

# Dear Padre,

*I've been Catholic all my life, but I don't understand Advent. It's too much like Lent and seems an odd way to prepare for the birth of a baby.*

In a society that is primarily secular, one skill of the believing Christian is the ability to balance competing realities. From a secular perspective, Christmas is part of the period identified as the “holidays,” beginning with Thanksgiving until New Year’s Day, when it abruptly ends and stores begin advertising Valentine’s Day.

For Christians, Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the great promise fulfilled after centuries of waiting and expectation. The creative energy of the Father is displayed in wonder and awe as the angels sing and people of good faith gather to celebrate. We join our ancestors in anticipation of this event through the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

The Christian holy day is a singular day, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas—but the Church continues the celebration of God’s life and love through the days that follow, culminating in the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

We are invited to hold the secular and the liturgical experiences in an integrated balance. We can celebrate the secular holidays and we can enter the liturgical season that helps us contemplate something much grander and more spectacular. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8
Advent Weekday	St. Francis	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	St. Ambrose,	Second Sunday
Is 2:1–5	Xavier, Priest	Is 25:6–10a	Is 26:1–6	Is 29:17–24	Bishop and	of Advent
Mt 8:5–11	Is 11:1–10	Mt 15:29–37	Mt 7:21, 24–27	Mt 9:27–31	Doctor of the	Bar 5:1–9
	Lk 10:21–24				Church	Phil 1:4–6, 8–11
					Is 30:19–21,	Lk 3:1–6
					23–26	
					Mt 9:35–10:1,	
					5a, 6–8	



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become “sleepy Christians”—and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness....*

*This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.*

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021



## The Waiting Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A**dvent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

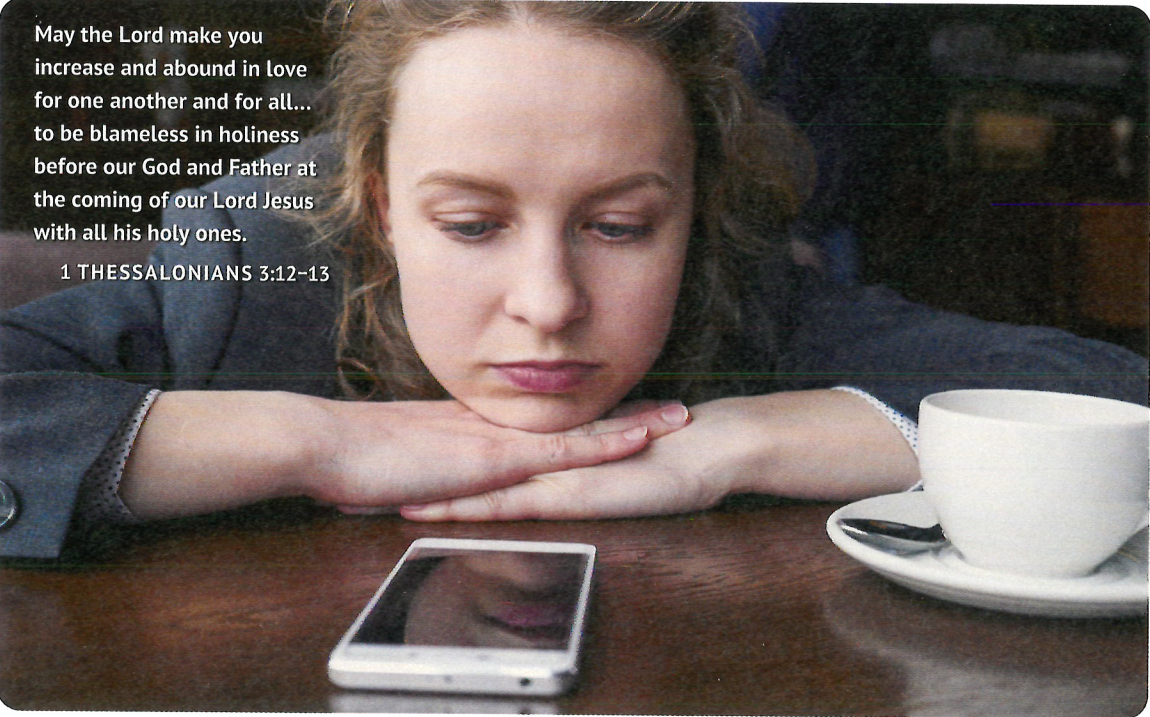
Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm

the cocoon and so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly’s wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel’s encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need. ●

### Reflect

*How can you better enjoy times of waiting?*



May the Lord make you  
increase and abound in love  
for one another and for all...  
to be blameless in holiness  
before our God and Father at  
the coming of our Lord Jesus  
with all his holy ones.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-13



December 1st, 2024 – First Sunday of Advent



ST. JUDE PARISH

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and/or St. Augustine Cathedral at 269-345-5147 and follow the prompts.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Weds. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Office Email: [st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com](mailto:st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com)

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Safe Environment Coordinator:	Jennifer Rossell	(269) 744-2582
Choir Director:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4886

WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass CELEBRANT:

Sunday	Dec. 1, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Johansen
Thursday	Dec. 5, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 p.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Dec. 8, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thursday	Dec. 12, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 p.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Dec. 1, 2024	Alice Burza	By: Deacon & Mrs. Jim Bauer
Thursday	Dec. 5, 2024	Edward & Eleanor Kazak	By: Mr. & Mrs. John Kancauski
Sunday	Dec. 8, 2024	Charles Schneider	By: Tom & Carolyn Noack
Thursday	Dec. 12, 2024	Marietta Bailey	By: By Darleen Hollar

TODAY: SUNDAY, 12-1-24 NEXT SUNDAY: 12-8-24

Reader	Jennifer Price	Reader	Brianna Price
EO Ministers	Diane H. & Karen B.	EO Ministers	Jennifer P. & Tony K.
Servers	Daisy, Lydia, Emma, Carlena	Servers	Bo, Sadie, Rocky, Hayzel

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Nov. 24, 2024	Target	\$ 1,600	Offered	\$ 2,212.00	\$ 502.00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 38,600		\$ 40,814.00	\$ 2,214.00
Attendance		106	Year To Date Attendance			2684

The Season of Advent is Upon Us: Let us Prepare for the Way of the Lord

The word Advent comes from the Latin word adventus, which means “arrival.” In the midst of all the Christmas carols in the malls and all the gift-buying and associated business, it’s important to remember the two focal points of this liturgical season.

The first focus point calls us to celebrate God’s presence among us right now. The Incarnation of Jesus is both a historical event and an ongoing one. Christ is still taking on flesh, and He is continually present through his body, the Church. We must also remember that we have a future in Christ, which is Advent’s second focus.

Christ came to us at Bethlehem and now lives in us. He will come again in the fullness of time to judge the living and the dead. Advent is not considered a penitential season but a period of devout and expectant delight (Universal Norms on the Liturgical Calendar # 39). The liturgical color of the season is violet, but on the Third Sunday of Advent, we wear rose-colored vestments and fabrics. The rose candle in our Advent wreath is lit. This Sunday is called “Gaudete Sunday,” which is Latin for “Rejoice.”

The imagery of light occurs throughout the liturgical texts, so central to this motif is the Advent wreath. This devotional practice contains live greenery made from evergreens and four candles, one for each week of the season. Our Advent Wreath will be placed in the reflection area of the Nave. This follows the rubric from The Book of Blessings, which states, “If it is to be placed in the sanctuary, the Advent Wreath is not to interfere with the celebration of the liturgy, obscure that altar, ambo or celebrants chair” (Book of Blessings # 1512).

The Gospel of Luke is highlighted in Year C of the liturgical year. All four Sundays proclaim a Lucan passage and begin in a reverse time frame scenario. On the First Sunday of Advent, we will hear the signs that will inaugurate Christ’s Second Coming. John the Baptist is the focus of the Gospel on the Second and Third Sundays of Advent. John is the precursor who inaugurated the adult ministry of Jesus by announcing that God’s Kingdom is near and calling people to conversion and a change of heart. The Fourth Sunday of Advent presents Mary and Elizabeth, the two pregnant women who cooperated with God’s plan and who will be instrumental in helping to bring about God’s reign and salvation to all people.

The Blessed Virgin Mary also holds a prominent place on December 8th (this year, it is moved to Monday, December 9), which is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States, which the USCCB declared would not be a holy day of obligation this year. This solemnity praises God for Mary’s total freedom from original sin from the moment of her conception. Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is celebrated on December 12th. We are reminded during this feast of Mary’s motherly care for not only our Hispanic brothers and sisters but also all people of America.

During the holy season of Advent, the Weekday Lectionary is separated into two distinct sections: the first from the beginning of Advent through December 16th and the second from December 17th through December 24th, known as late Advent. The beginning section has passages from the prophet Isaiah. In the second part of the season, the readings lead us from Saint John the Baptist’s birth to Christ’s birth. Advent’s final days provide us an excellent opportunity to reflect on the various titles the Old Testament writers gave to the longed-for Messiah.

We call these titles the O Antiphons: O Wisdom.....O Adonai.....O Root of Jesse.....O Key of David.....O Rising Sun.....O King of Nations....O Emmanuel. An interesting feature of these antiphons is that in Latin, and ordered from last to first, the initial letters of the seven antiphons form an acrostic that spells the Latin words ero cras, which means “Tomorrow I will come.” When we sing the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” you will hear the O Antiphons throughout the piece. We pray these “O” Antiphons at Vespers (Evening Prayer) starting on December 17th.



**FROM THE DRE:**

**There will be no Class on December 1st & December 29th  
December 15th** – Adoration and Reconciliation for students and parents during class time.

**OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN:** We have initiated a capital campaign to help fund future expansion. Without additional funds, we will not have enough to build our community building and finish the current annex.

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Lillian A. Wheeler, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Pete & Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Brett Middleton, and those on our prayer chain.

**CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE, SUNDAY, DEC. 22<sup>ND</sup> AFTER MASS**—Let us bake for you this holiday season! There is no muss, no fuss! If you're interested in baking for the sale, contact Laine Reisch at 269-655-6298.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE HERE AT ST. JUDE:**

**Reconciliation after Mass on Sunday, December 22.**

**9:30 Mass on Christmas Day (Weds., 12/25/24).**

**9:30 Mass On (Weds., 1/1/24) Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.**

*These are both Holy Days of Obligation*

**PLEASE HELP US FIND OUR NEXT ST. MARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL** - We need your help to find a new principal for St. Mary Catholic School in Paw Paw. As we continue to nurture the minds and hearts of our children, we need a leader who shares our faith and vision for excellence in education. Please pray, spread the word, and share this opportunity with those you know. More information can be found at [saintmarypawpaw.org](http://saintmarypawpaw.org) or the Saint Mary Catholic School Facebook page. Together, we can find a dedicated leader to guide St Mary Catholic School and inspire the next generation. Thank you for your continued support!

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**—Today's gospel tells us to "Be watchful." This is natural to families. Parents are watchful of their children's health, grades, and friends, and children are watchful of their parents' moods. Today's gospel encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love, and forgiveness of our families. "Be watchful; the Lord is already with you."

**A SPECIAL WAY TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE** – Here at St. Jude, you can sign up to have a loved one remembered by having the Sanctuary Candle lit for one week in their name (which will be announced in the bulletin). Donations are \$10.00. If you are interested, please call the office at 269-628-2219.

**CAMP KIDWELL FESTIVAL OF TREES**—The Festival of Trees transforms Camp Kidwell into a can-not-miss wonderland of beautiful holiday lights, decor, and family-friendly events. Guests are immersed in a holiday atmosphere where they can enjoy (and bid on) beautiful trees, wreaths, and decor, visit with Santa, enjoy amazing homemade meals, hear great holiday music, and much more!!! Admission is FREE! Thurs., 12/5, Noon-8 p.m.; Fri., 12/6, Noon-9 p.m.; Sat., 12/7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun., 12/8, 11 a.m-4 p.m. Location: 39000 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Bloomington, MI 49026. For more information, call 269-521-3559 or go to [www.campkidwell.org](http://www.campkidwell.org)

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** Your generosity to keep those in your community warm is appreciated. Here at St. Jude, we collected \$329.00. We will keep 20% (\$65.80) here at the Parish for local assistance, and the other 80% (\$263.20) will go to the Catholic Charities for all other heating needs. Anyone needing heating assistance should contact the parish for help. The parish heating volunteers will assist all those in need, utilizing all available assistance prior to the home heating funds. The program begins Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and ends in March, or until the funds last. Thank you for your warm hearts!

**FROM THE DIOCESE**

**2024 KALAMAZOO AREA ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES** - Priests in the Kalamazoo area parishes are working together during the Advent season to offer a schedule that meets the needs and convenience of many people. Rather than every parish having its own service and trying to find priests to assist at each one, we are going to offer eight services throughout the area, and priests will be available at the end of each service for individual confessions Everyone is invited to come to the location that suits your needs.

St. Thomas More - Mon., 12/2, 6:30 p.m.

St. Catherine of Siena - Weds., 12/4, 6:30 p.m.

St. Ann Gull Lake - Weds., 12/11, 6:30 p.m.

St. Martin of Tours - Sun., 12/15, 3 p.m.

St. Ambrose Parchment - Tues., 12/17, 6 p.m.

St. Monica - Thurs., 12/19, 6:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Kalamazoo - Fri., 12/20, 6 p.m.

St. Augustine Cathedral - Sun., 12/22, 3 p.m.

**Anyone aware of child sexual abuse should report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency and make a report to the Michigan Department of Attorney General at 844-324-3374.**