

**LITURGIES FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT AND THE THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

December 11 - 17, 2023

**Monday, 12/11 † Advent Weekday, Saint
Damasus I, Pope**

6pm: Sister Cathy Schwerer, PHJC by Jack & Kay
Reimbold

Tuesday, 12/12 † Our Lady of Guadalupe

8am: Will Reimbold by Mom & Dad
9am: A.S.-

Wednesday, 12/13 † Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

9am: A.S.
6pm: Colin McInerney by Jack & Kay Reimbold

**Thursday, 12/14 † Saint John of the Cross,
Priest & Doctor of the Church**

8am: Intention of Tom, Lori Ann, Keegan & Brenda
by Jack & Kay Reimbold
9am: A.S.

Friday, 12/15 † Advent Weekday

8am: Steve Barker (Birthday)
9am: A.S. Wyatt Duttlinger (Birthday) by Jan
Duttlinger

Saturday, 12/16 † Advent Weekday

8:30am: Uncle John

**Saturday, 12/16 † Vigil, THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

4:30pm: Sherry Jorzak by Thomas Jorzak Family

Sunday, 12/17 † THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am: Mary Roy by Family
9am: A. S. Anniversary of Chester & Peg Potempa by
Patricia Binkley
11am: Parishioners

†† R. I. P. ††

Doris Vanek Neumaier (Former parishioner)

This week at SS. C & M & All Saints

Mon., Dec. 11 – 3:30pm – SVDP, Parlor
Mon., Dec. 11 – 6:30pm – Our Lady of Guadalupe
carry-in reception in the Church Parlor
Tues., Dec. 12 – 6pm – Christian Ladies Mtng. &
Christmas Party, Church Parlor
Thurs., Dec. 14 – 2:15pm - Legion of Mary
Thurs., Dec. 14 – 4pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Thurs., Dec. 14 – 7pm – Men's Group, All Saints
Sun., Dec. 17 – 9:30am – Religious Education

As per our custom, we will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe this Monday, December 11 & will have a carry-in reception in the church parlor following the 6pm Mass.

The Christian Ladies will hold their next meeting this Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00pm in the Church Parlor with a carry-in dinner. Each member is asked to bring a \$10.00 gift for a gift exchange. All ladies of the parish are encouraged to participate and join in the fun.

**Reconciliation Services for
Monday, Dec. 18– Thursday, Dec. 21, 2022**
Mon., Dec. 18 - 7pm - Reconciliation Services at All
Saints, San Pierre
Tues., Dec. 19 - 7pm - Reconciliation Services at St.
Thomas, Knox
Wed., Dec., 20 - 7pm - Reconciliation Services at SS.
Cyril and Methodius, North Judson
Thurs., Dec. 21 - 7pm - Reconciliation Services at
Holy Cross, Hamlet

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. **Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.**

Dear Padre

December 10, 2023

Do Catholics have to marry in the Church? If a couple decides to marry outside of the Church, are they still allowed to receive Communion and other sacraments?

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

Good News!

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 / 2 Peter 3:8-14 / Mark 1:1-8

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In 1992, *Forbes* magazine published an issue titled "Why Do We Feel So Bad When We Have It So Good?" It featured articles by such luminaries as newsman Dan Rather, President George H. W. Bush, and author John Updike. Many of the writers reflected upon our passion for more and our hunger to live in affluence and how that fails to satisfy. In so many ways, we as a nation find ourselves seeking distractions from living with ourselves lest we be confronted by our ultimate loneliness. As a nation we are addicted to entertainment and smartphones, to drugs and pornography, to finding something new. We are confronted by rising suicide rates and a pervasive, deep-seated anger. Why are we not satisfied?

John the Baptist called the people of his day to repent, which is another way of asking them—and us—to look at life differently. Advent is really about getting in touch with our deep longing for more, a part of our human condition that ultimately is only satisfied by God. We have been created to long for more, a longing that feels like loneliness, a longing that seeks to be satisfied. In the end, we can only find a sense of peace in the midst of such longing by accepting that it can never be fully satisfied in this life. Like the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous, accepting rather than fleeing from our human reality becomes a path to new life. ●

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A Spiritual Christmas Crib

This Advent, build a spiritual crib in your heart for Christ. Every day, starting with December 1, read (and do) the suggested spiritual practice. Say the ejaculation as often as you can remember. By Christmas, your heart will be a worthy crib for the Divine Babe of Bethlehem.

DEC. 1 - THE STABLE

Frequently during the day offer your heart to the little Infant Jesus. Ask Him to make it His home. --*Sweet Jesus, take my heart and make it meek and pure.*

DEC. 2 - THE ROOF

See that the roof of the stable is in good condition, so that the Infant Jesus is protected from rain and snow. This you will do by carefully avoiding every uncharitable remark.

--*Jesus, teach me to love my neighbor as myself.*

DEC. 3 - CREVICES

Carefully stop every crevice in the walls of the stable, so that the wind and cold may not enter there. Guard your senses against temptations. Guard especially your ears against sinful conversations. --*Jesus, help me to keep temptations out of my heart.*

DEC. 4 - COBWEBS

Clean the cobwebs from your spiritual crib. Diligently remove from your heart every inordinate desire of being praised. Renew this intention at least three times today.

--*My Jesus, I want to please You in all I do today.*

DEC. 5 - FENCE

Build a fence about the crib of your heart by keeping a strict watch over your eyes, especially at prayer.

--*Sweet Jesus, I long to see You.*

DEC. 6 - MANGER

Fix the best and warmest corner of your heart for the manger of Jesus. You will do so by abstaining from what you like most in the line of comfort and amusement.

--*Mary, use these sacrifices to prepare my heart for Jesus in Holy Communion.*

DEC. 7 - HAY

Supply the manger of your heart with hay, by overcoming all feelings of pride, anger or envy.

--*Jesus, teach me to know and correct my greatest sins.*

DEC. 8 - SOFT STRAW

Also provide your manger with soft straw by performing little acts of mortification; for instance, bear the cold without complaints; or sit and stand erect.

--*Dear Jesus, Who suffered so much for me, let me suffer for love of You.*

DEC. 9 - SWADDLING CLOTHES

Prepare these for the Divine Infant by folding your hands when you pray, and praying slowly and thoughtfully.

--*Jesus, let me love you more and more.*

DEC. 10 - BLANKETS

Provide the manger of your heart with soft warm blankets. Avoid harsh and angry words; be kind and gentle to all.

--*Jesus, help me to be meek and humble like You.*

DEC. 11 - FUEL

Bring fuel to the crib of Jesus. Give up your own will; obey your superiors cheerfully and promptly. --*Jesus, let me do Your will in all things.*

DEC. 12 - WATER

Bring fresh, clean water to the crib. Avoid every untruthful word and every deceitful act.

--*Dearest Mary, obtain for me true contrition for my sins.*

DEC. 13 - PROVISIONS

Bring a supply of food to the crib. Deprive yourself of some food at mealtime or candy as a treat.

--*Jesus, be my strength and nourishment.*

DEC. 14 - LIGHT

See that the crib has sufficient light. Be neat and orderly about your person; keep everything in its place in your room.

--Jesus, be the life and light of my soul.

DEC. 15 - FIRE

Take care to have the crib of your heart warmed by a cozy fire. Be grateful to God for the love He has shown us in becoming man; behave with grateful respect towards your parents and relatives.

--Jesus, how can I return Your love; how can I show my gratitude to You?

DEC. 16 - THE OX

Lead the ox to the crib. Obey cheerfully without making excuses and without asking "why."

--I will obey for love of You, Jesus.

DEC. 17 - THE DONKEY

Bring the donkey to the crib. Offer to the Divine Infant your bodily strength; use it in the service of others.

--Jesus, accept my service of love; I offer it for those who do not love You.

DEC. 18 - GIFTS

Gather some presents for the Divine Infant and His Blessed Mother. Give alms for the poor and say an extra decade of the rosary.

--Come, Jesus, to accept my gifts and to take possession of my heart.

DEC. 19 - LAMBS

Strive to bring some little lambs, meek and patient. Do not murmur or complain.

--Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like Yours.

DEC. 20 - SHEPHERDS

Invite the shepherds to pay homage to our newborn King. Imitate their watchfulness; stress in your speech and thoughts the idea that Christmas is important because Jesus will be born again in you. *--Jesus, teach me to love You above all things.*

DEC. 21 - THE KEY

Provide the stable with a key to keep out thieves. Exclude from your heart every sinful thought, every rash judgment.

--Dear Jesus, close my heart to all that hurts You.

DEC. 22 - ANGELS

Invite the angels to adore God with you. Cheerfully obey the inspirations of your guardian angel and of your conscience.

--Holy Guardian Angel, never let me forget that you are with me always.

DEC. 23 - ST. JOSEPH

Accompany Saint Joseph from door to door. Learn from him silently and patiently to bear refusals and disappointments. Open wide your heart and beg him to enter with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

--Saint Joseph, help me to prepare for a worthy Christmas Communion.

DEC. 24 - THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Go meet your Blessed Mother. Lead her to the manger of your heart and beg her to lay the Divine Infant in it. Shorten your chats and telephone conversations and spend more time today thinking of Jesus and Mary and Joseph.

--Come, dear Jesus, come; my heart belongs to You.

From "Devotions in Preparation for the Coming of the Christ child, and at the Crib, from Christmas to Purification" by Rev. Frederic Nelson, published by Marian House, Powers Lake, ND 58773

25 WAYS WE'RE DIFFERENT THIS CHRISTMAS

- 1. Last Christmas we were thinking about all the things we didn't have; this Christmas we are thinking about all the things we do have.**
- 2. Last Christmas we were placing wreaths on the doors of our homes; this Christmas we are placing wreaths on the graves of our heroes.**
- 3. Last Christmas we were letting our sons play with toy guns; this Christmas we are teaching them that guns are not toys.**
- 4. Last Christmas we were counting our money; this Christmas we are counting our blessings.**
- 5. Last Christmas we were lighting candles to decorate; this Christmas we are lighting candles to commemorate.**
- 6. Last Christmas we paid lip service to the real meaning of the holidays; this Christmas we are paying homage to it.**
- 7. Last Christmas we were digging deep into our bank accounts to find money to fly home for the holidays; this Christmas we are digging deep into our souls to find the courage to do so.**
- 8. Last Christmas we were trying not to let annoying relatives get the best of us; this Christmas we are trying to give the best of ourselves to them.**
- 9. Last Christmas we thought it was enough to celebrate the holidays; this Christmas we know we must also find ways to consecrate them.**
- 10. Last Christmas we thought a man who could rush down a football field was a hero; this Christmas we know a man who rushes into a burning building is the real one.**
- 11. Last Christmas we were thinking about the madness of the holidays; this Christmas we are thinking about the meaning of them.**
- 12. Last Christmas we were getting on one another's nerves; this Christmas we are getting on our knees.**

- 13. Last Christmas we were giving thanks for gifts from stores; this Christmas we are giving thanks for gifts from GOD.**
- 14. Last Christmas we were wondering how to give our children all the things that money can buy; this Christmas we are wondering how to give them all the things money can't (peace, security).**
- 15. Last Christmas we were thinking about all the pressure we are under at the office; this Christmas we are thinking about all the people who no longer have an office to go to.**
- 16. Last Christmas we were singing carols; this Christmas we are singing anthems.**
- 17. Last Christmas we were thinking how good it would feel to be affluent; this Christmas we are thinking how good it feels to be alive.**
- 18. Last Christmas we thought angels were in heaven; this Christmas we know they are right here on earth.**
- 19. Last Christmas we were contemplating all the changes we wanted to make in the new year; this Christmas we are contemplating all the changes we will have to make in this new reality.**
- 20. Last Christmas we believed in the power of the pocketbook; this Christmas we believe in the power of prayer.**
- 21. Last Christmas we were sharing / spreading / listening to gossip; this Christmas we are sharing / spreading and listening to the Gospel.**
- 22. Last Christmas we were complaining about how much of our earnings went to taxes; this Christmas we comprehend that freedom isn't free.**
- 23. Last Christmas we valued things that were costly; this Christmas we value things that are holy.**
- 24. Last Christmas the people we idolized wore sports uniforms; this Christmas the people we idolize wear police, firefighter and military uniforms.**
- 25. Last Christmas peace on earth is something we prayed for on Sunday morning; now it's something we pray for every day.**