

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

December 18 - 25, 2023

Monday, 12/18 † Late Advent Weekday
6pm: Gary

Tuesday, 12/19 † Late Advent Weekday
8am: Annette
9am: A.S. - *Liz*

Wednesday, 12/20 † Late Advent Weekday
9am: A.S. Jennifer Barker (Birthday)
6pm: *WALTER BENNIS by SON*

**Thursday, 12/21 † Late Advent Weekday, Saint
Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church**
8am: Scott
9am: A.S. Lucas Duttlinger (Birthday) by Jan
Duttlinger

Friday, 12/22 † Late Advent Weekday
8am: Norman Schrombeck by Daughter Sharon
Richie
9am: A.S. Tom Spenner by Family

Saturday, 12/23 † Saint John of Kanty, Priest
8:30am:

**Saturday, 12/24 † Vigil, FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**
4:30pm: Ralph Dolezal by Wife, Alice

**Sunday, 12/24 † FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**
7:30am: Doris Neumaier by The Menis family
9am: A. S.
11am: Parishioners

**Sunday, 12/24 † Vigil, THE NATIVITY OF THE
LORD**
(Christmas) Holy Day of Obligation
4pm: Parishioners of All Saints & SS. Cyril &
Methodius

**Monday, 12/25 † THE NATIVITY OF THE
LORD**

12 Midnight: Parishioners of All Saints & SS. Cyril
and Methodius
Reception in Parlor after the 12 Midnight Mass
9am: A.S. Parishioners of All Saints & SS. Cyril and
Methodius
10:30am: Parishioners of All Saints & SS. Cyril and
Methodius

This week at SS. C & M & All Saints

Thurs., Dec. 21 – 2:15pm - Legion of Mary
Thurs., Dec. 21 – 4pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Sun., Dec. 24 – 9:30am –NO Religious Education
Sun. Dec. 25 – 1am: Reception in Parlor after the
Midnight Mass

Calling all decorators! We will be
decorating the church for Christmas on
Wednesday, December 20th at 10:00 a.m.
Anyone available to help would be greatly
appreciated. Thank you!

**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

The Office will be closed December 20-26, 2023

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

Dear Padre

December 17, 2023

Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Good News!

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 /
John 1:6-8, 19-28

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●

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ADVENT A TIME OF PREPARATION

IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH WE CLEAN AND PREPARE OUR HOMES IN THE ANTICIPATION OF WELCOMED GUESTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, LET US ALSO PREPARE OUR HEARTS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LORD'S COMING.

CHRIST, OUR MOST HONORED AND EAGERLY ANTICIPATED GUEST, DESIRES TO MEET WITH US IN A HEART PREPARED FOR HIS ARRIVAL. SO EAGER IS HE TO MEET WITH US THAT HE OFFERS TO HELP US WITH OUR SPIRITUAL HOUSECLEANING, WORKING WITH US; CREATING A RESTING PLACE FOR HIMSELF WITHIN OUR HEARTS. WE CAN DO THIS BY OFFERING HIM A SPIRITUAL BOUQUET.

COMMERCIALIZATION HAS OBSCURED THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. THE COMMERCIAL HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CAROL.

WHAT MAN HAS TO SELL HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN. LET'S US KEEP CHRIST THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

A Prayer For Children

O God the Father of mankind, who has given me my children, and committed them to my charge to bring them up for You, and to prepare them for eternal life: help me with Your heavenly grace, that I may be able to fulfill this most sacred duty and stewardship.

Teach me both what to give and what to withhold; when to reprove and when to forbear; make me gentle, yet firm; considerate and watchful; and deliver me equally from the weakness of indulgence and the excess of severity; and grant that, both by word and by example, I may be careful to lead them in the ways of wisdom and true piety. Amen.

Pour Your grace into their hearts, and strengthen and multiply in them the gifts of Your Holy Spirit, that they may daily grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; and so, faithfully serving You here, may come to rejoice in Your presence hereafter. Amen.

“A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who ... raise their mind with humble confidence to God.”