

NOVEMBER 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

The Season of Advent speaks of expectation, of trust that, in Christ, God is reaching into our world, bringing salvation and fulfilling the deepest hopes of mankind. The first two weeks of Advent look to The End of Time and The Culmination of God's sanctifying action.

According to The First Reading from The Book of The prophet Isaiah, when The Exiles returned from Babylon, they quickly realized that their journey had not transformed them. Their lives, like the ruined city of Jerusalem, needed God's saving help. If we can honestly admit our need for God, The Exiles' cry can become our own.

In The Second Reading, in contrast to Isaiah's lament, St. Paul highlights God's grace at work among us, keeping us faithful as members of Christ. He reminds us that God's Faithfulness is poured out on us in Jesus Christ.

In The Gospel, Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ invites us to be vigilant, while waiting for his arrival. Jesus comes to us in several ways, while we await him, doing our work and living our lives. One aspect of our commitment to Christ is a commitment to The Christian Community, to our Church. This means our participation in common prayer, in The Holy Eucharist, in Catechesis and other similar events. As we participate in these commitments, there is not only one but "several" comings of Christ. We see his coming to us in those of our brothers and sisters in need. He comes to us through prayer, giving us strength, wisdom and inner peace.

Therefore, today let us sincerely pray that we receive Christ with open hearts and mind.



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.



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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

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	November 28
9:30—11 AM	Food Closet Open
5:00 PM	Mass:
Sunday	November 29
8:00 AM	Mass: Jennie Petrucci (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Ferrara Family (RIP)
Monday	November 30
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass:
Wednesday	December 2
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Intentions of the Dunn Family
Friday	December 4
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	Mass: Rudolph DiCenzo, Sr. (RIP)
8:00 AM	Mass: O'Connell Family (RIP)
10:00 AM	Mass: Lena Family (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

The New Stations of the Cross

The New Stations of the Cross in our church were donated by St. Aidan parish, Cumberland, RI 02864. These stations of the cross were all hand carved in Italy.

The Stations of the Cross that were in the church before have been moved to our Sacristy St. Anne Chapel

Fr. Doré

Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, and Mass will be celebrated at 9AM and 7PM.

Rosary for Families

Please join the Knights of Columbus and their families in praying the Rosary in church or live-streamed on St. Paul's Facebook page on **Sunday, November 29th at 9:15AM**. We are asking Mary's intercession for an end to abortion, for peace in our country and families, and for an end to the pandemic.

December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all parishioners with a birthday in the month of December. May your birthday be touched with His presence, and your heart be filled with His love and joy!

New Liturgical Mass Books

The 2021 edition of our Music Books is ready to go but, of course, we cannot put them in the pews. The new books will be found in the entrance.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my life. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come then spiritually into my heart. So that I may embrace you and unite myself completely to you. And never let me be separated from you.

Let's Stay Connected

We've been emailing a weekly parish update to help us stay informed and to share resources. Please add your name and email to the list via our website:

www.stpaulsfoster.org

Your information is never shared with anyone else and is only used to communicate with you about the parish.

Remembering our Veterans at Christmas

St. Paul's Knights of Columbus is asking our help once again this year in collecting gifts to be distributed to 200 men and women at the R.I. Veteran's Home. This is part of a statewide effort.

Suggested items:

Please NO BOOKS!

Personal Items: shaving lotion, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, soap, etc.

Clothing Items: socks, underwear, shirts, winter clothing, sweatshirts, sweatpants, footwear.

Leisure Activity Items: board games, cards, computer games/devices, sports related items, etc.

A collection box will be available next week. **Donations due by Sun, Dec 6.**

The Christmas Bazaar Raffle

Thank you so much to those who have already returned their Raffle Ticket Stubs and money. We truly appreciate it. Please return your tickets no later than Monday, Nov 30

Drawing will be: Sunday Dec 6th

Support St. Paul's

Set up a recurring donation (or make a gift at anytime) using our secure, online giving tool by ParishSOFT.

Visit our website at stpaulsfoster.org, and click the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you!

Commitment to Sunday Offertory

To help the parish meet its financial obligations, we ask that you remain committed to the weekly offertory.

Please consider using the parish envelopes and mailing your weekly/monthly offertory contribution. Or consider the convenient option of setting up an automatic contribution online. Details above.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection - Nov 21/22
\$2,548.00

CC Human Development- Nov 21/22
\$ 236.00

Thank you for your support!

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

St. Paul's Knights of Columbus Council 95 is sponsoring the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest which is open to all children in our parish including friends and relatives of our parishioners.

Winners will be judged in three age categories: 5-7, 8-10, 11-14

\$50 First Place prize awarded in each age group.

Submission deadline, Sunday Dec 6.

Application forms and full contest details can be found in the Narthex, or call office for more information.

Christmas Gift Tags

Please return **UNWRAPPED gifts to the church by December 6**. Gift bags and wrapping are gladly accepted.

Dynamic Catholic Best Advent Ever

This Advent, signup for Dynamic Catholic's Best Advent Ever: **LET YOUR SOUL SHINE.**

Every day during Advent, you'll receive an email with a short video from Matthew Kelly. It's completely free and easy to sign up. All you have to do is go to BestAdventEver.com and enter name and email address.

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

Whether displayed in our homes or in our Church, the Advent Wreath is a visible reminder of the 4-week season waiting and preparing for the celebration of the Lord's Birth at Christmas. Advent is also a time of watching, listening, and waiting for the 2nd coming of Jesus in glory at end of time.

The 4 candles, 3 violet and 1 rose, symbolize the 4 weeks of Advent preparation. The rose candle is the signal that Advent is about half over; the rose color stands for "rejoicing" because the Lord is near! As Christmas Day draws nearer, the flames of the candles increase and grow brighter, for the Lord's coming brings light to any and every darkness.

The wreath is a reminder of eternity ... a circle having no beginning and no end and the greens symbolize new life, new growth, new hope!