

The Church of Saint Mary Uses *A Jesse Tree This Advent/Christmastime*

A beautiful Advent custom and great teaching tool for children and the young of heart is a *Jesse Tree*. Each ornament highlights one of the many ways God prepared us through the covenants of old for the new and eternal covenant ratified by His Son. Create or simply meditate on each ornament found in this year's Advent Calendar; marvel at God's awesome plan for our salvation. For as Saint Paul wrote:

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways."

[Romans 11:33]

But through Christ and His Church we can know and even begin to understand God's plan so that we can enjoy its benefits! Happy Advent!

Very Rev. Michael J. Kreder, KHS, Pastor

Blessing & Lighting of an Advent Wreath

The leader leads all in the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Blessed be God, who enlightens every heart.
Blessed be God for ever.

My brothers and sisters, in this holy time of Advent, we open our hearts to God's love as we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives and homes. The candles of this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. Let us listen to God's Word. *(Another person proclaims the Scripture reading.)*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John
[1 John 1:5-7]

Now this is the message
that we have heard from him
and proclaim to you: God is light,
and in him there is no darkness at all.
If we say, "We have fellowship with him,"
while we continue to walk in darkness,
we lie and do not act in truth.
But if we walk in the light as he is in the light,
then we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of his Son Jesus
cleanses us from all sin.
The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Universal Prayer

Others offer the intentions after the leader begins:

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may be ready to welcome Him. Our response is, *"Come, Lord Jesus."*

- * That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love; we pray:
- * That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin; we pray:
- * That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for Christ's coming; we pray:
- * That the Christmas season may fill us with joy and peace as we strive to follow the example of Jesus; we pray:

Other intentions may be added; then the leader says:

With longing for the coming of God's Kingdom, let us pray as Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*

Then the leader continues:

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of sin and ignorance. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candle[s] of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. *Amen. (Light the first candle; each week an additional candle is lighted.)*

All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader prays:

May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his kingdom, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Advent Prayers Before Meals

Let us pray. Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive, from your goodness. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen. - or -*
God, the Father of mercies, you willed your Son to take flesh, in order to give life back to us. Bless these, your gifts, with which we are about to nourish our bodies, so that, receiving new strength, we may wait in watchfulness for the glorious coming of Christ. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Advent Prayers After Meals

Let us pray. We give you thanks for all your benefits, O Almighty God, who lives and reigns for ever; and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen. - or -*

- V.* Let us live soberly, justly, and devoutly in this world.
- R.* *As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Let us pray. We thank you, all-powerful God, for your kindness in refreshing our bodies by these gifts from your providence. Strengthen us, we pray, not only in body, but also in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



**The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
National Patronal Feast Day**

Wear something BLUE as
we honor Mary under her title
The Immaculate Conception
Patroness of the USA

Masses for this
Holy Day of Obligation are:
Thursday, December 7

5:00 pm

Friday, December 8: **7:00 am - 8:30 am**
12 noon - 7:00 pm

Daily Eucharist

Receive daily Eucharist to spiritually enter Advent.

Sunday Obligation Masses:

Saturday evening: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 - 9:00 - 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Weekday Mass:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday: 7:00 am

Tuesday - Thursday - Saturday: 8:30 am

Midday Prayer with Holy Communion:

Monday thru Thursday at 12:00 noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation [Confession]

All should celebrate the Sacrament of Penance
or Reconciliation [also called Confession] to
remove whatever hinders Christ's Light from
shining through them! Confessions are heard:

**Saturdays at 4:00 pm on
12/02 - 12/09 - 12/16 - 12/23**

All MUST arrive before 4:00 pm!

[Note: due to the 5:00 pm Mass, Confessions
MUST END by 4:30 pm, so arrive *early!*]

**Advent Penance Service:
Monday - December 18 - 7:30 pm**

Several Priests will be available for individual
confession after a communal examination of
conscience; this is **NOT** General Absolution.

Many hands and strong backs are needed on
Sunday, 12/17, after the noon Mass, to put up
the trees and decorate our worship space and
property; leave your name and phone number
with Debbie [201-438-2200 x 111] to so we can
give you a job to do!

**Special Mass Schedule the weekend
of the 4th Sunday of Advent:**

Saturday, 12/23: regular 5 pm

Sunday Morning, 12/24:

8 am - 10:00 am - 12 noon only

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24: 3:00 - 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Solemn Christmas Eve Mass: 10:30 pm

[Begins with Lessons & Carols at 10 pm]

Christmas Day: December 25

SPECIAL Mass Schedule:

8:00 am - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sunday, December 31, 2017

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Come to church to pray as a family today.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God -

New Year's Day 2018

SPECIAL Mass schedule:

NO VIGIL MASS December 31, 2017

Monday, January 1, 2018

7:30 - 9:00 - 10:30 am & 12:00 noon

Epiphany Pageant: January 6, 2018

after the 5:00 pm Mass at 6:00 pm

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 7, 2018

REGULAR weekend Mass schedule

Church un-decorating and clean up

right after the 12:00 noon Mass.

Lots of hands and strong backs are needed!

The Baptism of the Lord

January 8: last day of Christmastime

Regular 7:00 am Monday Mass only.

Ash Wednesday: February 14, 2018

Ashes distributed at 7:00 am - 8:30 am

12:00 noon - 3:45 pm - 7:00 pm