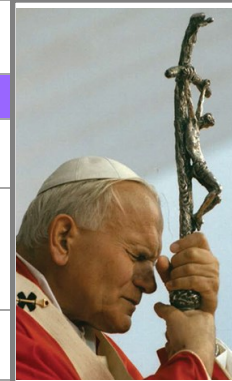


**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
November 28, 2021 ~ Bulletin No. 48 Vol. XXXVII

**CALENDAR ~ November 27-December 5, 2021**

Sat 27	5:00pm	Mass for Pendleton Family by Dianna Pendleton
Sun 28	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Walter & Wanda Chimiak by Nancy Frei Mass for ROS Moe Daigle by Claire Daigle Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 20	9:00am 7:00am	Mass for ROS Marcella Cuadros by Mario & Alba Hernandez Men's Prayer Group
Wed 12/1	7:00pm 10:30 am	Mass for John Staab, Happy Birthday by Rosanne Staab Prayer Group, Parish Hall
Thurs 2	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass for Joann Cilone, Happy Birthday by John & Rosanne Staab Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 3	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Jerry Henson by John & Rosanne Staab Men's Prayer Group
Sat 4	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Beverly Axline by Don Axline
Sun 5	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Marvin & Simone Bivens by Maxie & Joannie Jolley Mass for ROS Romilda Polinari by Giuliana Riley Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

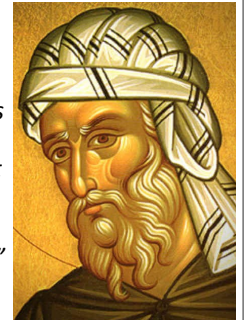


*From the Holy Father*

*"O Mother of our Advent, be with us and see to it that He will remain with us in this difficult Advent of the struggles for truth and hope, for justice and peace: He alone, Emmanuel."  
~ Saint Pope John Paul II ~*

*Wisdom of the Saints*

*"You kept me alive with the solid loaf of the body of Jesus Christ, your only begotten Son and our God, and you let me drink from the chalice of His life-giving blood, poured out to save the whole world."  
~ Saint John Damascene ~  
Feast December 4*



**For Annulment Information Contact:**

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or  
Email: [reharrill@rcdoc.org](mailto:reharrill@rcdoc.org).

**COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS**

Parishioners have the option of making their contributions online through the following link:  
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

**Contributions from November 21, 2021**

Regular Collection: \$7,083.00  
Building Repair Loan: \$3,020.00  
Campaign for Human Dev.: \$892.21  
Seminar Education: \$60.00  
World Mission: \$50.00

**The 2022 Mass Intention Book is open!**

Email [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com) and the worksheet for Mass Intentions will be emailed out to you. We are starting with a limit of 8 intentions. Write out your intention (s), place them in an envelope with your stipend, and:  
1. Mail them to the Church Office, or...  
2. Drop your envelope into the mail slot in Sharon's office door in the narthex or...  
3. Drop your envelope, with Sharon's name or "Mass Intentions" on the envelope, into the collection basket on Sundays.

**Knights of Columbus** meeting is Sunday, December 5 at 7 pm. Adoration at 6:30 pm in the Chapel.

**March for Life. January 21, 2022**

The bus for the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life, held in Washington DC on Friday, January 21st, 2022, has a couple of seats available. If we fill them all the roundtrip cost will be about \$85.00. For more information please call Tim Will at 828 447 2660.



The **Hands of Hope Tree** in the narthex is for gifts for babies and children up to 5 years old, or for a Mother. Do not wrap the gifts, but they may be put in a gift bag, and placed under the tree. The deadline is December 19.

**Christmas Bake Goods/Frozen Entrees Sale  
December 4th 9:00 AM until....**

A sign up sheet is available in the Narthex for help with supplying Baked Goods AND Frozen Entrees for the Sale.



**DECEMBER 5:** Next Sunday is *Yokefellow Sunday*. Our item to contribute pancake mix and pancake syrup.

**SPECIAL EVENT**

The **Mary's Sons Apostolate** invites you to join them in praying in a special way for Deacons Darren Balkey and Aaron Huber, as they prepare to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood for the Diocese of Charlotte next spring. **During November 29th after the 9am Mass, through December 6th, two handmade wooden kneelers will be at our parish. Please take a moment to pray on the kneelers for the Deacons.** There will be prayer cards and journals in which you can write messages of encouragement and well wishes. The kneelers and journals will travel to other parishes in the coming months and then will be given to the men at their ordination. For more information about Mary's Sons and the Kneelers for Priests Pilgrimage program, please visit [www.maryssons.org](http://www.maryssons.org).

**The Annual Christmas Dinner, Coat and Toy Give-Away**

Donations are needed to help support the joint effort between the Knights of Columbus and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. **For the Knights**, here's what we need: food needed that would make up a Christmas dinner such as green beans, cranberry sauce stuffing mix, turkey, gravy, canned pumpkin, pie crust mix...you name it. Then, toys for boys and girls from 1-16. **For the Saint Vincent de Paul Society**, we need children's coats, new or gently used, from sizes 4T to size 14/16. We need all donations by December 11th. Of course, your financial donations are always welcome. More information as this time of giving moves along.

**Submit information for the bulletin** to Penny Watkins, at [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com); Deadline: 12:30pm, Wednesday before the bulletin comes out.

# Advent Hope

Today is the First Sunday in Advent, and since the 9th century, the First Sunday of Advent has been designated as the first day of the liturgical year. Happy Birthday Mother Church!

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the King. One way to better prepare yourself is through prayer. We all know some prayers. We may even have a little booklet with all our favorite prayers in it. We may pray the Rosary every day, or have a favorite litany or novena. There are many ways to pray, and the new series for the bulletin this year is Prayer as Taught by the Master, Jesus Christ.

The Apostles looked to Jesus, their Rabbi (teacher) regarding prayer. Remember? *He was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray."* (Luke 11: 1)

We all know that Jesus responded by teaching the disciples the Lord's Prayer. According to Peter Kreeft, the foremost living apologist in the Church today:

"Christ gave us not just one but four answers to the request "Teach us to pray."

First, He gave us "the Lord's Prayer", the prayer that contains all prayers because it contains everything we ought to pray for, everything we ought to love, everything we ought to hope for.

Second, He gave us His example. What prayers did He and His disciples pray? The Psalms! As all Jews have done ever since they had them. The Psalms are GOD's answer to the request "Teach us to pray."

Third, He gave us the Mass, the perfect Prayer, in which we offer not just our prayers but our Divine Pray-er Himself.

Fourth, He gave us His mother, from the Cross.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), Part Four, Christian Prayer, are found some of the most beautiful words ever spoken and written on prayer. For example, "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." These words were written by the Little Flower, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. An from Saint John Damascene, "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God."

You may ask: "Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays. But in naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain. The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, the heart is the place "to which I withdraw." The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully...it is the place of covenant." (CCC ¶12562-63)



We know all of that to be true because the Scriptures tell us 'more than a thousand times.' Here is something even better, what Jesus tells us about His Heart.

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Matthew 11: 28-30)

This statement made by Jesus teaches us something particular about Jesus and prayer. He leads by example. We know how busy His life was, and He knew what it was to have life's burdens, yet He always took the time to go off, by Himself to pray. He tells us to do what He did, we are expected to learn from Him. We might not be able to go off by ourselves for any great length of time, but if we start with a short period of time, even if it is 5 minutes, the time will grow as you find the spiritual rest He promised us.

The words of the great Saint Teresa of Jesus (of Avila) helps a lot of busy people. She speaks of mental prayer, but the quote works for all prayer. She wrote "For mental pray, in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us."



*"But I will hope continually, and I will praise you yet, more and more."*  
Psalm 25:14

## An Advent Prayer of Hope

God of light and hope, look upon us with love, and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus that we may love you and serve You in Your kingdom. Protect us during this week and keep us watchful in prayer as we await the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.