



Dear Friends in Christ,

On this first day of Advent, today's readings have a theme of preparation. The prophet Jeremiah speaks for the Lord, telling the Israelites of the days that are coming when the Lord *will fulfill the promise [he] made to the house of Israel and Judah*. This promise was one that said he would bring forth a savior, born of the house of David. Saint Paul tells the Thessalonians that they should conduct themselves in a way pleasing to God and *to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of the Lord Jesus with all his holy ones*. And finally, in Luke's Gospel, Jesus vividly describes what it will be like when the Son of Man comes with *power and great glory*. He tells his disciples to be vigilant at all times and to be ready to stand before him in judgment.

It is fitting that the Scriptures speak of being prepared, for that is a state of being we ought to maintain – at least spiritually. We know Christ will come again, we just do not know when. And so as we begin our Advent time in anticipation of celebrating the anniversary of Christ's birth, we also "wait in joyful hope for the coming [again] of our Savior."

Each year, on this first Sunday of Advent, the universal Church begins a new liturgical year. We examine, once again and still, the fullness of the Paschal Mystery in all its facets. The Paschal Mystery refers to Christ's passion, death, resurrection, and glorious Ascension, i.e., the means by which he accomplished our salvation. But our liturgical year is so much more than an annual history lesson on the life of Christ. It is an opportunity to immerse ourselves into all that Jesus did and taught, and to relate it to our own redemption – here and now in 2021. For "by dying, he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life" (Preface, Easter I).

This Paschal Mystery is at the heart of every liturgy – we celebrate what God has already done for us and we anticipate the fullness of the Kingdom to come. It is in the Lord's Prayer, as we say, "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done." It is in the creed we profess, "he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." During the Eucharistic Prayer, we assert "[w]e proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again." And we have sung, or recited, or heard others do so, that wonderful verse from the Book of Revelation: *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come* (Rev 4:8).

As we begin Advent we welcome the opportunity to grow in faith and in conformity to Christ. May our preparation for the celebration of his birth, and his awaited second coming, be one that draws us ever more into the Paschal Mystery, and enables us to be *blameless in holiness before our God and Father*.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Marco Schadt

**FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE** The next First Tuesday Coffee will be held on Tuesday, December 7th from 9 am until 11 am in the church hall, bring a friend and a non-perishable item for the food pantry.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** Knight of Columbus will be hosting Pancake Breakfast with Santa – 12 December 2021, 9 am to 12 noon. Suggested Donation, \$10 per person or \$30 per family of 4 or more. Proceeds to Support the Christmas in April Program 2022.

**PRO LIFE ART CONTEST** The Archdiocese of Washington will be hosting their first annual Pro-Life Contest. Youth are invited to share projects in any of three categories: protest art, visual art, and video art. For more information about submitting art and descriptions of each category, go to [youthrallyandmassforlife.org](http://youthrallyandmassforlife.org) or contact [prolife@adw.org](mailto:prolife@adw.org). Art must be submitted by midnight on January 1, 2022. Submission accepted from youth ages 13-18.

**ONLINE GIVING UPGRADE** As announced last weekend, our online giving system received a major upgrade this past week. Those with recurring gifts had their accounts transferred to the new system, but will need to reset their passwords. By the time you read this, those with recurring gifts should have received an message to the e-mail address on file, as a reminder of which address was used. Please log in and check that your recurring gifts were transferred properly to the new system. Your giving history did NOT transfer, so you will see your programmed gifts and any gifts made since Tuesday. Everyone's full giving history (going back to 2015) is available through the [my.ihmrcc.org](http://my.ihmrcc.org) website. Those who had previously given only "one-time gifts" and had not set up any recurring gifts did NOT have their information transferred and will need to set up their accounts again. If you have an envelope number, please be sure to enter it when setting up the account. The new system includes some new ways to set up and manage online giving: you can now text GIVE to 301-3272-IHM (301-327-2446) or download our new app at [app.ihmrcc.org](http://app.ihmrcc.org) (the app is still being developed, but the giving, video and contact us sections are working).

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**November 29 — December 5**

<b>Monday</b>	Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 8:5-11
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>All Souls</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/ Mt 4:18-22
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>All Souls</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/ Mt 15:29-37
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Jim Trent (D)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/ Mt 7:21, 24-27
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Pasquale Anfuso (D)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/ Mt 9:27-31
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>All Souls</b>
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Helen Donovan (D)</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Kim Bodenschatz (L)</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Massaro Family (D)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6/ Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Myron Cutchember (D)</b>
<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>Gary Love (D)</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>All IHM Parishioners</b>

**CHRISTMAS TREE RAISING AND HALL DECORATING** The IHM Tree Raising and Hall Decorating Pizza Party will be Saturday, December 4th from 5 pm to 9 pm. Enjoy Christmas Cheer with our parish family while decorating the parish hall for the Christmas season and Santa's visit. Contact Tony Spadarella at [tojo8181@gmail.com](mailto:tojo8181@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

**FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** Come join us on Friday December 3rd, for our monthly First Friday Family Movie Night! Please join us for the timeless classic "It's A Wonderful Life". The doors to the social hall will open at 6:30pm, with the movie starting at 7:15pm. We do have a small snack bar available, with hopes of adding more items that you suggest!

**MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS** Mass with Healing Prayers is on Monday, November 29th. Confession starts at 6:30 pm, with Mass at 7:00 pm. Healing Service with Eucharistic Adoration starts at 7:45 pm. There will be no Mass with Healing Prayers in December.

**MAGSIMBA** Every 2nd Sunday of the month, a Misang Tagalog is celebrated by Fr. Ryan Pineda (Filipino priest of St. Francis Xavier, Newtowne Neck) at 4pm at IHM. You are invited on Sunday, December 12 at 4pm for the next Holy Mass. Contact [janet.harmon@gmail.com](mailto:janet.harmon@gmail.com) for details.

**SVDP OF IHM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2021** The trees with envelopes are back this year! If you would like to provide a gift for a child this Christmas, please pick an envelope from one of the trees. Open the envelope and leave the small slip with your name, telephone number, and envelope number in the box on the table by the tree. Please bring your wrapped gift to the church hall between 8 am-8 pm on December 14th, 15th, or 16th. All gifts need to be received by December 16th. If you have any questions, call Janet at 301-863-7263 (in the evenings).

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM** Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### THE SICK

#### THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Jane Keyon, Linda F. Gieser, Jim Brown, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Dinnette Briscoe, Bill Wagoner, Paula Coxon, Vincent Campanella, Ray Dion, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Rose Marie Weiland, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Jim Hoffman  
*Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org), or call the Parish Office.*

#### PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Follow us on



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# NOVEMBER 27 & 28, 2021

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**WALK WITH MARY** The Archdiocese of Washington's annual Walk with Mary procession and Mass to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, will take place on Saturday, December 11, 2021. The gathering for the procession will start at 11:30am at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart (16th St. & Park Rd., NW), and the procession will conclude at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (4th St. & Michigan Ave., NE). Following the praying of the Rosary at 1:30 pm, Mass at the Basilica will begin at 2:30pm, with Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory as the main celebrant and Bishop Mario Dorsonville as the homilist. For more information, visit [adw.org/walkwithmary](http://adw.org/walkwithmary) or search on social media using #WalkwithMary

**"WHAT ABOUT MARY?"** Join us at Immaculate Conception Church and Parish Hall (Mechanicsville) on Saturday, December 11th, to learn more about the gift Mary is to us! The morning begins with Registration at 7:15 am, (parish hall) and will include a nice breakfast with fellowship, followed by Rosary Prayers and Mass at 9:00 am (in the Church), two talks and healing prayers scheduled to end by 2 pm. Please register through Bread of Life Center for Peace on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-about-mary-tickets-185053498997>. You can also call: 301 475 7139 or stop by Heavenly Presents in Leonardtown. Registration ends on Friday, December 10th, at 3 pm, (this helps us to prepare for food and set up!) Your free will offering will help us to defray cost, but is not required!

**GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY** We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** Please email your submission to [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org) by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

**ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION** The Season of Advent is a time for preparing ourselves spiritually to meet the Lord at his coming. But often we are so busy at this time of year! You are invited to take some spiritual time out at an Advent Morning of Reflection here at IHM, this Saturday, December 4, beginning with the 9 a.m. Mass and concluding at 1 p.m. Father Dan will give several talks reflecting on the life, mission, and message of St. John the Baptist. The morning will also include Eucharistic Adoration and opportunities for confession, conversation, and silent reflection.

## Prayer for Souls on Purgatory (St. Gertrude)

Eternal Father,  
I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood  
of Thy Divine Son, Jesus,  
in union with the masses  
said throughout the world today,  
for all the holy souls in purgatory,  
for sinners everywhere,  
for sinners in the universal church,  
those in my own home  
and within my family. Amen.

**WOMEN'S NIGHT OF REFLECTION** with Fr. Larry Swink on Tuesday, December 14th at St. Cecilia's in St. Mary's City. 7PM. "Got Hope? – It's Unshakeable!" How can we take captive our thoughts and allow our hearts to live in hope? The one who has hope lives differently. We invite all women to come and be strengthened in the virtue of hope. Evening includes Eucharistic Adoration, talk, Confession, and healing prayers.

**FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS** The next First Friday Mass is December 3rd. We will have Mass at 9 am and 5:30 pm. First Saturday Mass is at 9 am on Saturday, December 4th. All three Masses will be followed by confessions and Eucharistic Exposition.

**LAZARUS COMMITTEE** If interested in joining the Lazarus committee or for more information, please contact Pat at 301-863-5133 or Linda at 240-298-5264.

**IT SHOULDN'T HURT AT HOME** The Catholic community cares about families experiencing violence and unhealthy relationships. Visit [www.CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org](http://www.CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org) to learn more about this issue, how to help, who to call, and the rich Catholic teaching that supports survivors. If you need help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY); [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org) to find assistance near you.

**SYNOD LISTENING SESSION** The entire Catholic Church is called to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops! In preparation for the international Synod of Bishops in 2023, Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of "For a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation, and Mission." You are invited to join Fr. Marco and Fr. Dan for a parish listening session on Saturday, January 29th, 10 am - 1 pm with a snow date Saturday, February 12th at 10 am to 1 pm. Invite family, friends, neighbors- we want everyone to participate in this listening session. To RSVP, please email: [julian@ihmrcc.org](mailto:julian@ihmrcc.org). If you can't make the parish listening session, share your opinion online at [www.adw.org/synod](http://www.adw.org/synod).

November 28, 2021

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16 | 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 | Lk 21:25-28,34-36

## GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As the days grow shorter and darker, I am especially ready for Advent wreaths and nativity sets; sparkling lights and singing angels. More than ever, I eagerly anticipate the joyful celebration of Christ's birth. But today's readings for the first Sunday of Advent point us to the end of time, when Jesus returns in glory. Wait a minute, what? I don't want to think about the dismay and fright that Jesus foretells in the Gospel, I want to think about shepherds and holy nights. We really can't do one without the other, however, and the underlying message of the readings is one of hope and reassurance: Our God keeps his promises. He is faithful to the covenants he makes. He loves us so much; he offers us new beginnings. Our God became one of us, died to save us, and will give us the strength to be ready to greet him when he comes again. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand," Jesus says. Pray that our preparation for Christ's birth will make us all the more ready for his return.

## GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We are a society and culture that focuses a lot on the outward signs of preparation, and there is a lot of pressure to make it all perfect. Pinterest boards, social media groups, magazine photos, clothing catalogs: all show perfectly dressed people with perfectly adorable dogs standing in front of exquisitely perfect Christmas trees, on perfectly unblemished snow. But perfection on the exterior is not the Christian goal. Our interior preparation – how we make ourselves ready for Christ now, and at the end of time – is the focus of Advent. It is an opportunity for repentance, and a joyful new beginning in our relationship with God. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the covenant he made with us, and the psalm and the second reading offer assistance in doing so. Make time each day to dive in and explore what Scripture reveals about "conducting yourselves to please God."

**PRAY** Pray the psalm from the first Sunday of Advent each morning. Ask God to open your heart to ways you can be more just. He will teach you, guide you, and strengthen your heart so that you can stand upright to face whatever challenges come your way.

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.