

Second Sunday of Advent – 7 December 2025
A Vision of Peace and a Messenger of Hope

The first reading today from the Prophet Isaiah is the vision of Peace and sets the tone for the Advent season, for we are awaiting the King. Then justice will flourish in his time and fullness of Peace forever. And the Gospel for today, introduces us to John the Baptist, the bridge between the Jewish scriptures, the Old Testament and the Christian scriptures, the New Testament. John the Baptist, who leapt in the womb of his mother Elizabeth, when Mary with child, greeted her cousin Elizabeth. He is now the herald announcing prepare the way of the Lord Jesus.

Preparing and getting ready for the King of Peace is our goal for the season of Advent. We will celebrate the Feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception on Monday December 8th at the 9AM Mass at Saint Irene's and the 7PM Mass at Saint Bernard's Church. We celebrate that Mary was born without original sin, she was given Prevenient Grace before she was even born! This coming week we have our Scripture series on the Advent readings on Wednesday, 7PM in Saint Bernard's Church. And we have Friday silent exposition and adoration on Fridays, 10AM-Noon in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the parish office at 70 Monument Square. In fact, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open for a visit Monday through Friday 10AM – 3PM. And finally, our Advent Reconciliation Service will be Thursday December 18th, 7PM in Saint Irene's Church.

* * * * *

Many folks have been asking for a book signing event for my new book; ***Twelve Tough Questions and a Pastor's Response***. I do not have a supply of books on hand. One needs to order the book from Amazon.com The paperback edition is \$12.99 and the hard back edition is \$20.99. This is the book I wrote during my sabbatical studying at the Vatican's Institute for Continuing Theological Education in 2024, for three months. Each chapter begins with a question from a parishioner, and I try to give an answer. If you get the book, I would be happy to sign it for you.

Pax Christi,

Fr. Dave O'Leary
Pastor
Saint Bernard's Church at Holy Family Concord
AND Saint Irene's, Carlisle