

The Wise Still Seek Him

Our Lady of the Fields

Advent and Christmas, 2023

My Dear Friends in Christ,

It's the most wonderful time of the year!! Children (of all ages!) excited to share the joy this season brings. And every year I get more excited to celebrate Christmas with all who come looking for Christ, including and especially those new to the parish, or those who have been away for a while. You are welcome here at Christmas and always. I pray that everyone who comes will encounter the Lord Jesus and experience God's gracious and merciful love right here. Even more so as I begin my service here at Our Lady of the Fields and we begin a new chapter in the life of our parish.

This Advent, our theme will be "*The Wise Still Seek Him.*" May we follow the example of the magi who stepped out of the routines and patterns of daily life to search for Christ. Consider making time to sit quietly with God during this Advent Season and allow Him to share this love and joy with you. May the connection born of (or increased by) this Advent season spur us on to a more dedicated service to our neighbor. Over these next few weeks, particularly at Christmas, I urge you to invite (like Saint Andrew!) someone you know to join us as well to share (and increase!) our joy in Jesus Christ. Help others to know the salvation we see in Jesus Christ.

Enclosed with this letter is the schedule of Masses and services for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Hang it on your bulletin board or place it on the refrigerator for easy reference. We've included with it a guide to ease some of the confusion and tension that comes with so many people here at Christmas. In a special way, please observe the opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is no better way to celebrate God's love than by receiving His mercy and forgiveness. We've also included a reference guide for those who have been away from the sacrament for a while.

As part of your Advent prayer and Christmas preparations, please remember those who are struggling during this season: those facing war, violence, and persecution; the poor, hungry and homeless; the immigrant; the unemployed and those hit hard by a difficult economy; the members of our military fighting abroad, our police and all those who protect and defend us; those who are lonely, sick or fighting addiction; married couples and families who face divisions and bitterness; victims of terrorism and natural disasters, both here and abroad; those who have been abused or hurt by the Church; those questioning their faith; those grieving the loss of a loved one. Pray especially for them to know something of the joy of Jesus Christ even and especially in these difficult moments. Perhaps you're among them; then know of the prayers of your family here at Our Lady of the Fields.

Please also remember that your generosity keeps us going and I trust that you will be as generous as your means allow. Your financial gifts to our Christmas collection, along with your regular offertory donations, allow us to share the joy of Christ with others. Also, through your generosity to the Poor Boxes we are able to help those in need who come to us.

Know of my prayers for you and your family. I pray that you will know ever more profoundly the love of God in Jesus Christ. May God bless you and all those you love with peace in this holy season of Advent, with joy at Christmas, and with hope throughout the new year.

In the peace of Jesus Christ,

Fu. J. G.

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Opportunities for the Eucharist

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am and 5:00pm

Daily Mass:

Tuesday 7:30am

Mon – Sat 9:30am

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

(December 8 – Holy Day Of Obligation)

Thursday (Dec 7) Vigil 7:00pm

Friday (Dec 8) 9:30am & 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday – Friday (Adoration Chapel) 10:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday (Dec 3) 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Tuesday (Dec 12) 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Opportunities for Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please note that we have heard the requests of many and are providing additional opportunities for Reconciliation outside of Saturday afternoon. We are scheduling the following opportunities realizing that they may change after Advent.

SUNDAYS

During Advent

6:30pm - 8:00pm

TUESDAYS

During Advent

6:00am - 7:30am

WEDNESDAYS

During Advent

10:00am - 11:30am

SATURDAYS

During Advent

2:30pm - 4:30pm

(Due to previously scheduled events in the church, these confessions may be held in a location different than the confessional in the church, announced on a case-by-case basis. We apologize for the inconvenience.)

Day of Penance Tuesday, December 12

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in the church at the following times:

10:00am - 12:00pm 2:00pm - 4:00pm 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Additional Priests from the Region will be available

AND BY APPOINTMENT: Call (410) 923-7060

To make a personal appointment with one of our priests.

Simbang Gabi - December 19

Simbang Gabi (literally "Night Mass") is a Filipino tradition of nine evening Masses before Christmas to prepare spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ by offering sacrifices and asking for God's blessings. Each Mass is traditionally followed by a celebration. We are blessed to host the larger Filipino community for one of these Masses followed by a festive celebration. Please join us on December 19 at 7:00pm for Mass in the church followed by a gathering in the hall. For more information, please call Leeh Quirk 410-507-4940.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

Saturday, December 23 – Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday, December 24 – 8:00am and 9:30am

(no 11:30am or 5:00pm Mass on December 24)

CHRISTMAS EVE- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00pm - Mass (Church)

4:00pm - Mass (Parish Hall)

6:00pm - Mass (Church)

8:00pm - Mass (Church)

10:00pm - Mass (Church)

CHRISTMAS DAY- MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30am - Mass (Church)

11:30am - Mass (Church)

The Parish Office and Adoration Chapel will be closed Dec 25 through Jan 1 and will reopen on Jan 2.