

SECOND AND THIRD SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6 AND 12, 2021

Getting in Touch with Myself: One of the best ways to prepare for the very special season of Advent is to "get in touch with ourselves." It may sound odd, but one symptom of our contemporary lives is that we can often be quite "out of touch" with what is going on in our very own hearts. We are in Advent, right at the time our culture begins Christmas preparations. It is a busy time, and our heads are filled with details to remember. And, it is a time of emotional complexity that is part of this holiday season - with all of the expectations and challenges of family and relationships: who we want to be with and who we struggle to be with. So, our hearts are a bit tender, if not completely defended from experiencing anything deeply. We are about to hear some very powerful and stirring readings from Isaiah, the Prophet. We will re-enter the ancient tradition of a people longing for the coming of a Savior. We may remember the days of our childhood when we longed for Christmas to come, because it was a magical time of receiving gifts. As adults, we have to ask ourselves: "What is it I long for now?" The answer won't come easily. The more we walk around with that question, and let it penetrate through the layers of distraction and self-protection, the more powerfully we will experience Advent.

"Taken from *Praying Advent*, on Creighton University's *Online Ministries* web site:
<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>
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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASSES -2021

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2021
4:00PM, 6:00 PM, 8:00PM and Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021
9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

You can register for Masses by sending an email or calling parish office.

New Year's Eve, December 31, Mass at 5:00 PM
NEW Year's Day, January 1, 2022 Mass at 10:00 AM (Registration not required)

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The blessing takes place on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, and is known as Bambinelli Sunday. The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' - as they are known in Rome - reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy.

All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to **Masses on Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 11/12th to be blessed** as we too celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your 'Bambinelli' home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day and as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.

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ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDECTION

will be every First Friday of the Month after the 8:00am Mass.

WAYS of donating to St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

1. Through regular Sunday offertory envelopes
2. Through direct deposit
3. Through our website online giving
4. By simply making a cheque to St. Thomas the Apostle parish.

Thank you very much for your generosity to St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

You are invited to consider donating towards **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**. You can donate them in loving memory of someone in your family. We will be praying for them during our Christmas Masses.

Here are price ranges...

1. Tree Poinsettia: \$69.99
2. Large Poinsettias: \$25.00
3. Small Poinsettia: \$12.00



You are welcome donate towards either one or more.

SPECIAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MASS for those who are grieving will be held on **Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm**. This will be an opportunity for families to come together to grieve the loss of loved ones. If you know someone who is grieving invite them to participate in this Mass to experience comfort.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 3 PM *"Prepare the Way"* - In prayerful preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth, please join us for an afternoon of reflection, scripture and music led by Catholic singer-songwriter (and fellow parishioner) Nancy Bodsworth. Nancy will be joined by her band and will be performing music from her Christmas album *"The Greatest Gift."* Free-Will offerings will be graciously accepted – all proceeds will go to Catholic Family Services of Hamilton. For more information, please go to www.nancybodsworth.com.

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

8:00am † Elizabeth Jez

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

8:00am † Eileen Sutton

Thursday, December 9, 2021

8:00am † Souls in Purgatory

Friday, December 10, 2021

8:00am † Nellie Jane

Saturday, December 11, 2021

5:00pm † Julien, Annie & Joyleen Lawrence
(i) George, Patrick & Tony Lawrence
† Xavier D'Souza
(i) Leopoldina Fernades

Sunday, December 12, 2021

11:30am Stefan & Stanislaw Litwicki
Barbara Talach
† Stanislaw Stachurski

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

8:00am † Stefan Novoryta
(i) Augustyn & Maria Klimas

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

8:00am † Mary Belford

Thursday, December 16, 2021

8:00am † Souls in Purgatory

Friday, December 17, 2021

8:00am † Adrianna Bet
† Reid Lester

Saturday, December 18, 2021

5:00pm (i) Merlyn & Gino Abreo
50th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday, December 19, 2021

11:30 am (i) Luis & Natividaole
(i) Odete & Graciosa