

A Word From Fr. Tom Niehaus December 1, 2019



Most Holy Redeemer – 4-4:45 pm before every Saturday Evening Mass & Communal Penance on Sunday December 15th at 3 pm. As always Confession is also available by appointment at a time that works

best for you

Season of Advent

Advent is the holy season of preparation for Christmas. During these four weeks we have the opportunity to slow down and allow our hearts to be still with the Lord as we prepare for His coming into our midst.

Jesus emphatically states, "Stay awake! (Matthew 24:42). We must be alert and attentive in our spiritual lives for the coming of Jesus Christ our Savior. Advent allows each of us time to pray a little more, notice others a little more and to be still a little more. This is a sacred season so light a candle, say a prayer, and perhaps sing a familiar hymn in preparation for the birth of Christ. May He find joy and peace when he enters through the open door of our hearts. If you and I are only thinking about parties and gifts and family stress, then we have missed the opportunities afforded in this holy season.

Advent is intentionally a time to pray more, reflect on our beginning and our end in this life, a time to go to Confession, a time to serve the poor, a time to spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration, and a time to go to Mass each week in preparation for Christmas. Don't be caught off guard sleeping through this holy season, which is a blessed time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ!

Confession Is Available

There will be opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession throughout the Advent Season in our area cluster parishes. If you find yourself making up excuses why you should not go or cannot go to Confession then you are probably due for a good soul cleansing in this Sacrament.

Jesus wants to set you free from sin and open your heart to His transforming love and mercy.

Confession opportunities are as follows:

St. Patrick – 4-4:45 pm before every Saturday Evening Mass & Wednesday December 4th at 6:30 pm for Faith Formation students and community.

St. Canice – Saturday December 7th after 8:30 am Mass & Wednesday December 11th at 6:30 pm for Faith Formation students and community.

Give in a New Way

I encountered a family in our area who decided that for Christmas they would not exchange gifts but rather sponsor a family in need. This is a great idea! Many of our families have more than enough clothes, food, video games and toys to last a lifetime. Why not donate the monetary equivalent of what gifts you want to get or give to a charity on behalf of each person in the family or sponsor a family in need with those gifts that you would have wanted for yourselves? We are very blessed in our area, why not share that blessing with those who are less fortunate? Pray about choosing this way of giving to others this Christmas.

With the Joy of Jesus!

Fr. Tom Niehaus