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FROM THE PASTOR



For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the First Sunday of Advent, opening the Advent season. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich, and intense endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a ‘vigilant’ disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

‘Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,” is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.’ (Pope Benedict XVI, Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006)

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the ‘Light’ to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary, but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Saint John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: “Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation, but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This ‘vigilance’ means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living ‘wait.’ To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today’s reading to the Romans: ‘Besides this, you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed” (Rm 13:11).

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the ‘armor of light’ and so seek only to do God’s work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord’s coming because we don’t know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44). — Excerpted from Dicastery for the Clergy

ST. JOSEPH NEWS:

Advent Confessions will be in Oakley on Wednesday, December 17th. from 5-8pm. There will be three priests available. Just come and go as you see fit.



Oakley: 7:00 am & 12:05 pm **Angelus:** 7:00 pm

We will need liturgy volunteers for all three Masses on the Holy Day. As always, thank you for your continued gift of time and talent.

December – February Liturgy schedules for both parishes will be in the back of the church this next weekend. Please follow the list in this bulletin for the First Sunday of Advent.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL NEWS:

There are still a few tables available for Winter Blast! Come join us for some great food and fellowship, and bid on some great items while supporting the school. Please call the school office for tickets.

Please join us for the St. Joseph School Christmas program on Dec. 10 @ 7:00pm.

Our Tithes from Last Week

Oakley: \$7,948.79 Angelus: \$335.00

We welcome all our guests to our parishes. If you have moved here, we encourage you to register on our website.



Follow us on St. Joseph Catholic Church and School

@stjosephoakley

DAILY SCHEDULE

- Sat 29 – 5pm Mass + Parishioners
- Sun 30 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) + Maggie Redetzke
 10:30am Mass – Lynn Plummer
- Mon 01 – NO Mass
- Tues 02 – 8:30am Mass + Jerry & Jeanie Gormley
 9:30am Bible Study in the rectory
- Wed 03 – 7:30am Mass (Angelus) + In Thanksgiving
 7pm CCD Classes at both parishes
- Thur 04 – 8:30 am + Jim Stephens
 9am – 7pm Adoration in Oakley
- Fri 05 – 7am Mass + Ralph Kruse
- Sat 06 – 7:30am Confessions
 8am Mass for First Saturday
 5pm Mass + Mildred Kuhlman
- Sun 07 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) + Rita Schwarz
 10:30am Mass – Parishioners

Confessions are available 30 minutes before weekend Masses, by appointment, or as indicated on the schedule.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL

- Mr. Danny Lockhart
- Mrs. Raye Kuhlman
- Mr. David Manhart
- Mr. Mason Sheetz
- Mrs. Penny Pfeifer
- Mr. Ethan Schwarz
- Mrs. Cassie Shirley-Vice Chair
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- Mr. Lewis Evins
- Mrs. Dana Charles (Par. Co. Rep.)
- Mrs. Susan Glassman
- Mr. Tom Halbleib

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- Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
- Mrs. Kristy Fellhoelter - Vice Chair
- Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Dec 6 th 5pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Dec 7 th 10:30 am	Servers	Bryn H, Parker K. & Faith K.
	Lector	Cecilia Brungardt		Lector	Kay Hughes
	Gifts	Mike & Aimee Zimmerman		Gifts	Jerry Schoenfeld & Karen Wetovick
	Hospitality	Alan & Joyce Kuhn		Hospitality	Jerry Schoenfeld & Karen Wetovick

Sunday, Dec 7 th 8 am	Servers	Johnathan Ostmeyer
	Lectors	Millie Baalman & Nick Robben
	Gifts	Bob & Rhonda Fellhoelter
	Ushers	Ron, Daryl, Andrew & Mason Bixenman