



First Sunday of Advent — November 29th, 2020  
 SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES  
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 VICTOR DVORAK -DEACON



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**“Jesus said to His disciples, “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.”**

Dutch painter, Vincent Van Gogh, produced more than 1,700 paintings and drawings in his lifetime. He sold only one of them. . .for \$85. Van Gogh died thinking he was a failure. Yet, a century later, one of his paintings can sell for over \$100 million at auction. Van Gogh never saw in his lifetime what he had hoped to see. He never heard what he had hoped to hear. Yet, like the Jewish people of old (who waited patiently for the Messiah) he stayed the course. Van Gogh’s example prompts me to ask: what is my chief motivation in staying the course for seeing the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, when He returns to this earth . . . at the end of time or with the end of my life on this earth? Perhaps this Advent we might prepare more earnestly for that day, discerning how deep is my love for the Lord and how I am serving Him here on earth. This will keep us steadfast and faithful to the course, because if the first coming of Jesus was so glorious at Bethlehem, imagine how much more glorious will be His second coming, with the promise of the heavenly Jerusalem for all eternity.

**Familiaris Consortio (cont.)** 34. Married people too are called upon to progress unceasingly in their moral life, with the support of a sincere and active desire to gain ever better knowledge of the values enshrined in and fostered by the law of God. They must also be supported by an upright and generous willingness to embody these values in their concrete decisions. They cannot however look on the law as merely an ideal to be achieved in the future: they must consider it as a command of Christ the Lord to overcome difficulties with constancy. And so what is known as the “law of gradualness” or step-by-step advances cannot be identified with “gradualness of the law”, as if there were different degrees of forms of precept in God’s law for different individuals and situations. In God’s plan, all husbands and wives are called in marriage to holiness, and this lofty vocation is fulfilled to the extent that the human person is able to respond to God’s command with serene confidence in God’s grace and in his or her own will. On the same lines, it is part of the Church’s pedagogy that husbands and wives should first all recognize clearly the teachings of *Humanae Vitae* as indicating the norm for the exercise of their sexuality, and that they should endeavor to establish the conditions necessary for observing that norm.



**Advent . . . preparing the soul for Christmas:** In speaking of Advent, I’m not going to go into a diatribe about how Christmas preparations are leading to the destruction of the season of Advent. If you want to decorate your Christmas tree, set up the outdoor lights, and bake the fruitcake with brandy for the pastor, who am I to stop you. But, I assure you, you will not have the depth of joy and grace this Christmas unless you spiritually prepare throughout Advent. Only the soul that spiritually longs for the coming of the Lord will be filled with His presence at Christmas. Therefore, to assist you in the spiritual preparations for Advent, consider the following in our parishes: 1) Advent confession time on the Saturdays of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> at Saint Mary’s from 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Saint Elizabeth’s. [N.B. We can’t welcome a guest priest or have a penance service because Bishop Kagan does not permit these due to Covid-19]. 2) Advent faith formation on Saturdays after the 8:30 a.m. morning Mass at Saint Mary’s and at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at Saint Elizabeth’s, before Adoration and Mass. 3) Advent charitable exercises, namely giving cash or toys to the KC Council #5477 toy/food drive, which supports local families with Christmas gifts and the Christmas meal. [N.B. See the gift-wrapped boxes in the back of our parish churches, where you can drop of your gifts. Any cash donations can be sent to the parish office or dropped off in the Sunday collection basket].

Continued on page 3

**MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE**

**Monday, November 30th**

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

**Tuesday, December 1st**

7:30 AM SM—+Parents & +Grandparents of Dave & Emily Madler

**Wednesday, December 2nd**

7:00 PM SM — Rosary, Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions  
+Joan Binstock by Anton, Em & Art Krebs

**Thursday, December 3rd**

7:30 AM SM— +Deceased family of Jane Fitterer

**Friday, December 4th**

7:30 AM SM—St Mary's Altar Guild  
12:00 PM—3:00 PM SM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
**6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**7:00 PM SE—St. Elizabeth Christian Mothers**

**Saturday, December 5th**

8:30 AM SM—+Kevin Jacobs by Michelle Osmon  
5:00 PM SM—+Benedict Benz by Ervin & Diane Binstock

**Sunday, December 6th**

**8:30 AM SE—+Jim Schneider by Norbert & Arlene Rohr**  
10:30 AM SM—Pro Populo

*Confessions offered 15 minutes before each daily Mass and 30 minutes before Saturday vigil Mass at St. Mary's.*

**A point to ponder:** *I cannot change the whole world, but I can change a small part of it.*

**Please Keep in Your Prayers:** Cooper Craig, Juanita Koppinger, Kathy Murphy, Lea Madler, Derek Benz, Kevin Schaefer, Gene Wert, Theresa Tarpo, Todd Leach, JoAnn Urlacher, Zane Sabo, Brad Novak, Josie Steier, Katie Stolz, Bonnie Benz, Anise Masterson, Nate Hernandez, Andy Prokop, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Cindy Martin, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Yvonne Fettig, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** Florence Frank, Marilyn Wert, Gilbert Buzalsky, Mary Hanson, Joe & Aggie Wandler, Charlotte Krebs, Harvey Herberholz, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Donnell Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick

**Our Deceased Loved Ones:** +Marvin Wert, +Archie Jalbert, +Frank Kilwein, +Emma Magelky, +Loretta Jung, +Kathy Kaufman, +Leona Roll, +Ruth Buzalsky, +Jim Schneider, +Eugene Heidt, +Richard Jambor, +Chuck Brusich, +Joan Binstock, +Kevin Jacobs, +Betty Biel, +Wenzel Roller, +Shawn Flaherty, +Duane Dobitz, +Dan Frank, +Cecelia Jung, +Benedict Benz, +Kenneth Stagl, +Florentine Bohlman, +Josie Heidt, +Dale Schoeder, +Ed Pechtl, +Magdalen Schorsch, +Dale Reindel, +Adam Schulz, +George Koffler, +Edwin Lefor, +Louise Krebs, +Regina Gentz, +Tina Rixen, +Rose Krebs (SE), +Herbert Emmil, +Joan Madler, +Eugenia Stagl, +Mike Urlacher, +Keith Herold

**Mark your calendars:**

**Saint Mary's Fall Festival Raffle Winners:**

- \$1000.00—Sara Woodfall**
- \$750.00—Janet Wock**
- \$500.00—Duane Schulz**
- \$300.00—Emily Ehlis**
- \$200.00—Lyle Bebee**
- \$200.00—Bob Klein**
- \$100.00—Linda Meschke**
- \$100.00—Ann Wert**
- \$100.00—Brenda Barton**

**Marriage:** Contact Pastor at least nine months prior to your anticipated wedding date.

**Baptism:** Pre-Baptism preparation session required.

**Anointing of the Sick:** By request.

**St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers December 5th & 6th**

| MINISTRY              | Saturday 5:00 PM | Sunday 10:30AM |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Lector                | Connie J.        | Dan G.         |
| Mass Servers          | Zack J.          | Leah E.        |
| Eucharistic Ministers |                  |                |
| Gifts                 |                  |                |
| Rosary Leader         | Maureen G.       | Vivian H.      |
| Greeters              |                  |                |
| Homebound Minister    |                  |                |

**Collection Report St. Mary's November 21st & 22nd, 2020**

| Adult                    | Youth                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$ 3777.80 Envelopes     | \$2.00                        |
| \$ 0.00 Loose Plate      |                               |
| \$ 3779.80 Total         |                               |
| \$ 9641.06 Monthly Total | Fall Festival Appeal—\$400.00 |

**Saint Elizabeth's Liturgical Ministers December 6th**

| Sunday 8:30 AM        |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Lector                | Stetson       |
| Mass Server           | Jeremy Vidmar |
| Eucharistic Ministers |               |
| Gifts                 |               |
| Greeters              |               |
| Ushers                | Lenny & Elvie |

**Collection Report St. Elizabeth's November 22nd, 2020**

| Adult                    | Youth   |
|--------------------------|---------|
| \$ 1430.00 Envelopes     | \$ 2.00 |
| \$ 2.00 Loose Plate      | \$      |
| \$ 1514.00 Total         |         |
| \$ 4535.00 Monthly Total |         |

## **The ABC's of our Catholic Faith**

**Purgatory:** The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a “purification so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven” which is experienced by those “who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified” (CCC 1030). It notes that “this final purification of the elect is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC 1031). The purification of purgatory is necessary because as Scripture teaches, nothing unclean will enter the presence of God in heaven (c.f. Revelation 21:27). While we may die with our mortal sins forgiven, there can still be many impurities in us, specifically venial sins and the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven.

Upon our death, we will undergo our individual, or particular, judgment. Scripture reminds us that “it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). We are judged instantly and receive our reward, good or ill. We know at once what our final destiny will be. At the end of time, when Jesus returns to end life on earth and inaugurate His everlasting Kingdom, there will come the general judgement, the ratification of our particular judgement. It is between the particular and general judgment that the soul will be purified of the remaining consequences of sin. In the words of Jesus, “I tell you, you will not be released from there until you have paid the last penny” (Luke 12:59).

Some claim that purgatory is a Catholic “invention” and is not referred to in Sacred Scripture. They challenge Catholics, “Where is the word purgatory found in the Bible?” Well, they do have a point, but that does not disprove the existence of purgatory or the fact that belief in it has always been part of Church teaching. The words *Trinity* and *Incarnation* are not in Sacred Scripture either, yet these doctrines are clearly adhered to by all Christians. As for a Scriptural basis for purgatory, Jesus referred to the sinner who “will not be forgiven, in this age or in the age to come” (Matthew 12:32), suggesting that one can be freed after death of the consequences of one’s sins. Similarly, Saint Paul tells us that when we are judged, each man’s work will be tried. And what happens if a righteous man’s works fail the test? Well, “he will suffer the loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire” (I Corinthians 3:15). Now, this loss, this penalty, can’t refer to consignment to hell, since no one can be saved from there and heaven can’t be meant, since there is no suffering (“fire”) there. The Catholic doctrine of purgatory alone explains this passage.

Then there is Scripture’s approval of prayers for the dead. In II Maccabees, 12:43-45, we read, “In doing this, he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view, for if he were expecting the dead to rise again, it would have been foolish to pray for them in death. But, if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin”. Prayers are not needed by those in heaven, and no one can help those in hell. This verse clearly illustrates the existence of purgatory that, at the time of the Protestant Reformation, Protestants had to cut the books of Maccabees out of their Bibles in order to avoid accepting the doctrine.

Indeed, through Tradition and Sacred Scripture, Catholics posit faith in purgatory. For us, it is a place of ongoing sanctification, by way of suffering, that most of us will need to endure so that we may enter heaven. We will welcome our time in purgatory, because we know that we must be perfect and sinless to be in the presence of the Blessed Trinity. Purgatory is actually a gift, because it prepares us for the greatest gift . . . eternal glory in heaven.

**Advent** (*continued from page 1*) 4) Adopt-a-priest program, where you send homemade Christmas cookies to a priest in need. For only a few dollars, you too can bring joy into the life of a priest this Christmas.

God bless you this Advent season. May your soul enter into the spiritual preparations of Advent so that you may welcome Jesus Christ with great joy at Christmas. O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

**On the lighter side, Advent humor:** Q: What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? A: He got 25 days

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