

First Sunday of Advent November 27th, 2022

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Saturday November 26, Vigil of First Sunday of Advent

4:00pm James & Lena Parente Req. Maryann & Peter Giola

Sunday November 27, First Sunday of Advent

8:30am Intentions of All Parishioners

10:30am Joseph Wichrowski Req. Son

Monday November 28, Advent Weekday

8:00am Barbara & George Melrose Req. Jo-Ann & Joe

Tuesday November 29, Advent Weekday

8:00am For All the Faithful Departed

Wednesday November 30, St. Andrew, Apostle

No Mass

Thursday December 1, Advent Weekday

8:00am Agnes Olszewski Req. Family

Friday December 2, Advent Weekday

8:00am Betty Boukus – 6th Anniv. Req. Family

8:30a Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday December 3, St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:00a Edwina Faraci Req. Claudia Isaac & Mary E. Shade Families

Saturday December 3, Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent

4:00pm Toribia Culling & Perpetua Utanes Req. Nanez & Culling Families

Sunday December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

8:30am Intentions of All Parishioners

10:30am Alice Brousseau Req. Family

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Due to an earlier than usual deadline for this week's bulletin, the offertory will be printed

at a later date.

Please use the Donation Boxes at the Entrances of the Church.

Thank You for Your Continuous, Generous Support & May God Bless You!

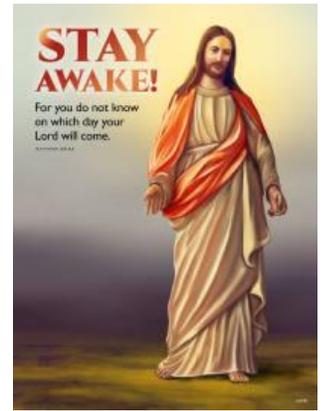


A Thought for the First Sunday of Advent – Year A

On this first Sunday of Advent we are reminded that we do not know the hour or the day. Be prepared.

Scottish Theologian and author William Barclay, 1907 – 1978, told a fable about three apprentice devils who are coming to earth to finish their apprenticeship.

They were talking to Satan, the chief of the devils, about their plans to tempt and ruin humankind.



The first said: *“I will tell them that there is no God.”*

Satan responds: *“That will not delude many, for they know that there is a God.”*

The second said: *“I will tell them that there is no hell.”*

Satan answered: *“You will deceive no one that way. Men know that there is a hell for sin.”*

The third said: *“I will tell them that there is no hurry.”*

“Go” said Satan, *“and you will ruin men by the thousands.”*

Someone once said that the most precarious time in our lives begins when we learn to say **tomorrow**. From that point on we begin to put off important matters. From the moment we learn to say, **“tomorrow”** we tend to live as if we have an unlimited amount of time on this earth.

God Bless, Fr. Ray

Welcome to Our Lady of Mercy!

If you are new to our parish and wish to become a member of OLM, we invite you to introduce yourself to our pastor, Fr. Raymond Smialowski, and to register. Registration can be completed by stopping by the Parish Office, completing a short registration form which can be found by clicking the button **New Here?** At www.olmct.org then click **Welcome!**, or call the Parish Office at 860.747.6825 and we can fill it out with you over the phone. Please return the hard copy to the office by dropping it off at the Parish Office, the collection box, or mailing it to 19 S. Canal St., Plainville.



The Tabernacle Lamp...

is lighted for the Greater Glory of God and in recognition of the Real Presence of Christ. This week the candle is flickering *for the Deceased Members of Lydia & Leo Brousseau & Family.*



The Plainville Food Pantry Collection is next weekend! Please consider donating a nonperishable food item, paper good or personal hygiene product. Thank You!

week at 860.747.6825 to let us know if we should expect your 5- or 6-year-old child next Sunday at the 10:30am Mass.

An Invitation to Joy

Do you want to deepen your faith? Looking for an answer to suffering? He who rose from death wants to reach you, to give purpose and happiness to your life. **Come and listen!**



A catechesis for Adults & Youth is being offered at Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Talks are given on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7 to 8pm in the Parish Center, **through December 9th.** **Even if you can only attend a few of the talks, you will greatly benefit.** Come listen so you can experience that God loves you as you are, and you can announce this good news to those you love. Everyone 13 years and older is invited. For more information, call David Rak at 1.309.232.9175.

Free babysitting provided.

Book of Remembrance

You have a few more days to write the names of deceased loved ones in the Book of Remembrance which has been put out on a stand near the Sanctuary. It will remain displayed until Wednesday. The souls of the Faithful Departed will be remembered at Mass through the month for the rest of November.



Sacrament of Baptism

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism of your child. You may begin preparation even before your child is born. To begin the process, call Sue at 860-747-5451. The date of the Baptism is scheduled after attending the Parent Preparation Program. Please note that Godparents must be confirmed and obtain a *Sponsor Certificate* from their own Catholic parish.



Parish Annual Collection

This Thanksgiving Weekend I would like to take a moment to thank those parish families who have supported the 2022 Parish Annual Collection. Our Lady of Mercy has received \$57,845 from 243 parish



Blessing of Creches

You are invited to bring your creche or just the figure of the Child Jesus for blessing next Sunday, Dec. 11th, at the 10:30am Mass. We would like to gift a simple creche to children 5 and 6 years old. Please call the Parish Office this



Sunday November 27

10:30a AA, Room 103

11:30a Choir Rehearsal, Church

6 – 7:30p Confirmation Class, Timothy Room

Monday November 28

9:30a Legion of Mary, Room 102

6:15 – 7:30p Edge, Timothy Room

6:30 – 8p Scripture Study, Room 102

Tuesday November 29

9a Scripture Study, Timothy Room

4:30 – 6p Catechesis of the Good Shephard, Atrium

4:45 – 6:15p Scouts, Timothy Room

7 – 8p An Invitation to Joy, Parish Center

Wednesday November 30

1 – 2:30p Catechesis of the Good Shephard, Atrium

4 – 8p St. Joseph Basketball, Gym

Thursday December 1

4 – 8p St. Joseph Basketball, Gym

4:30 – 6p Catechesis of the Good Shephard, Atrium

6:15 – 7:15p RCIC, Atrium

7p Prayer & Worship Committee Meeting, Room 102

Friday December 2

7p An Invitation to Joy, Gym

Saturday December 3

6 – 8p Teen Night, Gym

7p AA, Room 103

Sunday December 4

9a – 5p Legion of Mary, Gym

10:30a AA, Room 103

11:30a Choir Rehearsal, Church

families as of the 10th of November. This is a tremendous response! Thank you for sharing your gifts – the gifts Our Lord provides – with Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

Father Smialowski

St Joseph Cemetery

The water has been turned off for the season and the lines have been blown out so that water will not freeze in the lines. It will be turned on next May in time for Mother's Day.

Winter decorations are permitted ONLY during the Holiday period between Now and March 30th, and are restricted to the ten-inch area in front of the



markers. Such decorations may consist of wreaths, artificial flowers or evergreen boughs placed in flower boxes. Weather permitting, the Spring "Clean Up" will be initiated as soon as conditions allow after March 30th. No artificial flowers or plants are permitted from May 1st to November 14th. Decorations will not be retained by the cemetery. If you wish to retain any of the winter decorations, you must remove them prior to March 30th. Artificial flowers must be removed by May 1st before they are disposed of.

You may have a cemetery box placed on a flat marker from now until March 30th.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we supported those on the margins who live in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Click



"How to www.usccb.org/nationalcollections Visit Give" under "Resources."



Help Plan Christmas Decorations

Members of the Altar Society and all parishioners interested in helping plan the decorating of the church for Christmas are invited to meet for a brief meeting in the church on Saturday, Dec. 10th, at 8:45am.

Giving Tree

Please return all gifts by **Monday, December 5th**. You may return items under **the Tree or at the Parish Office**. This



year we are "Giving" to Catholic Worker, Apple

Rehab, St. Mary's Parish, Veterans' Home, Birthright, St. Vincent de Paul, & Plainville Senior Center. Please check the tag you choose off of the tree to see if you should wrap the gift. If there is no mention of wrapping, please DO NOT wrap the gift.

Thank you for your generosity as always!

Christmas Creche

During Advent we will gradually prepare our Christmas Creche. Please help us fill the Creche with straw. Every time you are at Mass, you are invited to put some straw into the



Creche symbolizing ways in which you are preparing for Christmas. Each piece of straw might symbolize a way in which you are welcoming Christ into your life through acts of kindness, love, and charity.

Christmas Countdown

This time of the year seems to fly by, doesn't it? So much to do, so little time! But, wouldn't it be nice to just stop for an hour or so to breathe? This is your chance!

Saturday, Dec. 10th, we are offering an Intergenerational Advent Program.

Intergenerational: All ages, all together. Well, partially. We will gather as a large group for a welcome/intro and then breakout into more age-appropriate groupings.

Advent: A season in the Church that leads up to Christmas; a time to step back from the hustle and bustle and think about the Gift we are about to receive at Christmas. The Gift of Jesus... Savior, Lord, Prince of Peace, Comforter. Can you think of a better gift? (Sure beats socks and toys! This is an eternal gift!)

Program: Activity stations for households with young children; a game, meditation activity, and reflection for teens and adults. Something for everyone.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 10th, Time: 6:30- 8pm.

Place: OLM Parish Center

Cost of the evening is \$6 per household. Registration information and form was inserted in the bulletin last weekend. If you need a



registration form, please visit the Parish Office to pick one up. You may also register via online portal with this QR code. Deadline for registration is Dec. 1.

See Sue Dziura or call the Parish Office at 860.747.6825 for more information.

Come away and rest awhile.

Reflection on the First Sunday of Advent

Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims

not to know the day or the hour when He will come again.

He occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see [Matthew 5:34](#); [23:9](#); [Luke 14:26](#)).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see [Matthew 4:16](#); [John 1:9](#); [8:12](#)). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see [Revelation 22:5](#)).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see [Ephesians 5:8](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:5-7](#)). It is time we start living like it—throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.



As we sing in today's

Psalm, let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord. Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Taken from: <https://stpaulcenter.com/audio/sunday-bible-reflections/in-a-dark-hour-scott-hahn-reflects-on-the-first-sunday-in-advent/>