

Welcome to OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL CHURCH



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**12175 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922
(239) 283-0456**

Rev. Jacek Mazur, Pastor

Fr.Jacek@olmm.org

Rev. Mr. William "Bill" Beck, Deacon

deaconbill@comcast.net

Parish Secretary—Donna Wallis

donna.wallis@olmm.org

Bookkeeper—Diane Gleason

diane.gleason@olmm.org

Parish Office Hours

9:00 am—1:00 pm Monday—Friday

www.miraculousmedalch.org

Email: office@olmm.org

Knights of Columbus—Contact Luis Ramos (239) 560-6380

Baptisms—Parents must meet with the Pastor for instructions and a date for the ceremony*

Marriages—Couples must see the Pastor at least six months before the intended wedding date*

Visits to the Sick—Please call the Parish Office

Religious Education—Sundays, Sept.-May from 9:30 to 11 am. Pre-K through secondary grades

RCIA— (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - Please contact the Pastor for more information

New Parishioners—Registration forms are located in the entrance of the Church, at the Parish Office and on our website

Bereavement Support Group—No meetings scheduled at this time

*Registered parishioners only

MASS SCHEDULE

- ♦ **Daily Mass** Monday—Friday 8:30 am
- ♦ **Saturday Vigil** 4:30 pm—Year Round
- ♦ **Sunday Masses**
 - September through May 8:30 am & 10:30 am
 - June through August 9:30 am
- ♦ **Spanish Mass** 5:00 pm Sunday—Year Round
- ♦ **Holy Days of Obligation** 8:30 am & 6:00 pm
+++++
- ♦ **Confessions** Fridays after the 8:30 am Mass, Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm or by appointment
- ♦ **Rosary** A half hour prior to daily Mass. Wednesdays the Rosary is dedicated for the protection of our area against disasters. Rosary begins 45 minutes before the first Sunday Mass
- ♦ **Miraculous Medal Novena** Monday following the 8:30 am Mass
- ♦ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** First Friday of every month beginning at 9:00 am concluding with a brief prayer service and Benediction at Noon
- ♦ **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** First Fridays after the opening of Adoration

DECEMBER 2, 2018—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Intentions for the Week

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Mon. Dec 3	+Gerry Clayton
8:30 am	<i>Requested by Bud & Jeanne Cleveland</i>
Tues. Dec 4	+Jayne Ronan Gray
8:30 am	<i>Requested by Joan & Vincent Bresnahan</i>
Weds. Dec 5	Members of the Parish
8:30 am	
Thrs. Dec 6	+Renee Lyons
8:30 am	<i>Requested by Kevin & Sally Healy</i>
Fri. Dec 7	+Stanley & Ruth Miller
8:30 am	<i>Requested by Fred & Mary Sikorski</i>
Sat. Dec 8	+Christopher Newell
4:30 pm	<i>Requested by Joan & Steve Clay</i>
Sun. Dec 9	+Eugene Sittniewski
8:30 am	<i>Requested by Richard & Claudia Sitzman</i>
10:30 am	+Vincenzo Miceli, Sr.
	<i>Requested by Bud & Jeanne Cleveland</i>

Weekly Collections

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WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 17-18, 2018

ATTENDANCE -449

OFFERTORY—\$3,815.00

SECOND COLLECTION—\$646.00

POOR BOX—\$185.00

*Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through their selfless offering of time, talent and treasure. **Thank you and God Bless!***



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**PRAY THE
ROSARY DAILY**

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Miraculousmedalch.formed.org

This Week

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Monday, Dec 3, 2018

• **St. Francis Xavier**

Tuesday, Dec 4, 2018

• **St. John Damascene**

• **Adult Religious Ed 6 pm**

Wednesday, Dec 5, 2018

• **Choir Practice 5:00 pm**

Thursday, Dec 6, 2018

• **St. Nicholas**

Friday, Dec 7, 2018

FIRST FRIDAY

• **Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament 9 am—Noon**

• **St. Ambrose**

• **Immaculate Conception
Vigil Mass—6:00 pm**

Saturday, Dec 8, 2018

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

• **Mass at 8:30 am**

• **Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm**

Sunday, Dec 9, 2018

• **Masses at 8:30 & 10:30 am
and 5:00 pm (Spanish)**

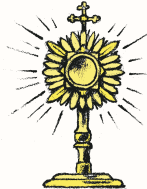
• **Religious Education
9:30 —11:15 am**

• **Coffee Social-9:30 am**



St. Francis Xavier

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**Immaculate
Conception**



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Rose Adams, Tony Ambrose, Carmen & Nilsa Aponte, Joe Arcuri, Glenn Armani, Helen Armani, Nora Baker, Barbara Basgall, Jacob Basilotto, Patricia Benson, Peter & Peggy Bercik, Angela Biondello, Ami Blachowiak, Patricia Blackwell, Rev. Jim Bok, OFM & Mary Gate of Heaven Parish, Negril; Katy Boylan, Peggy Brick, Dolores Brown, Betty Bulifant, Tom Cabot, Chuck Cabot, Patricia Clemens, Mario Corso, Charles "Bubba" Davis, Jr., Steve DiCristo, Larry DiOrio, Wendy Edwards, Aiden Foley, Connor Foley, Michael Fontaine, Justin Fiеста, Suzie Goldberg, Carmelle Goodridge, Leo & Judy Hage, Harry Haskins, Shawn Heeter, Pete & Alice Herbert, Pat Herbert, Eddie Holloway, Sally Hooper, George & Betty Hoyt, Carol Humme, JoAnn Ippolito, Everette & Nancy James, Stephanie Jefferson, Diane Jezek, Stan Jock, Arlis Kelly, Jim Kirk, Ken & Ginny Kloiber, Eddie Knowlton, Kent Krabill, Zal Kutar, John Lambrecht, Larry Larson, Ginny LeClaire, Margaret Lines, Anne Lintner, Edward Lodema, Eric Marinelli, Catherine Mazzola, Jim & Joan McCaffrey, Cindy McClure, Kenneth McCurdy, Jim McDonnell, Patty McGlone, Rick McKenna, Jr., Gloria McKeown, Connor McKinnon, Gema Moreno, Regina Mulherin, Rosario Munoz, Ruth Nayard, Elizabeth Nomorosa, Bernadette Nyka, Danny O'Herron, Jack O'Neill, Max & Mila Perez, Tyler Peryea, John Pitale, Pal Polster, Shirley Porter, Joe & Catherine Porthouse, Greg Printy, Kristin Ramsey, Tina Reichenwallner, Elly Rode, Jimmy Rosso, John & Janet Rovaldi, Heather Sallstrom Sanchez, Malte Sallstrom, Clarence Schuetz, Paul Sepczynski, Donnie Sheetz, Ann Speitel, Colleen Sullivan, Julianne Thorstenson, Pat Tweed, Gus Ventimiglia, Virginia Waggle, Robert Wallace, Mary Wilcox, Norman Willebrandt, Glenna Wolshlager

PARISH CALENDAR

December 8-Immaculate Conception
December 11-Advent Penance Service
December 12-Lessons and Carols
December 15-Parish Christmas Dinner
December 22-23-Our Lady of Guadalupe Travelling
Image Visitation
December 25-Christmas
December 31-New Year's Eve/Wine & Cheese
January 1-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

SECOND COLLECTION

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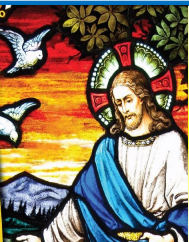
**DECEMBER 8-9, 2018
RETIREMENT FUND
FOR RELIGIOUS**

Your gift provides vital support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

How can I prepare myself for the coming of Jesus, at Christmas and at the end of time?

2018 Catholic Faith Appeal



OLMM 2018 CFA STATUS

Parish Goal	\$ 85,000.00
Pledged	\$ 78,197.95
Total Paid	\$ 75,241.79
Balance Due	\$ 9,758.21
a/o 11/19/18	

Thank you for your generosity.

†SAINTS/FEASTS OF THE WEEK†

Dec 3-St. Francis Xavier-Due to the gentle persuasion of St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis Xavier was converted to Christianity and soon joined the Jesuits. He is known as one of the greatest Roman Catholic missionaries of modern times and was influential in the founding of the Society of Jesus.

Dec 4-St. John Damascene-Also known as John of Damascus, St. John Damascene was a Syrian monk and priest and is one of the fathers of the Eastern Church.

Dec 6-St. Nicholas-Also known by the names Kris Kringle, Pere Noel, Father Christmas and Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, loved God more than anything since he was a very young child and showed his gratitude for God's gifts by giving to others. He was a devout Christian who provided for the poor and sick. He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers and students.

Dec 7-St. Ambrose-A bishop of Milan, St. Ambrose was one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the Fourth Century and is one of the four original doctors of the Church. One of his great claims to fame is that he was highly instrumental in the conversation of St. Augustine and baptized him.

Dec 8-Immaculate Conception-The Immaculate Conception is the conception of the Virgin Mary free from original sin by virtue of the merits of her son Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church teaches that God acted upon Mary in the first moment of her conception keeping her "immaculate." Wikipedia



The new 2019 offertory envelopes are here! They are located in the rear of the church and are in alphabetical order. If you requested envelopes, please pick them up. If you would like to start using envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. **Thank you!**



Christmas Dinner

OLMM's Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner December 15, 2018—5:30 pm Parish Life Center

Please join us on Saturday, December 15th for our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner! The Parish will provide the main course, coffee and punch. Everyone is invited to participate and bring a covered side dish or dessert. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex after all Masses the weekends of December 1-2 and 9-10. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

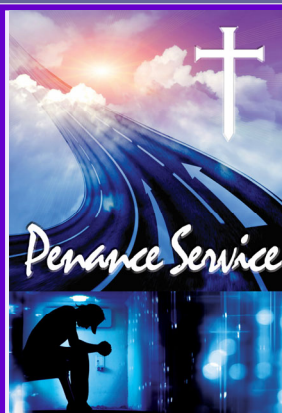
Alice Ambrose, Sal Anastasio, Ed Anderson, Pat Auge, Mary Lou Beck, Wally Bermingham, Roger Bolduc, Al Doerman, Jo Ann Grabenstetter, Gerry Green, Mary Hagan, Daniel Higgins, Helen Holfelner, Lil Honc, Dave Humme, Ed Hughes, Pat Jock, James Kennedy, Betty Licari, Sandra Marcil, Kathryn McGuineas, Leo Miller, Wes Morris, Maureen Murphy, Jim O'Neill, Volker Oelze, Fred "Fritz" Schoenbaechler, Jeanette Smith, Muriel Urrico, Melanie Voris, Victor Zawadski

"Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace."

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shines out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed, in their doubts never despair, in temptation never be destroyed, and in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit and help them to praise your Heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By your same Holy Spirit put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary, your Mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your spirit, to the glory of God the Father, **Amen.**

Saint Teresa of Calcutta Vocation Society



On Tuesday, December 11th at 6:00 pm, we will be holding an Advent Penance Service. Come and experience the power of the sacrament, which restores us to God's grace and joins us with him in an intimate friendship.

If you cannot attend on this date, you may attend one of these penance services:
St. Andrew-12/3-7:00 pm
St. Therese-12/4-5:00 pm
St. Katharine Drexel-12/10-7:00 pm



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you'd like to remember your loved ones and help decorate our Church this Christmas, please take an envelope from the Narthex, fill it out, enclose your donation and place in the collection basket or bring it to the Parish Office by Wednesday, December 12th

DIocese of Venice in Florida FEB 2, 2019

MEN'S CONFERENCE IRON SHARPENS IRON!



MARY HEALY is Professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Her work promoting biblical studies have greatly assisted the faithful in hearing the Word of God and living by it, with greater understanding and passionate zeal.



DCN. RALPH POVO models discipleship of Jesus with a truly relational style of evangelization. He helps Parishes become "self-evangelizing" Parishes by focusing on relational ministry and personal one-on-one encounters to build up the local Church.



HECTOR MOLINA has been speaking for over 25 years and has keynoted over 100 Diocesan events (in English and Spanish) from North America to Australia. As part of Casting Nets Ministries, he truly embodies what it means to be a "fisher of men."

TO REGISTER!

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR
www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/daily-resources/calendar/ 941-484-9543
evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org



LOCATION

Bishop Verot High School
5588 Sunrise Drive
Fort Myers

DATE

February 2, 2019
TIME
9 AM - 3 PM

COST

PRE-REGISTRATION
Adults \$20 | Students \$5.
AT THE DOOR
Adults \$30 | Students \$10.

SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF VENICE.

DIocese of Venice in Florida FEB 16, 2019

Women's Conference



JENNIFER FULWILER is the host of the Jennifer Fulwiler Show, which airs daily on the national SiriusXM network. She is the author of *Something Other than God*, as well as her new book *One Beautiful Dream*, a humorous memoir which was a #1 bestseller at Barnes & Noble and in the Top 25 of all books on Amazon.



LEAN DARROW, drawing from her experience on America's Next Top Model and her work in fashion, exposes the lies that women encounter today regarding their self-worth. Through her engaging talks, listeners are drawn to the appreciation of their own real beauty.



MOTHER ADELA GALINDO is the foundress of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Her faithful witness and sincere presentations evidence her great love for the Mother of God, which becomes infectious to all who hear her.

TO REGISTER!

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR
www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/daily-resources/calendar/ 941-484-9543
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AT THE DOOR
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SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF VENICE.

JOSHUA JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Knights of Columbus, Council 11177 at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, will once again be sponsoring a scholarship competition for high school seniors who are registered members of the St. Andrew's, St. Katharine's or Miraculous Medal parishes, and who are planning to pursue their education beyond high school. Applications for the **Joshua Johnson Memorial Scholarship** are available online at our parish website, or paper copies are available in the parish office. Completed applications and all supporting documents must be postmarked no later than **December 17, 2018**. For further information you can contact Mike Sushil at (239) 458-2249.

HOPE AFTER ABORTION

Sylvia Jimenez
Project Rachel
Coordinator

Compassionate &
Confidential help:
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project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org
www.hopeafterabortion.com

project rachel Peace starts here



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Respect Life Office
1000 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34285
941-441-1101
www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife



TELEVIEWED MASS TO THE HOMEBOUND

WFTX-TV FOX 4 - Sundays at 10:30 am

The Mass is also available on the Diocese of Venice website, www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmass.

Donations may be sent to: TV Mass, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285 For questions call 941-486-4714

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

To donate:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194

Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.

Or give at your local parish.

retiredreligious.org

Photo: Sister Clare Vandecovering, SSMO, SS.
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Please join us for the Annual Advent Lessons and carols

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
7:00 pm

The Annual Lessons & Carols service will be held at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 12175 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia, FL on Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm. This is an ecumenical advent service featuring the collaborative voices of the Choirs of Pine Island churches. Refreshments will served in the Parish Life Center following the service. We are requesting that you drop off baked good at the Parish Life Center prior to the service to share at the reception. We look forward to seeing you!

Coral Ridge Funeral Home and Cemetery
1630 SW Pine Island Road, Cape Coral, Florida (239) 283-0540
Annual Candlelight Service

The holiday season is a time for remembering...

Remembering those who have blessed our lives in so many ways

It is for this reason that Coral Ridge Funeral Home and Cemetery

will be celebrating a

Candlelight Service of Remembrance

Wednesday, December 5th 2018 at 7:00 PM

Because this is such a special time, we invite you to join us to reflect upon our lives, our losses and our memories...

Understanding the loss of a loved one can be difficult at times.

Trying to deal with that loss

Especially during the holidays, when times seem unbearable.

So, please come join us and light a candle.



Feel free to stop by and place an ornament in memory of your loved one on one of our "Memory Trees"

El Hijo
del hombre
vendrá en
una nube, con
gran poder y
majestad



2 de diciembre de 2018 • Primer Domingo de Adviento

En nuestra rutina de todos los días, es bien fácil enfocarnos en el aquí y ahora. La vida puede ser compleja y cambiar con rapidez. Frecuentemente, tenemos más que suficiente durante el día para irlo pasando. Sin embargo, parece que, en el Evangelio de Lucas de hoy, Jesús está pidiendo a sus seguidores, y a nosotros también, expandir nuestro objetivo y ver de una manera más amplia la realidad.

Se nos pide observar no solo las rutinas de la vida diaria, no solamente las fuerzas de la historia afectándonos, sino también a Dios ofreciéndonos el nacimiento de una nueva creación. Jesús nos pide ver más allá de los problemas de hoy y ver a Dios levantar nuestra esperanza. Estamos para ver más verdaderamente a personas necesitadas, aquellas que sufren a causa de la violencia, la pérdida o la injusticia. Se nos pide ver más allá de lo superficial durante el tiempo de compras navideñas, y que veamos a Cristo como el principal regalo y dador de regalos.

ESPERANDO BIEN

Hoy empezamos las lecturas del Año C del leccionario, esto quiere decir que durante la mayoría de los domingos leeremos el Evangelio de Lucas. Él escribió a una comunidad que luchó con preguntas de lo que había pasado y de lo que

(todavía) no había pasado. Algunas personas en la comunidad anticiparon que la promesa de Jesús de su regreso sucedería durante sus vidas. En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús no ofrece detalles del tiempo para su venida, sino que nos pide estar atentos y esperar. Podemos aprender a esperar fielmente, sin saber que será lo siguiente que va a pasar, sino vivir con confianza. El Adviento es un tiempo para volver a aprender acerca de esperar bien.

Muchos de los eventos que apreciamos en la vida suponen una espera: el nacimiento de un hijo, una graduación, un trabajo nuevo, la jubilación. La manera en cómo recibimos estos eventos depende de lo bien que nos hemos esperado y preparado. Esperar bien no es algo pasivo. A menudo, trabajamos arduamente para preparar los grandes eventos de la vida, tanto externamente y en nuestros corazones. Nos preparamos, pero permitimos las sorpresas. La preparación de Adviento para Navidad refleja nuestras muchas esperas, sabiendo que Dios puede venir a nuestras vidas sorpresivamente, sin que tenga fecha.

Lecturas de hoy: Jr 33:14-16; Sal 25 (24):4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Tes 3:12 — 4:2; Lc 21:25-28, 34-36

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“(T)he very continuity of the creation, and its preservation and government, teach us that there does exist a Deity, who supports and maintains and preserves and ever provides for this universe.” — John Damascene, *An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*



Our annual Giving Tree is up in the rear of the church and loaded with tags! This year we are also sponsoring local families through Pine Island F.I.S.H. in addition to

families in Immokalee. Please take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift and return it unwrapped by **DECEMBER 9TH ALONG WITH THE TAG.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Know Your Immigration Rights Conozca Sus Derechos de Inmigración

La Conferencia Estado Unidos de Obispos Católicos (USCCB) ha proporcionado un video en español y en inglés sobre los derechos de los inmigrantes. Por favor vaya a www.dioceseofvenice.org y haga clic en el banner "Conozca Sus Derechos" para ver los videos.

V Encuentro, Sesiones del Decanato Norte

La Oficina del Apostolado Hispano de la Diócesis de Venice organiza una serie de sesiones por decanatos para continuar el proceso del V Encuentro. Los fieles del Decanato Centro están invitados a participar a la siguiente reunión que se realizará en: Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice, Martes 25 de Julio, 6:30 p.m., La alegría de ser discípulos misioneros. Información: pastoralhispana@dioceseofvenice.org.

“It is a better thing to save souls for the Lord than to save treasures. He who sent forth his apostles without gold had not need of gold to form his Church. The Church possesses gold, not to hoard, but to scatter abroad and come to the aid of the unfortunate.”

—St. Ambrose

DECEMBER 2, 2018 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is
right and just in the
land.**

— *Jeremiah 33:15*

**Levantare para David un tiro justo; Él
hará lo que es correcto y justo en la
tierra.**

— *Jeremías 33:15*

THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind.

Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

Psalms — To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — Abound in love for one another and for all (1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2).

Gospel — Stand erect and raise your heads; your redemption is at hand (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Weds: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;
Lk 3:1-6

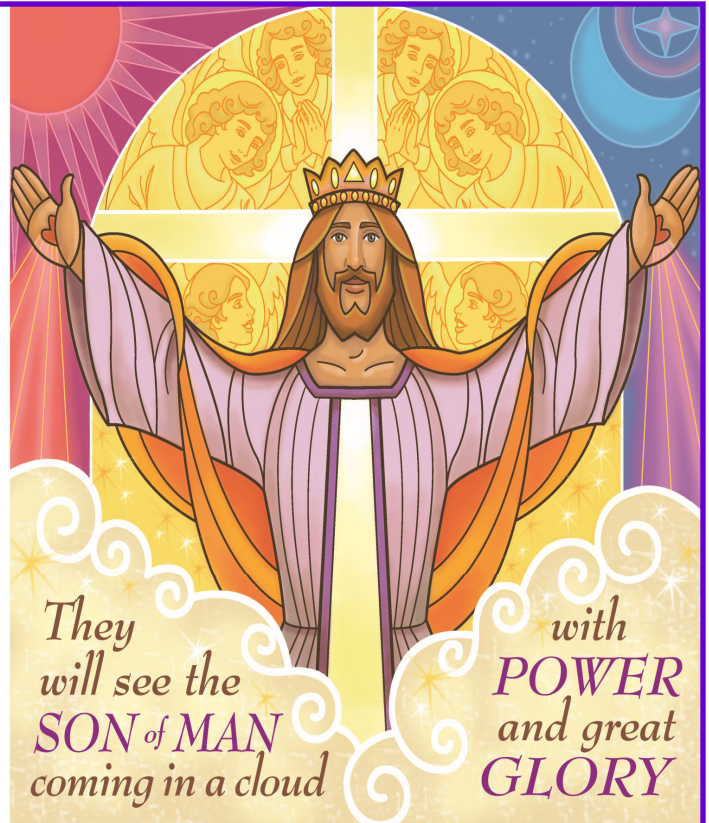
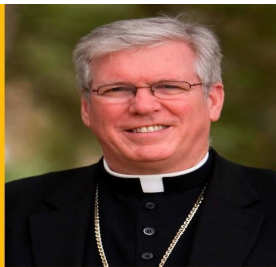
HEARTFELT

Remember that God prefers the poverty of our hearts to the most sublime thoughts borrowed from others.—St. Peter Julian Eymard

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Occasionally, someone raises a surprised complaint that while Christmas arrives on Santa's sleigh at the Macy's parade on Thanksgiving Day, the Church doesn't catch on too fast. They may even say that Advent is a new-fangled idea. Not so. To trace its beginnings, we have to go back to the fourth or fifth century in France (then Gaul), when Epiphany was the favored day, next to Easter, for baptism. The old pagan structures of Rome were collapsing then, and many people sought to be baptized. Since adults always prepared for baptism by fasting, folks counted back a few weeks for a kind of retreat. Before too long, bishops were advising everyone to attend church frequently beginning on December 17. Soon, artists were imagining ways of expressing the Advent mystery, and in Italy this gave rise to beautiful mosaics of empty thrones awaiting the arrival of the Lord of all creation.

Advent as we know it develops on two separate tracks: the first having to do with our spiritual preparation for celebrating the Christmas feast, and the second having to do with the way this is organized and expressed in the liturgical readings and prayers every day of the season.—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

THE THREE COMINGS OF ADVENT

There are three distinct comings of the Lord of which I know: His coming to humankind, His coming into humankind, and His coming against humankind.—St. Bernard: *Third Sermon for Advent*

"Prayer is powerful! It fills the earth with mercy, it makes the Divine clemency pass from generation to generation; right along the course of centuries, wonderful works have been achieved through prayer."—St. Francis Xavier



Catholic Treasures

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Anytime, Anywhere



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HYMNS & SONGS • PRAISE & HONOR

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starting as low as \$1045 per couple. Daily Mass and
Rosary offered. Deposit of only \$350 per person
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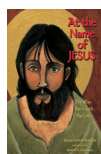
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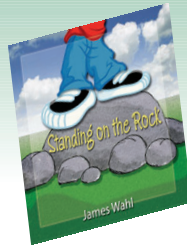


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