



The Waiting Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Advent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm

the cocoon and so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly's wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel's encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need. ●

Reflect

How can you better enjoy times of waiting?

May the Lord make you
increase and abound in love
for one another and for all...
to be blameless in holiness
before our God and Father at
the coming of our Lord Jesus
with all his holy ones.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12–13





Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group taking orders now
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Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164

CCD Classes

Sunday, December 1st - No Class

Sunday, December 8th - K thru 5th graders

Children's Mass for K-7th at Holy Trinity - Be there by 8:15 am



Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 2, 2024

Monday	12/2			+ No Mass
Tuesday	12/3	9:00 am	STM	+ Mary Nave & Mary L Baker
Wednesday	12/4	5:30 pm	HT	+ Jack & Theresa McCallum
Thursday	12/5	9:00 am	HT	+ Herman & Mary Hahn
Friday	12/6	9:00 am	STM	+ Sylvia "Judy" Miller

Mass Intentions for the weekend of December 7 - 8, 2024

Saturday	12/7	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ For the Parishioners
Sunday	12/8	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Ron & Joyce Hoscheid
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Laurence Nuco Fonderoli

First Sunday of Advent - What It Means

The First Sunday of Advent marks a vibrant beginning to the Advent season, falling on the first Sunday following Thanksgiving each year.

This event serves as the kickoff to a period of anticipation and reflection leading up to Christmas, symbolizing the spiritual journey of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the anticipation of His return.

This day holds a special significance as it represents various virtues that Christ brings to the world, such as hope, love, joy, and peace, each highlighted on subsequent Sundays of Advent.

The First Sunday of Advent has a rich history that intertwines with the evolution of the Christian liturgical calendar. Initially, the celebration and observances we associate with Advent today weren't clearly defined in the early Christian Church.

It wasn't until the fourth century that practices resembling Advent began appearing, notably in Spain and Gaul, where the period leading up to Christmas began to take on a preparatory nature, similar to that of Lent before Easter.

The formalization of Advent, including setting the length to four Sundays, occurred much later. In the early centuries, different regions practiced varying lengths and types of preparation.

Traditionally, the first candle, often purple, is lit on an Advent wreath to symbolize hope. Along with prayers and readings, this act focuses on spiritual readiness and reflection.

Christians observe this day as a remembrance of Jesus' historical birth and a time of spiritual renewal and expectation. It's a chance to ponder and anticipate the profound impact of Christ's first coming.

His Second Coming imbues the season with a sense of promise and preparation. This dual focus encourages believers to live their daily lives with hope and vigilance, looking forward to fulfilling divine promises. *(Excerpted from "daysoftheyear.com")*



Growing Disciples - St. Patrick's Church Last Mass

In the previous PTT meeting, the consensus between PTT members and Fr. Thaddeus is that, in light of the Growing Disciples Process implementation, we like to make it known to our parishioners that the last Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Arlington will be on Sunday, December 29, 2024. If you know of anyone who would be interested in attending this Mass, please inform them.

Christmas Toy Drive - Last Minute Reminder

The Toy Drive collection deadline will be on Sunday, December 8th. Therefore, if you still want to donate toys to this meaningful project, please bring your toys to the churches on or before this date.

Collection for Priestly Vocation

There will be a second collection this weekend for the Peoria Priestly Formation Program.

LATEST OFFERING'S

NOV 24TH WEEKEND

HT - \$824.00

SP - \$766.00

\$80 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

STM - \$864.00

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses

4 pm at STM and 8 pm at SP

Christmas Day

9:30 am at HT

CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE ON

SAT. DEC 7TH AT

ST. THOMAS MORE

IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

I've been Catholic all my life, but I don't understand Advent. It's too much like Lent and seems an odd way to prepare for the birth of a baby.

In a society that is primarily secular, one skill of the believing Christian is the ability to balance competing realities. From a secular perspective, Christmas is part of the period identified as the "holidays," beginning with Thanksgiving until New Year's Day, when it abruptly ends and stores begin advertising Valentine's Day.

For Christians, Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the great promise fulfilled after centuries of waiting and expectation. The creative energy of the Father is displayed in wonder and awe as the angels sing and people of good faith gather to celebrate. We join our ancestors in anticipation of this event through the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

The Christian holy day is a singular day, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas—but the Church continues the celebration of God's life and love through the days that follow, culminating in the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

We are invited to hold the secular and the liturgical experiences in an integrated balance. We can celebrate the secular holidays and we can enter the liturgical season that helps us contemplate something much grander and more spectacular. ●



Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8
Advent Weekday	St. Francis	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	St. Ambrase, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Second Sunday of Advent
Is 2:1-5	Xavier, Priest	Is 25:6-10a	Is 26:1-6	Is 29:17-24	Is 30:19-21, 23-26	Bar 5:1-9
Mt 8:5-11	Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24	Mt 15:29-37	Mt 7:21, 24-27	Mt 9:27-31	Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8	Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians"—and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness....

This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021