



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

100 WEST KING PLACE, P.O. BOX 1010, NOME, AK 99762.
EMAIL: STJOSEPH@CBNA.ORG, WEB: WALASKACATHOLIC.ORG

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 2, 2018

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR: REV. KUMAR PASALA
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HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday
to Wednesday - 5:40pm - Rosary
- 6:00pm - Mass

Thursday - 3:00pm - Mass at AMCC

Friday - 3:00pm - Mass at QCC

Saturday - 4:30pm - Confessions
- 5:00pm - Rosary
- 5:30pm - Mass

Sunday - 10:30am - Mass

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT OLD ST. JOE'S



MASS SCHEDULE

Begin with Carols - @ 8:30pm
Christmas Eve Mass - @ 9:00pm
Christmas Day Mass - @ 10:30am

READERS AND EM'S FOR DECEMBER

Saturday December 1

5:30 Lector Elsa Bronson

Sunday December 2

10:30 Lector Nathan & Kathryn McTigue
EMHC Megan Mackiernan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Religious Education Classes for December are 2nd, 9th and 16th after the 10:30am Mass.
2. This year Cookie Bazaar is on 15th of December from 11am to 1pm. Caroline needs volunteers to help bake the cookies.
3. Lectors Work books for 2019 are on the back table with the Signup Sheet, Please take your copy.
4. Signup for Lectors and EMHC
5. Volunteers needed to shovel snow.
Please collect the Word Among Us Booklet from the back table to prepare spiritually during this Advent for Christmas.
6. Reconciliation Service in lieu of preparing for the Birth of Christ in our hearts is on the Feast day of Immaculate Conception 8th of December from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Second Sunday of Advent Mass follows at 5:30pm.
7. Volunteers needed to set up Crib/Manger after the 10:30am Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent on 16th of December.
8. Volunteers needed to make arrangements for the Christmas Celebrations at Old St. Joe's after the 10:30 am Mass on 23rd, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

SUNDAY CONNECTION

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or any number of other concerns. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations. Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives.

As you gather as a family, recall the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Observe that today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year. During the season of Advent, our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us as we prepare for Jesus' coming, at his birth and at the end of time. Read today's Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36. Jesus describes signs that may disturb many people, but he says that these should not to disturb his disciples. Why? (because these signs indicate that redemption is near) What does Jesus say that his disciples should do? (Be vigilant and pray for strength.) At this start of the new Church year, consider as a family what "Advent resolutions" your family might make to help you stay focused so that you will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Pray together for God's help in following through on these resolutions. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 25.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His second coming at the end of time. Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

First We Fast, Then We Feast

Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. Sadly, Advent today has supplanted by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by Christmas Day, many people no longer enjoy the feast.

The Symbols of Advent

In its symbolism, the Church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday when priests can wear rose-colored vestments.

The Advent Wreath

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent wreath, a custom which originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles(three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the center), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. (The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.)

PARISH STAFF

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