

**SPECIAL
EDITION**



ST. PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Advent & Christmas Guide 2025

Advent Season 2025

ADVENT ADORATION EVERY WEEKDAY

6:45AM- Weekday Adoration Church
8:45AM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
FAMILY MASS AT 9AM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:00PM Guadalupe Presentation Meeting Rooms

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:45AM - First Friday Devotions Church
8:45AM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00AM - First Saturday Devotions Church
10:00AM

5:45PM Lessons and Carols Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00AM Family Mass Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

6:15AM Mass Church

9:00AM Mass Church

6:00PM Mass Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - GUADUPE SUNDAY
BAMBINELLI SUNDAY - BRING YOUR NATIVITY JESUS TO
MASS FOR A SPECIAL BLESSING.
RETURN ADOPT AN ANGEL GIFTS

9:00AM Wrap Baby Jesus Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00PM ADORE Night Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:55AM Blessing of the Creche Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:45AM Christmas Decorating Church

Christmas Season 2025-2026

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM Vigil Mass - Children's Nativity Church

6:00PM Vigil Mass Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS

12:00AM Midnight Mass Church

9:00AM Mass Church

11:00AM Mass Church

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

4:00PM Karoling on Kawanee following the 4:00PM Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

9:00AM Family Mass Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 -

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

4:00PM Mary, the Mother of God Vigil Mass Church

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

9:00AM Mass Church

11:00AM Mass Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Hope
Faith
Joy
Peace



QUESTION:

What is the significance of the Advent wreath?

ANSWER:

Lighting the Advent Wreath is a beautiful way to prepare for the Advent or "Coming" of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The wreath itself is made of evergreen branches - a sign to us of the grace of God, Divine Life, which never dies or fades with the changing of times and seasons. The wreath made in a circle is a sign to us of God's eternal and infinite nature which has no beginning and no end.

The wreath is marked with four candles, one for each week of the Advent Season. The colors of the candles are significant as well! There are three violet (purple) candles and one pink (rose) candle. The color violet (purple) is the color of Advent. This color is symbolic of penance, sacrifice, and *waiting*. The third candle is pink (rose) and this is lit on the third Sunday called "Gaudete Sunday" which means REJOICE! We rejoice because even as we pray in *waiting* for Jesus, we know that HE HAS ALREADY COME! Emmanuel who we await with eager joy is already in our midst.

Finally, the flame of each candle is a sign of the Light of Christ Who is to come into the world. "For the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" (Jn 1:5) and "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light!" (Mt 4:16). Each week we light another candle and the light gets brighter as the dawn of salvation draws ever closer.

If your family has never had an Advent wreath this is a wonderful way to prepare your hearts for Jesus this Christmas!

QUESTION:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

ANSWER:

This answer is simple: Gifts make visible the invisible gift and REAL GIFT of Christmas: Jesus Christ. In giving gifts to each other we imitate the Father in giving us His Son. As well, we give gifts to show a sign of OUR LOVE for the one to whom we give a gift. This is why Jesus came to us - to save us and make us all one. To unite us in Himself. And so the exchange of gifts is a sign of the peace and love that Jesus came to bring. When we receive our gifts this Christmas, we must never forget that Jesus Himself is the best gift of all and the cause of our joy. The Reason for the Season. GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!



QUESTION:

What are some practical ways families can celebrate the Advent Season and prepare well for Christmas?

ANSWER:

Isn't it amazing that in the season that invites us to silence, pondering, waiting, and darkness, we are bombarded by noise, lights, parties, purchases, and tremendous busyness? We have less than four weeks of this holy season of preparation and it is so easy to miss it! Here are some practical tips for staying focused this Advent so that we can PREPARE HIM ROOM!

1. **Advent Wreath** - Light the wreath each night and pray as a family. Each candle brings us closer to Christmas!
2. **Jesse Tree** - Ornaments illustrate the stories of Salvation History which lead to the birth of THE SAVIOR!
3. **Nativity Scene** - set up a nativity (without Baby Jesus) to be a visible sign of WHO we are waiting for!
4. **Special Spiritual Practice** - choose something special to do for the Advent Season: Daily Mass, Pray with Scripture (daily readings), Rosary, EXTENDED SILENCE, Adoration, Advent Devotional, Spiritual Reading, Fasting or Penance, Specific Daily Prayer, etc. What looks different about your daily life and prayer life during this season of preparation?
5. **Progressive Solemnity** - Hold some of the Christmas decorations until the Christmas Season! Or add them slowly throughout Advent - cultivate a spirit of waiting.
6. **Special Parish Events and Offerings** - Come join us!
7. **Update your Family Advent Calendar!**



SET UP YOUR HOME NATIVITY



LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH AS A FAMILY



FOLLOW SALVATION HISTORY AS A FAMILY WITH A JESSE TREE



ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH

ADVENT Adoration

Adoration will be held every weekday from 6:45AM to 8:45AM.
December 1st - December 23rd



Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Monday, December 8, 2025

The Mass schedule is as follows:
6:15AM, 9AM, 6PM

- There is no Vigil Mass for The Immaculate Conception.
- The 6PM mass on Sunday is for the Second Sunday of Advent.
- The Parish Office will be closed this day.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Join us for a presentation by Elliot LeNormand to combine history, culture, and science in exploring an artifact unlike any other on earth. Learn how the image of Our Lady spoke to the Aztec people nearly 500 years ago and how the image continues to reveal its mysteries to us today in the 21st century!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
7:00PM
PARISHIONERS' CENTER MEETING ROOMS




SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2025
5:45PM

A service of scripture & song to help us prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ.

Join us for fireside smores following the event.

ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Bambinelli Sunday BLESSING Baby Jesus



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
ALL MASSES

BRING YOUR BABY JESUS FROM YOUR HOME NATIVITY FOR A SPECIAL BLESSING.

ST. PHILIP NERI

ADVENT ADORE

Adore Night

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025
7:00PM - 8:30PM

ADORATION | CONFESSION | WORSHIP
MUSIC BY JOHN FINCH
SAINT PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH
6606 KAWANEE AVE., METAIRIE




Blessing of the Crèche 2025



BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO *sing carols* & PRAY AS WE BLESS OUR PARISH CRECHE!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
8:55AM BEFORE 9AM MASS

ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Family Mass

Every Sunday in Advent

9AM

Christmas Eve Children's Nativity

CALLING ALL KIDS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!
CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 4PM

- These are non-speaking roles for Pre-K through Middle School.
- 7th graders and high schoolers are more than welcome to assist with the play as volunteers to assist with the nativity.

There will be a practice in church on **Monday, December 22nd at 5:30PM.**

To sign up go to **SPNPARISH.NET/KIDS** or scan the QR Code.




FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR 2025

MAKE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR ADVENT CALENDAR!

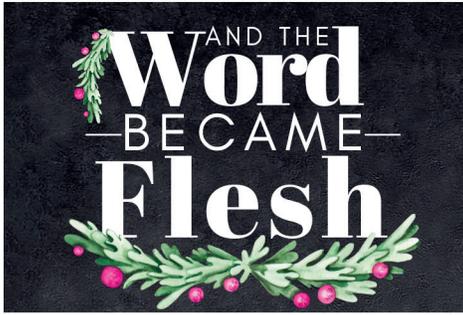
AND THE Word BECAME Flesh

Join us this Advent 2025 as we reflect on the mystery of "the Word becoming Flesh" and deepen our understanding of the sacred items within our church—what they are, why they matter, and how they help us enter more fully into the Mass.

Each day highlights a different element of our worship space, preparing us not only for Christmas but also for our upcoming church renovations.

TAKE YOURS HOME TODAY AND JOURNEY WITH US THROUGH THIS SEASON OF RENEWAL.

ADVENT PROGRAMS



USE THIS SEASON OF ADVENT AS A TIME FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL & JOIN ONE OR MORE OF THESE ADVENT PROGRAMS:



ASCENSION



Hallow



FORMED

CHRISTMAS SEASON



 **ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus with us!

CHRISTMAS EVE
4PM- CHILDREN'S NATIVITY & VIGIL
6PM - VIGIL

CHRISTMAS DAY
12AM - MIDNIGHT
9AM & 11AM

SEE THE NATIVITY TOLD BY OUR PARISH CHILDREN

CHRISTMAS EVE
CHILDREN'S NATIVITY FOLLOWED
BY 4PM VIGIL MASS.



 **ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Christmas
Midnight Mass



December 25, 2025
12:00AM

 **ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

SAINT PHILIP NERI CHURCH PRESENTS

KAROLING ON KAWANEE 

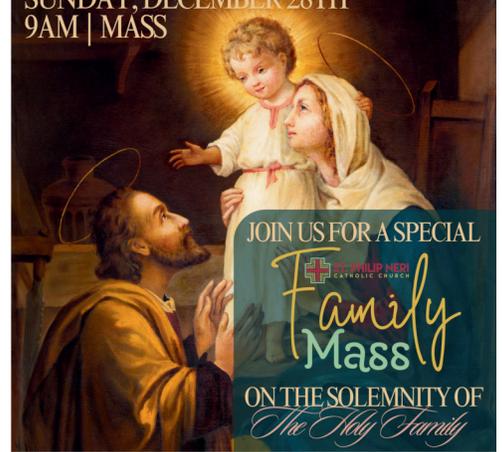
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH | FOLLOWING 4PM MASS
MEET UNDER THE PORTE-COCHERE

JOIN US AS WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH SOME OLD FASHIONED NEIGHBORHOOD CAROLING!

Following Caroling we will have cookie decorating and fireside smores!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
9AM | MASS



JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
Family Mass
ON THE SOLEMNITY OF
The Holy Family

 **ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH**



Mary,

THE MOTHER OF GOD
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MASS TIMES:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
4PM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST
9AM & 11AM

 **ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*We saw His star at its rising
and have come to do Him homage.*



The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

MASS TIMES
Saturday, January 3, 2026 - 4PM
Sunday, January 4, 2026 -
7:30AM, 9AM, 11AM, & 6PM

HOME BLESSING TRADITION
It is a tradition to bless our homes with chalk on Epiphany each year, because this is the day the three Wise Men visited the home of the Holy Family. During this blessing, we invite God into our home & ask for His protection throughout the year. We mark our thresholds with 20 + C + M + B + 26, the initials of each Wise Man & the new year.

20+C + M + B + 26