

## The Wondrous Gift is Given Advent 2023



### Giving Opportunities

- ▶ Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bedding Drive, Details Page 5.
- ▶ Knights of Columbus Sock Drive, Page 4.

### The Madeleine Gift Tree

*Through Monday, December 11*

Please return gifts to the Church or Parish Office by December 11. Details Pg. 5.

### Advent Faith Sharing with Therese Fenzl

- ▶ Monday, December 11 & 18, 6:30 pm (Zoom)
- ▶ Email [tfenzl@themadeleine.edu](mailto:tfenzl@themadeleine.edu) for info and the Zoom link.

### Reconciliation

No Communal Reconciliation Service, but the sacrament is available by appointment and on these drop-in days/times in the main church:

- ▶ Thurs., Dec. 14 & 21 • 4:00–6:00 pm
- ▶ Fridays, Dec. 15, 22 • after 8:00 am Mass
- ▶ Sat., Dec. 16 & 23 • 4:00–4:40 pm

### Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

*Sunday, December 10 • Parish Hall*

**11:00 am**—A family affair, offering great food and fellowship. Details Page 3.

### Handel's Messiah

*Sunday, December 10 • Main Church*

**3:00 pm**—Hallelujah! Join the **Bravo!** Northwest Chamber Choir & Orchestra and Conductor Michael Kissinger in this Advent musical tradition. Tickets: [bravoconcerts.com](http://bravoconcerts.com)

### School Christmas Program

*Thursday, December 14 • Main Church*

**6:30 pm**—Enjoy the sounds of the season. The kindergarten through fifth grade classes will deliver their talents in joyous measure, celebrating music from around the world.

### Ellington's Nutcracker Suite

*Mon., Dec. 18 • Old Madeleine Church*

**7:00 pm**—The North Pole Cello Sextet from **45th Parallel Universe** performs Duke Ellington's jazzy arrangement of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. Tickets: [www.45thparallelpdx.org](http://www.45thparallelpdx.org)

### Choir at Grotto Festival of Lights

- ▶ Madeleine Children's Choir • Dec. 19, 5:00 pm

### Adoration and Prayer for Peace

*December 30 • Led by Therese Fenzl*

**9:00 am–10:00 am**—Hour of Adoration and Prayer for Peace in our Country and World.

## Second Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S READINGS URGE US to prepare for and be open to God's presence in our lives. We have been taught that this presence is ongoing, yet it doesn't always seem so. We need to work to overcome fear and doubt, especially in challenging times, but the task need not be a frantic effort. These readings carry warnings and longings, but the operative words are comfort, tenderness and hope. We wait and prepare because of the promise.

### PRAY FOR OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

- ▶ Keith Kern—*Funeral Dec. 15, 10:00 am*
- ▶ Michael Lavin
- ▶ Debbie Laskowski
- ▶ Jack Evans

### PRAYER REQUESTS

For those who are ill, or in need of our prayers

- ▶ Ed Fenzl
- ▶ Aaron Stevenson
- ▶ John Keith


### WORSHIP & PRAYER

- 12/12, Tues., . . . . . Norm and Carol Seeger †
- 12/13, Weds . . . . . Jane Reilly †
- 12/14, Thurs. . . . . Madeleine Birthdays in December
- 12/15, Fri . . . . . Alan Morrill †
- 12/16, Sat . . . . . Debbie Barsotti †
- 12/17, Sun, 8:00 am, The Madeleine Community  
10:00 am, . . . . . John Keith, Jr. †

## Christmas Masses

*All Masses in Main Church and in person only unless noted*

### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

- † **4:00 pm**  ALSO LIVESTREAMS—Pageant with live animals
- † **7:00 pm**—With Madeleine Musicians & Jazz Trio • The Old Madeleine Church
- † **Midnight**—The Madeleine Choir & Chamber Orchestra • Carols at 11:20 pm

### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

- † **9:00 am**—*NOTE: NEW TIME!* The Madeleine Choir & Guest Musicians

## Calendar This Week

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

- ▶ Retirement Fund for Religious
- ▶ Second Sunday of Advent
- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 10:00 am: Children’s Liturgy—Fireside Rm
- 10:00 am: Mass—Church  **ALSO LIVESTREAMS-**
- 10:00 am: Penance Class—Library
- 11:00 am: Knights Pancake Breakfast—Parish Hall
- 11:30 am: RCIA—St. Catherine Room
- 3:00 pm: Bravo Northwest! Concert—Church

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 10:00 am: Discerning Catholic—St. Catherine Rm
- 6:30 pm: FA Meeting—Fireside Rm

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- Nourish Our Neighbors (NON)-5th Grade
- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 9:00 am: Adoration—Church
- 3:30 pm: Christmas pageant practice—Church
- 7:00 pm: Parents Club—Library

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 2:40 pm: Children’s Choir Rehearsal—Church
- 5:30 pm: Chimes Rehearsal—Church
- 6:30 pm: Pastoral Council Meeting—Fireside Rm
- 7:00 pm: Madeleine Choir Rehearsal—Church

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 2:00 pm: Mass—Church
- 2:00 pm: School Mass
- 4:00 pm: Confessions—Church
- 6:30 pm: School Christmas Program—Church
- 6:30 pm: SAC

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

- ▶ School Early Dismissal—Noon
- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 9:00 am: Confessions—Church
- 10:00 am: Funeral for Keith Kern  
Reception follows in the Old Church

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 5:00 pm: Mass—Church

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

- ▶ Third Sunday of Advent
- 8:00 am: Mass—Church
- 10:00 am: Mass—Church
- 11:30 am: RCIA—St. Catherine Room
- 5:30 pm: Maria Garcia Piano Recital—Old Madeleine Church

### SAVE THE DATE

- ▶ **Wine Tasting:** Postponed to Feb. 3, 2024
- ▶ **Ash Wednesday:** February 14, 2024

## PARISH LIFE

# St. Vincent de Paul Needs Your Help

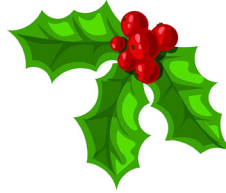


In today’s Gospel John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. The St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks you for your gifts to the special Thanksgiving day collection in the amount of \$4,450.

**You have provided 1,300 lbs. of food items so far, with a goal of 3,000 lbs. (1,700 lbs more) in order to fill 100 boxes by next week.** Donations of food or funds can be brought to the church vestibule. Thank you all so much for your generosity.  
—Mary Clare O’Brien, 503-309-7639

## MADELEINE BOOK CLUB

Cool winter days are the perfect time to curl up and read. We can recommend some very excellent books, and would love to have you join us for genial discussions and refreshments!



For further information or to be added to our email list, please contact our MBC ministry coordinator: Gretchen Stevenson, gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com or 503-312-6834.

## STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel stressed, bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship and don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouses about it. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) for emotional testimonials and program information. For confidential information or to register for the January 26-28, 2024 Oregon weekend at Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center in Beaverton, Oregon, call 503-225-9191.

## SHARING THE WORD: AN ADVENT CELEBRATION

**Mondays, December 11 & 18 • St. Catherine Room**

The Discerning Catholic Ministry invites all Madeleine parishioners to join us for “Sharing the Word” the first three Mondays in Advent. We will meet upstairs in the Saint Catherine Room of The Old Madeleine Church from 10:00 am to Noon on Monday, December 11, and Monday December 18. Please enter through the 23rd Avenue entrance; this allows parishioners to utilize the elevator as necessary.

“Sharing the Word” is a short service of prayer and scripture and includes a reflection on the readings by a parishioner from the Discerning Catholic Ministry. In doing so, they exercise discernment as well as develop their voice in service to our apostolic mission.

After Sharing the Word, we will also share a light meal of finger foods—feel free to bring something to share—followed by Lectio Divina on that day’s scripture and general discussion as the Spirit leads us.

Please join us in celebration of the wondrous gift of Advent! All are invited! If you’d like more information, please contact Dan O’Brien at [discerningcatholic@themadeleine.edu](mailto:discerningcatholic@themadeleine.edu)

## THE MADELEINE IS HIRING: EVENT COORDINATORS

**Part-time opportunity • Flexible hours**

The parish is looking to hire Event Coordinators to assist with use of event rental spaces. Responsibilities include set up and take down of event spaces, maintaining relationships and professionalism with clients, and overseeing the responsibilities of dishwashers and bussers. We are looking for someone who is personable and can maintain a high attention to detail in a fast paced environment. Hours are flexible and are on an “as needed” basis. Apply or information: My Schoning: [mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu)

## Ministries, teachers, service groups

Please send in photos by December 19 for our annual The Madeleine in Service edition of our parish bulletin on Christmas! Upload link at [themadeleine.edu/photos](http://themadeleine.edu/photos)

# PARISH STEWARDSHIP AND END-OF-YEAR GIVING

Visit [www.themadeleine.edu/parishgiving](http://www.themadeleine.edu/parishgiving)

Each year, we budget for separate Christmas donations in addition to our regular Sunday offertory....and it's almost as much as a typical month's collection amount. This year is particularly tricky as Christmas Eve is on Sunday and Christmas on Monday, so remembering two collections that weekend can be challenging.

As you know, your donations are what keep our parish working. So if you are able, please take a moment to consider The Madeleine this holiday season.

### Parish Stewardship Drive

If you did not have the opportunity to make your pledge for the 2023-24 fiscal year during our main Stewardship Drive in May, please consider doing so today. If you are regularly contributing, but did not complete a pledge card, doing so can help us know to "count on" your generous gifts.

This campaign is the backbone of our parish budget, offering us the financial stability and means to keep our parish running smoothly and carrying out our ministries to the community.

We know there are a lot of asks for donations at this time of year. And even through the nearly two years of the pandemic—prudent fiscal management and good response to our Stewardship Campaign have kept your parish on strong financial footing.

### Matching Gifts

Many employers will match tax-deductible contributions. If you work for such a company, please consider checking to see if either The Madeleine or The Madeleine School is eligible.

### Many ways to give

In addition to regular stewardship via Sunday donations, there are many ways to support The Madeleine:

- One-time gifts
- Estate planning or bequests
- Life Insurance
- Appreciated securities
- Real estate and personal property.

If you wish to consider an additional gift to The Madeleine, please contact My Schoning, Business Manager at 503-281-5777 or [mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu)

**Important:** For your donation to be included in 2023 year-end statements, please have donations to the parish office by end of business day December 31. Online donations available at [www.themadeleine.edu/parishgiving](http://www.themadeleine.edu/parishgiving)

## ADORATION: GIFT FOR FOR A FATHER & SON

In the week before Advent, during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after a weekday Madeleine Mass, a father quietly led his son of 3 or 4 up the center aisle toward Jesus. On the altar, in the sacred vessel called the Monstrance, Jesus watched with delight in his Holy Communion disguise as the two knelt on the first step up to the

sanctuary. Dad leaned down with a quiet explanation as his child gazed in wonder at the Divine Presence. A little epiphany and early Christmas gift it was for both, and a gift also for the delighted Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and for family and friends celebrating the holy moment in God's Forever Realm.

*Tuesday Adoration begins after the 8 am Mass, ends at 2 pm.*



# Mmm...Pancakes!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AFTER 10:00 MASS

Join us in the Parish Hall for a great pancake breakfast!  
Lots of yummy food for the family.  
No fixed prices....donations accepted



## WEEKLY MASS TIMES

### Regular Mass Times:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday . . . . . 8:00 am  
Thursday . . . . . School days: 2:00 pm  
Days school not in session: 8:00 am  
Saturday Vigil . . . . . 5:00 pm  
Sunday . . . . . 8:00 am, 10:00 am

**Penance** . . . . . Saturday, 4:00–4:40 pm  
**Adoration** . . . . . Tuesdays, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

## PARISH OFFICE

**Hours** . . . . . Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm  
**Phone:** 503-281-5777 . . . . . **Fax:** 503-281-0673  
**School Office** . . . . . 503-288-9197

## PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Bonaventure Rummell**—Administrator  
[fatherbonaventure@themadeleine.edu](mailto:fatherbonaventure@themadeleine.edu) . . . ext. 111  
**Deacon Mike O'Mahoney**—Permanent Deacon  
[deaconmike@themadeleine.edu](mailto:deaconmike@themadeleine.edu)  
**Tresa Rast**—School Principal  
[trast@themadeleine.edu](mailto:trast@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . 503-288-9197  
**Darlene Maurer**—Pastoral Assistant  
[dmaurer@themadeleine.edu](mailto:dmaurer@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 125  
**My Schoning**—Business Manager  
[mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 118  
**Linda Scheurman**—Bookkeeper  
[lscheurman@themadeleine.edu](mailto:lscheurman@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 119  
**Therese Fenzl**—Director of Spiritual Ministries  
[tfenzl@themadeleine.edu](mailto:tfenzl@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 116  
**Maria Manzo**—Director of Music  
[mmanzo@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mmanzo@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 113  
**Guy Allen**—Facilities Manager, Events Manager  
[gallen@themadeleine.edu](mailto:gallen@themadeleine.edu)

**Janeen Reilly**—Parish Administrator  
[jreilly@themadeleine.edu](mailto:jreilly@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 110  
**Gretchen Stevenson**—Office  
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**Julie Kupers**—Special Events  
[jkupers@themadeleine.edu](mailto:jkupers@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . 720-936-5635  
**Rich Hammons**—Director of Communications  
[rhammons@themadeleine.edu](mailto:rhammons@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 129

## SACRAMENTS

**Funerals, Infant Baptism**—  
Darlene Maurer . . . . . ext. 125  
**Marriages, Anointing of the Sick**—  
Fr. Bonaventure Rummell . . . . . ext. 111  
**First Reconciliation, First Eucharist**—  
Rose Horton . . . . . [sac-prep@themadeleine.edu](mailto:sac-prep@themadeleine.edu)  
**RCIA**—Donna Mason . . . . . [rcia@themadeleine.edu](mailto:rcia@themadeleine.edu)  
**Confirmation**—Therese Fenzl . . . . . ext. 116

## COUNCILS & CONTACTS

**Pastoral Council**—Amy Moran . . . 617-470-7926  
**Finance Council**—Jim Jones . . . . 503-284-3301  
**Buildings & Grounds**—Erin Couch . . 503-281-9575  
**School Advisory**—Tim Resch . . . . . 503-984-4607  
**Facility Requests**—[themadeleine.edu/facilities](http://themadeleine.edu/facilities)  
**Maintenance Requests**—My Schoning  
[mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 114  
**Knights of Columbus**—  
Dan O'Donnell . . . . . 503-440-9415

**Ministry Schedule**  
[www.themadeleine.edu/minister-schedule](http://www.themadeleine.edu/minister-schedule)

**Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Tuesday**  
Email to [bulletin@themadeleine.edu](mailto:bulletin@themadeleine.edu)

## PARISH LIFE

### ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

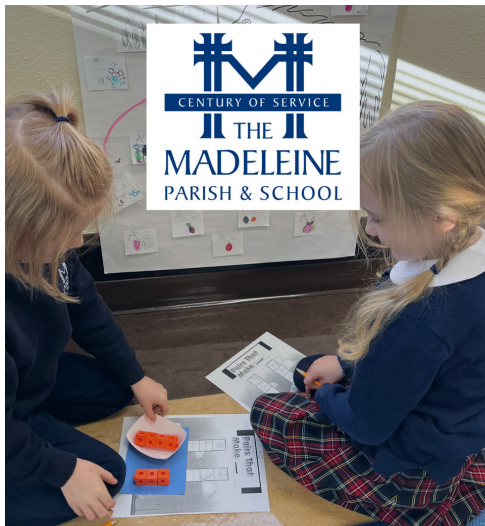
Please join us in helping our neighbors in need this winter. The Madeleine Knights of Columbus and The Madeleine School are sponsoring the annual Sock Drive. Blue barrels are in the church vestibule and the school entrance.



*NOTE: Please look for socks with a wool blend and no cotton.*

Socks will be donated to those in need through Transition Projects and Saint André Bessette.

Don't have time to go sock shopping? Or would you prefer we take your cash and purchase wool socks in bulk? Just scan the QR code at right, or drop off a donation at the Parish Office.



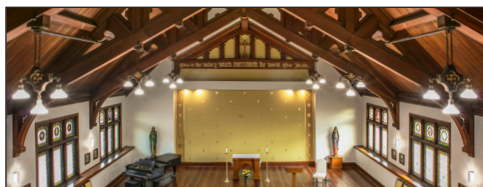
Our PreK students are encouraged to participate in an active learning process — to ask questions, consider deeply, reflect mindfully, and contemplate the larger social world of shared experiences and opportunities.



The world is interesting and learning is fun. So why not teach children to discover it for themselves....

### THE MADELEINE SCHOOL PRE-K ENROLLING FOR FALL 2024

Our PreK classroom invites an emergent curriculum, one that celebrates each individual child and what they can bring to the community of learners, while also capturing student curiosity, prior knowledge, and cognitive skill sets.



### Upcoming Concerts

OC = Old Madeleine Church MC = Main Church

- ▶ **December 10, 3:00 pm MC** • Bravo! Concerts Northwest • Handel's Messiah • [bravoconcerts.com](http://bravoconcerts.com)
- ▶ **Dec. 18, 7:00 pm OC** • 45th Parallel Universe • Ellington's Nutcracker Suite • [45thparallelpdx.org](http://45thparallelpdx.org)
- ▶ **Feb. 6, 7:00 pm OC** • 45th Parallel Universe • Teresa and Florence • [45thparallelpdx.org](http://45thparallelpdx.org)

# RMD for 2023?

If you are at least 70½ years of age and are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, you can donate part or all of that distribution to The Madeleine, tax free! For information, contact parish Business Manager, My Schoning, 503-281-5777 or [mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu)

## MADELEINE PARISH CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS EVE MASS NATIVITY STORY. THERE WILL BE TWO PRACTICES THAT WE ASK YOU TO ATTEND. DURING THIS TIME WE WILL ASSIGN PARTS AND DO A RUN THROUGH OF THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF ADULTS WHO CAN SUPERVISE THE SHEPHERDS IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM AND THE ANGELS IN THE FRONT OF CHURCH. PLEASE EMAIL US IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP IN EITHER OF THESE ADULT ROLES.

Meet at the Front Church Doors for Required Practices:

Tuesday, December 12th 3:30-4:30pm  
& Saturday December 23rd 10-11am

If you are unable to make a practice, please email

Theresa - [theresamwikander@gmail.com](mailto:theresamwikander@gmail.com)

OR Anna - [annakmoran@gmail.com](mailto:annakmoran@gmail.com)

Thank you!



# The Madeleine Giving Tree

**Please Return All Gifts to the Church or Parish Office no later than Monday, December 11**

Thank you, Madeleine Community, for your generous outpouring in claiming all 199 tags on our Giving Tree! Now, to make sure every gift gets to its recipient, please return all gifts to the Church before or after Masses this weekend, or to the Parish Office Monday between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.

**REMINDER: gifts for Green tags should be wrapped, gifts for Blue tags need to be brought to us unwrapped.**



## SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BEDDING DRIVE

Through Christmas, Sleep in Heavenly Peace is accepting bedding donations at The Madeleine. Please look for the blue bins located in the church vestibule or bring your donations to the Parish Office during business hours.



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Sleep in Heavenly Peace has provided 300 beds to children in the Portland area. Many of those beds were built and delivered by Madeleine parishioners and provided with sheets, blankets and pillows from Madeleine bedding drives.

Bedding needs to be for twin size beds (not extra long, please) sheet sets, blankets and comforters, mattress protectors and pillows. All donations must be new and still in the original packaging.

Thank you Madeleine Community for the continued support!

*World class virtuosity coming to Northeast Portland!*

45th Parallel Universe presents

# ELLINGTON'S NUTCRACKER SUITE

Monday, December 18  
The Old Madeleine Church  
7:00 pm

*Featuring The North Pole Cello Sextet*



Purchase tickets at

[45THPARALLELPDX.ORG](http://45THPARALLELPDX.ORG)



45<sup>TH</sup> PARALLEL UNIVERSE



Bravo! Concerts Northwest Presents

Sunday, December 10 | 3 PM  
The Madeleine Church

## Handel's Messiah

Bravo! Chorale  
Northwest Chamber Orchestra

Tickets at  
[www.bravoconcerts.com](http://www.bravoconcerts.com)



# ADVENT

## THREE COMPANIONS FOR OUR JOURNEY

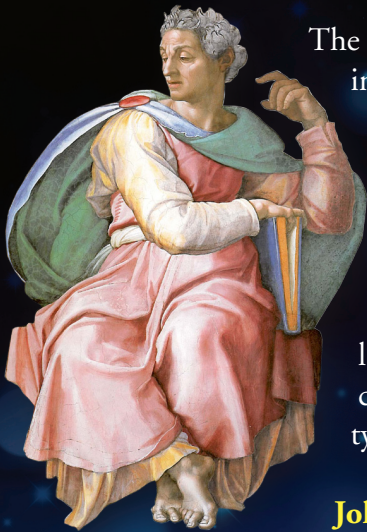
**The Season of Advent** makes our journey toward Christmas more meaningful by revealing our deepest longings and greatest hopes, and teaching us to focus all our desires on Jesus Christ. Advent celebrates three dimensions of Christ's coming—first into the world some two thousand years ago, second into our hearts right now, and finally in his coming at the end of time.

As you journey through Advent, you will begin to understand Jesus more fully and recognize that his birth began our redemption and that his return in glory will complete it. Advent draws together the joy of his arrival as a helpless babe with the hope of his return when evil will finally be eradicated from our world.

Advent also presents us with **three companions** for our journey who speak to us about matters of the heart—about longing, fulfillment and hope.

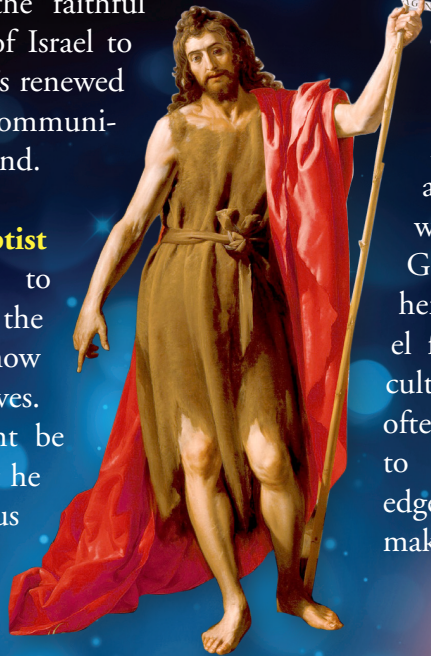
### Isaiah

The great prophet foretold the coming of the promised Messiah and his kingdom. Isaiah's words are remembered especially during Advent because of his confident hope that God would restore the faithful remnant of Israel to live as God's renewed covenant community in their land.



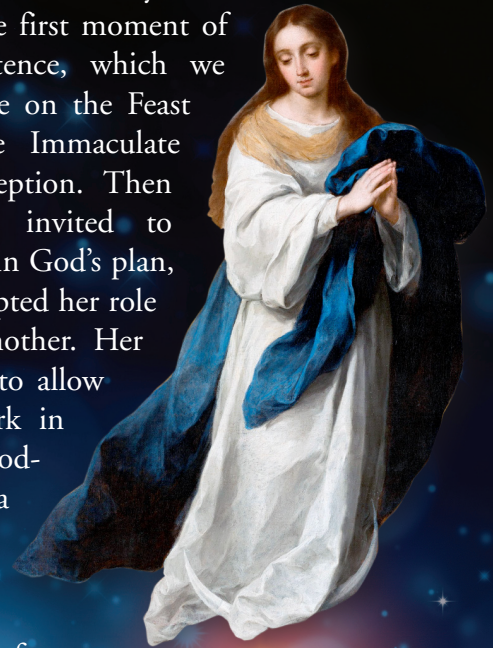
### John the Baptist

John announced to the people that Jesus, the Messiah, had finally come and now was the time to change their lives. While some thought John might be the Messiah, he knew clearly that he was only the messenger and Jesus was the promised one. When we look carefully at our lives and those of others, we learn what we must change to follow him.



### Mary

Mary was transformed by God's grace from the first moment of her existence, which we celebrate on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Then when invited to share in God's plan, Mary accepted her role as Jesus' mother. Her willingness to allow God to work in her life is a model for us in a culture that often refuses to acknowledge God and fears to make any commitment.



# Origins of Advent

Advent began sometime after the 4th century as a time of preparation for Epiphany—not in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early Church instituted a 40-day period of fasting and repentance.

Later, in the 6th century, Pope St. Gregory the Great was the first to associate this season of Advent with the coming of Christ. Originally it was not the coming of the Christ-child that was anticipated, but rather, the second coming of Christ.

By the Middle Ages the Church had extended the celebration of Advent to the familiar format we know today. The early weeks are rich with the prophecies of Isaiah, reminding us to wait and prepare for the coming Messiah. Later, the pace quickens and we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.

## The Three Arrivals of Christ

### Jesus Comes in Human History

Our celebration of Christmas focuses on the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The Christmas crèche at home or in the church, Christmas pageants and liturgies all help us recall the moment Jesus was born as a human being to live his destiny as the Son of God and our redeemer.

### Jesus Comes in Our Hearts

Alive and among us through the Holy Spirit, Jesus continually reaches out to us. Advent renews our desire for the daily coming of Jesus as we recall the story of our salvation and look forward to the coming of the kingdom. We “wait in joyful hope,” as the eucharistic liturgy says, for the coming of that kingdom.

### Jesus Comes in Glory

The haunting melody and refrains of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* serve to remind us of our longing for the completion of Christ's reign at the end of time. This season gives special meaning to the phrase from the Lord's Prayer, “thy kingdom come.”

# ADVENT F • A • Q

## What is the origin of the Advent Wreath?

The origin dates to pre-Christian Germany and Scandinavia where the people gathered to celebrate the return of the sun after the winter solstice. For us, the lighting of the Advent candles represents the promise of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

## Why is the rose-colored candle lit on the third Sunday of Advent?

The third Sunday of Advent is known as *Gaudete Sunday* because in Latin, the first words of the opening antiphon for that day's Mass are *Gaudete in Domino semper* (Rejoice in the Lord always) from Philippians 4:4-5. On this Sunday a rose-colored candle is lit as a reminder that we are called to rejoice.

## Was St. Nicholas Real?

Yes, St. Nicholas (270-343) was the Bishop of Myra (now Demre in southwest Turkey). He was imprisoned during Emperor Diocletian's persecution (303-5) and attended the first ecumenical council at Nicaea (325). Famous for his pastoral care, the many legendary stories of his charitable deeds became the basis for the figure of Santa Claus.

## What is a Jesse Tree?

An ancient tradition revived in the mid-20th century as an Advent practice, the Jesse Tree represents the family of Jesse, father of King David. Each day of Advent a home-made ornament is added to the Jesse Tree, a small tree made of evergreen branches. These symbolic ornaments each represent a prophecy foretelling of Christ.



## MASS READINGS FOR ADVENT 2023

- First Sunday** . . . . . Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • Mark 13:33-37
- Second Sunday** . . . . . Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
2 Peter 3:8-14 • Mark 1:1-8
- Third Sunday** . . . . . Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 • John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Fourth Sunday** . . . . . 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Romans 16:25-27 • Luke 1:26-38



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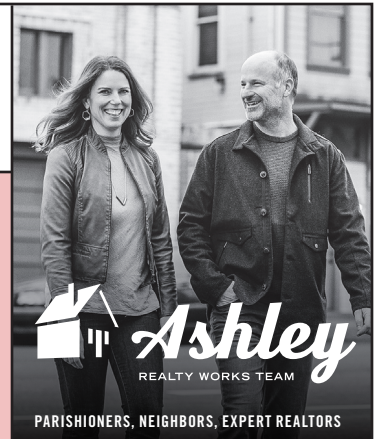
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