



# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

100 WEST KING PLACE, P.O. BOX 1010, NOME, AK 99762.  
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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 16, 2018

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR: REV. KUMAR PASALA  
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### HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

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

**Sunday** - 10:30am - Mass

### WEEK DAYS

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

**Thursday** - 3:00pm - Mass at AMCC

**Friday** - 3:00pm - Mass at QCC

### 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 15

5:30 Lector Sandi Nahriri  
EMHC Sandi Nahriri

#### Sunday December 16

10:30 Lector Nathan & Kathryn McTigue  
EMHC Volunteers Needed

#### Saturday December 22

5:30 Lector Betsy Brennan  
EMHC Volunteers Needed

#### Sunday December 23

10:30 Lector Sylvia Paniataaq  
EMHC Volunteers Needed

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Religious Education Classes for December are 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30am Mass.
2. Lectors Work books for 2019 are on the back table with the Signup Sheet, Please take your copy.
3. Signup for Lectors and EMHC
4. Volunteers needed to shovel snow.
5. Volunteers needed to set up Crib/Manger after the 10:30am Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent on 16<sup>th</sup> of December.
6. Volunteers needed to make arrangements for the Christmas Celebrations at Old St. Joe's after the 10:30 am Mass on 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

# Please collect the Word Among Us Booklet from the back table in the hall to spiritually prepare your hearts for the birth of Christ.

## SUNDAY CONNECTION



The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath.

## 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

**Megan Mackiernan – Vice President 443-4501**

**Rebecca Callahan – Member 443-7158**

**Patrick Callahan – Member 443-1236**

**Angie Gorn – Member 443-3286**

**Mo Koezuna – Member 304-1492**

**Caroline Proulx – 434-6010 R.E. Director**