



CHRIST

The KING

CATHOLIC
CHURCH

P. O. Box 899
Pine Mountain, GA 31822
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www.christthekingpinemountain.org

Dec. 16-29, 2017

Rev. Fr. John R. Madden, Pastor
CAPT. CHC. USN (Ret.)

Pastoral Center-706-663-0090
Rectory- 706-663-7365

Parish Office - 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
6700 GA Highway 354
Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Phone Number: 706-663-0090

Office Manager:	Bill McClarnon
Bookkeeper:	Roy Mueller
Outreach Ministry:	Tom McCann
Director of Religious Ed.:	Kelly Brooks
Secretary:	Lorrie Taylor

Masses

Saturday 6:00 p.m.
Sunday..... 10:30 a.m.
Tues-Weds-Thurs-Fri.9:30 a.m.
(Except 1st Friday of the Month).....7:00 p.m. only

Confession..... Saturdays, 5:00-5:30 p.m.
Baptisms.....upon Request
Marriages.....Call the Office

Educational Programs

Faith Formation Classes Sunday mornings, follows
the Harris County School Schedule
Catholic Inquiry Class (RCIA) -contact Neal Garner
for more information ~ Nealgarn@bellsouth.net



*How did Advent
begin? Why is it
important today?*

About 1700 years ago, in countries called today Spain and France, the Christian Church used the weeks before Epiphany to prepare for the baptism of new believers, who spent these weeks in penance and reflection. The tradition gradually spread, reaching Rome in the sixth century, where this became also a preparation for Christmas with less emphasis on penance and fasting. The focus of Christ's "coming," however, was on His **second** coming, not so much on His birth. Even when, many centuries later, the Church began to link Advent to Christ's birth, that did not supplant the older sense – His **Second Coming**. Today the Church celebrates both, with sobering apocalyptic scriptures about His Second Coming, John's trumpeting exhortations and the angel's announcements of His birth, which set our blood rushing with excitement! **We**, too, in our time, can join the prophets and the angels, as believers have done through the centuries, to proclaim Christ! We can bow our heads, mourn our hardness of heart, hope and rejoice in the cry, **"O come, o come, Emmanuel."**

--from, in part, "Arlington Catholic Herald," Fr. William Saunders; & "Christianity Today," Chris Armstrong



Christmas Mass Schedule:

Sunday Morning:
regular Mass at 10:30
a.m.

Sunday evening, Christmas Eve:

Children's Mass at 6:00 p.m.

And

Midnight Mass begins with a Musical
Prelude from the choir at 11:45 p.m.

Monday Morning, Christmas Day:

Mass at 10:30 a.m.



The children of
Christ the King's
faith formation
classes and the
Youth Group and
the high school

students will all come together for the 6:00
Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. They
will dramatize the Gospel, (which is always
a joy to see) and lead all lay aspects of the
Mass, from ushering, lecturing, and gift
bearing. It is always a special Mass!



**Solemnity of Mary
the Holy Mother of
God, January 1st,
2018.**

Mass is at 10:30 A.M.

We celebrated the liturgical feast of the
Blessed Virgin Mary on January 1st, which
is the Octave of Christmas. Only Christmas
and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave,
which is an eight day extension of the feast.
The honoring of Mary as the Mother of God
can be traced back to the Council of
Ephesus in 431. By the 7th century,
January 1st was observed as a celebration of
the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



**Special
Confession Time
for Saturday
December 23,
Only.**

For those who were unable to take
advantage of the Deanery Penance Service
last Monday, Father Madden will be
available from 4:30-5:30 on Saturday
December 23rd.

Christmas and Year End Giving, Your Christmas Checklist:

- Do you have us on your Christmas list?
- All gifts made on or before December 31 are tax deductible for this tax year.
- Gifts of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) are some of the best gifts to make whether they have appreciated or depreciated in value.
- A charitable contribution may just be the right decision to enable you to itemize your taxes, if you don't already.
- Potential tax law changes may make a gift this year even better than next year
- We are all given just a few short years to "Build up the Kingdom." Sharing your blessings through a generous gift at Christmas will make this world just a little bit better because you made a difference while you were here. You made a Catholic Gift of Faith. Remember, God is never outdone in His generosity.



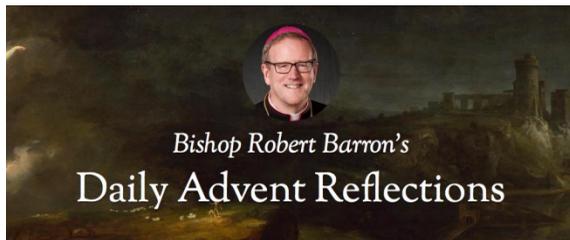
.....There Will Be a Special Surprise for the Young Children Immediately After the Children's 6:00 p.m.

Mass on Christmas Eve!



Reminder! Children's Mass: All children who are participating in the children's Mass should report to the youth room at 5:15 on Dec. 24th to get dressed for their part and run through the songs and re-enactment one more time before mass.

Faith Formation: Classes will resume on January 7th at 9:15.



Be sure to check out our church's website at www.christthekingpinemountain.org for your Daily Advent Reflections from Bishop Robert Barron. Begins the 1st Sunday of Advent!

**The 13th
Annual
Deimel
Legacy Ball**



is Sat., Jan. 27, 2018, beginning at 6 p.m., at RiverMill Event Centre. The event is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship among parishioners while supporting a wonderful cause: **Catholic education in Columbus, Georgia!** The Deimel Legacy Ball will be hosted by Diocese of Savannah Bishop Gregory Hartmayer, and feature cocktails, dinner and dancing. Visit stannecsg.com/Deimel-Ball to make event reservations for \$75 per person until Dec. 31. Reservations will cost \$100 per person beginning Jan. 1.

From the Vocations Office:

The Vocation Office will sponsor a discernment retreat for men ages 18-40 from Friday, December 29th to Saturday, December 30th at Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge in Helena, GA (south of Dublin). Please register at www.diosav.org/vocations and click on the retreat icon. There is no cost for the retreat and registration will close Christmas day.



**Gold & Silver
Wedding Jubilee
Anniversary Mass.**

The Most Reverend Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv., Bishop of Savannah, invites all couples celebrating their Silver or Gold (25th or 50th) Wedding Anniversaries in 2018 to join him celebrating at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Savannah, GA on Sunday, February 11, 2018.

Those wishing to attend should contact the parish office or register online at <https://www.diosav.org/familylife-marriage-jubilee> by December 18, 2017 in order to receive a formal invitation with the detailed information. Questions? Contact the Diocesan Office of Family Life, @ 912-201-4068



**DECEMBER 25,
SPECIAL COLLECTION
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
PLEASE COME PREPARED TO
GIVE GENEROUSLY AND
SUPPORT OUR CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS.**



How Did It Begin?

Perhaps no Catholic Liturgy has spread in today's Christian Churches as much as our ancient liturgical season of Advent. We find Advent not only in the liturgical Protestant Churches, but evangelicals, as well. We find even secular celebration of Advent today. Where did this come from, and what does it mean? Why is this important for us as Catholics today?

It is impossible to determine precisely the earliest dating of Advent. What we do know is that the early Christian Church in Gaul and Hispania (France and Spain today) set aside a period of two to four weeks before Epiphany, when new converts were baptized into the Church, for fasting, prayer and penance. The first written reference we can find to this period comes from the Council of Saragossa (AD 380) in Spain. By that time the date of December 25 had been set as Christmas by Pope Julius I (in 350); but the idea of Christ's birth into this world was not the idea of Advent. This was, rather, a time to prepare for Christ's return, his Second Coming to our world. While there was no obligation to observe the Advent season, the faithful were encouraged to fast, pray, and repent, to make ready for Christ's return. Gradually, by

degrees, Advent acquired the force of sacred law, and began to focus on Christmas, also, and celebrating the coming of Christ into our world. The custom of fasting fell away, especially among the laity; but although fasting was finally abolished, Advent was always, and is still, a time of penitence, prayer and charity.

Today the Church separates the first half of Advent to focus on the Second Coming of Christ, with dramatic, sobering apocalyptic passages of our Lord's return and judgment; and the second half, with focus on the birth of Jesus in our world. Our readings move from Old Testament passages foretelling the birth of the Messiah to the trumpeting exhortations of John the Baptist and the beautiful story of the Nativity.

There was plenty of notice for Christ's coming. Prophets and angels proclaimed His birth! Now we, too, can join this cloud of witnesses, stretching back over many centuries, in the same proclamation. Jesus has come to us! He lives in our hearts, and we respond as believers have done on every Advent since the tradition began nearly 2,000 years ago! We bow our heads and prepare our hearts to receive Him, who is always near but can seem distant in the busy tasks of the season. We mourn our hardness of heart; we hope in His grace; and we rejoice that in answer to our cry, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," He came, and He still comes today.

Upcoming Scripture:

December 24, 2017, Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16, ~ Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29, ~ Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

December 25, 2017, The Nativity of Our Lord:

Isaiah 9:1-6, ~ Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13, ~ Titus 2:11-14, ~ Luke 2:1-14

December 31, 2017, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph:

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3, ~ Psalm 105:

January 1, 2018, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God:

Numbers 6:22-27, ~ Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 06, 08, ~ Galatians 4:4-7, ~ Luke 2:16-21

Calendar of Events:

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings @ 9:30 a.m. (Unless it is the First Friday of the Month, then Mass is at 7:00 p.m. **only**).

Saturday, December 23, 2017:

Extended Time for Confessions this Saturday Only from 4:30-5:30.

Monday, January 1, 2018, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:

Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 27, 2018, Deimal Ball:

6:00 p.m. River Mill Event Center, Columbus, GA

Sunday, February 11, 2018, Gold and Silver Wedding Mass

St. John's Cathedral in Savannah