



**Come,  
LORD  
JESUS!**

**ADVENT**

*A Joyful Hope*

©LPi

**2024**

**Spirit <sup>OF</sup>  
Christ**  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## *Advent/Christmas Calendar*

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 AM-noon; Fri. 9:30 AM-3:00 PM  
(There is no adoration when the office is closed.)*

*Sun. Dec. 1: First Sunday of Advent*

*Weds. Dec 4: Morning Liturgy of the Hours prayer 8:30 AM in the chapel*

*Sun. Dec. 8: Second Sunday of Advent. Gifts are due back today for Reverse Collection.  
Please attach tags securely to the gift.*

*Mon. Dec. 9: Holy Day of Obligation: The Immaculate Conception 9:00 AM, 6:30 PM*

*Weds. Dec. 11: Morning Liturgy of the Hours prayer 8:30 AM in the chapel*

*Thurs. Dec. 12: No 9:00 AM Mass , no morning confessions*

*Multi-language Rosary in Chapel 5:00 PM followed by Mass at 5:30 PM  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception after Mass in the Spirit Center*

*Sun. Dec. 15: Third Sunday of Advent*

*Weds. Dec. 18: Morning Liturgy of the Hours prayer 8:30 AM in the chapel*

*Thurs. Dec. 19: Advent Penance Service (confession) 5:30 PM*

*Sun. Dec. 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Tues. Dec. 24: Office closes at noon. Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00 PM (Fr. Chris in Sanctuary, Fr. Trevor in the Spirit Center), 6:30 PM, midnight.*

*Weds. Dec. 25: Christmas Day Masses: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM\* \*Live Streamed*

*Thurs. Dec. 26: 9:00 AM Mass, no adoration. Office/facility closed.*

*Fri. Dec. 27: 9:00 AM Mass, no adoration. Office/facility closed.*

*Sat. Dec. 28/Sun. Dec. 29: Solemnity of Holy Family, normal Mass schedule*

*Mon. Dec. 30: by 8 pm is the last day and time to drop off any end of the year checks that you want recorded for 2024 tax purposes. Online gifts can be made until midnight on December 30th, which will be processed on the 31st. Please call with any specific questions.*

*Tues. Dec. 31: 9:00 AM Mass and anticipatory Mass at 5:00 PM*

*Weds. Jan. 1: Holy Day of obligation. Mass at 9:00 AM  
Office closed. No adoration.*

*Sun. Jan. 4/5: Epiphany, Regular Mass schedule*

*Sun. Jan. 11/12: Baptism of the Lord  
Christmas Season ends.*

Office Closures  
The office will be closed:  
Dec. 24 at noon through Dec. 29  
Closes at noon Dec. 31  
Closed Mon. Jan. 1



One of the most ancient Advent prayers though unobserved by those who may not pray the Liturgy of the Hours, are what are called “The O Antiphons.” *In order to expand our liturgical appreciation of the Season of Advent, beginning the first Sunday of Advent, The O Antiphons will be highlighted in the Advent Environment on banners on the south gable walls of the church.*

The O Antiphons (they are called “The Great O’s) are more familiar than is realized. They are sung in all the verses of the traditional “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” hymn. It sings of the names for Christ. The O Antiphons, which date back possibly to the sixth century, provide us with a link to the Old and the New Testament.

From Dec. 17 through Dec. 23, the O Antiphons, short devotional texts, are prayed before and after a psalm or canticle, before and after the Magnificat at Vespers.

We ask God to come as Wisdom to make us prudent (**Dec. 17: O Wisdom**),  
as Adonai, the Lord, to save and redeem Us (**Dec. 18: O Adonai**),  
as the Root of Jesse to deliver us into love (**Dec. 19: O Stock of Jesse**),  
as the Key of David to bring freedom (**Dec. 20: O Key of David**),  
as Day-spring to shed light and life (**Dec. 21: O Dawn**),  
as the King of nations to give peace (**Dec. 22: O King**),  
and as Emmanuel to offer hope and bring salvation (**Dec. 23: O Emmanuel.**)

In the Antiphons, we are reminded of the two comings of Christ that give Advent its basic theme. During these weeks prior to Christmas, we prepare on the one hand to commemorate the first coming of Christ at his birth and the reason for his coming: to suffer and die on the cross and to rise from the dead for our salvation. On the other hand, we prepare to receive Christ at his second coming when he will return in glory to destroy all evil forever and usher in the fullness of the Kingdom of God.

Blessed Advent Everyone

Confessions in the Chapel  
Mon. and Thur. from  
8 - 8:45 AM.  
Sat. from 3:30 - 4:45 PM



## The Advent Wreath Prayers

It starts at the evening meal on the Sat. before the first Sunday in Advent with:

### **The Blessing of the wreath**

O God, bless our wreath and be with us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. As we light the candle each day, help us to keep our own hearts burning with your love.

*Then follows the prayer which is said before the evening meal each night of the week in Advent.*

### **The First Week**

**“So be on the watch. Pray constantly for the strength to stand secure before the Son of Man.: (Luke 21:36)**

We prepare ourselves for the Lord’s coming into our world and into our lives. We ask, “In what area of my life do I stand at a distance from God?” We examine our relationships with family, friends, classmates, business associates, and neighbors. Is our faith reflected in each experience of human contact? Is love of God and neighbor the basis for our interaction with others?

*(Light one purple candle.)*

Almighty and loving God, we have searched our hearts and reviewed our love for your people. Some relationships overflow with love while others have been found wanting. Yet it is our desire that you be a part of every human experience. We beg you now to fill our hearts with your love and sharpen our awareness of your presence in every moment so that wherever we go and whatever we do, we will be always “on guard” and stand secure before you. Amen. Each night, the first purple candle is lit and is left burning during the meal.

### **The Second Week**

**“Make ready the way of the Lord. Clear him a straight path.” (Luke 3:4)**

In the second week of Advent, we consider our relationships with ourselves and with God. We ask, “Do I always appreciate the union of the divine and the human that makes me who I am?” Are we aware of the wonder of “self,” the gift of being bestowed upon us by our Creator? Do we appreciate and use our talents, energies, charms, and abilities for God’s glory? In prayer and worship, are we in touch with the divine presence within us and around us?

*(Light two purple candles.)*

Almighty and loving God, you who dwell within our hearts at every waking moment, keep us always close to you. Help us to recognize and appreciate the gifts and talents you have given us. Teach us to use our energies for the good of others and the glory of your Son Jesus, whose promise is too precious to ignore. Keep our hearts and minds ever alert to your personal and loving touch in every prayer, in every act of worship. Amen.

### **The Third Week**

**“He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire.” (Luke 3:16)**

In the third week of Advent, we are called to respond to the gifts and graces we received in our baptism. We ask, “Does my life today fulfill the expectations and responsibilities of bearing the name of Christian?” What are we doing for the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, the lonely? Do we truly care about the needs of others? Do we accomplish cheerfully all that is expected of us in the work place or the classroom?

*(Light two purple candles and one pink candle.)*

Almighty and loving God, your Son has taught us the way to live as your children. We were blessed in our baptisms with special gifts and graces, and still there are times when we find it hard to be all that we should be. We ask for an increased awareness of the needs of others and for the courage to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Please, God, help us to so live in your grace that all who know us will know you and your love. Amen.

### **The Fourth Week**

**“Blest is she who trusted that the Lord’s words to her would be fulfilled.” (Luke 1:45)**

In the fourth week of Advent, we consider Mary’s trust in God’s promise, her joy in his goodness to her. We ask, “Am I ready to receive and celebrate the coming of the Son of God?” We have considered our relationships, our love of God and God’s love for us, and we have responded by an awakened concern for the needs of others. Now we may echo Mary’s words, “My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord. My spirit finds joy in God my savior.”

*(Light all four candles.)*

Almighty and loving God, soon the whole world will celebrate the birth of your Son Jesus. Even as we rejoice in our remembrance of his birth at Bethlehem, we find greater comfort in his promise to come again. May our preparations for this wondrous season remain with us, increase in us, and become as much a part of us as our breathing and our heartbeat. Then we may say, “Come, Lord Jesus, we are ready.” Amen.

(From Liguori’s Advent Wreath Ceremony prayer card.)