

Are We There Yet?

It's not only children who are impatient with the lo-o-o-o-ng ride that takes them to a party or an amusement park. Adults can hardly contain themselves as they await the announcement of a winner, the return of an absent loved one, or the birth of a baby. This is the kind of excitement found in today's readings. Micah describes the long-awaited leader promised by God. He will be even more than the people could have imaged: firm, strong, and dependable. They must have asked, "When is he coming?"

By the time the Gospel was written, Jesus' followers knew a lot about him, so they were able to embellish stories a bit, the way we often do to emphasize the greatness of someone. They believed he was so extraordinary that his greatness was recognized even before he was born. His pregnant mother was told, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). She must have been frequently asked, "When are you due? When is he coming?"

The reading from Hebrews does not provide specific details of Jesus' coming. Rather, it tells us why he came: "I come to do your will, O God" (10:7). That is what the people of Micah's era were really longing for—not simply a leader, but one who did God's will and who would lead them to do it too. We're now on the threshold of the fulfillment of that promise. Are you excited? Are we there yet?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✱ *For which of God's promises are you excited?*
- ✱ *Open your mind and heart to our firm, strong, and dependable leader.*

*But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
least among the clans of Judah,
From you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel.*

MICAH 5:1





Holy Trinity Catholic Church

****Main Office****

Holy Trinity Church & Rectory

212 S. Main St. P.O. Box 159
Cherry, IL 61317-0159
Phone: (815) 894-2006

Office Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

And on Facebook at

"Bureau Catholic Churches".

Mass Schedule

Weekdays - Wednesday 5:30pm and
Thursday - 9:00am
Saturday Confessions - 10:30-11:15
AM or by appointment

Sunday Mass - 8:30am

***Pastor of the Three Churches**

Fr. Thaddeus Tran

****Upcoming Events At Church****

CCD December In-Person @Hall

CCD 12/19—5th-8th



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

For All Three Churches

Emergency Number

779-248-2164

St. Thomas More Church

302 Chestnut St.

Dalzell, IL 61320

Phone: (815) 663-6201

Email: StTMoreDalzell32@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

Weekday Mass -

Tues. & Fri. - 8:00am

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 PM

Sunday Mass-5:00pm

Adoration Room

TIME CHANGE

Open Monday-Sunday 9AM-6PM

****Upcoming Events At Church****

Ravioli Making—Call to order

Phone # 815-252-2215

*CCD Classes @HT Church Hall



St. Patrick Catholic Church

St. Patrick Church

(Office at Holy Trinity Church)

106 Church St.

Arlington, IL 61312

Phone: (815) 894-2006

Mail To: P.O. Box 159 Cherry 61317

Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass - 10:30 AM

***3 Churches Pastoral Assistant**

Julie Hollinger

Email: JulieHTC@outlook.com

****Office Hours****

Holy Trinity - Tues, Thurs, & Fri.
- 9AM-12PM

St. Thomas More (Hrs may vary)

Wed - 9AM - 12PM

****Facebook:** Use Link on Home
Page - www.bureaucatholic.org

****Upcoming Events At Church****

CCD Class time 9:30-10:30

Daily Mass Intentions for Masses the Week of Dec. 20 2021

Monday

Tuesday

12/21** 8:00AM **STM

Wednesday

12/22**5:30PM **HT Mass/Rosary

Thursday

12/23*9:00AM**HT

Friday

12/24** Christmas Eve 4:00pm @ HT

Christmas Eve 10:pm @ SP (9:30 Choir)

Next Weekend's Mass Intentions

Weekend of Dec 25-26, 2021

Saturday:

**12/25 **Christmas Morning 10:00am @STM

4:00pm—NO MASS

Sunday:

www.bureaucatholic.org/Facebook Link - 8:30AMHT

St. Patrick, Arlington - 10:30 AM

**St. Thomas More, Dalzell - 5:00 PM

Offered For

† No Mass

† Geraldine Sondgeroth

† Wayne Pinter

† Bob Lehn

† Parishioners & Families

George & Monica Dwyer

Offered For

† Purgatorial Society

† Norma Templeton

† Floyd & Helen Williams

† For The Parishioners

Latest Offering's

Weekend /Immac Conception

Holy Trinity -	\$1316.00
St. Patrick -	\$539.00
St. Thomas More -	\$1031.00

2022 Church Envelopes

Please pick up your envelopes in back of churches. If you do not see your box and would like envelopes please let the office know.

Offering Envelopes



ADA Goals & Update 2021

Holy Trinity—\$14,062

\$8,125.00

St. Patrick—\$8,619

\$6,470.00

St. Thomas More—\$9,485

\$4,040.17

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

A BIG Thank you to ALL the Volunteers who help fundraise for our churches. SP Sausage Makers/Sellers—STM Rav/Tort/AntiPasto Makers/Sellers—HT—Ticket Sellers!!

You are helping to make a Difference!

Fundraising Update

HT- Pick 3 Winner was

Tom Yerly— who generously donated \$500 back to the church!

STM Ravs/Tort YTD total 1065

Sold net Profit \$9,002.01



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The fourth and final Sunday of Advent in 2021 will be on Sunday, December 19th. Advent is the season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. Reading, prayer, and reflection are ways we can cultivate a sense of holy anticipation this Advent. The fourth Sunday of Advent we meditate on the peace that Jesus brings our hearts and our world. Scripture is the place we can find the promises of God. Let us meditate on these truths and allow them to comfort our hearts this Advent season!



1. When is the beginning of the church year?
2. How long is the season of Advent?
3. What does the one pink candle represent?
4. What does Advent mean?
5. Christmas celebrates_____.
6. What feeling does Advent evoke?
7. We know that Christ is with us here and now—that he is always with us through_____.

Trivia Answers:

- 1.) Advent 2.) 4 weeks 3.) Joy 4.) coming 5.) the birth of Christ 6.) Hope 7.) grace, the church, sacraments & Eucharist

Confessions

The next confessions will be Saturday - Jan 8th 10:30-11:15- at St. Thomas More in the hall



CHRISTMAS MASSES

HT- Fri. Christmas Eve 4:00pm - Children's Mass

SP- Friday Christmas Eve 10:00pm Mass -Christmas Choir Selections will begin at 9:30pm

STM- Saturday Christmas Morning 10:00am Mass



Those interested in singing in the Christmas Choir are encouraged to join us. All are Welcome!

Mon. 12/20 @SP 6:00pm

Advent Family Prayer

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk to your family about how you are doing in attending to your spiritual life as a family. Recommit yourselves to praying daily, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.

God of Love,

Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.

He is a sign of your love.

Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,

As we wait and prepare for his coming.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

Amen.

Dear Padre,

I just learned there are two versions of the Christmas story in the Bible. How can that be? What's the difference?

One Christmas story is in Matthew, and the other is in Luke. They differ on some details—but at their hearts, the teaching is the same. In both, Mary is a virgin betrothed to Joseph but not yet living with him, and Jesus is conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Both also have Jesus born in Bethlehem.

In Matthew, the angel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph; in Luke, Mary receives the announcement. Jesus is named by Joseph in Matthew and by Mary in Luke.

The biggest difference involves the Christmas visitors. Matthew's Magi were educated Gentiles from a pagan country.

They worshiped Jesus and brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showing us at the start of the Gospel that Jesus is King, Priest, and Savior. Luke is always partial to the poor, so he has shepherds rather than Magi witness to Christ.

The Christmas stories are different because the authors and their audiences were different. But there's no need to get lost in the details. Read both accounts and allow God's grace to deepen your faith.

Fr. John Murray, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE / BOB HOLLER



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

[Jesus] did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbors to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS, DECEMBER 24, 2019

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10–14
Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Wednesday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Thursday

DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Friday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Saturday

DECEMBER 25
Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
1:1–5, 9–14

Sunday

DECEMBER 26
Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24
Lk 2:41–52