

# *Saint Andrew*

*Catholic Church*

*First Sunday of Advent*

November 28th, 2021

BE VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES.

LUKE 21:36

2100 S.E. Cove Rd Stuart, Fl 34997



**Saint Andrew  
Catholic Church**

2100 SE Cove Road  
Stuart, Florida 34997  
772-781-4415



Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30am  
Monday-Friday 7:30am  
**Holy Days:** Vigil 4:00pm  
7:30am & 6:00pm

**Confession:**

Saturday: 2:30pm  
Those wishing to receive the  
sacrament  
should be here at 2:30

**First Friday**

7:30am Mass followed  
by confessions

**First Saturday**

7:30 Mass followed by  
confessions

**Pastor**

Reverend John Barrow

**Retired Assisting Clergy**

Monsignor Blase Gintoli  
Monsignor James Moore  
Reverend Charles E. Notabarotolo  
Reverend Michael Bova Conti

**Deacons**

Deacon Louis Romero  
Deacon Matthew Bartlett  
Deacon Andre Boucher

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
9am-12Noon  
Saturday 2-4pm  
Sunday  
9am-12Noon

**Youth Activities**

DRE: Mrs. Donna Hernandez



Nov. 27	Sat.	4:00pm	Dennis & Melanie Gallagher (Liv)
Nov. 28	Sun.	7:30am	Harry Rozany +
Nov. 28	Sun.	9:00am	Marie Frock+
Nov. 28	Sun.	10:30am	Hugo M. Cinalli+
Nov. 29	Mon.	7:30am	Deceased Priests+
Nov. 30	Tues.	7:30am	Kathy Walsh(Liv)
Dec. 1	Weds.	7:30am	Robin Srebot Ziesmer+
Dec. 2	Thurs.	7:30am	Raymond Boucher(Liv)
Dec. 3	Fri.	7:30am	Joseph P Oreiro+
Dec. 4	Sat.	7:30am	Tristian & Brault(Liv)
Dec. 4	Sat.	4:00pm	John Coffey+
Dec. 5	Sun.	7:30am	Doris & Fidel Romero+
Dec. 5	Sun.	9:00am	Tiller Family(Liv)
Dec. 5	Sun.	10:30am	Gardner Family(Liv)
Dec. 6	Mon.	7:30am	Nicola Rizzi+
Dec. 7	Tues.	7:30am	Judith McCormick(Liv)
Dec. 7	Tues.	4:00pm	Robert Klosowski+
Dec. 8	Weds.	7:30am	Harold Frock +
Dec. 8	Weds.	6:00pm	Michael Magi+
Dec. 9	Thurs.	7:30am	Aleah & Libby Berry+
Dec. 10	Fri.	7:30am	Brother Anthony Scotto+
Dec. 11	Sat.	4:00pm	Raymond & Eleanor Chychota+
Dec. 12	Sun.	7:30am	Michael Sessions+
Dec. 12	Sun.	9:00am	Lukas Smith+
Dec. 12	Sun.	10:30am	Cahy Gilio Costa+



**Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception  
Holy Day of Obligation**

**Tuesday, Dec. 7th**  
7:30am & 4:00pm Vigil  
**Wednesday, Dec. 8th**  
7:30am & 6:00pm

Our Lady said as follows; "It is my wish that every year, on the  
**8th of December, at noon, the HOUR OF GRACE** be

celebrated. Many divine and bodily graces will be received through this devotion. Our Lord, my  
Divine Son Jesus, will send His overflowing mercy if good people will pray continuously for their sinful brother... it is my wish  
that the HOUR OF GRACE be made known and spread throughout the world. If anyone is unable to visit his church, yet will pray at  
home, he will also receive graces through me... will find a secure heavenly ladder and receive protection and grace through my  
motherly heart. " Our Lady promised she will hear any prayer we make at this time.



**Adult Education (RCIA)  
& Lectors**

Christine Michaelian  
Thursday 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Adoration**

M-F 8:00am-12m in Church  
Mo Wallace  
TWINONEMO@AOL.COM  
772-285-2688

**Servants of the Eucharist &  
Care of the Sick**

Kathleen Sullivan

**Annulments**

John Ginnetti

**Men of Saint Andrew  
Dave Olio**

Monday evening 6:30-8pm  
davidolio333@gmail.com

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Norma Olio  
1st Wednesday of each month  
10:30 am

**Pro-Life Ministry**

Michele Williams

**Bible Study**

Tuesday 10:00am  
Tuesday 6:30pm

**Ignatian Spirituality  
Prayer Group**

Weds. 8:30am-10:00am  
(Lenten Retreat Thurs. 8:30am)

**Disciples of Prayer**

Camille Lascari &  
Bob Greeson

**Parish Website**

saintandrewcatholic.org  
Webmaster;  
Michael Brennan

**Community Outreach**

**APOSTLES OF**

**JOHN PAUL II**

Please call for an  
appointment  
772-291-0002

**Rosary Maker's Ministry**

Kathleen Sullivan  
Wednesday 10:00am

**Ushers**

Jane Engelbrecht  
ejanybrainy@yahoo.com

# Prayers Before Mass

*November 28th, 2021 First Sunday of Advent*

*All of the information needed for today's liturgy is found in this bulletin, including Readings, and Responses.*

## **PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM STORMS**

God, our Father, Creator of the Universe and Lord over all creation, we humbly stand before you as your children in thanksgiving for your loving care and protection. We ask that you keep us safe from all hurricanes. Protect us from all fear and anxiety of storms and give us an ardent trust and hope in Your love and mercy. You alone have the power to command the sea, the wind and the rain. You alone bring peace, calm, and safety. Father, we thank you in advance, for you are our only Refuge. We ask this through Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Mary, Queen of the Apostles, and Patroness of Our Diocese, pray for us.**

## **Penitential Act: A**

### **The Confiteor**

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.



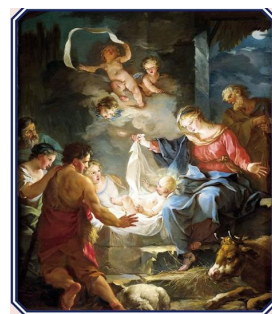
## **Prayer to St. Michael**

**Saint Michael the Archangel**, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and the snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

## **St. Andrew Christmas Novena**

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! To hear my prayer and grant my desire, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

*(It is piously believed that whoever recites the prayer fifteen times a day from the feast of St. Andrew (30th November) until Christmas will obtain what is asked.)*



**First Friday and First Saturday of the month are December 3rd and 4th, 2021. Masses are at 7:30am followed by confessions. These special Masses are opportunities for great graces and to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

## **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, **All bow at the words that follow, up to and including** and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A Voice Cries Out  
Michael Joncas

Gathering Hymn

1. Console my people, the ones dear to me;  
speak to the heart of Jerusalem:  
the time of your mourning is ended now,  
the Lord of life will come.

Refrain

A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare a way for the Lord!"  
A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
"Make straight a highway for God!"

2. Ev'ry valley is made a plain,  
ev'ry mountain is leveled;  
the glory of God shall then be revealed,  
and the nations will sing in praise.

3. A voice shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry?  
All flesh is like grass and its flowers:  
the grass may wither, the flowers may fade,  
but the Word of the Lord is forever.

4. Zion, shout from the mountain top,  
lift up your voice, O Jerusalem,  
and say to the people of God's own land,  
"Behold, behold your God!"

5. The Lord will appear as a shepherd,  
holding his lambs in his arms,  
keeping his flock so close to his heart,  
leading them all, old and young.

Text: Based on Isaiah 40:1-11. Text and music © 1981, 1982, The Jan Michael Joncas Trust. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

### **FIRST READING**

***A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah***  
*Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel  
and Judah. In those days, in that time,  
I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right  
and just in the land.  
In those days Judah shall be safe  
and Jerusalem shall dwell secure;  
this is what they shall call her:  
"The LORD our justice."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 25:4-5,8-9,10,14*

R. (1b) **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**  
Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,

Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior,  
and for you I wait all the day.

R. **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**  
Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.

He guides the humble to justice,  
and teaches the humble his way.

R. **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy  
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.  
The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him,  
and his covenant, for their instruction.

R. **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

### **SECOND READING**

***A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Thessalonians*** *1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*

Brothers and sisters:

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love  
for one another and for all, just as we have for you,  
so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness  
before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus  
with all his holy ones. Amen.

Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort  
you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us  
how you should conduct yourselves to please God  
and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more.  
For you know what instructions we gave you through the  
Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Show us, Lord, your love;  
and grant us your salvation.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**From someone who had an abortion...**

"[The abortion] gave me grief and sorrow  
beyond expression. I was petrified to tell

anyone. I have committed the most heinous of all crimes. Yet, the Lord forgave me, just as  
he forgave Paul. Yet I will always regret what I did and will probably always feel grief. But I  
pray that my experience can somehow prevent other women from making the same fatal  
mistake. I'm a nurse now, so I wear my uniform to all the pro-life things I do! It helps."

Forgiveness and healing are available. Visit [www.RachelsVineyard.org](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org).



## Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Save Us, O Lord

Bob Dufford SJ

Closing Hymn

Refrain

Save us, O Lord; carry us back.

Rouse your power and come.

Rescue your people; show us your face.

Bring us back.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us.

Return and we shall be saved.

Arise, O Lord; hear our cries, O Lord:

bring us back!

2. How long will you hide from your people?

We long to see your face.

Give ear to us. Draw near to us,

Lord God of hosts!

3. Turn again; care for your vine;

protect what your right hand has planted.

Your vineyards are trampled, uprooted, and burned.

Come to us, Father of might!

Text: Based on Psalm 80. Text and music © 1981, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP.  
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## A basic guide for those new to the tradition.

Advent wreaths are a Christian tradition with roots in 16th-century Germany.

They are seen both in churches and in homes and are an excellent way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

Here is a step-by-step introduction to the practice and how to implement it in your home.

### Create (or buy) an Advent wreath

There is no hard and fast rule regarding what an Advent wreath looks like. A traditional wreath contains a circle of evergreen leaves surrounding a set of four candles. There are usually three purple candles and one rose (pink) candle. However, some traditions have four red candles and others contain an extra white candle. For the purposes of this article we will focus on the three purple and one rose.

### Pray together each night of Advent (or each Sunday) to light the Advent wreath

The beauty of the Advent wreath is that it is a constant reminder of the upcoming celebration of Christmas. It reminds us to prepare our own hearts to receive the Light of Christ and to keep it burning each and every day.

Depending on your circumstances, the Advent wreath can be lit each day of Advent or only on Sundays. Whichever one works with your schedule, stick to it as best as you can.

There is a brief prayer associated with the lighting of the Advent wreath. Here is one example.

*Leader: We gather around our wreath to begin the celebration of Advent. Let us ask our Father in heaven to fill our hearts with grace. (Silent pause for prayer) Heavenly Father, we look forward to the celebration of Christmas and to the coming of the Lord in glory. Bless this Advent wreath and all of us. As we pray daily around it, fill us with your life and strengthen us for our daily tasks. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*All: Amen.*

*Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

### Light each candle according to the Sunday in Advent

If you decide to have a traditional wreath with purple candles, it is appropriate to light them according to the correct Sunday.

- For the first week of Advent, light one purple candle.
- During second week of Advent, light two purple candles.
- When you reach the third week of Advent (traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday), light two purple candles and one rose (pink) candle.

During the fourth week, light all four candles.

If you use a white candle in the center, it is lit on Christmas Eve.

The custom is fairly simple to implement and is a perfect way to introduce prayer into the home if you don't already have a nightly tradition of prayer. Children love Advent wreaths and to heighten the drama, it is always great to light the candle in the darkness. This further highlights the symbolism and points to Christ being the true "light of the world."

If you are looking for a new tradition this year in December, consider the Advent wreath. **Phillip Kosloski**

## How to use an Advent wreath

## Weekly Announcements



The Sanctuary  
Candles are for  
the intention of  
**Bob Thomas**



The Candles at the Shrine of Our  
Lady of Perpetual Help are for the  
intention of  
**Loretta Carnese+**



The Candles are burning during  
Adoration in the Church for the  
intention  
of  
**Bob Thomas**

## Eucharistic Adoration

**In the Church M-F 8:00am-12:00pm**

*The Eucharist contains  
the greatest love on  
earth and all the love  
of Heaven. The  
Eucharist is Jesus, and  
Jesus is love!"*

**Will you spend one  
hour with our Lord  
in the  
Blessed Sacrament?**



"Pain and suffering have come into your life,  
but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but  
the kiss of Jesus—a sign that you have come  
so close to Him that He can kiss you. "  
St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

## Last Will and Testament



Please Remember your  
Church

**St. Andrew**  
In your Last Will and Testament

## Weekend Marriage Builders



### In God We Trust

It's easy for us to say we're trusting God, But are we doing so with our fingers crossed behind our backs? God alone is sure of the future. Sometimes we need to get out of the way and let him act, to wholly trust the process to him—however events might unfold.

It's good for us to remember a couple—then engaged to be married—from 2,000 years ago who took God at his word. Mary, who conceived a son by the Holy Spirit and gave birth to the savior, responded to the angel Gabriel: "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38). Joseph, who had to wonder how his fiancé became pregnant, did the obedient and honorable thing: He "took Mary home as his wife" even though she was already with child (Matthew 1:24).

If push came to shove, would I be as courageous as Mary, as obedient as Joseph? Am I willing to put my life entirely in God's hands, to actually live as though I really trust him? God is big enough and loving enough to take care of all our needs—including the ones we aren't even aware of. That is what makes it possible for us to rest in the confidence that he will provide.

- ◆ Do you find it easy or difficult to trust God with your family's future? What things do you find it hard to trust to him?
- ◆ Reflect on a time when you trusted God together in the midst of difficult circumstances. What did you learn about God's loving kindness?

Saturday: Proverbs 3:5-6  
Sunday: Job 13:15

### Gaze "Let us adore him with a pure heart."



#### Consider

"What if the whole chapel was going to disappear in ten seconds and we could each take only one thing?" Out of curiosity, I went around the convent asking this question. Most sisters said, "The monstrance." One sister said she would take that beautiful stained-glass window of the seraphim. Then someone said, "I would keep the sister praying beside me." In our Franciscan chapel we always pray in pairs. My sister is the one who reveals Christ to me and helps me to not lose heart. Trust is deepened not only with the gaze upon the Blessed Sacrament but through the very real flesh of interaction. Our adoration becomes the practice of forgiveness and celebration as we forgive our human failings and celebrate the God within one another.

#### Contemplate

Loving God of my heart, I am never alone in you. I am never abandoned. May my trust be tried by the fire of your love and grow through the daily interactions with my brothers and sisters. You promise not to take away my fears and doubts but always to renew my mind. May I live each day as prayer and not give up hope. Amen.

#### Imitate

List the ways that you pray always in your daily life. Who has been in your prayer today? What do you need to forgive or ask forgiveness for? How are you thankful? Who becomes Eucharist for you?"

Excerpt from Eucharist Adoration Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration





### The Rosary Ministry Celebrates Three Years Of Making Rosaries

In the past three years we have made over 30,000 rosaries for our Parishioners, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Prisons and Countries throughout the World.

We meet every Wednesday from 10 AM to Noon in Classroom C. Please drop by to see if you would like to join our Ministry. We supply all materials and training.

We thank Father Jack for his support.



We love having you as part of our Flock! Keep in touch with us via email and text!

Text 4ANDREW to 84576 or connect with us online at [saintandrewcatholic.org/stay-in-touch](https://saintandrewcatholic.org/stay-in-touch)



### Disciples of Prayer

St. Andrew's Church has established a ministry of prayer, "St. Andrew's Disciples of Prayer".

If you or a loved one, friend or neighbor, has a need of prayer or, if you have a generous spirit and can spend 5 to 10 minutes a day praying for special intentions, please contact ;

**Camille at [qtcaccl@gmail.com](mailto:qtcaccl@gmail.com)**

or

**Bob at [cobra12220@aol.com](mailto:cobra12220@aol.com)**

to place someone on the prayer list, or if you are called by the Holy Spirit to pray.

### APOSTLES OF JOHN PAUL II

2100 SE Cove Road, Stuart, FL 34997



**OPEN Friday 9-12Noon**

**Please call for an appointment  
772-291-0002 WE ARE HERE TO HELP**



### We are preparing our Roster for the 2022 Offertory Envelopes.

If you have any changes for your name, address, email, cell# rather than land line, please call the office with these changes ASAP (772-781-4415).

The 2022 offertory envelopes will be mailed to your residence on file quarterly. Therefore, it is important to have correct information.

We will no longer be making offertory boxes for new registrations. New registrants need to place their check or cash in a regular envelope with your name clearly printed and your account will be credited. New registrations will receive their offertory envelopes for the next calendar quarter.

### Ushers Needed

*Are you willing to serve?*

The usher is a person chosen to reflect the warmth and welcome of Christ himself. Always conscious of Christ's words: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me".

At St. Andrew Catholic Church, Ushers are entrusted with promoting a sense of welcoming presence and belonging to all the faithful assembled for worship. They are the first point of contact for the communal celebration of the Liturgy. Each Minister offers a welcoming atmosphere, takes an active role in enabling each Parishioner and Visitor to a comfortable expression of God in the Liturgy. **Please contact the Church Office (772)-781-4415 or Jane Englebrecht at 772-288-2265 or [ejanybrainy@yahoo.com](mailto:ejanybrainy@yahoo.com) if you are interested!**

### Active Parishioner Status

We receive many requests for parishioners to be godparents or sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and to rightfully enjoy the number of services offered at St. Andrew. Part of the request is to be able to verify that a person is an "active member" of St. Andrew.

An "active member" is:

- Properly **registered** in the parish.
- **Faithfully attends** Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
- **Participates** in parish activities / ministries when possible.
- **Uses** the parish envelope system for donations

These are the main factors that will be considered in making the determination .

# Religious Education

Grade:1,2,3,4,5 Sunday 9:00-10:15am

Grade:6,7,8,9 Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm

## November & December Schedule

Wed	Dec-1	CCD	8th Grade Board of Review
Sun.	Dec-5	CCD	Grade:1,2,3,4,5
Wed	Dec-8	CCD	Grade:6,7,8,9
Sat	Dec-11	<b>4:00 MASS</b>	CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE
Sun	Dec-12	CCD	CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE (CHURCH DECORATING) 11:45AM
Sun	Dec-15	CCD	<b>ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE DURING CLASS</b>

**Dec-19 22, 26 & 29 NO CCD**

## Celebrate Bambinelli Sunday

### " Bless the Baby Jesus"

Sunday, December 12th, 2021

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of our Lord in the form of a child. We celebrate this most beautiful season by preparing a Nativity scene in our homes, in anticipation of Christmas and out of love for the Holy Family. To make this season even more special, have your baby Jesus figurine blessed at Mass!

Each year, on the third Sunday of Advent, the faithful bring the baby Jesus figurine or "Bambinelli" from their nativity set to St. Peter's Square for a blessing by the Pope.

Here at St. Andrew, we carry on this wonderful tradition. On Bambinelli Sunday, bring your baby Jesus, tied with a colorful ribbon and name tag, to Church for a special prayer and blessing.

Don't have a Bambinelli? You can purchase one here at Church with all the proceeds going to our Christmas "Giving Tree" program for those in our area who need our help.



**MAY GOD BLESS YOU DURING THIS ADVENT SEASON!**

## Volunteers Needed

Decorating the Church for Christmas December 12th at 11:45 we will be decorating the Altar for the beautiful celebration of the Birth of our Lord. We will be doing this in the safest matter possible. Mask are encouraged. Remember: Many hands make the load lighter. Please consider helping us.

## Our 2021 Christmas Schedule

**Tuesday, December 7th**

7:30am & 4:00pm Vigil

### Immaculate Conception

**Wednesday, Dec. 8th Holy Day**

7:30am & 6:00pm

### Advent Reconciliation Service

**Wednesday, December 15th**

6:00pm Confessions

**Saturday, December 18th**

2:30pm

### Christmas Vigil Masses

**Friday, December 24th**

7:30am, 3:00pm Holy Rosary followed by Mass; 10:00 Holy Rosary followed by Mass

### Christmas Day Masses

**Saturday, December 25th**

The Holy Mass will be celebrated at 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am,

**NO 4:00pm Vigil mass or Confessions**

**Sunday Dec. 26th**

Regular Sunday masses

7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am

**Friday, December 31st**

7:30am only

**Saturday, January 1, 2022**

( New Year's Day)

Not a Holy Day

7:30am , 9:00am & 10:30am,

**NO 4:00pm Vigil mass or Confessions**

**Sunday January 2, 2022**

Regular Sunday masses

7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am



# What's the difference between confession and spiritual direction?

*While spiritual direction can sometimes be part of confession, typically they are meant to be two separate ministries.*

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the celebration of confession is typically separate from what is called spiritual direction.

Confession is one of the seven **sacraments** of the Church, while spiritual direction is a **meeting** or series of meetings between a spiritual director — a priest or a trained lay person or religious — and a person seeking counsel in growing closer to God.

## **Confession**

Jesus Christ instituted the sacrament of confession, extending his ministry of forgiveness through the ministry of his apostles. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* summarizes this sacrament of God's mercy.

*In imparting to his apostles his own power to forgive sins the Lord also gives them the authority to reconcile sinners with the Church. This ecclesial dimension of their task is expressed most notably in Christ's solemn words to Simon Peter: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." "The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of the apostles united to its head.*

CCC 1444

To be clear, it is **God who forgives sins, through the ministry of the priest**. In the sacrament of confession, the penitent approaches the priest and relates to him their sins, but is only required to confess in name and number all **grave sins**.

*A member of the Christian faithful is obliged to confess **in kind and number all grave sins** committed after baptism and not yet remitted directly through the keys of the Church nor acknowledged in individual confession, of which the person has knowledge after diligent examination of conscience.*

Can. 988 §1.

The confession of everyday faults has been encouraged by the Church, but is not a necessary part of the sacrament.

In the Roman Rite, confession is typically meant to be **brief and to the point**, only focusing on the grave sins to be confessed.

The priest can offer some words of advice and encouragement, but any long conversation should be reserved for **spiritual direction**.

Furthermore, Canon Law states that **confession should be held in a church or oratory whenever possible**, unless for a just cause (see Can. 964 §1.).

## **Spiritual direction**

Here is how the [John Paul II Center for the New Evangelization](#) describes spiritual direction.

**Spiritual direction is meeting with a trained and experienced director to reflect on how God is present and active in your life right now**, and how God might be calling you into deeper relationship. God is the Director; the human director serves as the vessel through which the Spirit works to uncover and discover the Divine at work in your everyday experiences. The content of the direction session is simply your life: whatever aspect, story, or experience you feel moved to bring to prayer and reflection. You the seeker, your director, and the Holy Spirit meet in holy conversation so "you may have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) Above all, your spiritual director listens and helps you to come clear about the hints and guesses, the invitations, and the "nudgings" of the Spirit in your life.

Spiritual direction is **not** psychotherapy or counseling and the best spiritual director will normally **not** tell you what to do. Instead, a good spiritual director will help you find the Holy Spirit in your life and give you tips on how to discern the best course of action.

Sometimes spiritual direction with a priest might include sacramental confession, but normally they are meant to be separate ministries.

Often spiritual direction is conducted in an office, and is scheduled for an extended period of time. It is during spiritual direction that a priest can offer extensive advice and support, that he would not otherwise have time for during confession.

It's important to know the distinction between confession and spiritual direction, as then you can know what it is that you seek.

If you desire **help in your spiritual life**, then schedule a meeting with a **spiritual director**. If you want to be **absolved of your sins**, then go to your nearby parish and find the schedule times for **confession**.

Engaging in an extensive spiritual direction session during confession can make further complications, especially if the priest is supposed to be preparing for Mass, or if there is a long line of penitents behind you. This is why it is more appropriate to keep these separate and schedule a spiritual direction time that is different from a confession time. [Philip Kosloski](#) -