

ADVENT

Advent means "Coming". In this Advent season we prepare to celebrate the fact that Jesus has come into our world and lives. As a Church we have celebrated this season of preparation for 14 centuries. During this season when winter can be long and dark, we ready ourselves for the coming of the Son in our darkness. As we move towards the shortest day of light on December 21st and darkness takes hold, we eagerly anticipate that Jesus, The Light of the World, will come to us as a baby on Christmas morn. We look for the light of the baby in the manger to shine on us all.

As we welcome the light of the child into our hearts, we will grow in knowing a friendship which is ever new and which will never end. Through the light of his goodness, we see that as Christ becomes a man he befriends the poor and out-cast, heals the sick and forgives sinners. Ultimately, in the radiance of the Son giving his life away we learn that his light has conquered even our darkest darkness, death. As we live more deeply in the light of his love, we can expect to live in the tension of being partially fulfilled in Christ now and longing for perfect fulfillment in heaven. This tension is good and through it we are encouraged to keep seeking a deeper experience of the light.

All her life long, Mary perfectly followed God. So, when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and asked her to be the mother of God, she said "Yes." She was able to say "Yes" because she was prepared, from the constant practice of her faith, to follow God wherever he might go. She was prepared to trust in the mystery that Christ would be born, live and grow in her. Through her assent, the light of Christ came into the world. If you will, the angel Gabriel comes and asks us this Advent season if we are prepared to let Christ be born, live and grow in each of us. How can we, like Mary, say "yes" so that our hearts and bodies will be full of Jesus for others this Christmas?

The only way The Light of the World can come into the world and truly be the world's light is through our "Yes." As we act upon our belief that Christ wants to be born, live and grow in us, any darkness and unlove can be replaced by the love and light of Christ. How can we say "Yes" by acting in faith so as to let the light of Christ shine in our hearts, families and world? In a family gathering let each member share how they have been touched by the light and love of Christ coming to them through the other family members. Pray together daily whether that happens around the Advent wreath, in the form of every person thanking God for something, or in some other way. Thank and affirm one another. Say "I Love You" to those whom you love. Forgive. Go to daily mass and the sacrament of reconciliation. Make giving outside your family a priority by adopting a less fortunate family and making sure they have a blessed Christmas. Work at a soup kitchen on Christmas Day. The ways to let the light of Christ shine in and through us are countless. Let's just do it!

Second Sunday of Advent

Say more "No's" to yourself and "Yes's" to God,
+Fr. John



Dec 4
"Praise & Worship"
Dec 12
"The Final Four"
Dec 18
Life Teen Mass
Dec 19
Social Service Night
"Fleece Navidad"
Dec 26
Off for Christmas Break
Jan 9
"Preaching and Walking"



Dec 4
"Praise and Worship"
Dec 11
"To Save a Life"
Dec 18
Life Teen Mass
Dec 18
Social Service Night
"Fleece Navidad"
Dec 21
Volunteer at the Grotto
"Festival of Lights"

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Dec 5, 2011

Communion Service

Tuesday, Dec 6, 2011

Communion Service

Wednesday, Dec 7, 2011

+Al Toelkes

(Phyllis Holmes)

Thursday, Dec 8, 2011

+Sister Emelia-OP

(Mary Fromwiller)

Friday, Dec 9, 2011

+Deceased members of the family

(Johanna Ternes)

Saturday, Dec 10, 2011

People of the Parish

Sunday, Dec 11, 2011

8:30AM: +Joe Zgmond

(Julian Paluck)

8:30AM: +Frank, Anna & Ed

Sabolewski

(Elsie White)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Dec 5, 2011

7:00PM-Peace & Justice Meeting CR6

7:00PM-Monday Knight Football SR

Tuesday, Dec 6, 2011

6:00PM-Womens Life Gp CR6

6:30PM-Family Rosary Night

7:00AM-KOC Officer Meeting-SR

7:00PM-Choir Practice

Wednesday, Dec 7, 2011

10:00AM-Home School Support Mtg

7:00PM-RCIA Class -SR

Thursday, Dec 8, 2011

7:00PM-Immaculate Conception Mass

Friday-Dec 9, 2011

4:00PM-Homeless Outreach (See Art.)

Sunday, Dec 11, 2011

8:30AM-Music Ministry

8:45AM-Faith Formation

1200PM-Christmas Party (See article)

7:00PM-Life Teen SR

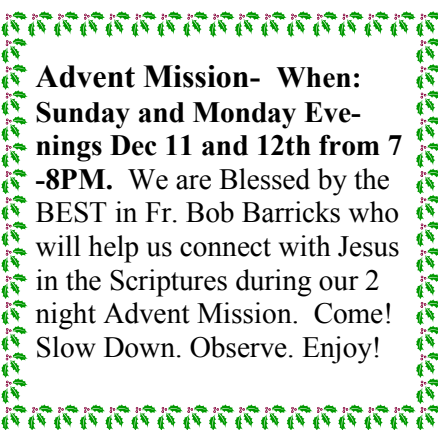
7:00PM-Advent Mission

Homeless Outreach

Friday, Dec 9, we will host the dinner served at the Sunnyside Coffee House. We start preparing food at 4:00PM and serve at 6:00PM. The soup kitchen is located at SE 35th and Yamhill. We are always looking for volunteers so if you are interested please contact Jan at (503) 254-2212 for more information.

Please join the Altar Guild for our December 13th meeting at 10:00AM in the Social Room. We will have a potluck lunch after the meeting so bring your favorite dish or dessert. We will also have an ornament and dishtowel exchange. If you bring an ornament you'll exchange for an ornament, if you bring a dishtowel you'll exchange for a dishtowel. Bring your item wrapped or bagged for this event. Please join us for this fun event!!!

Hats and Scarf: As you go about your Christmas shopping please take a moment to think about the gift of warmth. We are collecting hats/scarves/gloves and blankets for those in need. There is a box in the narthex for your donation. Thank you for your generosity. Frances Kenney 503.761.6403



Advent Mission- When:
Sunday and Monday Evenings Dec 11 and 12th from 7-8PM. We are Blessed by the BEST in Fr. Bob Barricks who will help us connect with Jesus in the Scriptures during our 2 night Advent Mission. Come! Slow Down. Observe. Enjoy!

Support the Elderly Religious: A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "We thank God for every religious sister who taught us in school, not only our ABCs, but also to love God." Show your support for the senior Catholic Sisters, Brothers, and religious order Priests who have made a positive difference in so many lives. **Please Share in the Care** and give generously to next week's collection. Envelopes will be in the pews.



Football-It's the LAST Monday Knight Football for the year. Come on out and enjoy some fellowship, football, food and fun! This Monday, December 5 in the social room. Kick off is at 5:30, dinner is at 6:00. We are having spaghetti, salad & bread and of course something sweet for dessert! Hope to see you there.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Budget amount: \$ 7,032.00

Amount collected: \$ 7,290.00

Over/under: + \$ 258.71

Christmas Celebration

Please join the rest of the St. Joseph family on Sunday December 11 from Noon to 3PM in the social room and beyond to celebrate the reason for the season, Jesus Christ. We have also invited Santa and Mrs. Claus to greet the little ones. We have food, drink, and fun for all (photos with Santa, wreath making, and crafts).



Advent Day of Recollection

This is a day of spiritual nourishment especially for our ministers to the sick. Our topic is "Recharging Spiritually and Emotionally." Our speaker is Nancie Potter, a marriage and family therapist at The Northwest Catholic Counseling Center. She is a member of St. Philip Neri and a gifted speaker. It will be on **Fri. Dec. 9th** from 9:30 to 2:30 here at St. Joseph's. Pre-registration is needed in order to know how many lunches to prepare. There is no cost to ministers to the sick in our parish; \$15 to others who wish to attend. Please pre-register by calling Becky or dropping the registration in the collection basket.

Christmas "Care Packages" for Homebound Parishioners:

We are collecting things the next 2 weeks for homebound parishioners. Help us prepare 'We Care Packages' for our homebound parishioners by contributing socks for 30 mentally ill people in group homes, nuts, candy and/or boxed candy for some of the homebound, grocery gift cards, hand lotion, puzzles and word puzzles in large print, personal care items like lip gloss, calendars & hand lotion, McDonald's coupons, gift cards to Starbucks, Dairy Queen, Fred Meyer, movie tickets and little things you would enjoy if you were homebound. We have 12 diabetics who would love sugar free candy also.

