

"THE WINDING ROADS SHALL BE
MADE STRAIGHT, AND THE
ROUGH WAYS MADE SMOOTH..."



A Word from the Heart

—Fr. Patrick Gonyeau

What Did John Say?

As we come to the Second Sunday of Advent, we hear in the Gospel of Luke a quite famous verse of scripture, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (Lk 3:4 & Is 40:3) In this Advent season we can hear these famous words and instantly think of the various ways that we each interpret what it is to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. More prayer, maybe some fasting, perhaps some almsgiving and a litany of other great ideas indeed! Yet, these words follow a very particular pronouncement of John the Baptist that give the words the fullness of their effect when read in context. Here goes:

The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God".

(Lk 3:2-6)

We see that the "the word of God came to John" and then, John, moved by God, began to deliver a message. He went "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Moved by God, John went and began to proclaim the time to turn away from sin had definitively come for the Lord was coming. He was divinely inspired to perform a ceremonial washing (a baptism for the repentance of sin) that people chose to do, a physical action matching the intention of their hearts and the words of their lips that effectively said, *God I'm done with sin in my life, I'm sorry and I'm done with it and I'm ready for you!* John's baptism didn't include the Trinitarian formula that Jesus gave his disciples in Matthew 28, the story of salvation wasn't there yet...but John's baptism was a new beginning nonetheless as people turned away from sin and towards God in hopeful anticipation of His coming.

Corpus Christi Parish

"Building the Body of Christ"



We strive to radiate
the presence of Jesus Christ
in our parish and community
and invite others to join us
on our journey.



December 5, 2021

Luke explains that John's ministry was the fulfillment of a prophecy given by Isaiah; that the people were to "prepare the way of the Lord" into their lives! Luke's connection of John's ministry to Isaiah's prophecy clearly indicates what preparation was needed in the lives of those preparing to welcome the Lord: repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The "valleys" to be filled were the places where God's light didn't shine! The mountains to be moved were the obstacles to living a life in God's love! The winding roads were the ones no longer worth traveling outside of God's life-direction enhancing love! The rough ways that led to rough lives were to be abandoned! And how? By experiencing a change of heart and mind (which is the essence of repentance) via turning away from sin and lifeless ways, and towards God. At this point I'd like to alley-oop it over to Pat Mueller's article in this week's bulletin on the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It truly is an experience of God's tender loving mercy, healing us and preparing us for new life! ☺

Blessings on your Advent Journey!

Fr. Patrick

This Wednesday, December 8th
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses for this Holy Day
will be celebrated at

St. Scholastica

(8201 W. Outer Drive
Detroit MI 48219)

at 12:05 pm and 7:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us!



Corpus Christi Catholic Church

19800 Pembroke Ave
Detroit MI 48219-2145
313-537-5770

www.corpuschristi-detroit.org

Fr. Patrick Gonyeau, Administrator
Patrick.Gonyeau@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Deacon Paul Mueller, Pastoral Associate
Paul.Mueller@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Deacon Aaron Poyer
Aaron.Poyer@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Carolyn Wilson, Director of Operations
Carolyn.Wilson@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Cathy Long, Finance/Faith/Website Support
Catherine.Long@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Shanita Brown, Bookkeeper
Shanita.Brown@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Gregory Spight, Maintenance Coordinator
Gregory.Spight@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Sr. Therese MacKinnon, Discipleship Formation Director
Therese.MacKinnon@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Curtis Simpson Jr., Evangelical Charity Director
Curtis.SimpsonJr@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Mary Davis, Events Coordinator
Mary.Davis@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Marilyn Webb, Youth Minister
Marilyn.Webb@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Michelle Baines, Music Ministry
Michelle.Baines@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Fannie Larkins, Music Ministry
Fannie.Larkins@corpuschristi-detroit.org

Christeena Livingston-Long, Parish Council President
christeena04@gmail.com

Parish Office Hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9 am - 1 pm

Saturday Mass 4 pm

Sunday Masses 9 am and 11am

Daily / Holy Day Masses See weekly parish schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation: **Saturdays, 1–3:45 pm;** during Penance services; by appointment (call the Parish Office)

Sick Calls/Prayer Requests: Please call the Parish Office to schedule or visit or add someone to parish prayer list

Funerals: Please call the Parish Office before making arrangements with the funeral home

Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the Parish Office for more information

Sacrament of Marriage: Please call the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding date

The Week Ahead



Monday, December 6

8:30 am MASS

7:00 pm Bible Study-Rainbow Room

Tuesday, December 7

8:30 am MASS

10:00 am Pastoral Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am No Mass or Communion Service

12:05 pm Mass—St Scholastica

7:00 pm Mass—St. Scholastica

Thursday, December 9

8:30 am MASS

Friday, December 10

8:30 am MASS

9:30 am Staff Prayer

Saturday, December 11

9:30 am Worship Commission

10:00 am First Reconciliation Prep-Church

1:00 pm CONFESSIONS (to 3:45 pm)

4:00 pm MASS

7:00 pm **VIRTUAL** Parish Christmas Party

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am MASS

9:00 am RCIA

11:00 am MASS

12:25 pm Confirmation Preparation
(Activities Center)

2:00 pm Ladies of St. Peter Claver - virtual

2022 Sunday Missals

As a gift for Welcome Back Weekend which we celebrated the first weekend in October, each household can pick up a 2022 Sunday Missal at the back of church. If you would like more than one Missal for your household, please consider a donation to cover the cost of a missal which is \$5.00. We are expecting some Children's missals to be delivered in the next couple of weeks.

Communion or Bulletins for the Homebound

Please call the Parish Office if you or another parishioner would like to have Communion brought to you/them or a bulletin mailed to you/them.

Have you moved? Or no longer have a land-line and only use you mobile phone?

If so, please let the Parish Office know by filling out a 'Membership Update' form at the back of church and dropping it in the collection basket or by calling or emailing the Office.



December 6-December 12

Monday 8:30 am + Dec. Members of the Broadnax Family
(req by Ollvia Broadnax)

Tuesday 8:30 am Intentions of Corpus Christi Parishioners

Wednesday No Mass or Communion Service

Thursday 8:30 am + Dec Members of our Corpus Christi Family

Friday 8:30 am For those affected by Covid

Saturday 4:00 pm + Jerry O'Neill (req by Elaine O'Neill)

Sunday 9:00am Intentions of Corpus Christi Parishioners
11:00 am + Andrew Vitaly IV (req by Miriam Hudson)



Please Pray for Our Deceased Loved Ones:

+ Sr. Adrienne Schaffer (11/21/2021)
Former Principal of St. Gerard School

Please Remember the Sick in your Prayers.....

Members of our Parish Family...

Mary Davis, Julio Desir, Nancy Loper,
Yvonne Nemeth

Friends and Family of Parishioners...

Richard Butler, Chris Downing, Elizabeth Downing,
Marlene Grant, Robert Jarey, Christopher Johnson,
Wayne Wax

Please Remember the Homebound in your Prayers...

Etta Bagley, Jacqueline Bondenhorn, Beverly Brown-Johnson, Joan Burch, Joseph Cagle, Michelle Cagle, Clairmina Danjou, Anna Dargin, Reginald Dargin, Bernadette Foster, Tom Foster, Sr. Stephanie Holub, Edward Hustoles, Mary Catherine Hustoles, Lucy Lee, Sharon Lewis, Clemencia Massey, Anthony McNeal, Beatrice Neail, Margaret Nielsen, Shirley Oldenburg, John Onwudinjo, Sharon Ortman, Sue Padalino, Milford Raines, Hulda Reed, Zondra Rhim, Juanita Robinson, Isiah Searls, Mary Pat Shelton, Bernice Slaughter, Sue VandenBerg, Irene Williford, Joyce Wilson, Dolores Wodarski, Audrey Zielinski

Sunday Offertory Report

Weekly Budget 2021 – 2022	\$ 8,115.00
Sunday Offerings 11/28/2021	\$ 4,864.00
Shortfall for the Budget Year	\$ 15,919.49

Holy Homework

Take 15 minutes and sit with Jesus and talk about the gift of repentance that leads to a change of heart and mind. Ask the Lord for the grace to be attracted to receiving the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Advent Season. The grace of His healing love is powerful in this Sacrament.

Prepare! Rejoice! Be Hopeful!

-Pat Mueller

Quite likely you have a long checklist of things to do to **prepare** for Christmas, which is now only three weeks away: decorating the Christmas tree, shopping for gifts, arranging for Christmas Dinner. Does your Advent checklist also include “**preparing**, quieting, and disciplining your heart for the full joy of Christmas”? Advent is a time for penance in order to properly **prepare** a place for our Lord to be born into our lives. Is repenting and seeking forgiveness for sin on your list? If not, you might add one of these opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation to your Christmas **preparation** schedule:

Individual Confessions: Saturdays, December 11 and 18 from 1- 3:45 pm

Reconciliation Service with individual confession: Friday evening, December 17 at 7 pm

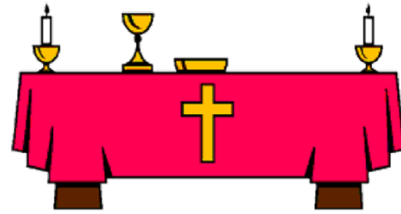
Reconciliation Service with individual confession for Children: Saturday, December 18 at 10:30 am (Adults are welcome to receive the sacrament after the children.)





Readings for the Week of December 5, 2021

Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6
Monday	Saint Nicholas, Bishop Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday	Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
Friday	Our Lady of Loreto Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Saint Damasus I, Pope Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



A Liturgical Moment: Penitential Act

After the Greeting, the Priest and the assembly are invited to pause and reflect upon their sinfulness, asking for God's mercy. In the years prior to the Second Vatican Council, these penitential prayers were said by the priest and altar boy at the foot of the altar. After the Council, it was decided to include a Penitential Act at the beginning of Mass in which all the participants would confess their sins to God. The Act of Penitence contains four parts: an invitation to recall our sinfulness, a period of silent reflection, a common proclamation of sinfulness (either a Confiteor or Kyrie) and the concluding prayer of "absolution" said by the priest. In either of these proclamations of sinfulness, we acknowledge that sin has both a personal and a social dimension. That is, all sin, affects our relationship with God, with others, and with ourselves. Sin is pervasive; but God's mercy is more pervasive and overwhelming. During the Penitential Act, we are invited to recall our sins of the past week and pray for God's mercy. In so doing, we make ourselves better prepared and more receptive to participate in the rest of the Eucharistic sacrifice.

For reflection: Do I truly enter into the Penitential spirit by asking for God's mercy for my sinfulness or has the Penitential Act become merely a rote prayer?

Gospel Weeklies

Gospel weeklies, for this liturgical season, **are available in the back of church for all the young people from preschool to teens.** If you ordered them in September, your child's name is on this issue. We also have a few extra copies available. If you did not order earlier, you can order now. These full color commentaries on the weekly Sunday scriptures are interesting and fun ways to learn about the Bible and what the Catholic Church believes and teaches. There are weekly lessons for the children and a guide book for the parents with helpful hints and the answers to activities. You can also get additional resources and a video on the website: Be sure to pick up the latest edition today.



PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Due to Michigan's high Covid case numbers, this year's Parish Christmas Party will once again be virtual. The party will be held via Zoom on Saturday, December 11 from 7:00-8:30 pm. We will sing some Christmas songs and play some games (for gift card prizes!) and have a special visit from a very special guest. To get the link for the Party, email Mary.Davis@corpuschristi-detroit.org or text your email to 313-506-7049.

Stewardship Thoughts

In today's Scripture readings, both the prophet Baruch and the evangelist St. Luke declare that every valley be filled, every mountain and hill leveled, and all paths made straight in the Lord. St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, urges us, through the love of Jesus, to value only those things that truly matter *so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.* These inspiring texts remind us that, through our Lord and Savior, we can find true fulfillment; reconciliation and healing can happen in the most trying circumstances; and all can find spiritual wholeness. What a beautiful message for faith-filled stewards during this holy Advent season. As we again prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Generations of Faith: Encounter Jesus



Jesus Christ God's Son Savior

Corpus Christi Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24

4:00 pm – Children's Mass
9:00 pm – Christmas Carols
10:00 pm – MASS

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

9:00 am – MASS
11:00 am – MASS

NO SATURDAY 4:00 pm Vigil Mass

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday, December 26

9:00 am – MASS
11:00 am – MASS

Children's Christmas Pageant

We are inviting children who wish to participate in a Christmas nativity play or join the youth choir on Friday, December 24, at the 4:00 p.m. Mass, to contact Holy Nielson, hollydnielsen@gmail.com, 248-719-6575 or Sr. Therese, therese.mackinnon@corpuschristi-detroit.org, 414-801-0100. Anyone who wishes to be part of the youth choir must be fully vaccinated.

KOEZE
ESTABLISHED 1910

It is anticipated that you will be able to pick up your Koeze Nuts orders after all Masses next weekend (12/11 and 12/12) if the delivery arrives as expected.

HELP WANTED: Are you being called?

Sr. Frances Gerhard is seeking administrative assistance with coordinating the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our children. Managing skills and an interest in the spiritual formation of children would be of great value to supporting the efforts of our trained catechists. While catechists work with the children on Sunday mornings, this person would serve approximately 6-8 hours weekly and could be flexible in their time. If interested please contact Sr. Frances Gerhard at fgerhard@sistersofmercy.org or 734-416-6231. In light of Covid Vaccine for children we anticipate being able to resume Catechesis of the Good Shepherd soon.



What better way to **prepare our hearts for the Lord** then

to watch the two excerpts from *The Chosen* that are available through the Corpus Christi website? According to one journalist critic, our Savior, Emmanuel, portrayed in *The Chosen*, is a Jesus we've heard about but rarely seen: a loving, earthy savior who delights in the company of His followers.

"Put simply, *The Chosen* is one of the most engaging Bible-inspired productions I've seen. Surprisingly funny and relatable, we continue watching episode after episode not because we feel obligated to support it as a dutiful Christians, but because it's compelling and hard to stop."

Session Two of Generations of Faith

The leper and the paralytic man are healed by Jesus. This excerpt is followed by a table discussion filmed at Corpus Christi.

Go to the parish website:

clickoncatholic.com or corpuschristi-detroit.org.

Click on the red Generations of Faith button (upper left). There you'll find links to the video, to the handout to print for information and reflection, and to the closing hymn *Every Day God*.

Children and teens

At home activities and videos just for you are on the Corpus Christi website: clickoncatholic.com or corpuschristi-detroit.org. Click on the red **Generations of Faith** button (upper left) to find the links.

Session One: The Wedding Feast from *The Chosen* also followed by a table discussion filmed at Corpus Christi. Click on the red **Generations of Faith** button (upper left). Then click on the black button **"View Previous Sessions"** in the right, middle of the page.

Christmas Flowers

If you wish to dedicate altar flowers "in memory of" or "in honor of" a special person, you may submit the Christmas Flower envelope in the offering basket or to the parish office. Remember your loved ones by having a poinsettia on the altar offered in their memory. Poinsettias will adorn the season. All dedications and donors received by December 14th will be acknowledged in the bulletin.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Next weekend Corpus Christi will be participating in a national collection taken for the Religious Retirement Fund. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please use the envelopes at the back of church and be as generous as you can.

Christian Service News

Happy Advent!!!

This weekend is the second week of the season of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” meaning coming - and this time is about both the coming of Christ at Christmas, as in His historical birthday, and the Second Coming to bring justice and harmony to the world. In this season of Advent before Christmas, we have moved from ordinary times in the liturgy to a time of celebration where we look forward to Christ’s coming. The underlying themes throughout Advent season include: hope, peace, joy and love.



As you know, Corpus Christi Parish does A LOT in Christian Service to echo that theme of bringing hope, peace, joy, love, and I would be remiss by not saying, also bringing JESUS to families whom we serve that are in need. That being said, I am hopeful and prayerful that you will take an envelope from the Advent Giving Tree in the back of Church, and return

it with a gift card (or two, or three, or more...) to Bless the many families we will serve over the Christmas Holiday season.

Gift card ideas include: Target, Walmart, Meijer, and/or Kroger or regular Visa, American Express, etc., all in any denominations. If gift cards are not your thing, then please prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to the Parish using the same green envelopes on the Advent Giving Tree!!!

Church Family, as we wait with high anticipation for the coming of the Lord, let us be obliged to reading God’s word, committed to a life of daily prayer, and open to allowing the Holy Spirit to Bless all that we do and all whom we encounter so that we can invite the world into a beautiful relationship with Christ Jesus!!!

With my sincerest love and gratitude, I thank you in advance for this journey of love that we are all on TOGETHER!!!

-Curtis Simpson, Jr.

Advent, The Lord is Coming

The excitement heightens as the Coming of our Lord approaches. Jesus comes at Christmas and in so many unexpected ways each day. This advent season, let us open our eyes and recognize the manifestation of Jesus in our lives. Jesus comes in the beauty of a freshly snow covered yard, in the joy of a child playing in the snow, in the care someone shows when we are sad, in the smile and wave of a friend. Where will you find Jesus today? Where will you be Jesus for another today?

On the feast of Christ the King we celebrated the Rite of Acceptance at which time we welcomed those adults who are preparing to enter the church and receive the sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil: Pierr Harris, Nikki Hampton, and Dwayne Cook. The Catholic Church has these rites which are an outward sign of the involvement of the whole church community in the lives of people who are celebrating important sacraments in their journey of faith in God.

Young people in our parish who are preparing to receive Confirmation will state their commitment to seriously prepare for the Holy Spirit coming in their lives next Sunday, December 12, at the 11:00 Mass. Let us pray that they remain open to the Spirit’s action in their lives and make service of God’s people an integral part of their lives.

As a church community we celebrate with individuals preparing to receive the sacraments for the first time. On December 18, students in our Reconciliation class will receive God’s forgiveness in the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Let us keep them in prayer as they receive this sacrament and as they continue to prepare to receive the Eucharist next semester.

To help prepare for Jesus’ coming, there are some Sunday Scripture guides for the children, available in the back of church and on our website. Also the Gospel Weeklies and Generations of Faith activities have Advent readings and aids to prepare for the Coming of Our Lord, Jesus.

May everyone have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

-Sister Therese MacKinnon, D.C.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN

Parish Office Hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 am—1:00 pm and by appointment.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please send bulletin articles and any additional information to Carolyn Wilson

(Carolyn.wilson@corpuschristi-detroit.org)

by **9:00 am Wednesdays** for consideration in a Sunday bulletin.