

NOVEMBER 27, 2022
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

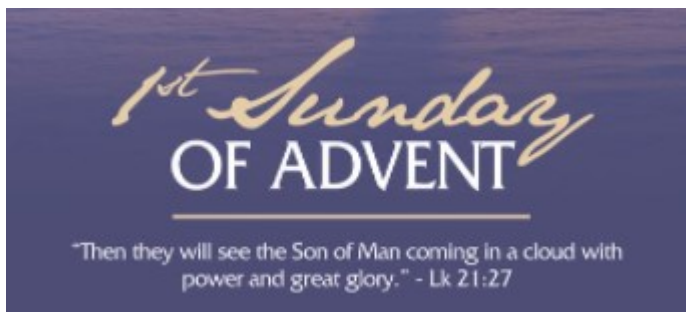
Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

Today, we are entering into the Advent season. Advent means “coming”. We are invited to mediate on Jesus’ first coming in history as a baby in Bethlehem; his daily coming into our lives in mystery through the sacraments, through the Bible and through the worshipping community; and finally his Second Coming at the end of the world to reward the just and to punish the wicked.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah describes his vision of all nations making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, affirming their faith in the one true God. Today’s responsorial psalm is a joyous hymn originally sung as pilgrims journeyed to the Temple in Jerusalem. They prepare us for our yearly pilgrimage. In the second reading Paul exhorts the Roman Christian community to get ready to meet Jesus in his Second Coming by discharging their duties properly, and by freeing themselves from their former pagan tendencies toward excessive drinking, sexual promiscuity, jealousy and rivalry. We, too, are challenged to make spiritual preparations for Christ’s birth in our lives.

In today’s Gospel Jesus warns us of the urgency of vigilant preparation on our part that we may meet him as the judge both at the end of our lives on earth and on the day of the Last Judgment when he comes in his glory. Jesus reminds us of how the unrepentant and ill-prepared evil people were destroyed by the flood in the time of Noah and how a thief would break in and plunder the precious belongings of an ill-prepared house owner. Using the additional examples of ancient way of arrest and punishment of a culprit without notice by a king and of forceful recruitment to military service by ancient rulers, Jesus repeats his warning for us to be vigilant and well-prepared all the time, doing the will of God by loving others.

We need to be alert and watchful while spiritually preparing for Christmas by offering our daily work to God for His glory, by practicing more self-control in resisting our evil habits and inclinations, by seeking reconciliation daily with God and our fellow-humans, and by asking God’s pardon and forgiveness and extending our unconditional forgiveness to those who have hurt us. Let us begin each day by praying for the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to prepare ourselves for Jesus’ rebirth in our hearts and lives.



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OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)	
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)	
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM	
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM	7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT	

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	November 26
9:30—11 AM	Food Closet Open
5:00 PM	Mass:
Sunday	November 27
8:00 AM	Mass: Vincenza “Jennie” Petrucci (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Cheryl Verchot (RIP)
Monday	November 28
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Rita LaMarra (RIP)
Wednesday	November 30
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Living & Deceased Members of the Pelletier & Coyle Families
Friday	December 2
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory
9:30—10:30 AM	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Open for your Intentions
10:00 AM	Mass: Deceased Members of Matters Family

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

The Diocese of Providence Has a Coadjutor Bishop

Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of retiring Bishop Robert Evans, our Auxiliary Bishop, and has appointed **Bishop Richard Henning** as Coadjutor Bishop of Providence, which means he will automatically succeed Bishop Thomas Tobin, upon Bishop Tobin's anticipated retirement next year. Bishop Henning was most recently the Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre in the state of New York. Pray for the bishops of our diocese!

Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are at 9AM & 7PM.

Christmas Gift Cards

To help some families in our parish community this Christmas Season, we could use Walmart, Target, Stop & Shop or Big Y gift cards. Any help is appreciated.

Christmas Gift Tags

The Dept. of Human Services has left Christmas gift tags so we can assist families needing help with Christmas gifts. Please return UNWRAPPED gifts to the church by December 4. Gift bags/ wrapping gladly accepted.

There's Still Time!

Grateful for God's Providence, the diocesan capital campaign, ends in December 2022. Parishioners pledged \$91,209 and have returned \$86,074 thus far. Only \$5,135 remains to meet our total commitment. There's still time to fulfill your pledge! Please make payments directly to the Diocese of Providence. Your generosity has provided St. Paul's with 40% of all dollars paid to the campaign. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Second Collection—Dec 3/4

Next weekend's 2nd Collection will be used to help with cost of utilities.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – Nov 19/20
\$2,593.00

Cath Camp Human Dev – Nov 19/20
\$ 408.00

Thank you for your support!

Saturday Morning Coffee & Gospel

Deacon Fernando is facilitating a Saturday morning gathering for men to share coffee and their take on that weekend's Sunday Gospel. You're invited to do something God wants us to do: to listen more closely to what Jesus has to say. And sometimes it helps hearing what he wants to say to us through others who share the same hopes we do. So, join us **Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30** for coffee and gospel. (And come a bit earlier: the Blessed Sacrament is exposed from 8:00 - 8:25 for quiet prayer.)

We're planning something similar for women of the parish. If you're interested in making that happen, please contact Deacon through the parish office.



Is Next Weekend!

Please drop off donations of jams, jellies, relishes, and baked goods on Friday, Dec. 2nd, from 9:00—1:00, or early Saturday morning, Dec. 3rd.

Help Support Our Parish

Let's cook up some funds for St. Paul's with a **Pampered Chef Fundraiser**. A percentage of all orders placed by December 10th will benefit St. Paul the Apostle Church. For details, visit the parish website at stpaulsfoster.org.

Remembering Our Veterans

St. Paul's Knights of Columbus is asking our help once again in collecting gifts to be distributed to 200 men and women at the RI Veteran's Home as part of a statewide effort. A collection box will be available next week. Donations are due by Sunday, December 4. See the list on the bulletin board.

Christmas Poster Contest

St. Paul's Knights of Columbus is sponsoring the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest which is open to all children associated with our parish. For details and entry form, visit stpaulsfoster.org/poster.

Winter Coat Drive

St. Paul's Knights are organizing a coat drive. Donate clean, good condition coats, in the box at the church entrance.

The Holy Eucharist Our All Our Peace Offering

Of course, we still have the duty to confess all our mortal sins before receiving Communion; but if we make ourselves partakers of the fruits of the Holy Sacrifice, we will the more readily receive the grace of repentance, for our intellect will be **enlightened** to see the state of our soul, our heart will be **moved** to sincere contrition, and our will will be **strengthened** to turn to God and to avoid sin.

Our Food

Food and drink are necessary for the sustenance of our body; nourishment is likewise necessary for the life of our soul. It was this nourishment which Our Lord had in mind when He said, "My flesh is meat indeed: and my blood is drink indeed." (John 6:56)

It was declared by the Council of Florence that Holy Communion, as a spiritual food, produces the same effect in the soul as material food and drink produce in the body. Therefore, just as a wanderer resumes his journey more energetically and the laborer resumes his work with greater zeal after having had some refreshment, so the soul is strengthened to walk steadfastly on the path of virtue and to serve God with increased fervor after having received the **Bread of Angels**.

Yes, truly, in Holy Communion we receive not merely this or that grace, but Jesus Christ, the Source and Fountain of all graces. Jesus unites Himself with us and continues to work in us through His all-powerful graces even after the sacramental species have ceased to exist.

Our Strength

Do we not all need strength to overcome the many dangers that threaten our salvation, to gain the victory over the temptations that beset the path which leads to Heaven? Of ourselves we are weak and powerless. Even though we have a good will and desire to live according to the Commandments of God and the Precepts of the Church, we must still confess with **St. Paul**, "To will, is present with me; but to accomplish that which is good, I find not." (Rom. 7:18) The Blessed Sacrament, however, affords us strength to fight the good fight. "The Holy Eucharist," says **St. John Chrysostom**, "enkindles in us the fire of Divine love and makes us terrible to the evil spirit," Love strengthens us to form and carry our generous resolutions. But nothing is more conducive to inflame our hearts with love than this Divine Sacrament. In It is hidden the plenitude of Divine Love, because there God gives Himself wholly to us.

~ Fr. Lukas Etlin, O.S.B.