



St. Joseph Catholic Church
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Frist Sunday of Advent A 11.27.2016
Christ the King Feast

	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$319.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Work Ethic!

If you work, you get paid.

If you don't work, you don't get paid.

It's where your ability to buy a Christmass Gift comes from. Unfortunately, not all adults understand that, but you can teach your kids that whining does not end in money; work does.



Candle of Peace!

The Spirit of God

From the fallen tree, the stump of Jesse, which was cut down because of Israel's sins, we find a new bud to blossom, a new life that will begin.

In God, we find redemption and forgiveness of our sins for Jesus brings the Spirit of Light to the darkness of our sins. Paul explains.

- *You may be filled with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding*
- *Live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God,*
- *Strengthened with every power, with joy giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.*
- *He delivered us from the darkness*
- *He transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:14)*

For the grandeur of his kingdom is not power as defined by this world, but the love of God, a love capable of encountering and healing broken people.

Jesus lowered Himself to us out of his love for He saw and lived our human misery: injustice, betrayal, abandonment. He experienced death, the tomb, and hell, but He rose from the stump and so will we.

Jesus the Babe went to the edges of the love in order to embrace and save every human being.

He did not condemn, nor conquer us. He never disregarded our freedom, but He offered a way with a humble love that forgives all things, hopes all things, and sustains all things.

This love alone overcame and continues to overcome our worst enemies: sin, death, and the fear of hell. (Pope Francis)



Isaiah 11:1–10 (ESV)

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (John Paul II)

- Holy Spirit, I ask of you the gift of Wisdom for a better conception of You and your call to perfection.
- I ask of you the gift of Understanding for a better appreciation of the Mysteries of my Catholic Faith.
- Give me the gift of knowledge so that I may orient my life in accord with the principles of my faith.
- Give me the gift of Counsel that in all things I listen to your advise and discern your Holy Will.
- Give me the gift of Strength and Courage that no fear of earthly drives can take me away from you.
- Give me the gift of Piety that I can always serve your majesty with true love.
- Give me the gift of Fear of the Lord so that I may always respect you and the friendship you offer me.

Oh Mary Conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to you

The Spirit manifests itself. On the one hand, “the spirit of flesh”, with its addictions, passions, and vices creates selfish people who are closed to God. They no longer worship Him. Closing oneself off is a spirit of slavery. We become addicted to our sin. John the Baptist decried this spirit as he condemned the Pharisees and Sadducees as a brood of vipers. Jesus referred to them as “hypocrites”; white washed tombs. We have many Christians today living the same spirit.

The world needs men and women who are not closed, but filled with the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:22).

The Holy Spirit bestows upon us gifts of genuine faith and active charity, that we may sow the seeds of reconciliation and peace. Strengthened by the Spirit – Who guides us into the Truth, Who renews us and the whole earth, and Who gives us his fruits – strengthened by the Spirit and his many gifts, may we battle uncompromisingly against sin, against perversions, against corruption which continues to spread in the world day after day. We are to live by the Spirit which Christ lived by. That is the Christmass Gift.

Announcements

Dec 4: Religious Ed 11:30 – 2:30 PM.

Dec 4 Youth Group 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Dec 8 7:00 PM Holy Day: Immaculate Conception

Dec 10 Cookie Bazaar PLEASE BAKE ☺ Proceeds to replace lights in hall and smoke detectors in building.

Dec 11 Fr. Tom In Kotz. Fr. Jay in Nome to celebrate Mass.

Dec 14 Kotz Selection committee to choose 3 architects. January to finalize architect choice.

RETROUVAILLE: a marriage weekend retreat to help, heal, grow your marriage Feb. 10/12 907/863/8000 helpourmarraige.com

Lighting of the Second Candle

Leader:
 Let us pray that we may experience this Advent the Peace only Jesus can give us.
 All:
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 May your healing love bring peace to all the world.



Jesse Trees

are a very old Christmas Tradition and first started in medieval times. They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Christmass Story. The name comes from **Jesse** who was the Father of the great Jewish King David.

Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Dec 5	5:30 PM	Nome			Healing Mass	
Tue Dec 6	5:30 PM	Nome	St. Nicklaus		Healing Mass	
Wed Dec 7	5:30 PM	Nome	St. Ambrose		Poor Souls	
Thu Dec 8	7:00 PM	Nome	Imm.Conception		Poor Souls	Holy Day
Fri Dec 9	9:00 AM	Nome	St. Juan Diego		Poor Souls	
Sat Dec 10	5:30 PM	Nome	3 rd Advent	Tom Moran	Poor Souls	Cookie Bazaar
Sun Dec 11	10:30 AM	Nome	3 rd Advent	Kitty Scott	St. Joseph	

“The Lord, your God, is in your midst. He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love, he will exult over you with loud singing” (Zeph 3:17).



Condemnation

John the Baptist screams wrath, damnation, and hell. Why?

Damnation, hell, and the coming wrath of God oppose the holiday season. Themes of peace, love, joy and happiness are the spirit. The holidays are filled with sugar plums and candy canes, spice cakes and Christmas pies, Christmas trees and Merry Carols? Is not the Holiday Season a time for couples to exchange diamonds and furs, vacations and weekend escapes? Yes, if you believe in the Holiday Season – not if you believe in Christ's Mass: Christmas.

The contrast cannot be more stark. The holidays are happy days. Their coming is not about broods of snakes, winnowing fires that will cleanse the threshing floor, so why then does John the Baptist cry out:

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire (Matt 3:10).

Christmass is the New Covenant: Sin is forgiven. Christ comes not to bring frivolity but forgiveness among sinners dead in their sin. However, many are lulled into lullabies, believing Advent is for carousing and debauchery. It's Not! It is for repentance.

Beloved, with the Lord one day is like a thousand years- and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance...everything done on it will be found out (2 Pet 3:8).

Advent is not a time for a feast. It is a time to fast. To fast from the sins of injustice, to fast from hatred, to fast from the joy of celebrating sin so prevalent in our culture of social acceptance, and to fast from the false happiness that celebrates the removal of God from this most Holy Season.

Christmass can only be celebrated if we repent. Advent is the time to repent of our own sins and the sins of the whole world, for we trust in our God to show mercy!

God's wrath is upon us. It is not punishment for sin. It is the exact opposite. God's punishment for sin is the enjoyment of sin. It is the imbibing of temptations and enticements. It is the over indulgence of every passion and desire. The punishment is ensnarement!

Indulgence is more than a second desert. It is the enslavement into an action that becomes an addiction that becomes a cancer that spreads through the body, the mind, and the heart. People become pawns of their own physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual passions. They become slaves of their passions and eventually the addiction destroys the cheer, merriment, and bliss. Over indulgence ultimately leads to repentance for an addict knows he or she cannot become free without divine intervention.

The pain that comes from sin, addiction, is so raw that a person literally and knowingly self-destructs. Not only will an addict do anything to indulge their addiction, but they will also try anything to free themselves from it. The simplest, most effective means to free ourselves from indulging our passions especially before they become an addiction is to repent.

Repentance is not the cause of our pain; it heals our pain. Repentance is not the embarrassment of our sin; it is the restoration of our dignity. Repentance is not God's condemnation of our humanness; it is the acceptance of God's mercy.

Addicted to their own disease, an addict would rather die from the disease rather than be healed of the disease. Like Naaman, the leper, who was told to wash seven times in the Jordan River, refused to do so. He would rather die of his leprosy than be healed by the cleansing waters of repentance. So many are of Namaans' mindset!

Many today refuse to be washed clean of their own leprosy, addiction, that they frivolously embark in celebrating their sinfulness with the merriment of happy holidays; instead of submitting their lives on a path that would heal them of their addiction.

John the Baptist reveals the insanity of hypocrisy: To believe that there is no judgment or condemnation is insanity. History proves over and over again how each person receives recompense for their deeds: *"I will at once repay them double for their crime and their sin because they profaned my land with the corpses of their detestable idols, and filled my heritage with their abominations" (Jer16:18).* Just look at the fruits of an addicts!

Today we embrace repentance for we know that God will repay each person according to what they have done in the body whether good or evil (2 Thes 5:10). We repent confessing our sins for we trust that this Jesus Who was born came not to condemn but to offer life—abundantly. He only asks us to REPENT!

To put it succinctly, we should expect the unexpected.

God calls us to climb to the top of the mountain, to look for His coming, and in his light examine our lives. Plato declared:

“The life which is unexamined is not worth living.”

Our lives are cluttered with too many things demanding our attention, draining us of our energies, and blinding us to our faith.

Money only goes so far. Technology can only do so much. Medicines have a short shelf life. All of our human resources are limited. Only God has what we need: grace. He has it in an inexhaustible supply.

At every Mass, especially Advent Sundays, Holy Mother Church bids you to examine your life.

- What gives your life meaning?
- What creates intimacy?
- What talents do you have an use
- What virtues and values do you life by?

Advent is a season of awareness for the truth that sets us free. We should look for God already at work in our lives every day giving his light.

God is always offering Himself to us – we are not always responding.

Advent is a time to conscientiously and deliberately respond to His gift: He offers Himself to us.

Do we accept his gift?

How about beginning each day of Advent by giving God some early moments of reflection and awareness of His presence to us along with a commitment to be about accomplishing His purposes, His tasks.

What better way to begin our day?

It's all a matter of seeing eternity in every season of our lives. It's all a matter of paying attention to God's presence to us in our lives as children, teens, young adults, in our middle age, an in the final seasons of our lives as the leaves fall from their branches and the world goes to sleep under a blanket of snow.

Do you believe in his Christmas Gift of Everlasting Life?