

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

End and beginning: It's with the end of the gospel of Matthew that we are beginning the Liturgical Year A. In the Gospel, every end is a beginning, just like The Death and Resurrection of Christ, which are the opening of a new world, the dawn of new Christmas. Today's gospel is also about the end. Talking of end, there is a heresy called millenarism sometimes interchangeable with millennialism which is the belief of the end of the world from the 1,000 years of the Book of Revelation, but also is the belief of an imminent end of the world. St Paul at the beginning of his preaching made that mistake, that means he thought that the Coming back of Christ and the end of the world were imminent. But when he wrote the Letter to the Romans a few years later, it is clear that he changed his mind, that means the end of the world will come only after a long history. Because no one knows when the end will come, today's gospel invites us to watch, to stay awake, and to be prepared.

### ADVENT SEASON

Advent has a two-fold character: It's a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God, Jesus Christ to humanity is remembered. But also, our minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is also a time to recall the cry of the early Christians: Maranatha, which means "Come, Lord Jesus". The Purple Color and The Advent Wreath are the two main visible signs of the Advent Season. Advent is more a time of preparation for the Christmas Festivities than a penitential time, but the Sacrament of Recollection is also part of the Advent Season.

### THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR OF GRACE 2026.

Happy Liturgical New Year to all Parishioners and to all who come to worship with us throughout the year. This year, on Sunday Mass, we're reading the gospel of St Matthew.

---

### CHRISTMAS PARTY SAVE THE DATE!

All members of Fr. Arbo's flock, our very special event will be at St Patrick's Hall on December 14 at noon. Make your reservation on the sign-up sheets or call the church office at 570-563-1622 by 12/7/25.

### OLA ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who took cards from the Advent Giving Trees in OLA hall. Wrapped gifts may be returned to the OLA Hall. Some gifts must be delivered to local agencies by December 8. Others will be delivered on December 15. Check your cards carefully and call Nikki Weisenfluh (570)335-8135 with any questions.

### SP ANGEL TREE

Thank you to all who took angels from the tree. Please return wrapped gifts with angel attached to the church by December 14th. If you haven't picked one yet there are still some on the tree. Any donations for the food baskets of turkey or hams will be greatly appreciated. Call Rita at 570-575-9874 with any questions.

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The Pastoral Council met to discuss progress toward the Pastoral Plan goals and the needs of our parishes. The PPC will meet with the Coordinating Teams on December 9 at 6pm in the OLA hall.

### SML BAKE SALE NEWS

The Altar & Rosary Society would like to thank all who baked, bought or helped out. The bake sale was a huge success and sold out. We made \$459.00. Thanks again for your generosity. Dee Pasko.

---

### SML ADOPT A FAMILY

SML through the Social Concerns Ministry has been given the opportunity to help provide Christmas for an area family who is facing some difficulties this year...if you are interested in being a shopper, you will be reimbursed, or if you can make a monetary contribution, which can be placed in the weekly collection basket and label the envelope "Adopt a Family", your help will be much appreciated...Thank you for your consideration! God Bless! Mary Lou 570-586-4811

### ADVENT PREPARATIONS

The parish Christmas' gift to ALL Parishioners is the book from Matthew Kelly, THE SEVEN PILLARS OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY. This is an excellent book for Advent. Please, make sure you take a copy. (Please, please do not bring it back after reading. It's yours to keep or to dispose as you want). We would like to make a suggestion on how to read it as a good preparation for Christmas. The suggestion is as follow: Let's read chapter 2 and chapter 7 during the first week of Advent. Of course, you can read straight as it's written, even in one day.

Happy Advent, Happy New Liturgical Year A

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POINSETTIA SALE

The Knights of Columbus Abington Council will be at all churches this weekend November 29 & 30 as well as December 6 & 7 to take orders for the poinsettia plants. The price is \$12 each or 3 for \$35. The flowers are available in red, white, pink & marbled. They will be delivered after the Masses on December 13 & 14.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

### December 6 & 7

#### Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Nikki Weisenfluh  
9:00am (SML) Sean Pieretti  
11 am (SP) Jill D'Antoni

#### Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay  
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams  
11 am (SP) Maria Fay

#### Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Judy Zipay  
9:00am (SML) Seb Naro  
11 am (SP) Nicole & Greg

#### Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) Jace Biglin  
11am (SP) Kali Harvatine  
Shadow – Emma Evans

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Dec 8 – Immaculate Conception Holy Day of obligation  
OLA Mass-8am, SML Mass-9:30am SP Mass-11am  
Dec. 14 – Christmas Party at St. Pat's Hall, 12pm

#### **SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.  
December 7 - Class and Christmas Program Practice  
- Confirmation Cookie Bake  
December 14 - Class and Parish Christmas Party  
December 20 - OLA Christmas Program and Class  
Mass for 7th grade  
December 21 - Class - Christmas Program Practice  
**SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**  
Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com  
Dec. 7 Rehearse for play  
Dec. 14 Rehearse for play and Christmas party St. Pat's  
Nicholson 12pm  
Dec. 21 Christmas play following Mass, all are welcome!

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

We still need someone to light the candles on the Advent wreath during Weekend Mass at each church during Advent. We appreciate all who are willing to do this. There are sign-up sheets in the vestibule of each church.

### **HALLOW PRAYER CHALLENGE**

We invite you to be part of our next prayer challenge, **Be Still**. Through this prayer challenge, we'll dive into the story of the Nativity through reflections on the infancy narratives. Join us in this 25-day journey, starting Monday, December 1st. Don't miss it, as we pray together as a parish community. Here's also a challenge available through the app geared toward children and their family. It's an incredible Kids Advent challenge called Finding Fiat. Already using Hallow? Join either of the challenges by simply opening the app, tap the Church tab at the bottom of your screen, visit our parish page and "Join Challenge." If you have any questions, please call Greg at 570-281-8083.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Tuesday (December 2) Advent Weekday

8:00 am (OLA) Joseph & Betty Andreski  
*By Rita & Tony Sandy*

### Wednesday (December 3) St. Francis Xavier, Priest

8:00 am (SP) Health & Blessings for Julie Kaifer  
*By Mary Ann Mulfino*

### Thursday (December 4) Saint John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00 am (SML) Lori Pierce  
*By Timothy Pierce*

### Saturday (December 6) The Vigil of The Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm (OLA) Deceased Members of the Caporelli Family  
*By Robert & Andrea Walsh*

### Sunday (December 7) The Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am (SML) Agnes Greco  
*By Altar & Rosary Society*  
11:00 am (SP) Walter Kuzara  
*By Geneva Kuzara*

### **The Sanctuary Candle at OLA**

Burning this week for Health & Blessings for Terry Schoonmaker  
*By Liz Dempsey*

### **WEEKLY OFFERING (COLLECTION)**

SP Weekly	OLA Weekly	SML Weekly
<b>Unavailable this week</b> <i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i>		

### **SEVEN LOAVES SOUP KITCHEN 51 WARREN ST. TUNKHANNOCK**

Volunteers are needed on the 4th Tuesday of every month, beginning in December. We will need 5-7 people to assist with prepping, serving, and cleaning up for the evening meal. Approximately from 3 PM to 6 PM. Sign-up sheets are at each of our churches. We will also be collecting staples for their food pantry. Wish list includes Dry cereal, soups, canned chicken, spam, fruit cups (individually wrapped), spaghetti sauce and pasta. And there will be containers at all churches to collect the staples. Please contact Bill or Shannon Bradican with any questions at 570-840-8663.

### **OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST**

Blessed Imelda Lambertini: she is an Incorruptible. At age 11, because she couldn't receive Communion, (you could receive that time at age 14), she went to receive, but the priest said no; then a host left the ciborium, went up in the air and came down and stopped in front of her. The priest saw this as a sign and gave her Communion. She entered into ecstasy and died of joy.