

Pastor's Corner, October 13-14, 2018 Bulletin

Anticipating Advent

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas,” the holiday song goes. How true that is at this time of year. Christmas is over two months away, but stores have been decorated and stocked for Christmas for a while, and Christmas catalogs are out in full force. How easy to get swept up in the commercial celebration of Christmas and miss the spiritual meaning of the season!

The Church gives us the liturgical season of Advent to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas. Advent is a roughly four-week time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ becoming human 2,000 years ago and to anticipate His second coming at the end of time. Advent is a time for reflection and interior preparation for a deeper indwelling of Jesus. We will have a number of opportunities at St. Francis to enter into the spirit of Advent.

Advent Wreaths. At masses on October 13-14, the Daughters of Isabella will take pre-orders for fresh Advent wreaths. An in-home Advent wreath is a great way to keep a household’s focus on Advent. The wreaths come with the four traditional Advent candles and a meditation book. Consider ordering a wreath for your home.

Bible Study. A six-week Parish Bible Study will begin in the last week of October and conclude in the first week of Advent. The Bible Study will focus on the Old Testament Books of Jonah and Ruth. There will be four study groups meeting at different times and locations during the week. Details will follow. Consider the study of scripture as a way to engage Advent.

Advent Reflection Books and Calendars. At masses on November 30-December 1, we will give out Advent Meditation Books for your personal scripture reflection and spiritual preparation for Christmas. We will distribute Advent Countdown calendars to youth.

Advent Morning of Reflection. There will be an Advent Morning of Reflection on Saturday, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception from 8 am to 12 noon in church on the theme, “Being Reflective like Mary in the Martha-paced Season of Advent.” We will have mass, talks, quiet reflection time, the sacrament of reconciliation, and refreshments. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the morning of reflection.

Christmas will be more spiritually rich and less commercial if we prepare well in Advent. May we do our part to experience the Lord’s grace.

God bless,
Fr. Joe