

## Actions Matter

This amazing scene that takes up the whole of the wall of the Sistine Chapel is a reminder of the dramatic moment of Christ's Second Coming, when he will judge the living and the dead. The Father has given all authority to the Son (John 5:22). Michelangelo places in the upper register the symbols of Christ's passion as a way to highlight the instruments of Christ's victory and ours, as well as to show that it was through his loving sacrifice that he has earned the authority to judge the living and the dead.

Christ comes riding on the clouds with his Mother at his side, head turned and eyes cast down, as the days of her intercession have come to an end. Our chance to appeal to his mercy has passed. We will stand naked before him, and our actions will be the gown that dresses us for the feast of the Lamb (Matthew 22:11).

Jesus, in his mercy, wants no surprises and personally reveals the material to be covered by this final exam. Today's passage highlights that our charity and kindness will go a long way toward him recognizing us at the last day. Scripture even goes

so far as to say that this "love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Those who know his love and spread it with their actions will be preparing themselves for a blessed judgment.

Jesus makes it clear that our faith will also be a theme upon which he will search our hearts. He desires not mere words but loving listening and the heeding of his will. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

This is a great source of consolation for those who love him sincerely, even if imperfectly.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *The Last Judgment* (detail), 1535-1541  
Artist: Michelangelo  
Location: Sistine Chapel

### For Reflection

Am I ready for that final exam?  
What should I do today in order  
to be ready for the loving return  
of Jesus?

*[Jesus said,] "And he will separate them one from another,  
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats" (Matthew 25:32).*



**"Through Hospitality, we share our Catholic Faith with All as Disciples of Christ."**

## **CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**WEBSITE: [www.catholictripp.org](http://www.catholictripp.org)**

**842-3520 PO BOX 765 325 S. Van Buren St. Winner, SD 57580**

**PASTOR: Fr. Kevin Achbach**

**kachbach@dioc.org cell 605-848-2112**

### **MASS & RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE**

**MASS - Saturday at 6:00 pm, Sunday at 10:30 am**

**RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5:00 pm**

*Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri., 9:00 am - 4:00 pm*

*Office email: [parishsec@gwtc.net](mailto:parishsec@gwtc.net)*

### **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

#### **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sacristan:** Cindy Assman

**Lector:** Tom Covey

**EME:** Amy Covey, Sara Chytka, Cindy Bennett

**Servers:** Tane Pravecsek, Faith Covey, Ryan Sell

**Ushers:** Greg Assman, Francis Bolander

Barry Grossenburg, John Janecke

#### **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Sacristan:** Marie Fisher

**Lector:** Leslie Schramm

**EME:** Valora Eddie, Jack & Ellen Storms

**Servers:** Gus Bartels, Gabby & Browdy Kocer

**Ushers:** Jason & Finn Bartels

John Kocer, Phil DeMers

### **ICC COLLECTION REPORT**

**Nov. 18 & 19, 2017:** Envelopes \$2,930.00, Loose \$210.00, Christmas Flowers \$30.00. **Total \$3,170.00**

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** Priest Retirement \$15.00



#### **ANGEL TREE MINISTRY**

**All gifts and money need to be returned to the church no later than December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**

Winner Catholic Daughters are inviting EVERYONE to help change out the Breaking Bread Books for the new Liturgical Year. We will also do some extra dusting for Christmas. Please join us at the church Mon., Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm. **Thank you for all you do for the church.**

### **CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Please pick up your new ministry schedules at the entrance to the church. Thank you!

#### **Flowers in Memory of a Loved One at ICC**

**Envelopes are available at the entrance to the church if you'd like to donate to the Christmas Flowers in your loved one's name. (Envelopes can be put in the collection.)**



**LOOKING TO FIND...** Are you, or were you ever, in the Confraternity of the Precious Blood? If so, please call Fr. Kevin (848-2112). We are looking for more information on membership in our area.

#### **"Divine Mercy Chaplet"**

Thursdays at 10:00am at ICC

### **ADVENT GIVING BOXES**

During the month of December, we are encouraged to consider those less fortunate than us. Please gather new items you feel someone might enjoy into a basket or box and bring it to either church by the weekend of December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.

Your donations will be taken and distributed by the Department of Social Services.

**Remember: Giving is more rewarding than receiving!**



## **Hospitality is Stewardship**

### **DAILY MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday - Nov. 25 - 6:00 pm \*\*Winner\*\***

Blessings for Stacy Pettit by Steve & McKayla Tritle

**Sunday - Nov. 26 - 8:30 am \*\*Colome\*\***

Olga & Mike Flakus<sup>+</sup> by Kathleen Flakus

**Sunday - Nov. 26 - 10:30 am \*\*Winner\*\***

For the Parish

**Monday - Nov. 27 - NO MASS**

**Tuesday - Nov. 28 - NO MASS**

**Wednesday - Nov. 29 - 9:15 am \*\*Elder Inn\*\***

Blessings for our Seminarians

**Wednesday - Nov. 29 - 9:30 am \*\*Nursing Home\*\***

Communion Service

**Thursday - Nov. 30 - 9:00 am \*\*Golden Prairie Manor\*\***

For the Youth of our Parish by Belva Shopene

**Friday - Dec. 1 - 11:00 am \*\*Winner\*\***

For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Rapid City diocese

and for a generous response to this gift of God by John & Ann Dvorak

**Saturday - Dec. 2 - 6:00 pm \*\*Winner\*\***

For all Knights of Columbus: past, present & future

by Knights of Columbus

**Sunday - Dec. 3 - 8:30 am \*\*Colome\*\***

For all Catholic Daughters: past, present & future

by Colome Catholic Daughters

**Sunday - Dec. 3 - 10:30 am \*\*Winner\*\***

For the Parish

### **ICC - Altar Server Training**

Altar server training for new servers and those who would like a refresher course will be held after Mass on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have questions, please call the parish office.



## **"Diocesan Masses for Life" Matching Grant**

The ongoing Masses and prayers for all life challenges are critical to keeping the culture of life strong in South Dakota and throughout the nation. Once again, the Diocesan Social Justice Commission will match monetary donations made for the "Diocesan Masses for Life" project, up to a total of \$250. The Masses are coordinated by the Blessed Sacrament Parish Pro-Life Committee, but are offered daily at parishes throughout the diocese. This is the 11th year the diocese has matched funds for these Masses for the protection of all life. Please send your donation to: Diocesan Masses for Life, c/o Mary Mitchell, 113 Berry Pine Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.

Donations must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2017.

## **'Saint Juliana's Prayer List'**

Wendy Smith	Brittney Hansen	Jeannine VanderPol
Marty Hagen	Larry Zeigler	Marianne Thompson
Reid Malnati	Dorothy Hejl	Alex Turgeon
Kelly Hair	Vicki Moser	Clair Turgeon
Stacy Pettit	Gary Elder	Jolene Hagen
Fr. Bill Zandri	Shirley Turgeon	Christine Wood
Jackie McKenzie	Bromley Heath	Mary Johnson
Kirk Mansheim	Abby Pechota	Kate DeMers
Lenna Thieman	JoAnn Brown	Martin Jorgensen
Julie Stafford-son	Glenn Layh	Rose (Doescher) Enders

### ***Prayers for our Family Members in the Military***

Gene Fisher	Jacob Debus	Dylan Doering
Daysha DeMers	Jeff Butler	Jacque Miller
Logan Christensen	Spencer Hughes	Kris Schwartz

St. Juliana's (Patron Saint of sickness) is a list of the people we are currently praying for because of illness or in the military. The military list will remain until we are notified. Please call the office (842-3520) to request continued prayers. To preserve the dignity and privacy of individuals, we ask that only an immediate family member call to request publication of names. We will presume they have permission from the individual to do so. Thank you for your understanding.

## ST. ISIDORE CHURCH

301 Carr St. Colome, SD 57528  
842-3520

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Sunday at 8:00 am  
MASS SCHEDULE - Sunday at 8:30 am

### ST. ISIDORE ~ MINISTRY SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, December 3, 2017

Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Dennis DeMers  
Lector: Daryl  
EME: Todd/Janette/Volunteer  
Music: Abby/Abby/Cindy  
Servers: Allen/Aspyn/Linkyn  
Ushers: Kevin/Bruce  
Sacristan: Rosemary

#### ST. ISIDORE COLLECTION REPORT

November 19, 2017: \$897.45

COLLECTION:	November 26, 2017 ~	Holly & Rosemary
	December 3, 2017 ~	Van & Ryan
	December 8, 2017 ~	Jody & Craig

St. Isidore ~ December Church Cleaning  
Nancy McKenzie (chr.), Melony Bertram, 2 VOLUNTEER



#### PANTRY SUNDAY ~ December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Food Pantry is in need of soda crackers,  
rice & pasta sauce.

Anything you can donate is *greatly appreciated!*  
Please be generous to the needy of our community!

#### St. Isidore - Altar Server Training

Fr. Kevin will be having training on Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> after Mass,  
for 3rd grade students and anyone wanting a refresher course.  
Please call the office if you have questions.



### **CALLING ALL CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS!**

Remember, cheer basket day is Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
(snow day Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>). Please have your  
goodies at the church basement by  
1:00 pm, to be packed and ready for  
delivery by 1:30 pm. As always, we  
welcome anyone who would like to  
donate goodies or help with the packing  
and delivery. Thank you!!



CHEER  
BASKETS

### **Human Trafficking**

The observance of Thanksgiving is often over-shadowed  
by Black Friday, a marketing sensation. Every day is a  
marketing opportunity for predators who shop globally  
on the internet. Gather a group to study about  
internet exploitation of men, women, and children.

**U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking**  
([sistersagainsttrafficking.org](http://sistersagainsttrafficking.org))

#### POLICIES FOR SACRAMENTAL NEEDS

**BAPTISM:** Baptisms need to be arranged one month prior to desired date.  
All parents are required to attend at least one Baptismal Preparation Class.  
Please call 842-3520 to schedule an appointment.

#### WE WANT TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & ST. ISIDORE PARISHES

If you are a new parishioner in our church community,  
we are happy to have you. You will find registration forms:  
at the entrance to the churches, on our website  
[catholictripp.org](http://catholictripp.org), or call/stop at the parish office (842-3520).

## ANNUAL APPEAL

Thanks once again for your participation in  
the Annual Diocesan Appeal. If you have  
not yet turned in your pledge for the appeal,  
please do so. You can place your pledge  
form in a Sunday collection basket, turn it in  
to the parish office or you can mail it in the  
preaddressed pledge envelope. Pledge forms  
are available at the back of the church or in  
the parish office

FAITH FORMATION ~ [dreic@gwtc.net](mailto:dreic@gwtc.net)  
Youth of Immaculate Conception & St. Isidore

### **Faith Formation Class Schedule**

**St. Isidore** ~ 5:30pm in the Church Basement  
Grades 1-12 ~ November 29, Dec. 6, 13

**Immaculate Conception** ~ St. Mary's Hall  
Grades 1-5 Class 6:00 to 7:00pm ~ Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13  
Grades 6 -12 Meal at 5:45pm - followed by Class until 7:00pm  
Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13

## **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**



**THAT MAN IS YOU**

Thurs., November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 - 7:30am  
@ the ICC Rectory

### **Adult Catholic Catechism**

St. Isidore Church Basement  
Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:00-7:00pm  
All are welcome to attend!



## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 pm at St. Isidore, Colome**  
**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at St. Joseph, Gregory**  
**Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at Immaculate Conception**

November 26, 2017

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Responsorial Psalm PS 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

**R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

R.

Beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

R.

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

for years to come.

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/112617.cfm>





# DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

## ***Annual Appeal 2018***

***"...who else will give?"***

OFFICE OF BISHOP

November 26, 2017

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I shared with you earlier in my previous letter, the diocese has been richly blessed because of the generosity of many people. Making a return to the Lord means that we fully trust God with our life and our treasure. We are convinced of the goodness of God's love and our inherent wealth in the kingdom of heaven.

For a few moments I invite you to quiet your heart and ponder God's generosity in your own life. When we are able to name how God has acted in our lives we are filled with gratitude, so much that we want to emulate the same type of generosity toward others.

The theme for the 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal is "... *who else will give? ... The people rejoiced . . . for they had given to the Lord wholeheartedly.*" taken from 1 Chronicles 29:5,9. God's bountiful love is all around us. As we look around we have constant reminders of his presence. When we give to the Lord wholeheartedly, we imitate his generosity to us.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is an important way in which every Catholic family can serve one another in a sacrificial way, thereby helping to build up the Body of Christ in western South Dakota. Your sacrificial support is important to us, deeply valued and necessary for the Lord's work to continue and grow. The Lord has given us all different gifts, but calls each of us to the same sacrifice. This is why the heart of stewardship is spiritual.

Many of you have generously responded to this message. I am deeply grateful for your support. You are making a difference. If you have not yet made your pledge of support, I ask you to prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance. What is he asking of you during this year's appeal?

Please be generous in pledging both your financial support and your prayers for the mission of our great diocese and the 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal so that together we may "*rejoice, for we have given to the Lord wholeheartedly.*" May God bless you and your families!

Sincerely in the peace and joy of Christ,

+ *Robert D. Gruss*  
Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Rapid City



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2017

Church of Immaculate Conception

Fr. Kevin Achbach, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. John of the Cross

Raised by his mother after his father's death, St.

John studied with the Jesuits in Spain. He entered the Carmelite Order in 1563. St. John led a much-needed reform of the Order, encouraging more prayer and simplicity. His reforms were not always popular. He was jailed in a tower for almost a year, yet some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came from this experience.

He was a close friend of St. Teresa of Ávila.

**"I am with you always."**

Sometimes God can seem distant and silent. Yet, he promised to stay with us always (Matthew 28:20). The same God who came to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago still comes to us now to live in our churches and our hearts. Today, be mindful of God's loving presence. Ask him to help you grow closer to him.

*"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).*



## A holy Advent leads to a joyful Christmas

During Advent, we wait for the gift of pure love. Taking time each day this season to create moments of watchful silence and thoughtful preparation will lead to real joy at Christmas.

**Watchful silence.** *"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him" (Psalm 62:5).* God does not shout. He speaks quietly and softly, in a *"still small voice"* (1 Kings 19:11-12). It isn't always heard in the rush of daily life but in the silence of our hearts. During Advent, slow down, quiet down and listen for the still small voice of God.

Prepare. *"Continue steadfastly in prayer,*

*being watchful in it with thanksgiving"* (Colossians 4:2). We fall into sin

because our hearts are not continuously turned to God. When we confidently turn to him each day, he will give us the protection and strength we need to withstand the darkness of sin. God does not expect us to be perfect but he does want us to be a little better today than the day before. Regular Confession is indispensable.

Celebrate. We were created to have a mutual, loving relationship with God. In fact, he loves us so much that he sent his Son to show us, tell us, and die for us. Celebrate our love story on Christmas with Mass and joy.



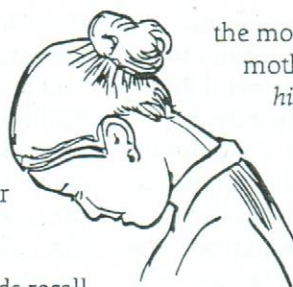
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics bow during the Nicene Creed?

When we proclaim our belief that God's Son was "born of the Virgin Mary and became man," we bow out of reverence for the mystery that made our salvation possible (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #461). These words recall

the moment when Mary became the mother of Jesus, who would, *"save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21).

This is an amazing truth – out of love of us, God became man, died for our sins, and rose from the dead.





## Share the Christmas gift of love

At Christmas time, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. To help, remember that Jesus came to us out of love and wants us to find ways to share his love with others. "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). Ultimately, Christmas is about love.

Comfort those who suffer. This time of year highlights financial struggles and hardships. Offer the gift of love by calling your parish office or Catholic Charities (800-919-9338) to learn how

you can help others in need.

Offer the gift of yourself. The holidays can be sad for those who are alone. Spending time with someone else – especially when you don't have much to spare – is one of the most precious ways to show you care.

Forgive. There is no better time to offer forgiveness to someone who has wronged you or to ask it of someone you may have hurt. Forgiveness is a powerful form of love in action.



### from Scripture

#### Luke 2:22-40, Look for the Lord

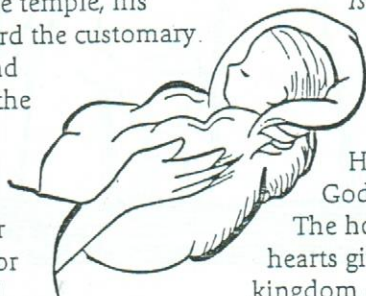
To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable and his family was quite ordinary. When it came time to present Jesus in the temple, his parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb and gave two pigeons as the offering of the poor instead. As faithful Jews, they did what was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized him as the Messiah. Inspired by the Holy

Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus was to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope.

The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know him, to receive him, and to be happy with him forever.



### Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1854). On this day, we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin. In addition to attending Mass, praying a joyful Rosary is a wonderful way to celebrate.

Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego, also Native American. She asked that the bishop of Mexico build a chapel for her, and had him carry roses to the bishop as a sign. When the

roses were emptied from his tilma (cape), it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

Dec. 16 – St. Adelaide (999). A Burgundian princess, St. Adelaide had to escape from a murderous plot for the throne. She was rescued by the Holy Roman Emperor, King Otto of Germany. She married him and upon his death ruled for their young son, Otto II. As queen of Germany she was known for charitable works, including founding and restoring monasteries.



### Q & A How can I reduce stress this Christmas?

Christmas celebrates the amazing fact that God's Son became one of us to win us eternal life. It's not always easy to focus on the Good News while shopping, wrapping, baking, rushing, and entertaining. Try these tips for a more joyful Christmas holiday:

**Set limits.** Stick to your spending limits when buying gifts to avoid sticker shock after the holidays. Be choosy about which invitations to accept so that you aren't exhausted when Christmas arrives.

**Focus on prayer.** Whether it's praying a decade of the Rosary, reading Scripture, or spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in church, daily prayer is a necessity not a luxury.

**Prepare your heart.** Make an examination of conscience and go to Confession. Experience God's mercy as the priest absolves your sins.

**Make it last.** For Catholics, Christmas isn't just one day – the season lasts until January. Celebrate The Holy Family (December 31st), The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1st), The Epiphany (January 7th), and The Baptism of the Lord (January 8th).

#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

Special Advent Issue

Church of Immaculate Conception

Fr. Kevin Achbach, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### Why Advent?

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency.



It is when the Church wants us to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?" We know Jesus will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet him next.

### Grow in prayer

Our prayer life can mature and grow when we pray for intentions that are outside ourselves. For example, we can pray for the victims of war, the sick, for the people who don't believe in God, and for those in jails and prisons, whether we know them or not. The best kind of prayer is the kind that comes from the heart.

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).



## Advent is preparing for something wonderful

Advent is a gift from the Catholic Church to let us know something wonderful is going to happen at Christmas. Yet in our impatience to get to that something wonderful, we can forget that the wait can be wonderful, too. Try taking it one week at a time and wait, hope, prepare, and rejoice at the miracle of Christ's wonderful birth ...

### Week One - Wait.

Whenever you find yourself waiting for something this week, think of the fact that you are also waiting for Jesus to come. Ask him what you need to do to be ready for his arrival.

### Week Two - Hope. This week

remember that God keeps his promises in ways more glorious than we can imagine. "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

### Week Three - Prepare.

Look for ways to prepare your heart for Christmas. Go to Confession to ready your soul for God's grace. Reconcile with anyone you need to in order to increase your peace.

### Week Four - Rejoice.

Sing "O Come, O Come Emanuel" at the top of your voice. Pray with enthusiasm at Mass. Spend time with family and friends. Write out a list of all the things in your life for which you are grateful. Welcome our Savior with a peaceful, joyful heart.



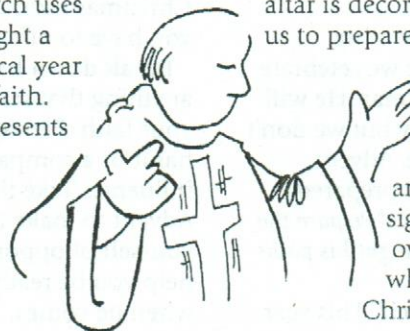
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Catholic Church uses visual aids to highlight a season of the liturgical year or a mystery of the faith. Purple - violet - represents a time of penance and preparation. During the weeks of Advent, the priest wears violet vestments and the

## Why is purple the color of Advent?

altar is decorated with violet to remind us to prepare penitentially for Christ's coming.

On the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), rose vestments and altar cloths are used to signal that Advent is almost over. This is a happy time when we anticipate the joy of Christ's coming.





## Five ways to keep the season peaceful

Without our really knowing or intending it, the joy of Christmas can get lost in the wrappings and trappings of a hectic holiday. That's why the Church created Advent as the season for quiet and joyful preparation. Here are some ways to help savor the spirit of the season.

**Plan ahead.** Try to anticipate and avert the usual holiday problems. Sit feuding relatives at opposite ends of the Christmas dinner table. Plan how to handle guests who smoke.

**Stay within your budget.** Try postponing shopping as long as you can. You won't have the luxury of time to overbuy.

**Stockpile gifts.** Afraid of getting a gift without having one to give in return? Wrap and set aside a few extra batches of Christmas cookies just in case.

**Make time for personal prayer.** Throughout the season, make time for peaceful meditation and prayer – even if it's only a few minutes a day. Not only will it help defuse the tension, you'll be less frazzled when Christmas arrives.

**When in doubt, sing.** If you find your patience and good cheer running out, sing your favorite Christmas carol – the louder, the better. A little silliness might be the best antidote to holiday stress.

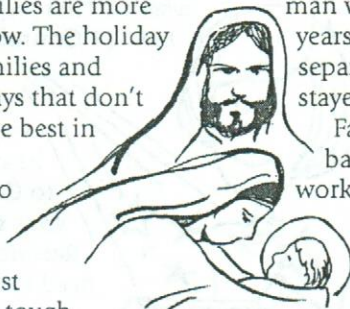


### from **S**cripture

#### Luke 2:41-52, Families aren't always holy.

Perhaps there is no time during the year when our families are more challenged than now. The holiday brings together families and their baggage in ways that don't always bring out the best in us.

Perhaps it helps to remember that the Holy Family was a real family just like ours. They had tough times, too. There was talk of divorce when Joseph found out Mary was pregnant. Then they had trouble finding a place for Mary to give birth. Immediately afterwards, the family

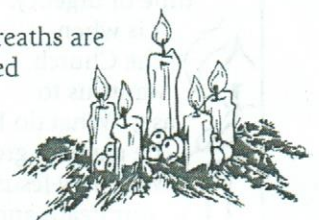


fled to a strange land because a mad man wanted Jesus killed. Twelve years later, he and his parents were separated for three days when he stayed behind at the temple.

Families have good times and bad, and it takes every member working together to make a healthy family. One gift that strengthened the Holy Family was their cooperation with grace – the gift of God's divine life. How does that look in our own families? For a start, try for harmony in your family this year, and love them as a Holy Family, even if not everyone is singing along.

### **Q & A** Why do we light wreaths during Advent?

Advent wreaths are a time-honored tradition and are rich in symbolism. The wreath is an ancient symbol of victory, in this case, paying tribute to Christ's victory over sin. The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that God is eternal; he – like his everlasting love for us – has no beginning and no end. The wreath is usually made of evergreen branches, symbolizing everlasting life.



Traditionally, the four candles (three violet, one rose) represent the four thousand years between the fall of Adam and Eve and the birth of Christ. Each week an additional candle is lit, accompanied by Scriptural meditations and prayers. The three violet candles stand for the prayers, penances, and good works we do to prepare for Christ's coming. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent as a reminder to rejoice, because it tells us the season is almost over. Finally, the progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the light of Jesus' arrival, which brought us out of the darkness of sin.

## Use Advent well

Many of us look forward to Christmas all year but let Advent pass unnoticed. This quiet season can't compete with the lights, the joy, and the excitement of Christmas. Instead, why not use this year's season of Advent to prepare for Christmas? Look beyond what your eyes can see to focus on your inner preparations.

**Keep watch.** Jesus is coming.

We know this because we celebrate his coming every Christmas. He will also come again in glory but we don't know when that will be. Advent reminds us to always be prepared for the coming of Christ. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths (Matthew 3:3)."

**Give the gift of yourself.** This year

prepare the one gift for Jesus that he truly wants: YOU. Jesus thought each of us was worth love and his life. To him, we are a gift from the Father (John 17:24). Prepare yourself during Advent so that when he unwraps your gift on Christmas morning, it is the very best you have to offer – your love.

**Break down barriers.** Let go of anything that stands between you and your faith. Perhaps you have a bad habit or a companion who is a poor influence. Take the opportunity during Advent to make things right. Ridding yourself of opportunities for sin will help you be ready to greet the Savior when he comes.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & ST. ISIDORE DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



(If you would like your name on this list, please call the Parish Office 842-3520.)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Win Eckerman	December	1	Adysen Pravecek	December	20
Chuck Novotny	December	1	Cassie Heim	December	21
Lorna Phillips	December	1	Libbie Petersek	December	21
Seventh Zeigler	December	1	Jim Mateicka	December	22
Masen Beehler	December	2	Anna LaDeaux	December	23
Marge Wiley	December	2	Abby Pechota	December	23
Otillia Novotny	December	3	LeRoy Jelinek	December	24
Brandon Volmer	December	3	Crawston Craven	December	25
Denise Winter	December	3	Belva London	December	26
Jerry Fisher	December	5	Hunter Mortenson	December	26
Sammie Kahler	December	5	Larry Peterson	December	26
Oscar Pravecek	December	5	John Massa, Jr.	December	27
Neil Beauchamp	December	6	Sharon Spellman	December	27
Hudson Peters	December	6	Kash Peterson	December	28
Renee Burnham	December	7	Roger Root	December	28
Carrie Ishmael	December	7	Steve Meyer	December	29
Russ Phillips	December	7	Savannah O'Bryan	December	29
William Jorgensen	December	8	Les Petersek	December	29
Kaelob Storms	December	8	Steven Connot	December	30
Kelly Assman	December	9	Ferman Harter, Jr.	December	30
Julie Hossle	December	9	Cindy Ishmael	December	30
Abby Jorgensen	December	9	Mike Levi	December	30
Edwin Marts	December	9	Rita Steele	December	30
Kenny Kauer	December	10	Patty Heumiller	December	31
Kaden Pechota	December	11			
Anna Mae Brown	December	13			
Charles Corkle	December	13			
Randy Richey	December	13			
Landon LaCompte	December	14			
Hunter Osborn	December	14			
Clay Sell	December	14			
Matt Schroeder	December	15			
Megan Brozik	December	16			
Raina Haiar	December	16			
Tanae Kartak	December	16			
Jan Bowar	December	17			
Dr. Mary Carpenter	December	17			
Tawny Sherman	December	17			
Todd Hoff	December	18			
Rich Laber	December	18			
Doug Osborn	December	18			
Kathleen Assman	December	19			
Brenda Bennett	December	19			
Shelly O'Connor	December	19			
McKayla Tritle	December	19			
Maryanne Vogel	December	19			
Natalie Gronlund	December	20			
Carly Hanson	December	20			



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Steve & Darcie Peters	December	6
Zac & Jamie Novotny	December	10
William & Maryanne Vogel	December	11
Lloyd & Jody Erickson	December	12
Larry & Kayleen Peterson	December	13
Bruce & Patricia DeMers	December	17
Donald & Mary Lou Bracy	December	23
Charles & Cindy Bennett	December	26
Greg & Renee Sherman	December	27
John & Carrie Kocer	December	28
Doug & Liane Christensen	December	29
Justin & Amber Thede	December	29
Tyler & Lindsey Foster	December	30
Jason & Tovi Bartels	December	31
Dustin & Ashley Duffy	December	31



## Calendar

### Monday

November 27

Weekday

Dn 1:1-6, 8-20

Lk 21:1-4

### Tuesday

November 28

Weekday

Dn 2:31-45

Lk 21:5-11

### Wednesday

November 29

Weekday

Dn 5:1-6, 13-14,

16-17, 23-28

Lk 21:12-19

### Thursday

November 30

St. Andrew,  
Apostle

Rom 10:9-18

Mt 4:18-22

### Friday

December 1

Weekday

Dn 7:2-14

Lk 21:29-33

### Saturday

December 2

Weekday

Dn 7:15-27

Lk 21:34-36

### Sunday

December 3

First Sunday  
of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b;

64:2-7

1 Cor 1:3-9

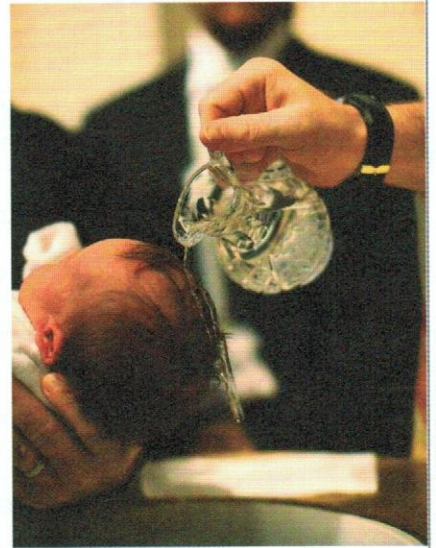
Mk 13:33-37

# Dear Padre,

**When I was younger the stance of the Catholic Church was that if you were not baptized, you did not get into heaven. Is this still the case?**

The Gospels present to us various passages that, when looked at together, give us a sense of whether or not baptism is necessary for salvation. Jesus says, "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5), and "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). These passages show that salvation is the combination of baptism and believing. Those who "see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ," but who also purposely reject it, remain in darkness (see 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 6).

The First Letter of John 4:7 tells us that "everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God." Here the gift of salvation comes to us in loving. Also, in Matthew 25, we have the great scene of the Last Judgment, where people are saved because they ministered to Christ in the poor and the hungry, even though they might not even have been aware of Christ's presence. Salvation here comes because of kind action. Baptism, then, combined with believing is certainly one of the means to salvation, but it's not the only means. In God's goodness, other roads can lead us into the kingdom. God's mercy and goodness are not limited to the sacrament of baptism (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1257-1260).



SHUTTERSTOCK

Adapted from *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*,  
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## A Word From Pope Francis

*Mother Church teaches us to give food and drink to those who are hungry and thirsty, to clothe those who are naked... through the example of so many dads and mamas, who teach their children that what we have extra is for those who lack the basic necessities. It is important to know this. The rule of hospitality has always been sacred in the simplest Christian families: there is always a plate and a bed for the one in need.*

—General audience, September 10, 2014