

St. Cornelius Parish

SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 3, 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

160 Ridge Rd
Chadds Ford, PA 19317
Phone: (610) 459-2502
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Web: www.saintcornelius.org

Email: stcorn1@comcast.net • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor (Ret.)

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Anslem Cooray
Chris Fahey

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Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Julie Sullivan

Director of Music: Margie Melchiorre

St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Abbie McCusker, Director

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: www.scornelius.org

St. Cornelius Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Noon

Saturday: Confessions 2:30 - 3:30 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm

Weekday Mass: 7:30 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday's after morning Mass to 4 pm

LiveStream www.livestream.com/saintcornelius

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front I Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Advent this year is less than the usual four full weeks. The fourth Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve. As we move into Advent today, the topic in the Gospel passage is time and how little we realize its significance. St. Augustine said: *If you ask me what time it I can tell you. If you asked me what is time I would not know how to begin.* In our youth time matters very little. We dispose of one day and move on to the next as if there were an endless supply of them. We convince ourselves that we are in control of them as well as in control of what we foolishly refer to as my time. People often say to me: Oh I know how busy you are and I don't want to take up any of your time. My usual response is that time is about all I can give you. It was given to me and I can share it. Have you ever had someone say to you: Thank you for taking the time...? I often speak to people about the ministry of presence. One need not say anything profound in order to have an impact on another person's life. Simply taking the time to be present can hold much more impact than speaking.

And now we enter into this Sacred Time, I have a sense that we have lost Advent. We are still holding on to Lent, the major Penitential Season. But Advent, a minor Penitential Season, has all but been swallowed up by the "C" word. And no, I do not mean Christmas. Advent has been swallowed up by Commerce. In his apostolic letter *Dies Domini* (The Day of the Lord) Pope St. John Paul II encouraged people to rediscover the meaning of the Sabbath. You might consider reading that brief statement from the Holy Father. It would be very much worth your time. (Pun intended.) Just as Sunday has been replaced with "the weekend," which is now occupied by sports in the Western World, Advent has been hijacked by shopping. During the fleeting weeks of Advent there will be demands made upon us, some legitimate many not at all. Which calls on us to heed the admonition we receive today: *Be watchful! Be alert!*

We are regularly duped into looking forward to the *tunc* (then) and miss entirely the *nunc* (now). I know myself well enough that I need to be intentional about what it is I am doing and observing. I regularly comment to friends and colleagues that if you want to hide something from me put it on the bulletin board. Take a lesson from that theatrical symbol of a life poorly lived, Willie Lohman. In his play Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller has Loham literally scream: Attention must be paid! That is sort of what Isaiah the Prophet, St. Paul and John the Baptist do for us throughout Advent. We are called to realign our intellect and our intentions and fix our vision on the arrival of Christ not be fixated on the upcoming Yuletide celebrations.

The call for vigilance that we have all throughout the season of Advent is to be on the watch for the arrival of the Lord into our world. You may think of this arrival occurring at the end of the world. I would offer that the arrival is going to come to you today. In all probability you've picked up the bulletin while you were at Mass. Did you watch for His arrival there and then in the sacred moments of the Liturgy? Or were you checking your cell phone? Did you hear His Word? Or were you chatting about your afternoon plans with the person next to you? Granted that distractions happen; however, sometimes they are self-generated. Being a disciple requires discipline. Waiting requires strength and discipline.

This season of Advent is not to be a period of passivity that only raises levels of frustration. Of Advent, Pope Francis said: [During Advent] "we journey to meet him, to encounter him with our hearts and our lives, to meet him, the living One, as he is; to meet him in faith." All kinds of preparation will go into the next few weeks as the great season of Christmas renews us once again. Be renewed now in the spiritual preparation of watching for the Lord. Would you consider taking up the practice of daily scripture reading? Make a commitment to use these upcoming days as spiritual preparation for the great feast we anticipate but cannot rush.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



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



Advent Vespers with Benediction

Sunday Afternoons 3:00 pm

Please join us!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, December 8

7:30 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Church Decorating

Sunday, December 17

5:00 pm

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 19

11:00 am & 7:00 pm



Christmas and New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4:00 pm

Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Serano, O. Praem.

Music Provided by:

11 am Contemporary Ensemble

6:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Strings and Young Voices

8:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Trumpet, Flute and Adult Choir

10:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Young Adult Quartet & Walnut Street Trio

Christmas Day Mass Schedule

8:30 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Cantor and Organ

11:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

Music Provided by:

Cantor and Walnut Street Trio

New Year's Eve

4:00 pm

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

New Year's Day

7:30 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

9:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond

11:00 am

Celebrant: Msgr. Diamond



St. Cornelius CRAB CAKE SALE

Order in the Church Narthex after all Masses
on the weekends of November 25-26,
December 2-3, and December 9-10

Pick-Up Dates: Thursday, December 14
and Friday December 15

**Orders available for pickup at the
Parish Life Center 5 pm to 7pm**



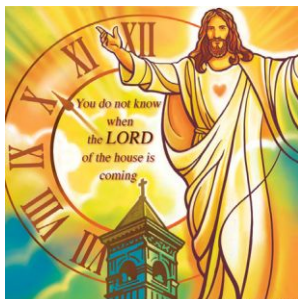
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Crab Stuffed Ravioli	\$13 box of 14
Maryland Crab Soup	\$14 per quart
Crab Kritters	\$18.00 per bag
Bag of 50 bite-size crab cakes	



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL.

St. Cornelius Council #12391



**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**

Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know
when the time will come.
— Mark 13:33

Immaculate Conception
Friday, December 8

Masses: 7:30 am
12:00 Noon
7:00 pm



Welcome to the Parish!



Marie Cunnane

Knights of Columbus

Council #12391



The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world. The St Cornelius Council #12391 will be holding a membership drive after all Masses on the weekend of **December 2nd & 3rd**. The Knights will be available after all Masses to answer any questions about the Knights and the projects we support during the year. As a member of our Council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way.

You may join at any time by going to KofC.org/joinus on the web, enter our council #12391 and your information.

Holy Hour - Join Us!

Monday, December 4, 8:00 am

After the 7:30 Mass, the Pro-Life Group is hosting a Holy Hour. We will pray a rosary for the unborn, and an end to abortion. We will also pray the Miraculous Medal Novena for the unborn. There will be time for silent prayer. The hour will close at approximately 9:00 am.

Look for this event monthly on the first Monday of the month.



First Sunday Coffee

The St. Cornelius Council of the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a coffee reception in the Holy Family Portico after the 11:00 Mass on **Sunday, December 3** Nick Cappelli of Pronto Catering is again supplying us with the caffeine, cocoa and tea. This month we ask parishioners with last names beginning with N-Z to help out by bringing a dozen or so baked goods to share with all our parishioners.

Please join us after Mass with your fellow parishioners.

See you there!!



St. Cornelius Giving Tree

The 2023 Saint Cornelius "Giving Tree" continues to extend its branches to reach those in need this Christmas season. This ministry benefits hundreds who need assistance.

Every registered parish family should have received a letter detailing this year's Giving Tree ministry along with an envelope to return gift cards. We are predominantly asking for Gift Cards; please write the dollar amount of the gift card directly on the gift card. Gift cards can be 1) dropped in the Snowman in the Church Narthex, 2) dropped in the Music Room mail slot in the Narthex, 3) mailed to the Parish Life Center (PLC at 160 Ridge Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317), or 4) dropped in the PLC mail slot at the building entrance door. And the 150 gift tags asking for specific gifts for St. Thomas Aquinas have all been claimed – thank you!

These seven charities which our Parish supports are in great need and your kindness and generosity will help to provide food, clothing, and Christmas gifts for these good people:

- Catholic Social Services of Delaware County in Chester,
- Mothers with children sheltered at Mary, Mother of Hope House III in Wilmington,
- Mothers with babies living at Mothers' Home in Darby,
- Three schools / outreach centers at St. Ignatius Parish, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and St. Peter the Apostle Parish, all in Philadelphia.
- Saint Cornelius Ministry of Caring aiding those in our own community.

All gift cards must be dropped off at Church or the PLC by **Sunday, December 10th** to allow time for delivery to the recipients. If purchasing a new gift as indicated on the gift tag, put the item in a gift bag (please do not wrap the gift), attach the tag securely to the gift bag, and place the gift under the Giving Tree by **December 10th**.

It is through our charitable actions that we create a legacy that inspires others, for it is more of a blessing to give than to receive. Thank You for your Generosity! God Bless You and Your Families this Christmas Season!

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering for this ministry please contact Mary Allen at 484-432-5098 (cell) or email maryballen16@verizon.net.



"Help provide home cooked meals to neighbors in need! Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends) is collecting frozen meals and soups for homebound seniors and food insecure individuals. Meal trays and soup containers can be found in the utility closet on the right of the side door of the narthex. Consider putting aside an extra dinner or soup portion, freeze it and then bring it to the freezer also located in the utility closet. PLEASE sign the meals and soup in on the list attached to the shelves next to the freezer. The food is distributed all over the Greater Philadelphia Area. This effort is on-going at our parish. We invite you to contribute what you can." If you have questions, please contact Nancy Todor 609-234-1193

Let us pray for our Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces. Especially for:

SSG Ana Brunal	Sgt Jason Lyons
SPC Mike Canfield	2nd Lt. Kevin Malone
Cpl Michael Castle	Sgt Alexander Marlow
Lt. Connor Cleary	Pfc Zachary Marlow
Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain)	Lt. Cmdr Daniel McCadden
Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr.	CSM Sean McGlensey
Capt Joshua deFreitas	Capt Jonathan McGrath
SSGT Michael DiVernieri	LT Molly K. McGuckin
Cadet Emily Fanning	LCDR Ryan A. McGuckin
Lt. Ryan Gallagher	Maj. Sean P. Noll
2nd Lt. Nicholas Gallagher	Lt. Col Brian J. O'Shea
SSG. Eric Gardner	Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea
Capt Matthew Gibbons	Maj James O'Shea
Ens Patrick Gibbons	PFC L Roland
Ens John Paul Gibbons	LTJG Christian Samulewicz
Maj Rachel Gonzalez	2nd Lt. Olivia Samulewicz
SPC Logan Hannum	Capt. Neal F. Schubert
Sgt Andrew Hart	HM3 Charles Schwartz
Devin J. Hunt	Ens Nicholas Spadaccini
PO1 Nathan R. Keller	MSG Thomas Stone
1st Lt Lauren Kinnee	Cpl Mark Truex
Capt Daniel Kohli	Lt. Christopher Vish
Maj. Chris Love	Capt. Aidan Walsh
Maj. Megan Love	Capt Jennifer Wynn



St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

We held our annual **Turkey Trot** the week before Thanksgiving and it was a big success! The parents took part in the 5K and the families took part in the "Fun Run". There were games, crafts, raffles, a donut truck, and a bounce house. Many thanks to all the parent volunteers, the many businesses that contributed, the faculty, and to all our generous families who continue to support all our fundraising efforts! It was a fun morning for all!



The Sunday collection is very important for us to maintain our fiscal responsibilities. So, if you are away on a Sunday, *ENJOY*; but remember *YOUR* church.

November 26, 2023

WeShare eGiving	\$7,087.50
Envelope Offering	<u>\$11,208.50</u>
	\$18,296.00

November 19, 2023

WeShare eGiving	\$8,209.50
Envelope Offering	<u>\$10,834.50</u>
	\$19,044.00



*"For where your treasure is,
there also will your heart be."*

Luke 12:34



In our charity, let us pray
for the repose of the soul of

Joseph Cori

Husband of Carmela Cori

Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord.
May he rest in peace.

Joyous Mysteries of the Rosary Saturday Mornings

Joyous Mysteries of the Rosary aims to facilitate an experience where participants can encounter, contemplate and discuss the key mysteries in the life of Jesus Christ as contained within the Rosary. The Rosary is simultaneously a contemplative prayer, a spiritual weapon and a catechetical tool. The goal is for each participant to encounter the person of Jesus Christ in the episodes, discussions and in their personal prayer. In doing so, Our Lord will teach them the art of Christian living as well as the art of Christian prayer.



Dates: Saturdays, December 2, 2023 - January 27, 2024

Dec 2 - Series Introduction and Preview

Dec 9 - The Annunciation

Dec 16 - The Visitation

Dec 23 and 30 - Christmas Break (NO MEETING)

Jan 6 - The Birth of Jesus

Jan 13 - The Presentation

Jan 20 - The Finding in the Temple

Jan 27 - Series Conclusion and Review

Time: 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Location: Parish Life Center (PLC)

Weekly Agenda:

9:00 am Gathering, Food and Fellowship

9:30 am Video

10:00 am Discussion and Prayer

10:30 am Closing



Session sign up

CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Why was a delegation of Catholic leaders from Côte d'Ivoire in Washington, DC last month to talk with decision-makers about the growing violence in the central Sahel region? Because the people of Côte d'Ivoire are directly affected by the violence in at least 3 ways:

1) *Threat of terrorist attacks*: Côte d'Ivoire faces the threat of terrorist attacks who have expanded their operations from the Sahel to the coastal countries of West Africa, including Côte d'Ivoire. 2) *Influx of refugees and displaced people*: Côte d'Ivoire must deal with the influx of refugees and displaced people from the neighboring Sahel countries, especially Burkina Faso and Mali, who are fleeing from violence, poverty and hunger. 3) *Impact of climate change*: Côte d'Ivoire must cope with the impact of climate change and environmental degradation that affect the Sahel region and beyond. Climate change exacerbates the risk of conflict over scarce resources, such as land and water, between different groups and communities. Visit www.crs.org today to see how you can help!



The Faith Community Nurse Holistic Health Ministry

On request, Faith Community Nurses are making home visits to families who may be experiencing medical or social difficulties. The nurses confidentially address the needs holistically through bringing with them prayers from the parish, a knowledge of the medical field and process for providing support. If you know of anyone in the parish or beyond who would benefit from these services, please email: stfcfn@gmail.com. Contact person is Joan Holliday, RN/FCN at (610) 717-2180.



HEED THE CALL
VOCATION OFFICE FOR
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD
Visit our website
WWW.HeedTheCall.org

SAVE THE DATE!

The Brandywine Pops Orchestra will present a free concert Monday, December 4th, 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Life Center.

The Pops Orchestra consists of 56 musicians from the local area. An entertaining program of Christmas and Holiday music will be presented. We hope to see you there!



PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Shawn Donnelly, Lillian Corbett, Eileen Kane, C. McCollum, Joshua Gidlewski, Denise Banta, Patty Burke, Tom Eno, Raul Gesmundo, Diana Duffy, Isaac Burks, Suzanne Agren, Gabe Grant, Nancy Cunningham, Jay Holland, Thomas Drane, Kara Ulatowski, Harold Von Brockdorff, Jeff Behm, Mary Harmes, Mary Helen Arthur, Anne Spetzer, Carolyn Duffy, Carleen Peters, Marian Short, Matthew Hess, Bryan Thompson, Cindy Ficca, Paul Lucas, Carla Santoleri, Richard Meccarrielli, Edward Field, Judy Field, Joyce Monaco, Matthew Hurst, Leonard Smith, Jr., Jim Waters, Kathie Buckley, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Sean Mulvey, George Butler, Margaret Butler, Patricia Wells, Kathy Williams, Michael Gibbons, Shirley Masse, Ellen Brisgone, Laura O'Brien-Black, Elizabeth Kephart, Tina Landis, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Michelle Dillione, Chris Roe, Frank Kuders, Kylee Dougherty, Dave and Ronnie Pryce, Rosemary Brennan, Ellie May McGrath, Vicki Wojdak, Andrea Bateman, Brandon Heacock, Brittany Lott, Nancy Young, Peyton Lott, Billy Lott, Nanci Ehmer, Ken Rudert, Ed Shell, Ellie McCreight, Ellie Griem, Gregory Varacchi, Michael McKinnen, Connie Carney, Luke Post, Jim Buckley, Jerome Lienhard



The Ministry of Consolation

A St. Cornelius community response to the needs of people grieving the death of a significant person/persons in their lives, the ministry honors the words and example of the Lord Jesus:

"Blessed are they who mourn; they shall be consoled"

(Matthew 5:4).

A team of four St. Cornelius church members have been trained to set up and facilitate a Support Group for the Consolation Ministry.

On **December 16, 2023**, the Consolation Group will meet at the **Parish Life Center, Fr. Simon Room** from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**.

Contact Joan Holliday for any questions
docholliv@aol.com or call (610) 717-2180.



Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.

Join us for Adoration on Friday mornings after Mass. You are welcome to visit anytime during the day until we repose the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM.

If a funeral is scheduled for a Friday, there will be NO exposition.



Charitable Giving Through Appreciated Stocks and Mutual Funds

If your investment portfolio has appreciated assets, a great way to reduce your taxes and donate to the church is to gift St. Cornelius appreciated investments. If you do have appreciated investments, Saint Cornelius is able to accept stocks and mutual funds as a charitable contribution through TD Ameritrade.

For further information, please contact David P.

Bauer, the business manager for the church, at 610-459-2502.

Thank you for your generous support of the parish.



Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly news letter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 1049** people who receive his email each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to be on our distribution list, please call the office at (610) 459-2502 or send your request to be added to our distribution at

Stcorn1@comcast.net.



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Saint Cornelius Parish

You can contact Mrs. Sullivan at stcornprep@scornelius.org or by calling the PREP office (610) 459-7723

PREP

We are excited to welcome everyone back to class today at 10 so we can celebrate the first Sunday of Advent together. Our Sunday students will meet in the school while our July Summer session will meet in the PLC. As a reminder our summer session students need to wear their hair pulled back and bring hats to wear for our activity.

As your family begins to prepare for the Christmas season, we encourage you to spend time praying as a family during Advent.

If you have any questions about our PREP program, please contact Julie Sullivan at

stcornprep@scornelius.org.

YOUTH GROUP

During the first week of Advent, I encourage you all to perform an act of kindness for your fellow man. What a wonderful way to spread the hope of the season with others! If you have suggestions of activities or service projects you would like us to consider in 2024, please contact Julie Sullivan at stcornprep@scornelius.org.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

We would like to welcome all of our children 3-7 join us for the liturgy of the word in the chapel during the 9 am mass. This is a special time for the children to experience the Lord's message together.

DECEMBER

PARISH

19

PENANCE SERVICE

Be sure to mark your calendar for our parish Penance Service As has been our custom we will have two opportunities to receive the sacrament:

11:00 AM and 7:00 PM

We take this time in Advent to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord.



Prayer Shawl Ministry... Come, Join US!



Did you know that each baby baptized at St. Cornelius receives a hand-made blanket made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry? You are welcome to join us in this rewarding ministry. We also make shawls, blankets, scarves, hats, mittens etc. for elderly homes, the Giving Tree and anyone looking for a comforting gift.

**Every 4th Monday of each month
1:30pm to 3:00pm**

We find ourselves in need of white acrylic yarn or funding to help continue this wonderful ministry. Please prayerfully consider donating to our ministry or purchasing a "Pound of Love" or "Caron Pound" of white acrylic yarn. We have a basket set up in the narthex, below the large TV monitor, to offer our works and for your donations. Also, you are welcome to drop off any yarn donations to the Parish Life Center. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Shawls and blankets are available in the Bethany Room. If you have any questions, please contact

Mary Jo Shell, (610) 361-8198
or Joanne Fonash, (610) 299-9694

—BIBLE STUDY—

We are beginning our fall Bible Study once again with Monsignor Diamond. All women and men are invited to join us each **Thursday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 am., in the PLC.**

The goal of this Scripture study will be to broaden our knowledge of Scripture, our church's teaching regarding the Scriptures, and how it can enhance our understanding and personal faith life.



If you have questions, please call
Nancy Todor - cell 609-234-1193.

Updating Our Prayer List

We are attempting to update our prayer list as it has grown over the years. If you know of a loved one listed whom you feel has been helped by our prayers and are now recovered, please email the office at stcorn1@comcast.net so we can remove their name.

Sunday Mass Intentions

7:30 AM	Shirley Dooley
9:00 AM	Margaret Butler
11:00 AM	George Feeney
4:00 PM	Joseph Boyle

Weekly Mass Schedule (Week of December 4 - December 8)

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*

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

Monday 7:30 AM

St. John Damascene

Intention: Clara DeBoto

Reading: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Lucretia Fitzpatrick

Reading: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday 7:30 AM

St. Nicholas

Intention: Grace Cullen

Reading: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday 7:30 AM

St. Ambrose

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Intention: Robert Post

Reading: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

7:30 AM • 12:00 Noon • 7:00 PM

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation**

Reading: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38

PILGRIM STATUE

- 12 - 03 - 2023 Jean Wysocki
 - 12 - 10 - 2023 Tom & Chris Weber
 - 12 - 17 - 2023 Mary Chuchman
- Call Carla Santoleri at (610) 361-8447
for more information.



First Sunday of Advent**December 3, 2023****GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN**

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Advent calendars appear now in many homes, and new-fangled formats are even available on line. Children have fun opening the doors and windows keyed to the days counting down to Christmas. Behind each door is a picture related to the Christmas mystery, perhaps a scripture verse or saying, but more and more these days something totally unconnected to religious life, like a small toy or a chocolate treat, appears instead. The Advent calendar is not very old as traditions go. We can trace it back to German-speaking Christians, both

Protestant and Catholic. Lutherans might have originated the custom by placing chalk marks on doors starting December 1, lighting candles every day, or placing a new religious picture on the wall each day during Advent. The oldest known hand-made calendar goes back to 1851, and the first printed ones appeared in 1908 in Germany with Bible verses behind the doors. By far the most interesting calendar is a building, the town hall (*Rathaus*) of Gengenbach in Germany's Black Forest. Every year the townspeople invite an illustrator of children's books to create twenty-four paintings or motifs for each of the twenty-four main windows of the building. Every night the people gather to see a new window opened and illuminated.

Very few commercial Advent calendars pay much attention to the core values of our liturgical calendar: the pivotal place of Sunday, the importance of Advent feasts like Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, and the clear shift in tone on December 17 from Advent longing and preparation toward imminent hope in Christ's coming. That kind of creativity is left up to you!

—Rev. James Field




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St. Cornelius Fair Trade Sale

Saturday, December 9 & Sunday, December 10 After all Masses

Christmas Decorations, Chocolate, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Tea, Olive Oil & Balsamic Vinegar will be for sale. **Cash and checks will be accepted.** All proceeds benefit Catholic Relief Services.

Solidarity Tastes Delicious

Through fair trade, small-scale farmers and artisans are better able to support their families; stay on their land, and improve their communities, thus employing and empowering artisans with few opportunities.

Product Spotlights

SERRV International & Equal Exchange

Acacia Carved Heart Angel: A single piece of sustainable acacia wood, known as suar wood in Indonesia, is carved and stained to craft this unique piece of handmade art. Put it on your mantel for the holidays, or keep it out year-round! Your purchase helps artisans living in remote villages in Bali earn sustainable wages and reduce their exploitation.



Snow Star Brass Tree Topper: Add a little shine to your Christmas tree with this handmade tree topper! Made from recycled iron, this unique holiday decoration features a geometric snowflake with delicate cutouts and a matte gold finish. Your purchase helps artisans in Moradabad, India "graduate" and create independent businesses, breaking the cycle of poverty and preserving Indian culture and livelihood.



Batik Reindeer: These adorable reindeer are hand-batiked with nature-inspired designs by artisans in Indonesia on soft sengon wood. Set of 2. Your purchase provides income to marginalized artisans living in Java by promoting craft development in areas where land and employment are scarce.



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