



**“Second Homily” by Fr. Duane Trombetta
Advent Blessings and Prayers for a Fruitful
Capital Campaign
Sunday, December 7, 2025**

Blessings to all as we continue our Advent journey. In these early days of the season, we slow our pace, deepen our prayer, and prepare for the coming of Christ. Advent is not just a “countdown to Christmas”; it’s a sacred time of quiet expectation, of seeking grace, and of ordering life toward the Lord. I encourage all to create intentional moments of prayer at home: light an Advent wreath, read the Scriptures, and let this season draw you closer to God.

Next weekend, on the Third Sunday of Advent, we will continue our tradition of observing Babinelli Sunday (“Little Baby Sunday”). In honor of this tradition, I invite all our parish families to bring the infant Jesus statues from your home nativity sets to be blessed at Mass. I encourage every household to participate. This simple act roots our homes in the mystery of the Nativity and keeps our focus on Christ. Please bring your Babinelli to Mass next weekend.

I would also like to share several updates on our Long Term Pastoral Plan. Inside the church, as mentioned last week, our contractors have finalized a responsible solution for the reconstruction of the side altar walls and domes. To protect them during this stage, our Pietà and Sacred Heart statues will be temporarily relocated into the sanctuary. Because of the active work areas, this year’s nativity scene must be slightly downsized, but it will remain reverent and beautiful!

Our church’s exterior weatherproofing is nearly complete. The refreshed red coating and white trim are already revealing the beauty of our historic façade. Work on the west exterior will begin next. The sidewalk handrails are next to be repainted and should be finished within two weeks. In the near future, the parish rectory and office building will undergo weatherproofing and necessary tuckpointing, for beautification and to ensure long-term stability and protection.

And now we enter an important moment in our Long Term Pastoral Plan: we begin our Capital Campaign. With renovations already underway, and with hopes for a new Parish Hall and Minor Shrine Visitor Center, it’s clear that our parish faces significant financial needs. Our campaign, “Faith, Fellowship, and the Five,” is an opportunity for us to build for the generations who will worship here in the future. I ask every parishioner and family to pray for success in our efforts, and to prayerfully discern how you may offer from your hearts in support of this good work. May God bless us through the intercession of the Five Priests, the Shreveport Martyrs.

Fr. Duane