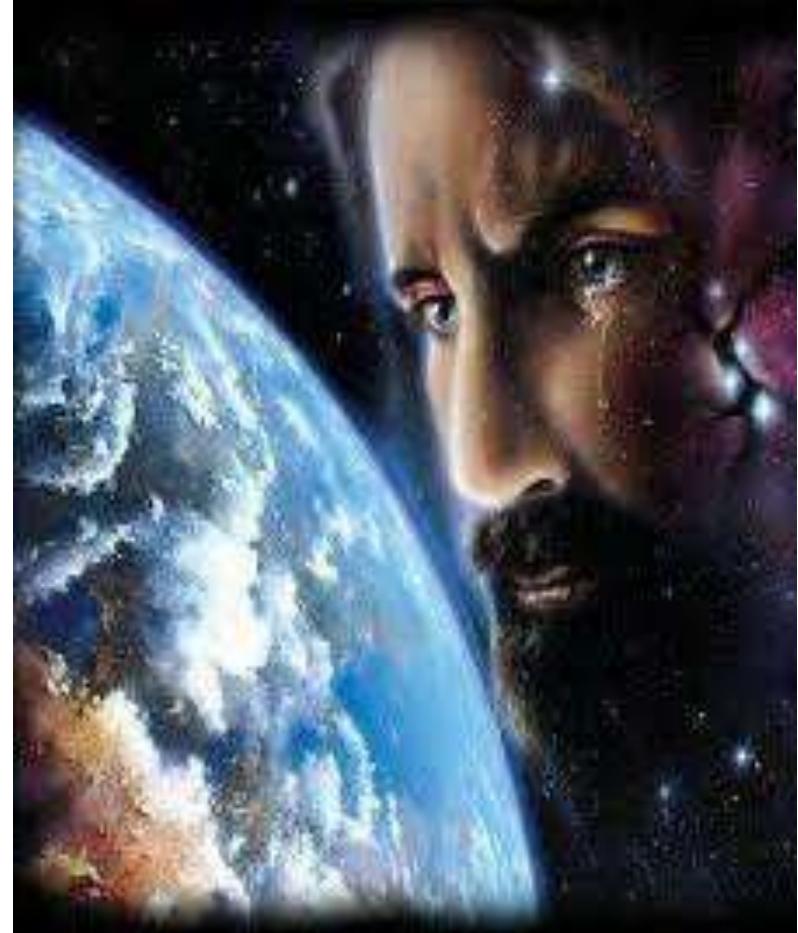
Christopher J. & Wayne Marsico (Uncle Bill, Aunt Johann & Jennifer Evans)

12:00 P.M.-SPANISH MASS

People of the Parish

WORD OF LIFE: Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary" respectlife.org/gospel-of-life-summary

REMEMBER YOUR FACE MASK: Please remember to bring your mask to Mass.



OUR WEEKLY OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2020

OFFERTORY	\$3,039.90
ON-LINE GIVING	\$0.00
DUES/SALARY	\$375.00
GOOD SAMARITAN	\$35.00
FLOWERS	\$558.00
THANKSGIVING	\$175.00
HUMAN DEV.	\$91.00
INCOME=\$4,182.90	

AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES=\$4,803.34

Counters for Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Phil Tochelli

Jim Perry

Kevin Toolan

CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: Thank you for your generous support last week for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish we raised \$91.00 to support those on the margins who are living in poverty in the United States.



WATCH! "Watch!" This word occurs three times in today's Gospel passage. Moreover, it is placed at significant points: the beginning, the center, and the end. Though this is technically a parable, it is quite short (four verses). The threefold repetition of "watch" leaves no doubt as to what the story is about. We often think of Advent as a time of waiting, but it truly is a season of watchfulness, a very active form of waiting for the coming Day of the Lord. It is that day, more than Christmas day, that the Christian community faithfully expects, using all of our gifts and talents for this purpose, as Paul reminds us in the Letter to the Corinthians. When we use these gifts in faithful watching and expectation, we become like the servants of the parable, set to their tasks, not waiting around idly, but engaged in the master's work until his return or rededicate our lives and our communities to this work—the active and diligent faithfulness that the Lord will expect to find.



COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS: As we have faced loss and uncertainty this year, we also are aware of how blessed we still are with our faith and freedom. As we give thanks we do so with grateful hearts for life itself. The word, "Eucharist" actually means "Thanksgiving." As we gather for Mass we also are thankful for each day to serve God with our lives.



CHRISTMAS WAFERS/OPLATKI: These are available on the tables at the entrance of the Church. The donation is \$3.00.



BLESSING OF AN ADVENT

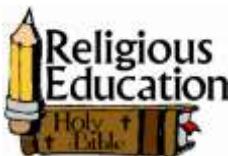
WREATH: Lord Our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples he is the wisdom that teaches us and guides us. He is the Savior of every nation. Lord God let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.



May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



CHRISTMAS NOVENA INTENTIONS: These are found in your packets and are for your Intentions throughout the Advent and Christmas Season. They will be placed on the Altar for your intentions to be celebrated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



C.C.D. CALENDAR:

SUN. NOV. 29 NO CLASSES
SUN. DEC. 6 REGULAR CLASSES
SUN. DEC. 13 REGULAR CLASSES
SUN. DEC 20 REGULAR CLASSES
SUN. DEC. 27 NO C.C.D. CLASSES-CHRISTMAS

SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM BEGINS: Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Already your baby is 10,000 times bigger than at conception. Your baby has developed the foundations of his brain, spinal cord, and nervous system by the 20th day. His heart began to beat on the 21st day and is pumping blood through its own circulatory system. The blood type can be different from his mother's. Your baby is most vulnerable during the next month of being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of his mother to give him the most precious gift of all—the gift of life.

SONNY SAYS: Little Johnny was asked to add a prayer at the family's Thanksgiving Dinner. He devoutly bowed his head, folded his hands, closed his eyes and prayed, "Dear Lord, I am thankful today that I am not a turkey. Amen."



STEWARSHIP NEWS:

HOLIDAY HELPER TICKET SALES: Tickets for the Holiday Helper fundraiser will be on sale before and after all Masses on the week-ends of Nov 28-29 and Dec. 5-6. The cost is \$10 per ticket. The prizes are as follows:
★ 1st Prize-\$1,000.00
★ 2nd & 3rd Prize-\$500.00
and three \$50.00 Gas Cards.

The drawing will be held **on December 9, at the monthly Stewardship Meeting** (7:00 P.M. in the Parish Center). Please consider purchasing tickets. Good Luck!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE UPDATE: Due to COVID-19 concerns, this year's Christmas Cookie Sale will be cancelled.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL # 7622

PARTNERING WITH CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES TO SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:

Dear parishioners of Sacred Hearts, if you are not familiar with the Knights of Columbus, we are a fraternal organization of Catholic men, whose goal is to support our faith, our church and our priests. The Knights of Columbus Council # 7622 are partnering with Catholic Social Services to aid in their goal of supporting local families in this joyous Christmas Season. In the past, our parish has had a Giving Tree in the entryway of the Church. unfortunately, this year with the COVID-19, Catholic Social Services is asking for gift cards to be donated to help make Christmas more joyous for our local families. If you can, we ask that you purchase a gift card, I-tunes, Visa, Department Store. Please put the gift card in the collection basket at any mass or mail it to the Rectory. The Knights will collect these and deliver to Catholic Social Services on **Monday, November 30th**. Please be sure that all of the donations are in by **Sunday, November 29th**. Thank you for thinking of others who aren't as fortunate.



Did You Know...

 **You May Make a Gift to Your Parish or to the Diocesan Annual Appeal Directly From Your IRA**

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

For information, please contact Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary of Development, Jim-Bebla@DioceseofScranton.org, 570-207-2250

Our Parish Goal for the Diocesan Annual Appeal is: **\$21,000.00**. To date we have **\$9,706.00** in Pledges. Thank You!



SAINT ANDREW PRAYER NOVENA DURING ADVENT:

Hail and Blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe I beseech you, O my God to hear my prayers and grant my desires, (State your Intention here) through the merits of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and of his Blessed Mother. Amen.

*Beginning on the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30th) the following prayer is traditionally prayed 15 times a day until Christmas Day. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the real focus of Christmas and helps prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming.

THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, NOV.30TH, THURSDAY, DEC 3RD, AND FRIDAY, DEC. 4TH.