



# St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

DECEMBER 1, 2024 † FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## From The Pastor

Thank God for the promise and the gift of Christian hope. Hope is a theological virtue with faith and love. Our faith is built on trust in the nature and goodness of God revealed in the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus. Faith, Hope, and Love are a Trinity of virtues that flow to and from each other. These theological virtues convey the gift of salvation-redemption as an action and gift of God. The work of our salvation in the promise of heaven is not our doing, but a gift of God's nature to heal, unite, and redeem.

Advent is a season of hope, united in faith and love which proclaims the coming of our Savior. What would our lives be without the coming of Christ? Without the hope and promise of redemption, who would we be as human beings? How would our nature be different? What would give our lives meaning, purpose, and direction?

God is the fullness of our hope that secures our faith and animates our lives driven by love. Our hope is the promise of eternal life. Hope in God reaches beyond worldly hopes that seek comfort, security, and power. Theological hope is for what is not yet seen but is known and longed for in our hearts. The deepest part of our nature, the soul, draws us beyond human selfishness to the larger truth of our lives in God. Theological and Cardinal virtues come to life through the Incarnation of Jesus who reveals the purity of Divine love that heals, forgives, and redeems. In Christ, this is the deepest longing and hope of our faith. From St. Paul, 'in Christ and through his Blood, we have been redeemed, so immeasurably generous is God's favor to us.'

This is why Christmas deserves four weeks of preparation through the Advent season. Our hearts must be reminded and renewed in the mystery of the coming of God into our world. In the weariness of sin that leans against us in the disordered chaos of the world, we are drawn to themes of justice, promise, and hope that leads us to renewed life in the Lord Jesus. The fulfillment of our hope and promise is realized in the dying and rising of Jesus. Now we live in the already, but the not yet; already redeemed in Christ but not yet in the fullness of its promise.

Consider the three comings of Christ mindful of the eternal plan of God from the beginning. From John's gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling

among us.'

There are three comings of Christ. The first is the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas. In the person of Jesus, we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us. In the birth of Christ, a new Light comes into the world that dispels the darkness of sin and the wiles of despair that weighs heavily on the human spirit.

We are currently living in the second coming of Christ. The second coming is realized and experienced in our profession of faith, reception of Baptism, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The second coming of Christ is our personal acceptance of the grace of love given us in Christ. Grace is God's universal and personal self-communication of Divine love that is felt and realized in countless ways.

It is in this second coming that we engage these four weeks of Advent. We are invited to give close attention to the action of God's grace in our lives. It is a time to shake off familiar routines of prayer and manners of life to stir up our awareness of all God has done for us, is doing for us, and will do for us. So great a gift is the coming of our Savior that we cannot lose a deep sense of attentive conscious gratitude for the Christ life within us.

The third coming of Christ is reflected in the readings today. The third coming is what we more commonly call the Second Coming. This last coming is the final age that brings the end of the created world described in the terrorizing failure of the sun and moon in the falling of the stars. All will be thrown into dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the seas and its waves. People will die in great fear. Dismal as this image is, it is in fact a prophesy of hope.

To all believers, Jesus says, '...stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.' The call is one of preparedness. Living faith is awake, active, and ready to receive the Lord when he comes. Not trapped in the possessions, worries, or troubles of the world, but vigilant in prayer, secure in faith, hope, and love. These virtues lead us to imitate the ways of Jesus.

Consider the pure gratitude the Father showers on the Son for the work of our redemption. Think about the deep honor and thanksgiving Jesus has for the Father in fulfilling his will. Ponder the thankfulness of the Holy Spirit who conveys to us the love of the Father and the Son. What thanks and praise do you have for Christ our King?

Father John Esper

# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

## DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm  
in Chapel



Live Streaming of Mass  
Monday thru Thursday 8:00am  
and Sunday 9:00am

Adoration on Tuesdays  
8:45am to 10:00am

Livestream of Rosary on  
Thursdays following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071  
248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721  
Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday  
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm,  
Friday 9am to Noon, Closed Saturday & Sunday

### Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum  
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation  
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin  
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator  
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/  
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator  
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor  
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

### FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

248-398-1743 – call for appointment  
Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator  
For information on Baptisms, OCIA and  
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



## MONDAY, December 2, 2024

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

## TUESDAY, December 3, 2024

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

## WEDNESDAY, December 4, 2024

8:00am Mass: Dianne Karolski† req. by Tom Karolski

## THURSDAY, December 5, 2024

8:00am Mass: Stefanija Juska† (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

## SATURDAY, December 7, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Dianne Karolski† req. by Jane McKay  
Janine Kairis† req. by Mike Kairis Family  
Anthony J. Szeliga† req. by Son, Tony & Jeanette Szeliga

## SUNDAY, December 8, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Diane LePage† req. by Martha Eggert  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family  
Guc & Kutchev Families req. by Mary Jane Guc  
Charlie Hamilton† req. by Corrine McCarthy  
Living & Deceased Members & Families of Fr. Heary  
Knights of Columbus Council



December  
Month of the  
Immaculate  
Conception

# READINGS FOR THE WEEK

## December 1, 2024

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/  
1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36  
Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-  
7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/  
Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/  
Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21,  
25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt  
9:27-31  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4,  
5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6  
(3)/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

If you will be requesting a Mass Intention on the weekends of December 21/22, December 28/29 or any of the three Christmas Masses and would like it to appear in the bulletin, please call the Parish Office with your request by Monday, December 9th.

To have names of deceased loved ones included in the bulletin dedicated to Christmas, memorial flower envelopes must be returned by Monday, December 9th.




*Giving Tree*

**NOV 30  
to  
DEC 8**

Christmas will be here soon and our Giving Tree is up and filled with tags for the charities below that we are supporting this year.



**Support Mary's Children Family Center** in Clawson which provides a day program with academic, social and recreational activities to persons with brain injuries and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Requests:** gift cards: Kroger, Meijer, Costco, and Gordon Food Service



**Support St. Aloysius Neighborhood Services** whose missionary work goes into the streets of downtown Detroit to serve the homeless, working poor and seniors with love, compassion and necessary resources.


**Requests:** men's & women's knit pullover hats, gloves, & thick white socks, hoodies in men's and women's sizes L thru 4X, gift cards to Gordon Food Service, Meijer or Walmart



**Support St. Veronica Giving Tree/Food Party** in Eastpointe which seeks to provide for the needs of 25 seniors and also for the Christmas wants/needs of their 80 children for clothes, shoes, or a toy

**Requests:** gift cards to Meijer, Aldi, Kroger and Walmart

Please put unwrapped clothing items and gift cards in the marked boxes near the Giving Tree or drop them off at the Parish Office during business hours.



**ADVENT**  
*Penance Service*


**Wed. Dec. 18th 7:00pm**



**STAY AWAKE,  
THE KING IS COMING!**

**December 16th - 6:30pm**

Join us for a celebration of Scripture and music foretelling the coming Messiah featuring young people in our Faith Formation Program and the St. Vincent Ferrer choir. Light refreshments to follow.

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
Lighting the Candle of Peace

**Saturday, December 7, 2024**  
4:00pm Mass: Peter & Mary Jo Miles

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
9:00am Mass: Bernadette Gutowski



**SIGN UP TO HOST THE TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE**

Please commit to hosting the Traveling Vocations Chalice for one week. Prayers come with the chalice. Sign up sheets are at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert door entrance.



## Evangelical Charity

### CCSEM SENIOR MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION December 7/8

#### Items requested:

**Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like:** Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

#### **Canned Foods including:**

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

**Gift cards, in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable food, from:**

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

### BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Next Sunday, Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality.

### PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

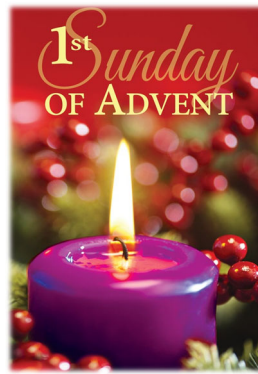
The holidays are here, and they are usually a time of joy and celebration. But sometimes it is a spotlight on what doesn't work out as planned. How do you spend your time in anticipation of the holiday season? The following are some holiday health tips. Keep in mind that the joy God offers is not tied to how our plans work out, perfect family gatherings, or presents. It's found in His **presence**, even in the not so perfect plans and disappointments we may feel.

Manage your stress.

1. Get enough sleep. Stick to a sleep routine.
2. Get active. Exercise or walk with family or friends.
3. Eat healthy. Avoid extra sweets and look for healthy snacks. Avoid too many salty snacks.
4. Halve your cocktails by having a glass of water between drinks.
5. Avoid second-hand smoke and quit smoking or plan for the new year for healthier habits.
6. Prevent the flu. Wash your hands. Get your flu shot.
7. Avoid drinking excessive caffeine.
8. Identify negative thoughts or worries and reach out to friends and family who can help you cope in a positive way.

Mentally prepare yourself about things you want or plan but may not happen. It is okay! Worry and anxiety do nothing for us. Find peace in your heart. When we have peace, we can have joy. Remember Phillipians 4:6-7, Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your self to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse



Christians face the ending of our personal various "worlds" in a totally unique way. This first Sunday of Advent, Jesus says that when people see their world falling apart, they find themselves **"fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world"** (Luke 21:26). In our fear, our natural response is to check out, to hide our heads in drunkenness, distraction, and false securities. But Jesus commands us to **"look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."** He then compares what's coming to a lovely summer in full bloom. That's what the cross and resurrection empower us to do, as strange as it may seem.

Fr. John Muir

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## Prayer REQUESTS

...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions.  
 ...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, wars, floods, earthquakes and disasters.  
 ...respect for life from conception to natural death  
 ...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.  
 ...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.  
 ...the respect for life from conception to natural death  
 ...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests.

Lord Jesus,

*You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey.*

Amen



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### ADVENT WREATH

**Question:** What’s the story behind the Advent wreath?

**Answer:** Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn’t falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God’s love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who “shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we’re roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ’s coming at Christmas.

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## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**First Reading:** Jer 33:14-16

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of God’s promise to save Jerusalem so all can “dwell safely” in the land. Where in your life do you feel the safest?

**Second Reading:** 1 Thes 3:12 - 4:2

In preparation for the return of Jesus, Paul prayed that the believers in Thessalonica would love one another and conduct themselves in a way pleasing to God. As we enter the season of Advent, what could you do to actively prepare for the return of Jesus?

**Gospel:** Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus forewarns his disciples not to let the daily anxieties of life distract them from the coming day of his return. Who helps you when you are overcome with anxiety?

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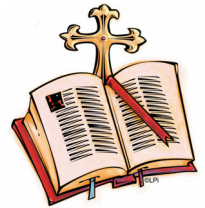
**THANK YOU**  
for your generosity



Thank you to all of our parishioners whose food and monetary contributions have made it possible to provide 23 Thanksgiving Baskets that served a nourishing and tasty meal to over 100 people this past Thanksgiving. Thank you, also, to the volunteers who worked to organize and prepare the food for pick-up.

### MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, December 7th at 9am  
Faith Formation Office in School



The men’s fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome. No fees or registration are required.

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What is the difference between a cross and a crucifix?  
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**Answer:** A crucifix always includes Christ’s body and a cross does not.

## Ministry Schedule

December 7/8, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Kairis	P Allen
Reader #2	P Miles	T Karolski
EME	J McCown	P Allen
	R Pasiak	A Goll
	M Kairis	R Grant
Greeters	M Smith	D Vu
	L Collins	M McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	B Gutowski
	R Pasiak	T Lane

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of December 7/8  
Tom & Terri Riley

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



**BLESSED CHIARA BADANO**  
**OCTOBER 29**  
**1971-1990**

Blessed Chiara Badano was born in Sassello, a small town in northern Italy. As a young child she was bright and giving with a sense of charity beyond her years. When asked to give some of her toys to the poor Chiara calmly separated out her newest toys, not wanting to give the poor something old.

At 9 years old she became a member of Focolare, a lay movement aimed at spreading the message of unity from Jesus' prayer in John 17:21, "May they all be one," across the world. Being part of Focolare was central to Chiara's life. She was inspired by the message of Jesus Forsaken, the crucified Christ, proclaimed by the movement founder, Servant of God Chiara Lubich. The two Chiara's carried on a correspondence. Badano's faith was so full of joy that Lubich gave her a new nickname, "Chiara Luce," meaning "clear light."

Chiara Luce was an ordinary teenager. She had many friends, enjoyed listening to pop music, dancing, and loved sports like hiking, tennis, and swimming. But at 17 she was diagnosed with a rare and devastating form of bone cancer. In just a year she could no longer walk, and it was clear that the disease would claim her life. Throughout her illness from the time she was diagnosed, she offered her suffering to Christ. Just as she had offered her joy in health, she freely gave her pain. Even at the end of her life she refused morphine so that she could be alert enough to share the pain with Jesus.

Chiara Luce was beatified in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI, she is the first member of Generation X to be Beatified. In 2018 she was one of the patrons of the Synod on Youth. Blessed Chiara Badano, pray for us!

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## Remembering Advent

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

It always makes me laugh a little, these apocalyptic Gospel readings that come at the beginning of Advent.

What a funny juxtaposition — all of us stringing twinkle lights and wrapping presents, with Jesus thundering on about the end of the world. It's Christmas! Don't be a downer. Pour me some more eggnog and turn up the Nat King Cole.

Well, except it's not Christmas. It's Advent.

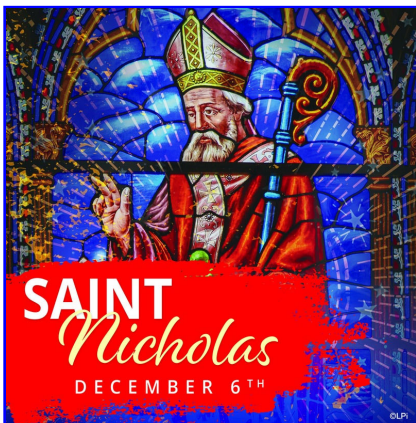
There's nothing wrong with the cultural accessories that have developed alongside this religious holiday. There's nothing wrong with the twinkle lights and the eggnog. But here's the thing: when Satan knows we're watching the front gate, he slips in the back door. And something I've found is that one back door he likes to use in my life is Cultural Christmas.

I love Cultural Christmas. I tend to overdo Cultural Christmas. I overschedule, I overdecorate, I overgift. All this "over" leads to — you guessed it! — overwhelm. "The anxieties of daily life," as Jesus describes in today's Gospel, make my heart drowsy. My *spiritual* Christmas joy, time and time again, is diminished — all because I embrace Cultural Christmas and ignore Advent. Satan sneaks in with the twinkle lights and the Christmas carols and he snatches The Present like the nasty little Grinch he is. He photobombs my experience of the religious holidays with the anxieties I so willingly embrace because of the production that is Cultural Christmas.

So, remember to rest this Advent, folks. Rest your heart. Rest your hands. Watch the back door *and* the front. Remember that this is the perfect time to be thinking about the state of your soul and not just the state of your house.

(Even though, yes, I know, the guests are coming any minute.)

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### ST. NICHOLAS | FEAST DAY DECEMBER 6

March 15, 270 – December 6, 343

St. Nicholas of Bari was the bishop of Myra in the fourth century. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.

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# PREPARING THE MANGER

Where do you fall in the “Christmas-songs-in-November” debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There’s no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it’s not everyone’s cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It’s hard to miss that point — Lent doesn’t even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It’s harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — “advent” — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, “so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.”

So let us not forget — our master’s advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?  
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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## MASS SCHEDULES

### *National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica*

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY- 8:30am and  
4:30pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY-7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am  
3:30pm (Spanish), and 6:00pm

WEEKDAYS (*Monday thru Friday*)  
6:30am (livestreamed), 8:30am

### *St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen*

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J)  
50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St  
MM)

SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Justin

SUNDAY - 10:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

### *St. Mary*

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am

WED - 12:10pm

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
- Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
- Wednesday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Friday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
- Saturday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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**THREE WAYS TO CELEBRATE ADVENT OUTSIDE OF MASS:**

**CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 1:**  
If you need to wait in a line, don't immediately pull out your phone. Experience the feeling of waiting and offer up a prayer for someone you know in need!

**CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 2:**  
Set up a nativity scene in your home but don't set it up all at once. Put a different piece out every day or every week until the whole thing is finished by Christmas!

**CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 3:**  
Bake cookies to secretly drop off to your neighbors. Include a Christmas card with an Advent prayer or an invitation to Christmas Mass at your parish!

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