

Happy Advent to you all !!!

This Sunday, we begin the Advent Season – the time of immediate preparation to celebrate the Birth of Christ in our World – the Mystery of the Incarnation. What an extraordinary mystery to try and comprehend – that our God chose to become one like us – in all things but sin! Wow!

You are invited to prepare and personally observe the anniversary of this awesome event. It will take place on December 25th. As you prepare, I invite you to consider the question I raised in last Sunday's Homily. I would like to keep that question alive throughout the whole Advent Season. My video reflection for today, and for the subsequent Sundays during Advent will all deal with the same question: Why do YOU come to Church?

We continue with Part II of our Holy Father's reflection in a General Audience on November 8th. Part I was featured on last weekend's bulletin and is available on our website.

–Fr. Gerry

(continued from last week)

Now let us try asking ourselves a few simple questions. For example, why do we make the sign of the Cross and perform the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass? And here I would like to add another side note. Have you seen how children make the sign of the Cross? You do not know what they are doing, whether it is the sign of the Cross or an outline. They do this [gesturing]. Children must be taught how to make the sign of the Cross properly. This is how the Mass begins; this is how life begins; this is how the day begins. This means that we are redeemed by the Lord's Cross. Watch the children and teach them how to make the sign of the Cross properly. And those Readings, during Mass, why are they there? Why are there three Readings on Sunday and two on the other days? Why are they read? What do the Readings at Mass mean? Why are they read and what is their purpose? Or, why does the priest presiding at the celebration say at a certain point: "Lift up our hearts"? He does not say: "Lift up your cell phones to take a photo!". No, that's bad! I tell you, it makes me sad when I am celebrating here in Saint Peter's Square or in the Basilica to see many cell phones lifted up, not only by the faithful but also by some priests and even bishops! But please! Mass is not a spectacle: it is going to encounter the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord. This is why the priest says: "Lift up our hearts." What does this mean? Remember: no cell phones.

It is really important to return to the basics, to rediscover what is essential, through what we touch and see in the celebration of the Sacraments. The question of the Apostle Saint Thomas (cf. Jn 20:25), seeking to see and touch the nail wounds in Jesus' body, and the desire to be able in some way to "touch" God in order to believe in him. What Saint Thomas asks of the Lord is what we all need: to see him, to touch him so that we may be able to know him. The Sacraments meet this human need. The Sacraments, the Eucharistic celebration in a particular way, are signs of God's love, the privileged ways for us to encounter him.

Thus, through these catecheses that we are beginning today, I would like to rediscover with you the beauty that is hidden in the Eucharistic celebration and that, once revealed, gives full meaning to each person's life. May Our Lady accompany us on this new stretch of road. Thank you.

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Mass Intentions — December 4th ~ 10th

Monday @ 7:30 am — Armed Forces Support Ministry (Sp Int)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Nolan Hughes (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Mark Buechler (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Santa Crout (RIP)

*Thursday @ 6:00 pm — Immaculate Conception Holy Day Vigil

Friday @ 7:30 am — Immaculate Conception Holy Day

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Sisters In Faith (Sp Int)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Ross Wiggers (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Joseph Sabatini

Doris McAllough, friend of Jo Bowden

Repose of the Soul:

Michael Hehir, brother of Eileen Lawson

Charles Cahill, brother of Alice Thweatt

Camille Carollo Doiron, aunt of

William Carollo and Mandi Vowell

Submit prayer requests to:

office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Altar Flowers for Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Honor of: Mama Mary and to all the Moms

Donated by: Sofia and Sebastian Quino

Mass Schedule: Vigil Mass @ 6:00pm on Thursday, December 7th*

Mass @ 7:30am on Friday, December 8th

*Note: we will still have the 7:30am Weekday Mass on Thursday, December 7th

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Monday — Thursday, 8 am to 12 noon; Friday, 8 to 10 am, in the Chapel
Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday, 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the room next to the Chapel, or by appointment

See our website for announcements, full prayer list, contact information, and more!
website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com office phone: 601-992-9547

TUNE IN EVERY DAY BEGINNING TODAY!

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