



FIRST SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:  
"BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!"  
- MARK 13:33

**ST. MARY  
THE VIRGIN MOTHER**

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

363 N. Fifth Street, Hartsville, SC 29550  
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**ST. JOSEPH  
THE WORKER**

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**DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON**

**BISHOP OF CHARLESTON**

The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmone

**ADMINISTRATOR**

Rev. Daniel R. Papineau

**OFFICE SCHEDULE**

Monday through Friday 8:30AM – 2:00PM

**ST. MARY'S SATURDAY SCHEDULE**

Adoration 9:00AM - 3:00PM  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00PM

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:15PM  
Tues., Wed., and Thurs. After the 6:00PM Mass

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

Saturday 5:30PM St. Mary's Church  
Sunday 9:00AM St. Joseph's Church  
Sunday 11:00AM St. Mary's Church

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 6:00PM  
Friday 12:10PM (except First Friday)  
First Friday Mass 6:00PM  
First Saturday 8:00AM

## SAINT'S CORNER



December 3. Saint Francis Xavier was won over to Christ by the gentle persuasion of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. He then joined the Jesuits and soon after set off for the East, where he labored the rest of his life. Xavier was on his way to China when he died in 1552.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

## GIFT SHOP TRIVIA

**Question: December 4th is a First Friday. What devotion is celebrated on First Fridays?**

**Last week's question and answer:** What is the meaning behind the four weeks of Advent?

The word Advent comes from the Latin word "Adventus" which means coming or arrival. Advent is a time to focus on and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent, she makes present the ancient expectancy of the Messiah. By preparing for the coming of the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming. (CCC 524).

Our churches have an Advent wreath. There are four candles in the Advent wreath. One is lit each Sunday during the four weeks before Christmas. On the first, second and forth Sundays purple candles are lit. They are said to represent prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The third week a pink or rose candle is lit. This is called Gaudete Sunday which means rejoice as we prepare and move closer to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The priest will wear violet or purple vestments during the season of Advent. This is the same color as during Lent. It is one of the signs of the penitential nature of Advent. Purple is the color of penance, preparation and sacrifice. All these are anticipation of the coming of our Savior on Christmas Day.



St. Mary's has had the Giving Tree for well over 25 years. We have reached out to many of our less fortunate families in the community and helped make the holidays cheerful and bright.

This year has brought many difficulties. We are sure the need is as great or greater this year as it has been in the past.

The Giving Tree is located at the front entrance of the Church. Each of our four families has color coded tags. If you choose a gift tag please have the tag on the wrapped gift, but please be sure the tag can be easily removed without harming the wrapping. Each child will have 2 tags one for a fun item and one for clothing. The adults in the family will have one tag usually for a bath set.

We will also have money stars on the Tree these stars are used to provide the families with a gift card to be used to help with Christmas dinner or provide an item that will make their holiday special. Please don't leave money stars under the tree, They can be put in the collection or brought to the office. The money stars are also used to purchase any gifts that don't come in by the deadline. This year's deadline is noon Sunday Dec. 13th.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

**Question:** When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

**Answer:**

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.



## THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.



## BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH



The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent.

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches 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.

R/. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, desire of nations, bind

in one the hearts of humankind;

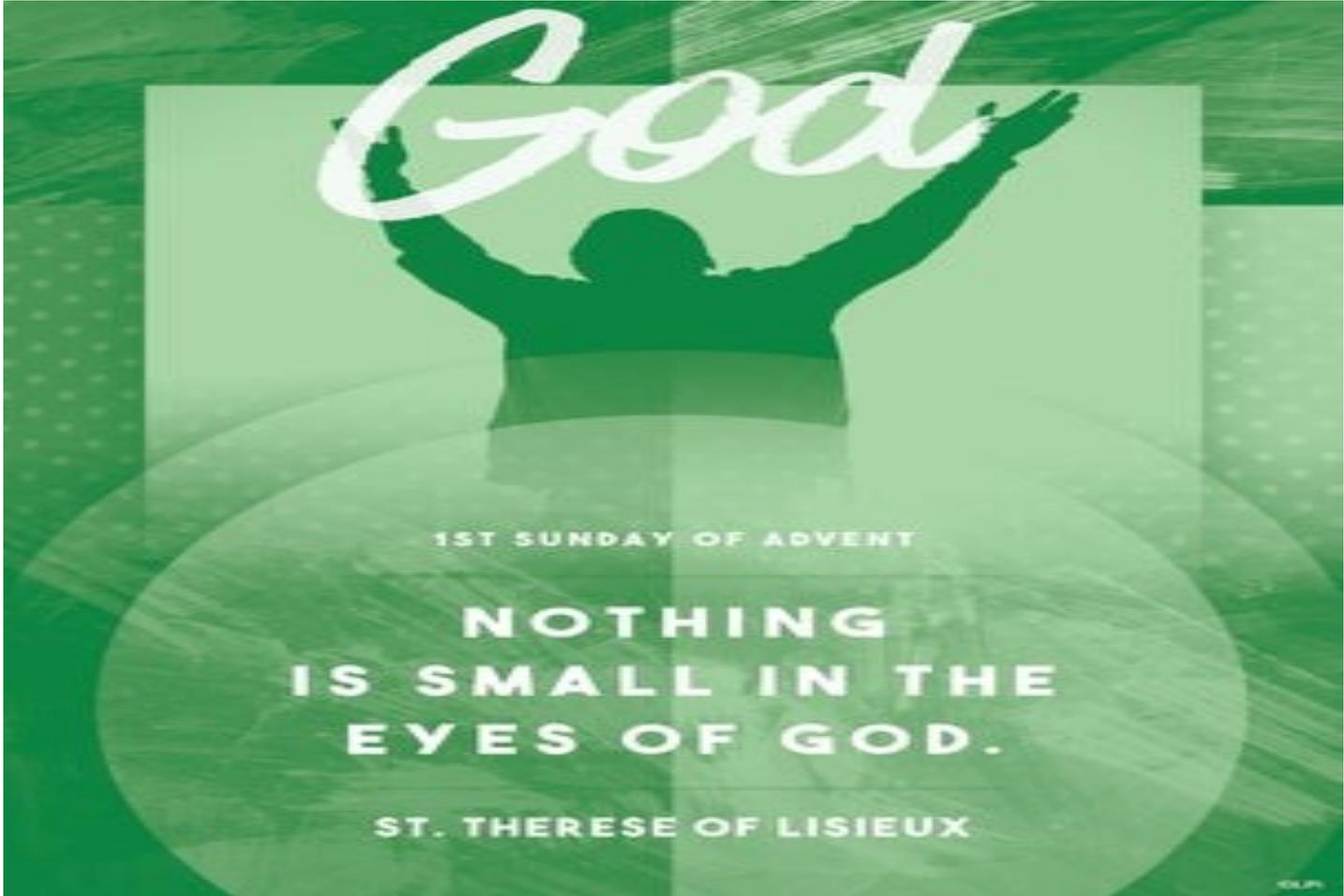
bid ev'ry sad division cease

and be thyself our Prince of peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

—From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers



# God

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**NOTHING  
IS SMALL IN THE  
EYES OF GOD.**

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

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# WATCHFUL



“Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when  
the time will come.”

MARK 13:33

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