



# CORPUS CHRISTI

## PARISH COMMUNITY

234 SOUTHERN BOULEVARD  
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY 07928

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[www.corpuschristi.org](http://www.corpuschristi.org)

**Rev. T. Kevin Corcoran, Pastor**

ext. 5, [frkevin@corpuschristi.org](mailto:frkevin@corpuschristi.org)

**Rev. Lemmuel Camacho, S.T.L., Parochial Vicar**

ext. 6, [lcamacho@corpuschristi.org](mailto:lcamacho@corpuschristi.org)

**Deacon Sal Bonfiglio, Pastoral Associate, Marriage & Family Ministry, ext. 720, [sbonfiglio@corpuschristi.org](mailto:sbonfiglio@corpuschristi.org)**

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**Tricia Ott, Parish Administrator ext. 725, [triciaott@corpuschristi.org](mailto:triciaott@corpuschristi.org)**

**Mary Anne (Psomi) Psomas-Jackloski, Pastoral Associate, Youth Ministry and Formation, ext. 718, [psomi@corpuschristi.org](mailto:psomi@corpuschristi.org)**

**Maintenance Staff, ext. 721, [maintenance@corpuschristi.org](mailto:maintenance@corpuschristi.org)**

## DECEMBER 15, 2019

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### ***ADVENT: JOY WITHIN REACH***

Advent season, the time just before Christmas, is a time of joy. The hanging of Christmas decorations on houses, lights in windows and the sound of nostalgic music on the radio. It is a time of optimism and reflecting on the important things of life, like family, faith, food and friends. Yet this season also brings up feelings of broken relationships, the loss of loved ones and dreams unfulfilled. A relative who is ill, waiting for the next job to appear and news of tragedy in the world. For many, it is difficult to hear about joy and that all will be well, when the past has not always been helpful and the present and the future seem uncertain. Fear can keep us down.

Yet the joy that the Gospel speaks about this Sunday is not about a manufactured, pretend joy. The joy that we are asked to grasp comes from the hope that God is real, that God cares about us and that God has a plan and a purpose for us. This God is able to heal any of our wounds, guide us through any problem, to restore anything that has withered, and to free us from anything that is keeping us bound. This God of ours is one who is with us and wants to break more deeply into our lives and our difficulties to bring hope and healing. This is the source of our joy! A joy that is available to all of us no matter what is happening in our lives. We have great reason to be joyful!



3rd SUNDAY OF *Advent*



#### ***CHRISTMAS IN A BOX***

Thanks to all who assisted with and donated to this wonderful program. Thank you especially to Marybeth Clark for overseeing it this year. Because of you, 85 families, 645 children and 132 seniors will have a more joyful Christmas!

*Fr. Kevin*



CORPUS CHRISTI  
PARISH COMMUNITY

# Advent Activities

## ALL ARE WELCOME

Advent is a time of preparing for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

A time of waiting, a season of Hope.

Join us this Advent for prayer, celebration and fellowship

Throughout Advent:

Daily Morning and Evening Mass

Dec 2nd - Dec 23rd (M-F) 7:30 am & 7:30 pm

- December 15th Breakfast with Santa 9:45 - 11:30 am in parish gym
- December 15th Extreme Faith Youth Concert 5:00 pm
- December 18th Confession offered in Church 8-9 pm



## Christmas Masses



### Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. - Mass in the church - with children's choirs & instruments

4:00 p.m. - Mass in the hall - with music by Extreme Faith

5:30 p.m. - Mass in the church - with choir and brass

5:30 p.m. - Mass in the hall - with music by Extreme Faith

6:45 p.m. - Mass in the church - with organ, cantor, & brass

9:00 p.m. - Adult Choir, Special program of Christmas music

9:30 p.m. - Midnight Mass - two and ½ hours early! - with our Adult Choir and instruments

### Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

7:30 a.m. Mass - a quiet Mass

9:30 a.m. Mass - music with guest cantor and the Newark Boys' Chorus

11:30 a.m. Mass - music with guest cantor and the Newark Boys' Chorus.



*"O Come let us Adore Him"*



[www.corpuschristi.org](http://www.corpuschristi.org)



@CorpusChristiParish



Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church

## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, December 14

5:00 p.m. Philip J. Myers

### Sunday, December 15

7:30 a.m. Margaret Gilmour

9:00 a.m. Richard Turner

11:00 a.m. Tom Murray

12:15 p.m. Jennie M. Del Duca

### Monday, December 16

7:30 a.m. Jennie M. Del Duca; Jeanne Church

7:30 p.m. Edward Sagendorf

### Tuesday, December 17

7:30 a.m. Maureen Alexander

7:30 p.m. Michael Bowler

### Wednesday, December 18

7:30 a.m. Tom Murray

7:30 p.m. Ray Oldroyd

### Thursday, December 19

7:30 a.m. Marie and Walter Wos; Adrienne Szigety  
Thomas McNamara

7:30 p.m. Special Intention

### Friday, December 20

7:30 a.m. Jeannie Lepore

7:30 p.m. Aurelia Salas

### Saturday, December 21

5:00 p.m. Bishop John Smith

### Sunday, December 22

7:30 a.m. Robert Brendon Murphy (*1st Anniversary*)

9:00 a.m. Special Intention

11:00 a.m. Charles Gargano

12:15 p.m. Donald Zack

## IN REMEMBRANCE

For the week of December 15, Sanctuary Lights burn and Bread and Wine is offered for a Special Intention. Blessed Sacrament Chapel flowers are in memory of Maureen Alexander.

### FLOWER MEMORIALS

Remember a loved one or offer a special Intention by having a flower arrangement placed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The cost will be \$50 or more plus a \$10 offering. The Parish Office will coordinate the request with our florist, Carl Lemanski.

### PRESIDER'S SCHEDULE

#### DECEMBER 14/15

5:00 p.m. Fr. Mahoney 9:00 a.m. Fr. Kevin

7:30 a.m. Fr. Kevin 11:00 a.m. Fr. Lem

12:15 p.m. Fr. Lem

#### DECEMBER 21/22

5:00 p.m. Fr. Kevin 9:00 a.m. Fr. Lem

7:30 a.m. Fr. Lem 11:00 a.m. Fr. Mahoney

12:15 p.m. Fr. Kevin

## DECEMBER 15, 2019 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### TODAY

**9:45 a.m. Breakfast with Santa**

Religious Ed Grades PreK—5

10:00 a.m. Extreme Faith

5:00 p.m. CC Chargers

**5:00 p.m. Extreme Faith Christmas Concert**



#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

4:00 p.m. Religious Ed Grades 1—5

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

8:00 p.m. Bible Study

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

3:30 p.m. Joyful Noise

4:15 p.m. Junior Bell Choir

6:00 p.m. Extreme Faith Instruments

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:30 a.m. Praying the Rosary

8:00 p.m. Confessions

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. Bridges Newark

### LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION

Total Sunday Collection \$15,132.50

Religious Retirement Fund \$14,271.00

### Christmas e-Giving Available Now

Simple, fast and secure. That's the best way to make your Christmas gift to Corpus Christi this year!

Visit us at <https://corpuschristi.org/contributions>

and prayerfully make your selection, it's that easy.

Our annual budget relies on your generous support to keep our ministries active. Your donation is greatly appreciated and a blessing to our parish family.

Scan the QR Code below with the camera on your phone or go directly to our parish website.

**Thank you!**



### YEAR-END GIVING

QR Code

Did you know that there are several tax saving options when it comes to making your Year-End Giving to Corpus Christi. Visit us at <https://corpuschristi.org/contributions> and learn more. Your generous tax-deductible donation keeps our programs alive and fuels our spirit. Prayerfully consider making this choice to contribute to the growth of our community.

**Thank you!**

## WELCOME!

New parishioners are asked to register for the parish by going to our website at [www.corpuschristi.org](http://www.corpuschristi.org). Click on the **Parish Registration** tab at the top of the home page next to **Online Giving**. For more info, please call the Parish Office.

## BAPTISMS

We welcome into the Church through the sacrament of Baptism, **Kathryn Grace Roddy**, daughter of Jeffrey and Kathryn.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Patty Westerzelt, LaVerne Washburne, Brian Deasy, Mon Cassius, Pam Koch, Trish Dowling, David Natale, Megan O'Neil, Christopher Ciufo, Melina Hennigan, James Greendonner, Jeffrey Dowling, Donna Conforti, Carolyn Phalon, Wayne Parisi, Debby Conti, James J. Price, Pat Pierson, Florence and John Hefe, Hank Campbell, Amy Fitzgerald, Mary McHale, Father John O'Brien, Frances Primack, Dorothy M. Torick, Howard Daly, Katherine Brown, Conor Jennings, Barbara Layman, Peter Pietrucha, Craig Wisdo, John Petite, Raymond O'Connell, Joseph Doria, John Fleming, Donna Kugelman, Jeffrey Hodgeson, Kiran Kenney, Helen Dwyer, Margaret Pittaluga, Tina Errico, Nick McGann, John (Jack) Kaplan, Marie Orgo, Lucy Ryan, Joann Uibelhoer, Beth Abella, Hazel Townsend, Nicholas Ciufo, Peter Elder, Lori Abrams, Brandon Glynnyoung, David Carey, Marylou Perrini, Alan Fischer, Sarah Addison, Carol Murphy, Likeu Lee, Susan Kosinski, Camille Moran, Michael Turinchak, Dorothy Norton, Sr. Barbara Takacs, Diane Allen, Nora and Callum Lemanski, Lucas Reiling, Dominic Ursino, Andrew Jenkins, Debbie Dwyer, Bridget Noe, John Cunningham, Mary Beth Driscoll, Denise Phalon Cascio, Abigail Brady, Frances Smith, Claudia Fernandez, Tom Warren, Marty Erickson, Mary Beth Bonkowski, Carey Jenkins, Aurora Tremaroli, Aubrey Baumbach, Christopher Green Cunningham, John VanDam, Ethel Gasda, Patrick Ford, David Kelly, Patrick Murphy, Jr., Helen Huk, Cathy Caputo, Rui Boos, Joseph Todisco, Marie Skurka, Arianna Khelil, Dorothy Craig, Stephanie Quiroga, Sal Guidone, Judy Broyhill, Tony Rios, Lois McGuire, Gina Pagnotta, Helen Huddleston, Mary Ann Allen, Mary Ellen Wagner, Ed Lord, Gina Pelillo, Thomas Singer, Gregory Malzberg, Kristine Ryan, Luis Gallardo, Susan McGeough, Marianne Conod, Joseph Cirella, Donna Gocking, Marti Sullivan, Lauren Gardner, Edward Cameron, Marie Viteri, Steven Hensle, Bob Whelan, William Cody, John Keelin, Richard Delaney, Mary Lou Carrier, Mary Conforti, Charlie Roussel, Jay Conroy, Richard Pelillo, Christopher Crahan, Ryan Lowe, Dominick Canavaro, Larry Califano, Frank Intagliato, Clifford McGuire, Don Stauber, Marie Meister, Marlenes Teixeira, John Crisp, Don Spagnuolo, Maddie Niebanch, Anthony Careccia, Martine Errico, Henry Von See, Michelle Benaim, Parker Watson, Kevin and Dorothy Franken, Adriana Martins, Eugene Iannocelli, Peggy Cox, Eileen Matt, Everett Farren, Connie McNamara, Ann Zerga, Cheryl Maiorini, Alfri Rundio, Barbara Marvin, Beth Cintron, Anna McGeough, Andrew White, Adeline Lombardi, Caitlin Murray, Donald Hanson, Giovanna Tagliaferri, Nancy Merola Miller, Ann Gilroy, Stephanie Windsor, Rosemarie Moeller, Ralph Partlow, John Canary, Eileen Scholp, Patricia Marceterre, Nancy Artigliere, Connie Prince, Bud Jeannette, Roy Weiland, Georgina Weiland, Anna West, Maddi Kinney, Michele Carney.

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE HOME TO THE LORD...

Roseanne Sodano, parishioner

Jack Maher, uncle of Kevin Maher and Carol Murray



## Stay Connected

### e-Bulletin

#### 'Contact Us' on website

Receive digital version by Thursday via email  
A mini newsletter to keep connected when away  
Access on your phone for reference anytime

### e-Communications

Text CHATHAM to 84576 to join

Flocknote Messaging

Real-time information updates

Receive by Text or Email—You choose!

## e-Giving at Corpus Christi

Many families have already chosen to give one-time or recurring donations through our website. It is safe and secure, easy, saves time, and makes record keeping smooth and more accurate. Explore the convenience of online giving at [www.corpuschristi.org/contributions](http://www.corpuschristi.org/contributions) and be one of the families who set their donation to automatically occur when, how often, and in the amount you choose to give. Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts without the hassle of checks and envelopes.

For your convenience, scan the **QR code** below to start e-Giving today. Questions or help, call the Parish Office at 973-635-0070 x 710. So far we have 338 signed up. Thank you for your generosity!



## POSITION OF NURSING SUPERVISOR

The Sisters of Christian Charity are looking for a qualified Nursing Supervisor for our Motherhouse in Mendham, NJ. The Nursing Supervisor will coordinate and oversee the entire plan of care for each resident, in addition to supervising the health care staff. This person must be able and willing to collaborate with many people and service lines. It is imperative that compassionate care is combined with a strong work ethic and astute nursing and leadership skills. The ideal candidate for this position possesses a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, is a Licensed Registered Nurse with a minimum of three years experience in a long term care facility, proficient in Microsoft Office Word, Excel and able to navigate a basic Electronic Health Record (EHR). Prior management experience is desirable but not required.

If you are interested in this full-time position with benefits please contact Eileen Davis, Business Manager at 973-230-5368 or [bus.manager@scceast.org](mailto:bus.manager@scceast.org)



## SPIRITUALITY-FAITH DEVELOPMENT



### Contact:

Sister Margaret Dincher SCC  
973-635-0070 x 714 (phone)  
973-635-5518 (fax)  
email: marga@corpuschristi.org

## PASTORAL CARE



If you or someone you know is in the hospital or is homebound and wishes to receive Communion or the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact Sr. Margaret and arrangements will be made for a visit.

Father Kevin and Father Lem are available to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with those who are homebound.

## SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

All Eucharistic Ministers are asked to sign-in for Sunday liturgies by email or check the bulletin board to sign-in when you come to Mass. We are in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers.



## LECTORS

Lectors are asked to pick up their Workbook for Lectors in the Priest's sacristy.

We are in need of several additional lectors. If you wish to become a lector at the Sunday Liturgies, please contact Sister Margaret.

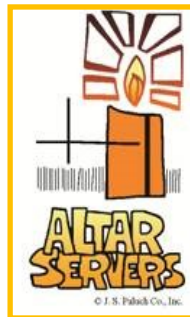
## BIBLE STUDIES

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians is the topic of the Bible Study on Monday Evening. The next meeting will be on January 6th from 8 to 9 pm in the Upper Room.



John's Gospel is the topic of the Bible Study on Wednesday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. The book of John's Gospel combines biblical information and suggestions for personal and group prayer. The study will resume on January 8th in the Atrium Conference Room.

## ALTAR SERVERS



Altar Servers are needed at Mass. One server is needed to process with the cross at the entrance to Mass to lead those who bring the gifts to the altar and to lead the procession at the end of Mass. The second server assists the priest during the mass. Boys and girls in grades 3 thru 8 are invited to serve.

Contact Sister Margaret to set a time to be trained to serve at Masses on Sunday.

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

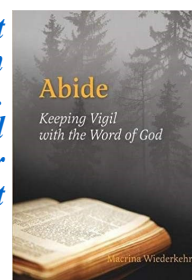
Spiritual Direction offers a time and place to be attentive and take notice of God's presence and action in our lives. It helps a person grow in his/her relationship with God and better discern how the Holy Spirit is leading in their life. It helps a person to deepen in his/her relationship with God, self, others and creation. For more information contact Sister Margaret.



### *Abide Keeping Vigil With God's Word*

*Breathe in the Word of God and wait before the Word as you walk through the Scriptures and Abide with God. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Upper Room on the second floor. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14th from 7—8 pm. All are welcome to this time of prayer and reflection.*

*Facilitators: Diane Radwill and Sister Margaret*



## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS

On the Ministers Bulletin Board are the sign-in sheets for Christmas. Please fill in the time you will be here. The 4 pm and 5:30 pm are in both the Church and Hall. Thank you for helping for these busy days. There is one Mass in Church for the Christmas Eve 6:45 pm, and 9:30 pm. On Christmas day the Masses are in the church at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am.





## Men's weekend retreat

January 10—12, 2020

For more information or to register, contact Corpus Christi's Retreat Ambassador, Marc Girona at [marc1@mac.com](mailto:marc1@mac.com), or register on-line at [www.loyola.org](http://www.loyola.org). Flyers are available in the atrium.

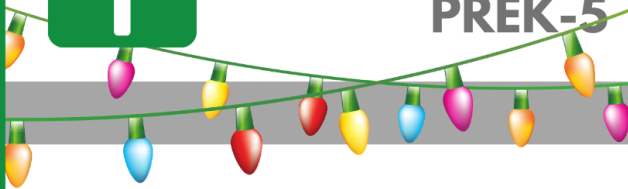
## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Contact: Brigitte Hanley** 973-635-0070 x715 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: bhanley@corpuschristi.org for PreK—Grade 5

**Contact: Brian Duemling** 973-635-0070 x740 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: bduemling@corpuschristi.org for Middle School (Grades 6-8)

**Contact: Psomi** 973-635-0070 x718 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax) or email: Psomi@corpuschristi.org for Confirmation Prep (Gr. 9-10)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION GRADES PREK-5



December 15 & 16 - Regular  
Classes

December 22 & 23 - No Regular  
Classes

January 5 & 6 - Regular Classes

*Jesus, the greatest Gift of  
Christmas*



**\*\*Special Event\*\***

**Sunday Night Family Teaching  
Mass**

**January 12th at 5pm  
\*no regular classes that  
Sunday/Monday\***

Email Brigitte Hanley for more  
information  
BHanley@corpuschristi.org.



## MUSIC MINISTRY

**Contact: Robert Long**, 973-635-0070 x716 (phone); 973-635-5518 (fax); email: rlong@corpuschristi.org

### CORPUS CHRISTI MUSIC

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS



#### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Elementary and Middle School Instrumentalists:  
Christmas Youth Orchestra  
Children—Grades 3 through Middle School

#### ADULT CHOIRS

Corpus Christi Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Emmaus Room.

Corpus Christi Handbell Choir rehearses on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Emmaus Room.



Charity – The first and main principal of the Knights of Columbus. St. Pope John Paul II called the Knights “the strong right arm of the church.” Globally in 2017 alone the Knights donated \$185,600,673 and 75.6 million hours of service.

In addition to helping Brother Knights in need, offering scholarships to Catholic high schools and colleges, and sponsoring Vatican programs. A small sampling of programs include disaster relief, Christian refugee relief in the Mideast, sponsoring vocations, coats for kids, orphan aid, and ultrasound machines for crisis pregnancy centers.

In the Chathams, Parcells Council also sponsors on-going programs and responds to requests from local charities for help.

We are a vehicle for a Catholic man to do the good he is called to.

To learn more about the Knights of Columbus in the Chathams, call Brian McAuliffe 973-634-7384.





Contact M. A. "Psomi" Psomas-Jackloski;  
973-507-8718(desk); 201-572-1608 (cell) 973-635-5518 (fax);  
email: psomi@corpuschristi.org; www.corpuschristi.org  
www.facebook/chathamyouthministry

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION Confirmation Prep Years 1 & 2

To register please follow this:  
www.corpuschristi.org—Ministries—  
Youth Ministry and Confirmation.

**High School Religious Ed (HSRE) Schedule:**  
**Next Class: Sun, Jan 5. 7—8 PM**

### Upcoming Retreats

January 10 Year 1

January 24 Year 2 (this is a changed date)

Diocesan Retreat option: Sun, Jan 26, 10—4 PM



## CHRISTMAS EVE USHERING



We need 10 teens to usher the 4 PM and 5:30 PM gym masses on Christmas Eve. Rehearsal will be from 10:00—11 AM on this same day, Tuesday, December 24. Please RSVP to Psomi.

## LUMINARIA

We will put out about 200 luminaria around the church on Tues, Dec 24 from Noon to 1:30. Please RSVP to Psomi.



## EXTREME FAITH



Instrument Christmas could be a good time to join Extreme Faith and see what it is like. Instrument Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 6-7PM. All voices and instruments: **Sundays, 10:00AM.** Contact: Psomi.

## BRIDGES RUN

**Saturday, Dec 21, 8 AM—1 PM, Newark**  
please RSVP to Hannah Kelly  
hkkelly5@gmail.com or Psomi.



## FOOD BANK

**Saturday, Jan 11, 9 – 11 AM**



We arrive at church 8:15, volunteer from 9 – 11 am, and be home by 12:15, by way of Panera in Short Hills.

Anyone wishing to attend must contact Payton McGarry at peytonmcgarry@chatham-nj.org. or Psomi.

## SISTERS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICING

*Moving Into Mutuality* By Kathleen Bryant, RSC

As women religious accompany and listen to people at the borders, we discover relationships of trust among asylum seekers, migrants, and ourselves. The same trust has been building steadily between survivors of trafficking and women religious over the last 20 years. In the last few years, I have observed a budding transformation of relationships among survivors and sisters. Moving from our focus on providing safe communities and services to ensure healing and success, we now also see the emergence of mutuality in our relationships.

Friendship develops from knowing and reverencing the story told without prodding, with respect for the dignity of the person no matter what was endured or the circumstances. As we observe gently and unobtrusively transformation in these women, often we are invited into a new relationship. I reflect on the freedom I have because I was not the caseworker, therapist, or community director for survivors. I am not bound by the ethical boundaries of these vital relationships. In that freedom, I have enjoyed friendships with women who were at one time trafficked. There is such a joy in these relationships.



At the Talitha Kum meeting in Rome, we talked about weaving a web in love. In this network of over 2,000 sisters in 92 countries, we heard about how we are "attracting others through tenderness and compassion...inviting others to rest safely in the web of women religious." Pat Murray IBVM invited us to "widen the tent of your heart."

Deep respect for the dignity of the human person is at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching. Words have power and impact how we think about ourselves – *victim, survivor, thriver*. Pope Francis urges us always to find out the first name of anyone we want to help or those we encounter in service jobs. When I ask each person their first name, it seems to establish a more respectful connection and offer some dignity.

About five years ago when I was interviewing a survivor in one of the homes women religious run, the young woman thanked me for calling her a "survivor." Repeatedly she had heard herself labeled as a victim of human trafficking. Now she has moved on in her life as a college student and in her own evolution has moved beyond "survivor" and left behind the labels. She has decided to move beyond any involvement, even advocacy, to be her own person. The transformative care that the women religious offered has enabled her to be free and move on.

*(The remainder of this article will be printed in the next bulletin.)*







# *Extreme Faith Christmas Concert*



*in Corpus Christi Church*

*Sunday, December 15th 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm*

*the Joy of Christmas*

*Singing and Listening to Christmas Carols*



## Sunday, Dec 15, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### What are we waiting for?

Some people make the incredible claim that, 2,000 years ago, God's spoken Word became flesh and blood. This incarnate Word lived and served and saved—not by rising to tremendous power, but by dying and rising to new life. A lot rides on John the Baptist's question to Jesus: Are you the one? If not you, then who? If Jesus is the one, trusting in him means embracing a startling trajectory of service and surrender in a world of upward striving. It will turn our own lives inside out. What does it cost you to say: "Jesus is Lord"?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11 (7). *"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"*

## Monday, Dec 16, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Invest in the teachings

*Magisterium* is a mighty big word that means a lot to Catholics. The word derives from the Latin for "teacher." It refers to the sacred deposit of faith, which includes both scripture and tradition, that's been entrusted to the church. And it is the source of the church's authority to interpret this deposit of faith, which has been divinely revealed by Christ, the "Word made flesh." What an immense gift from God, for all of us to be shown so much. Be faithful to it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). *"By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?"*

## Tuesday, Dec 17, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Soon and very soon

Finally, like a long exhalation during the final week before Christmas, we pray the "O Antiphons," which give us different ways to image the long-awaited Messiah. Some of the more colorful names are: Wisdom, Root of Jesse's stem, Key of David, Radiant Dawn. Praying with one each day unites us to the universal church over many centuries. Check out YouTube for a video that provides historical background on the O Antiphons. Take a moment to watch it as part of your Advent observation.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"Of her was born Jesus, . . . called the Christ."*

## Wednesday, Dec 18, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Prelude to Nativity

Today is International Migrants Day, reminding us that all biblical people, including the Holy Family, were obliged to roam to survive. The mystery of the Incarnation, Christ in us, is extended to all people, especially those who have been driven from their homelands by violence and crushing poverty, and who stand at our border seeking help. Should we wall them out or extend a hand in friendship and solidarity? All of us need rescuing! "O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: Come to rescue us with your mighty power!"

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"*

## Thursday, Dec 19, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Lord, come and save us

"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: Come to save us without delay!" Today is the third day of the church's week of O Antiphons, used at evening prayer to count down the final days of Advent. Each gives a different depiction of the Messiah; each captures the longing of a people yearning to be saved. Today's imagery comes from Isaiah 11:1, where God establishes the House of David from beleaguered beginnings: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." David, the youngest son of Jesse, is as improbable a king as the Christ Child will be. If you haven't been praying the O Antiphons this week, it's not too late to start; nor is it too late to decorate a Jesse Tree, based on the same Isaiah verse.

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). *"Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard."*

## Friday, Dec 20, 2019

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Make room at the inn

There's a special Christmas season novena—that is, nine days of prayer—that commemorates the nine months of Mary's pregnancy with Jesus, as well as her journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and it is done in the nine days leading up to his birthday. Called *Las Posadas*, which means "lodging," it is celebrated by many Spanish-speaking cultures with re-enactments of Joseph and Mary (often with entourage and even a donkey!) knocking on neighbors' doors seeking a "place to stay." A party usually ensues. Remember all those in the world who are journeying to find shelter for their children, and work to make our communities more open to them. In fact, celebrate their presence!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). *"O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom: Come and free the prisoners of darkness!"*

## Saturday, Dec 21, 2019

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TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). *"O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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**#WHATSMYNAME**

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson



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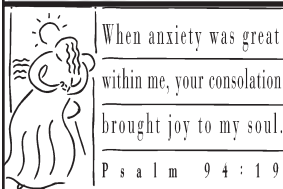
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Psalms 94:19

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