

The Rumble Strips of Advent

Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy! The sleepy apostles couldn't keep awake with Jesus and drifted off when he most needed them.

I have only fallen asleep at the wheel once. During college, I worked the morning shift starting at 6 AM. After a late night with little sleep, I sluggishly got into my car. Comfortably driving down the highway at about 5:15 AM, I dozed for a few seconds before awakening to the noise of my tires vibrating on the warning tracks—just in time to straighten the wheel and avoid the cement divider.

Advent is like those rumble strips. You don't always need them, they are annoying when you accidentally run over them, but they are very important!

We can get tired, trying to keep our hearts awake and attuned to Jesus. The rhythm of life, the background music of the world, the distractions that fly by us—they all contribute to the danger of a passive heart. Running across Advent is like a wake-up call: "Stay awake! He is almost here."

As in driving, there are many distractions vying for your attention, but you learn to focus on what's important. You survey your surroundings, looking for hazards while keeping your eyes on the road. There are many signs to read, but only certain ones point you where you want to go.

Piece: *Christ Awakening the Apostles on the Mount of Olives*, 1641-42

Artist: Rembrandt van Rijn

Location: Collection of E.W.K., Bern, Switzerland



Jesus says to be attentive to the signs; learn to interpret their meaning. Understand them, without being distracted by them. Be vigilant, pray for strength, and stay awake and alert. Thanks be to God for those rumble strips!

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Do I believe there is a limited time to my life on earth? Since I do not know when Jesus will arrive, isn't peaceful awareness of his eventual return the smartest attitude?

[Jesus said,] "May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping."

(Mark 13:36)

Calendar

Monday

December 4
Advent Weekday
Is 2:1–5
Mt 8:5–11

Tuesday

December 5
Advent Weekday
Is 11:1–10
Lk 10:21–24

Wednesday

December 6
Advent Weekday
Is 25:6–10a
Mt 15:29–37

Thursday

December 7
*St. Ambrose, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church*
Is 26:1–6
Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday

December 8
*Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Saturday

December 9
Advent Weekday
Is 30:19–21, 23–26
Mt 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8

Sunday

December 10
*Second Sunday
of Advent*
Is 40:1–5, 9–11
2 Pt 3:8–14
Mk 1:1–8

Dear Padre,

Why do we have Advent?

Advent as we know it today developed many centuries after Jesus' life on earth. Because of the number of persons being baptized in the early Church, a practice developed of having another time for baptism in addition to the Easter Vigil. Christmas was chosen as another baptismal season. Since Lent served as a time of preparation for the baptisms at the Easter Vigil, the weeks leading up to Christmas became a time of penance and preparation.

Combined with this penitential practice, of course, was the preparation for Christmas. The Sunday and weekday Scriptures during Advent recall the centuries of longing for the coming of the Messiah, the conception of John the Baptist, and the family history of Mary and Joseph. Today

the writings of the prophet Isaiah are featured during Advent because they so eloquently speak of Israel's longing for salvation.

Among the special signs and symbols that the Church uses to recall and enter into these central parts of our Christian heritage are the Advent wreath, vespers, reconciliation services, the O Antiphons, Scripture readings, the Jesse tree, the giving tree, the Christmas tree, the crèche, gift-giving, and of course, Midnight Mass. Hopefully, these symbols of the season will remind you of your own birth in baptism and your own commitment to living a life filled with peace and love.

Fr. Thomas Santa, CSsR,
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

The Lord comes...into our life as a liberator; he comes to free us from all forms of interior and exterior slavery. It is he who shows us the path of faithfulness, of patience and of perseverance because, upon his return, our joy will be overflowing. Christmas is near,...[and] outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us.

—Angelus, December 11, 2016

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 2

8:00 a.m. + Jacqueline Blanche Stapor by Marie & John O'Malley

5:00 p.m. + Agnes Reilly by Alice Eelman

Sunday, December 3

7:00 a.m. - Ana Raffucci by Ana McCollim

8:30 a.m. + Ken & Betty Smith

10:00 a.m. + Frank Stanczak by Alice Eelman

11:30 a.m. + Vincent A. Sheehy, III by James & Jen Applegate

1:00 p.m. + Patricia Jones by The DellaValle Family

3:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

5:00 p.m. - Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Joseph Church

Monday, December 4

6:30 a.m. + Janice M. Evans by Stan & Bette Ogozalek

8:00 a.m. + Emily Tarne by The Fabich Family

Tuesday, December 5

6:30 a.m. + Leo E. Kossa by Joe Faber

8:00 a.m. + Mary Kay Sullivan by The Sullivan Family

Wednesday, December 6

6:30 a.m. + Theresa Quadros by The Ushers

8:00 a.m. + Joseph Squarzini by The Toole Family

Thursday, December 7

6:30 a.m. + Estefana Ledesma Monsale by Hope Monsale Chi & Family

8:00 a.m. + Lynn Howard by The Morgan Family

7:00 p.m. + Melody Paige Klinker by The Klinker Family

Friday, December 8 - Holy Day

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 a.m. + Jack Yohe by Michael White

8:00 a.m. + Madeline Montario by The Hayden Family

12:15 p.m. + Roger Fabich by The Fabich Family

7:00 p.m. + Jack Ward by The Kimpflen Family

Saturday, December 9

8:00 a.m. + Paul & Barbara McArdle by Paula Burrows

5:00 p.m. - Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Joseph Church

Sunday, December 10

7:00 a.m. + Andy Blazich by The Blazich Family

8:30 a.m. + Karl Joseph Fontenot by The Reilly Family

10:00 a.m. + Mary L. Keppel by Tom Keppel

11:30 a.m. + Michael Slattery by Connie, Ian, Caroline, Marc & Avery

1:00 p.m. + David Duncan by Jean Duncan

3:30 p.m. - Spanish Mass

5:00 p.m. + Peg Hayden by The Hayden Family

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Our Advent Penance Service will be on **Monday, December 11th at 7 p.m.** This will be a wonderful opportunity for spiritual preparation before Christmas; for your convenience extra priests will be available.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES
IN NEIGHBORING PARISHES:**

December 6 - St. John Neumann, at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna: 7:00 PM

December 14 - St. Thomas á Becket, Reston: 7:00 PM

December 19 - Christ the Redeemer, Sterling: 7:00 PM (Bi-Lingual)

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances.

*In Jesus, we pray.
Amen.*

Especially for the sick of the parish:

Maximo Acevedo
Roberto Alcalde
Kay Allen
Kristen Coughlan
Francis Davis
Jim Holt
Vera Pohedra
Lena Reyes
Jose Silva, Sr.



December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of Obligation. All Catholics are obligated to attend Mass. We will have a Vigil Mass on Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. Masses on December 8th will be 6:30, 8:00, 12:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



The Feast of Our Lady Of Guadalupe is on December 12th. Rosary will be at 7:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 8:00 p.m. During the entrance procession, people will be dressed in their native costumes. During Mass, there will be a procession with roses. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Wedding Coordinators

We Enter to Worship.

MINISTRY
of the
MONTH

We Leave to Serve.

For information regarding this ministry, please contact:
Alice Eelman at 703-880-4321 or
aelman@sjcherndon.org



The Parish staff wishes to thank the following parish ministries:

We thank **our parishioners** who volunteered to participate in the different liturgical ministries for the Thanksgiving Day Mass and throughout the liturgical year.

We thank **our parishioners** for their support of the special collection on Thanksgiving Day.

We thank **our parishioners** for their support of the Parish Facility Fund Collection. Your contributions assist us in maintaining and caring for our parish buildings and grounds. Know that we are grateful for your prayers and support.

We thank **our director of music, the choir and musicians, and lectors** for organizing and participating in the **Night of Remembrance**. We also thank our **parishioners** for their participation in this evening of prayer.

We thank **our parishioners** who provide for the **cleaning, order, and maintenance of the Church**. There are many parishioners and individuals who work behind the scenes. These individuals include those who just changed the Missalettes and Music Books in the pews; those who clean the pews after each of the Masses on the weekends; those who oversee the cleaning of the altar linens; those who clean the Church each Monday morning; those who tend to the flowers and plants; those who clean the Church for the weekend Masses; those who oversee the candle ministry; the parish maintenance staff; etc. We thank you for your ministry and work!

We thank **our parishioners** for their generous support of the **St. Lucy Project** this past year. A special thanks to the parishioners who plan and oversee the food drives. The staff of the St. Lucy Project offer their sincere thanks to the SJC parishioners for our generosity to feeding our sisters and brothers in need throughout the 2017 year. Many Blessings!

We thank **our parishioners** for their support of the annual **Retirement Fund for Religious** collection. The executive director of this retirement fund shared the following: "I am deeply grateful to the Catholics across the nation who faithfully support the Retirement Fund for Religious. Their generosity allows our office to provide vital financial assistance to hundreds of religious communities each year."

We thank **our SJS staff and students** who organized and implemented the **Veterans Day Flag Remembrance**.

FYI – Advent Bulletin

Peace and good! During the Advent Season we will introduce a few new features to the bulletin for our reflection and prayer. The cover of the bulletin will feature an Advent reflection written for Liguori Publications. The second page will feature the column, **Dear Padre**, list of the daily Mass readings, and a quote from Pope Francis. The **Dear Padre** column will replace Father Tom's column for the Advent Season. Many blessings!



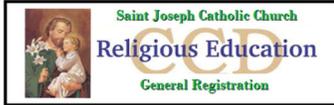
Poinsettias for the Altar

Boy Scout Troop 913 will be accepting dedications for the flowers that will adorn the Saint Joseph's altar during the Christmas Season. Boy Scouts will be in the vestibule of the church after Masses the weekends of December 9-10 and December 16-17. Recommended donation for dedications is \$15.00. This is a lovely way to remember loved ones during this blessed season.



AmazonSmile – You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates to your favorite charitable organization. We invite you to consider St. Joseph Catholic Church as your favorite charitable organization. The Church will receive 05% from every purchase made. Here is a link to the SJC AmazonSmile account: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0796946>



Link Toy Drive

On December 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th the children who attend Religious Education classes are asked to help the needy families in our area by participating in LINK Toy Drive by having them bring in a new unwrapped toy to their catechist (teacher) or directly to the Religious Education (CCD) office. LINK is an all-volunteer organization of 15 churches in Western Fairfax and Eastern Loudoun counties which provides needy families with emergency food, furniture, and financial assistance throughout the year in addition to holiday seasonal items. Thanks in advance for all who would give.



Religious Education Advent Confessions

All Religious Education parents, as well as the 7th and 8th grade RE students, are strongly encouraged to attend the Parish Advent Penance Service on Monday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m.



Last Classes of the Year before Christmas Break

December (Sat) 9th, (Sun) 10th, (Mon) 11th, & (Tue) 12th

Catechism Classes Resume

January, (Sat.) 6th, (Sun.) 7th, (Mon.) 8th, & (Sun) 9th



This year the Herndon Woman's Club will join Wreaths Across America to honor our veterans who are laid to rest at Chestnut Grove. On December 16th, the club will remember the fallen, the prisoners of war, the missing in action and honor those who have served and are serving this great nation with a short ceremony. Volunteers will then place commemorative wreaths on nearly 770 veteran's graves.

To sponsor wreaths at \$15 each please mail your check payable to Herndon Woman's Club at P.O. Box 231, Herndon, VA., 20172

Visit WAA for more information or to donate online.
<https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=19227&relate=17244>

LADIES SOCIETY

At our last meeting the Ladies Society made Christmas Cards and prepared Christmas bags for our Homebound Outreach parishioners. With the help of our Eucharistic Ministers, who deliver the Eucharist, they will receive these the weekend of December 8-10th.



Please remember you can purchase Advent wreaths and candles and other religious and seasonal items at the Religious Goods Stand after the 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Masses. The stand is run by volunteers from the Ladies Society so all Masses are not covered. More volunteers are always needed to keep the stand open. For more info: Contact kirbym59@gmail.com.

Collections:

The weekend of November 12, 2017

Offertory - \$17,015 plus Faith Direct \$14,802

Second Collection - Retired Religious Fund
\$ 8,046 plus Faith Direct \$ 6,082

The weekend of November 19, 2017

Offertory - \$22,176 plus Faith Direct \$14,802

Second Collection - Campaign For Human Development
\$ 4,943 plus Faith Direct \$ 2,388

Thanksgiving Collection - \$ 1,447

The weekend of November 26, 2017

Offertory - \$19,283 plus Faith Direct \$14,802

Thank you for your continued support, prayers and kind generosity.



*Text @64ghk6 to
81010
for updates*

The Youth Ministry Corner

Tonight, Sunday Dec 3rd there will be a youth night at 6pm in Parish Hall C on Prayer!

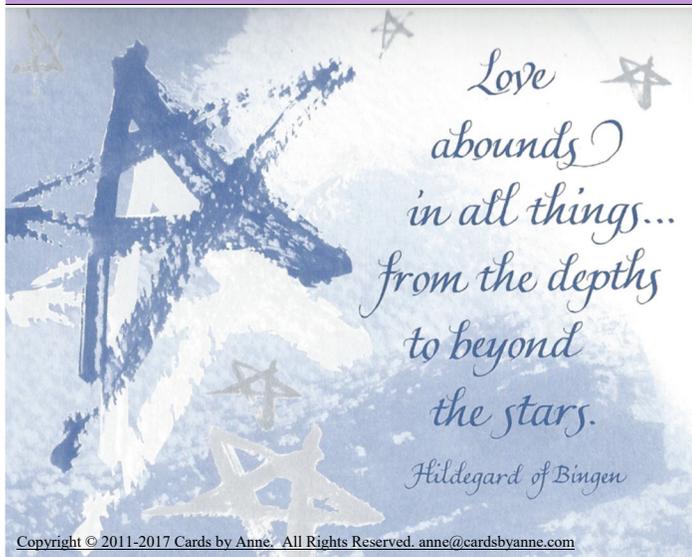
If you want to be placed on our contact list, please email Fr. James, Director of Youth Ministry, at fr.james@sjcherndon.org

WorkCamp 2018!

Interested in WorkCamp 2018? Email Fr. James at: youthministry@sjcherndon.org
Arlington Diocesan WorkCamp is for any high school teen of the Parish.

**THANKS TO OUR
SPONSOR
OF THE WEEK**





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Give a Gift for Life

Give a Gift for Life this Advent season to help Gabriel Project fund a mother's maternity care. Please take home a pre-addressed envelope from our "Gift for Life Christmas Tree"



and consider mailing in a tax-deductible donation to Gabriel Project/Project Rachel of Arlington. Or donate online at www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife. One grateful mother wrote, "Gabriel Project made a huge difference in my life. You always kept me in prayer and helped me even without knowing me. I was at peace knowing I was in God's hands." The "Gift for Life Christmas Tree" will be in the church vestibule from Saturday, Dec 2 through Sunday, Dec 10. Thank you for your generosity during this season of giving!

Observe the Gospel



St. Joseph Parish Men's Society
Herndon, VA

St. Joseph Men's Society - Men helping Men enrich their faith
Questions: sjms20170@gmail.com

Wed Dec 6 7:45 pm Monthly Meeting - 3 Reading Meeting Rm 214/215

A review, reflection and discussion in preparation for the Dec 10th Gospel.

7:00 pm Adoration in Church (optional)
7:35 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet in Rm 214/215 (optional)
7:45 pm Meeting start
8:30 pm Social (dry, cold water, hot tea & soda bread)

Tuesday Mornings, 7 am, upper room

Men of the Parish gather to pray and prepare for the coming week's Gospel.

St Lucy Project Collection Results World Day of the Poor



We wish to thank the people of St. Joseph who generously donated food and monetary donations for the St Lucy Project on November 18-19. Your charity resulted in collecting 11,242 pounds of food, (almost 6 tons), \$4000 in cash and checks and \$75 in grocery gift cards. We also wish to thank the volunteers from the Men's Society and the Knights of

Columbus who gave of their time to help make this contribution possible. Collectively these donations and efforts will help give comfort to our food-challenged brothers and sisters in our diocese.

LINK - Holiday Food Collection - For local people in need - Donate Food December 9-10 after all Masses.

Suggested non-perishable food items regularly needed include: Canned Meats and Tuna, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti, Macaroni and other pastas, Canned Fruits, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Cereal, Rice, Canned Vegetables (corn, potatoes, carrots), Canned Juices, Canned or Powdered Milk, and Soups.

Additionally, toilet paper and personal hygiene products such as toothpaste and soap are always needed.

"He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor." Proverbs

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24

Regular Masses - 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. Spanish

Masses for Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Mass in Parish Hall
4:00 p.m. Mass in Church
6:00 p.m.; 8:00 p.m.;

10:00 p.m. (Bi-Lingual)

Fr. James & Fr. Alberto Concelebrating

Masses for Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2017

8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; Noon;
3:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

Sunday, New Year's Eve December 31, 2017

7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m.,
Spanish 3:30 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Feast of the Solemnity of Mary
the Holy Mother of God

Monday, New Year's Day, January 1, 2017

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation This Year)

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary
The Holy Mother of God
8:00 a.m.