

First Sunday of Advent

November 26-27, 2011

Sunday Lectionary Readings

This Week's Readings: Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Scripture Reflection

As we begin the Church's new year, we enter the "Year of Mark." The Gospel of Mark is believed to be the earliest Gospel, composed around the year 60 or so. It is also the shortest Gospel. In its original Greek, the Gospel of Mark contains many evocative words and its pace is rapid. One gets a real sense of the Jesus who preached, taught, and healed. Some of the miracle stories have much more detail than do such stories in the other Gospels, even though both Matthew and Luke depended – to a greater or lesser extent – on Mark. Mark's Gospel has no infancy narratives; the first time we encounter Jesus in the story, he is an adult. Themes that occur in the Markan Gospel include the in-breaking into human history of the reign of God; Jesus as God's message to the people; and the "messianic secret," i.e., Jesus' true identity is not to be revealed until the appropriate time.

Let Us Pray For Those in Need of Prayer

Joyce Hill, Marisa Oldham, Eileen Twynham, Paul Cullin, Margaret Deurling, Don Rottman, Anthony Romano, Sr., Timothy Linn, Valborg Linn, David Brice, Ed McNally, Jessica Adams, Ed Pinder, Jessie Grimes, Horace Ellis, Jr., Julia Smith, George Danek, Kathleen Allen, Jo van Gaal, Nina Arts, Vince Gomes, Joe Pezzi, Don Miles, Fr. Bob Judge, Evelyn Steinrock, Caylee Crews, Sr. Mary Louise Lynch, MMS, Riley Davis, Colette Bleistine, Kyla Zeilinger, Carol Tift, Colette Danek, Jane Schaberg, Paul Joop, Pat Kane, Natalie Barringer, Marion Jervey, John Garvey. *Names will be listed for 6 weeks. If you would like a name listed for an additional 6 weeks, please notify the rectory).*

This Week's Mass Intentions

Saturday, Nov 26, Howard Fritz, *deceased*

Sunday, Nov 27, John Consugar, *deceased*

Monday, Nov 28, Thomas O Wood, *deceased*

Wednesday, Nov 30, Scott Kniffin, *deceased*

Friday, Dec 2, Gladys Melka, *deceased*

Saturday, Dec 3, Lore Waclawek, *deceased*

Sunday, Dec 4, Larry & Jimmy Lears, *deceased*

Collection Update

Last weekend's offertory: \$3,013.00

Last weekend's 2nd Collection to The Catholic Campaign for Human Development: \$621.00

This weekend's 2nd Collection will benefit our Community Center and outreach ministries.

Next weekend's 2nd Collection will benefit our Community Center and outreach ministries.

This Week at Corpus Christi

Sat/Sun, Nov 26-27	Advent Giving Tree	Vestibule
Sat/ Sun, Dec 3-4	Advent Giving Tree	Vestibule
Sun, Dec 4, 9:10 am	Liturgical Year Presentation for students	Midtown

Coming Up at Corpus Christi

Mon, Dec 5, 7:00 pm	Pastoral Council Meeting	Rectory
Thu, Dec 8, 12:10 pm and 7:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Masses	Church
Sat/Sun, Dec 10-11, after masses	Sister Parish Coffee/Craft Sales	Church
Sat/Sun, Dec 10-11	Advent Giving Tree	Vestibule
Sun, Dec 11, 9:10 am	Faith Formation Classes	Midtown
Mon, Dec 12, 7:00 pm	Liturgy Committee Meeting	Rectory
Wed, Dec 14, 7:00 pm	Tri Parish Advent Penance Service	St. Ignatius Church
Sat/Sun, Dec 17-18	Advent Giving Tree	Vestibule
Sun, Dec 18, 9:10 am	Faith Formation	Midtown
Mon, Dec 19, 7:00 pm	Pastoral Council Exec. Comm. Meeting	Rectory
Fri, Dec 23, noon to 2:00 pm	Christmas Dinner	CC Center

Visit our website at www.corpuschristibaltimore.org for our more complete calendar of events.

CORPUS CHRISTI NEWS

From the Pastor,

Here we are entering into the holy Season of Advent. This is a brief time of prayer and preparation for the commemoration of the birth of Christ at Christmas and for the joyful expectation of the coming of Jesus and the end of time.

So let us take this brief opportunity that is being given to us to pray, to prepare, to listen to the Voice of God as did our ancestors of old.

May all the hustle and bustle of this time of year not prevent us from taking the time to spiritually prepare for the coming celebrations.

Have a happy and fruitful Advent!

Peace,

Fr. Marty

Parish Advent Theme

Advent begins today, as we prepare for the *coming* to Christmas. *Coming* or *arrival* is the meaning of the word Advent. Although we can get caught up in our preparations for the secular celebration of Christmas, with all the gifts and foods, the Church reminds us – through Scripture readings and our liturgies– that we await the *coming* of Christ in our hearts and in our world. This year, the parish’s theme for Advent is **“The Voice we have heard; the Voice we embrace; the Voice we live.”** The Advent readings in year B speak of “voices”: the voice that the prophet Isaiah heard; the voice of one crying out in the desert; the voice of John the Baptist; the voice of God. In our lives, we too hear many voices, all vying for our attention. In this season of Advent, we are to strive to listen to that one Voice—the Voice we have heard through Scripture and our tradition; the Voice to whom we belong as Christians; and the Voice we seek to follow as faithful witnesses to the Good News. May we always respond to that one Voice even when It is barely perceptible, even (and especially) when there are so many competing voices.

Parish Offertory Program

Thanks to everyone who participated in the in-pew appeal for our fall Offertory Program. To date, we have received 101 commitments from parishioners to support our first collection. If you did not have an opportunity to complete a Commitment Card last weekend, copies are available on the table in the rear of the church. Please complete a card, indicating the amount of your gift on a weekly or monthly basis, and deposit it in the collection basket. If you have not used envelopes, checks, or automatic bill pay in the past, please consider doing so. It is important for planning purposes to know how many members of our parish are actively offering financial support. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of these materials and for your generous support of the parish.

Thank You for Giving and Sharing

Last Saturday we served a delicious Thanksgiving meal to some 175 guests at our center. Thank you for bringing the food, serving and cleaning up. Holding this annual event takes a lot of effort – everything from getting the food to the center, to setting up and then providing a hospitable setting. Thank you to Robbie Preston Brown, our parishioner and Food Program Coordinator, who makes this meal “happen.”

Many thanks

Many thanks to those parishioners who brought in greens that could be used for the Advent wreath this year. They were much appreciated.

Faith Formation Students

On the First Sunday of Advent, Dec 4 at 9:10 am, the students in our Faith Formation classes will be introduced to the Church’s Liturgical Year. There will be 4 groups A (1st and 2nd grade); B (3rd grade) C (4th and 5th grade) and D (6th and 7th grade). I will develop the age appropriate presentations and do one of the presentations. I need 3 volunteers for the other presentations. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Betsy Lafferty@verizon.net. I will have the materials ready by Monday, November 28. Thank you.

Christmas Choir

Christmas is coming and the Choir is back! All parishioners interested in singing at the Christmas masses please come to our choir rehearsals, starting Sunday November 27th, at 9:00 am each Sunday morning prior to mass during the Advent season.

Everyone is welcome, and we extend a special invitation to our new parishioners, or those who have not sung in the Christmas choir before. Please join us.

Christmas Liturgy Memorials

We would like to offer our Christmas liturgies, including their environment, flowers, decorations, and programs, in memory of loved ones who have passed away. A special Christmas Memorial Bulletin will be distributed listing the names of the individuals remembered and the donors. We request a \$5 donation for each individual remembered. If you would like to participate, please fill out the envelope, found on the table in the back of church, and drop it in the collection basket or rectory mail slot no later than Sunday, December 18.

Advent Giving Tree

We will have an Advent Giving Tree in our vestibule that will contain 100 paper ornaments. Each ornament will have on the back whether it is for a pair of women’s, men’s or children’s gloves. These gloves will be given to our guests at our center at the Christmas meal on Friday, Dec 23. Please take an ornament and bring the unwrapped gloves anytime between Nov 28 to Dec 18. We appreciate your spirit of giving for our guests.

Pastor’s Suppers

Don’t forget to sign up for the Pastor’s Suppers. Sign-up sheets are in the back of church near where the old bulletins are placed on the back wall of the church. Fill out the tear off and return it as soon as possible – this will enable the pastor to plan appropriately. Please place your tear off in the collection basket.

BEYOND CORPUS CHRISTI

Advent Retreat Day

Salvation History—Written in Our Lives. Advent liturgies trace the history of salvation and promise leading to the birth of the Savior. On Saturday, Dec. 3, Anne Maura English—via presentation, journaling, quiet time—will lead a reflection on that history in our own lives. 9:45-3:00. Bring a lunch. RSVP by sign up sheet in back or e-mail so room size can be chosen.

Day of Prayer for Women

Sister Eileen Eppig, SSND, Associate Professor at Notre Dame of Maryland University, will present an *Advent Day of Prayer for Women* on Saturday, December 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Villa Assumpta, 6401 N. Charles Street Baltimore 21212. To register, contact Sr. Maria Iannuccillo, SSND, 203-762-4152 or miannuccillo@amssnd.org.