

St. Joseph Catholic Church
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Frist Sunday of Advent A 11.27.2016
Christ the King Feast

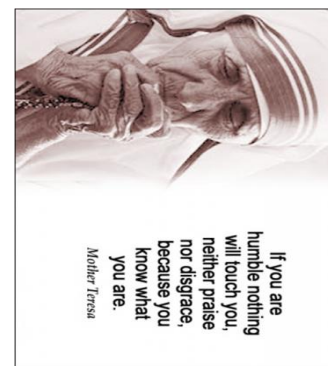
	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$616.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

When you speak life-giving words to someone, you essentially give them permission to live out those positive affirmations. Your kind words can become a self-fulfilling prophecy for the recipient.



Announcements

- Dec 4:** Religious Ed 11:30 – 2:30 PM.
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- Dec 4** Youth Group 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
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- Dec 8** 7:00 PM Holy Day: Immaculate Conception
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- Dec 10** Cookie Bazaar PLEASE BAKE ☺ Proceeds to replace lights in hall and smoke detectors in building.
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- Dec 11** Fr. Tom In Kotz. Fr. Jay in Nome to celebrate Mass.
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- Dec 14** Kotz Selection committee to choose 3 architects. January to finalize architect choice.
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Mercy takes us to the heart of the Gospel. It urges us to give up habits and practices which are obstacles to serving Christ in his Kingdom. Mercy urges us to orient ourselves to Jesus the humble babe in the manger. Mercy makes us submit not to the precarious, changing powers of every age, but to the presence of the All Powerful God, Who humbles Himself so that we can be exalted!



Humility Brings Hope!

The average American checks their phone more than 150 times a day.

Can you believe that?

Our culture's obsession with technology affects our ability to have any sense of balance in our lives. Nonstop screen time, updates, messages, news alerts, and breaking stories which we can do little about, takes our attention away from the important people in our lives. With the Holidays here, our mobile devices will undoubtedly threaten to steal precious time we could be giving to our families and to our faith!

If we don't figure out how to put our phones down, we are going to know everything about everyone else's lives but totally miss out on lives of those who should matter to us most.

Try something that actually helps with this bad habit of checking your phone repeatedly. It's not complicated!.

It's just a simple question.

Is this phone more important than the person I am with right now?

This question put things into perspective. It empowers us to put down the phone when with family, friends, or our faith.

Mindlessly people scroll over their Twitter, emails, Facebook, and Games. Ignoring spouses, friends, and even God's grace.

Advent is a time to encounter God.

Put the phone down.

- Only use your phone when scheduled!
- Make time to pray daily (15 minutes)
- Make time Talk with family and friends!

The Holydays are about sharing love. Be present to those you love!

Christ the New Born King!

"The people stood by, watching" (Lk 23:35): No one says a word, no one draws closer. They keep their distance, just to see what is happening. They merely watched Him die!

They are the same people who previously pressed in on Jesus when they needed something. Now when He needs help, they stand apart. How Ironic!

Given the circumstances of our lives and our unfulfilled expectations, we too can be tempted to keep our distance from Jesus, not accept completely the scandal of his life and love, which unsettles and disturbs us. We prefer to remain at the window, to stand apart, rather than draw near and be with him.

Advent is the time to draw near!

Advent is the time we prepare to embrace both the New Born King and Christ the King Crucified. We embrace Jesus as a child and we embrace his crucified body. They are one in the same

Advent is tangible love. We embrace a baby being born. We are not afraid to be involved with his life, especially as a baby. That is why he comes to use as a child so we will embrace him and be with Him throughout his life. Hence, "What does his love ask of me? What answer am I giving Jesus with my life? We cannot be afraid to love Jesus even when people mock us for being Christian, for being different!

Many people mock Jesus. They provoke and tempt Him as the devil did at the beginning of the Gospel (Lk 4:1). The temptation then and now is to give up living as God wills, but to reign according to the world's ways.

People don't want salvation; they want a show -- a display of dazzle. "Put on a show of power and fame to regain his popularity!" They shout on Good Friday, "Come down from the cross!" "Save yourself!" Show your power and superiority!

When confronted with this attack on his way of loving. Jesus does not speak. He does not react. He does not defend Himself. He does not try to convince them. He does not mount a defense of his kingship. He chooses to love; He forgives. He sacrifices. He gives his life for yours.

Advent recognizes the visitation of our God. He comes to establish a new world order. Not one of pomp, power, and politics but one of forgiveness and healing. One of humility through humiliation!

Christians are to be different. We are different when we live not by the temptations of popularity and power, but by humility and sacrifice.

We live like Jesus: simple, humble, and holy for we await the coming of our Saviour.

Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Nov 28	5:30 PM	Nome			Monica Rezac	
Tue Nov 29	5:30 PM	Nome			Healing of Sick	
Wed Nov 30	5:30 PM	Nome	St. Andrew		Healing of Sick	
Thu Dec 1	5:30 PM	Nome			Healing of Sick	
Fri Dec 2	*2:30 PM	Nome			KNOM Donors	
Sat Dec 3	5:30 PM	Nome	2 nd Advent	Betsy Brennan	Poor Souls	
Sun Dec 4	10:30 AM	Nome	2 nd Advent	G. Froehle	St. Jude	

A sincere, meaningful and well-deserved compliment from you will long outlive anything you could buy in the store. It really is the gift that keeps on giving!

The Meaning of the ADVENT WREATH



Symbol

Circle
Evergreen Wreath
Candle
4x Candles
3x Purple
1x Rose (Pink)

Meaning

Eternity of God
Life, Immortality
Jesus is the light of the world.
Four weeks of Advent
Purple = prayer, penance, & preparation
Rose = Rejoicing

Hopelessness strikes everyone. Evil pervades and taints the hearts to see only darkness and desolation. Doomed by the despair of depression people turn to evil, mental, emotional and physical, to comfort and console their hopelessness.

Yet, is there hope? Is there light to come and dispel the darkness? Many dig in their heels and pull against the light. They don't want light, they prefer their darkness for it covers their sinfulness. It hides their ugliness. Like phantoms, people hide in the bowels of their sin, afraid of the sight, stench, and shame of their immorality. They torture themselves seeing glimpses of hope and rejecting the light as mere shadows and spirits. They infect themselves with feelings and thoughts and attitudes that blind their sight; devastate their strength, and humiliate their conscience declaring, I am worthless, a wretch, a whore.

Satan teaches us to think this way. We are idolaters, adulterers, and blasphemers. We are forsaken, deserted, and most importantly unredeemable. Discarded, we distract ourselves with gizmos and gadgets. We play games and pranks. We live a superficial lifestyle waiting to be dazzled by the next display. We are phony, fake, and frivolous. But we see no reason to change. Life is a screen and soon the scene will change and we will disappear. Our lives are fake there are no consequences.

We live from the outside-in – not the inside -out. That is why we cannot believe in a God Who would send his Son into our world to cleanse us of our stench; purify our infected wounds, and show us the dignity that dwells within.

Jesus is King! But He is not a king that demands submission of his subjects; but a King who sacrifices Himself for the glory, honor, and dignity of each person. He personalizes us; He makes us a person – not an object. He dignifies us; He makes us divine – not adulterous. He transforms us; He makes us whole for we are healed by his stripes. He reveals that life is to be lived inside out – not outside in, for He sees beauty within our hearts despite the ugliness we may feel on the outside. He adopts us into his brotherhood by believing in us and making us his sons and daughters.

That is what a Father does. He sees our beauty and removes the badness. This idea of Fatherhood so foreign to most today is the heart of Christmass. Christmass is family – not our human family – but the family of God. We are God's children!

A spirituality which forgets God as all powerful and Creator is not acceptable. That is how we end up worshipping earthly powers, or ourselves usurping the place of God, even to the point of claiming an unlimited right to trample his creation underfoot. The best way to restore men and women to their rightful place, putting an end to their claim to absolute dominion over the earth, is to speak once more of the figure of a Father who creates and who alone owns the world. Otherwise, human beings will always try to impose their own laws and interests on reality. (Pope Francis Laudato Si 75).

This is hope, knowing that no matter what we have done, no matter what we look like, no matter who has shamed us, Jesus is there. He is our light. He is our hope.

Our God is God Who believes in us unconditionally. He believes in us beyond any merits we have because what we lack He will provide. We are empowered by the God of the universe Who made us not to waste our lives but to worship:

The designer and maker of the earth who established it, Not as an empty waste: did he create it, but designing it to be lived in. I have not spoken in secret from some place in the land of darkness, I have not said to the descendants of Jacob, "Look for me in an empty waste." I promise justice, I declare what is right. Come and assemble, gather together, you fugitives from among the nations! They are without knowledge who bear wooden idols: and pray to gods that cannot save. Come close and declare; let them take counsel together: Who announced this from the beginning, declared it from of old? Was it not I, the LORD, besides whom there is no other God? There is no just and saving God but me. Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other! (Is 45:18 – 27).

We are to turn our fear into trust; our sin into sanctity; our humiliation into hope. But we turn not out of force, but out of hope knowing that He is not a God of condemnation, but the Father of Mercy Who offers us hope.

What do you hope for this Christmass?

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

Occasionally He minimizes statements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss. His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance.

Advent means He is present and Advent demands that we be ready for Him—spiritually, morally, and emotionally. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah, or as a babe in a manger.

Do we miss the coming of Jesus in our daily lives? Do we pray? If we don't pray daily we miss for his Real Presence.

Paul compares the present age to the darkness of 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 ([Matt 4:16](#); [John 1:9](#); [8:12](#)). Jesus is the true light, the life of the world and His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah. When attending Mass, Sunday and daily, we encounter the light of Jesus.

We come to Church to worship and seek wisdom. From the Church goes forth His Word which is the light of the Lord that instructs us so that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more ([Rev 22:5](#)).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day ([Eph 5:8](#); [1 Thess 5:5-7](#)). It is time we start living like it—throw off the fruitless works of darkness, the desires of the worldly, the lustful, and walk by the light of His grace.

We come late to this New Advent. Yet, we begin again in the Eucharist knowing that the Babe Born in the Manger in Bethlehem is present in our tabernacle. We, as the shepherds came to worship, come during Advent to worship not a newborn king, but the Resurrected King Who dispels the darkness of sin and death.

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.