

Church of Saint Justin the Martyr

Toms River

Advent during the Eucharist Revival'

This *Advent*, during the *US Catholic Bishops' 3-year Eucharistic Revival*, they hope, as I do, we will grow in appreciation of - and regularly receive - the *Eucharist*. So, this year's *Advent Calendar* offers invocations from *The Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament*. Ponder each phrase; prayerfully reflect on its meaning; use it as a mantra; 'look it up' to learn the theological impact of each title. For as the Church teaches, the Holy Eucharist is "*the source and summit*" of our Faith - so we must do all we can to better understand and celebrate the great Gift, born for us at Christmas, sacrificed for us, risen from the dead, and truly present to us in the Eucharist! Get an *Advent Wreath* and *Nativity Scene* to properly celebrate *Advent* and *Christmas* at home!

Rev. Mark A. Kreder, Pastor

Blessing & Lighting of an Advent Wreath

The leader leads all in the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Blessed be God, who enlightens every heart.
Blessed be God for ever.

My brothers and sisters, in this holy time of Advent, we open our hearts to God's love as we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives and homes. The candles of this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. Let us listen to God's Word.

(Another person proclaims the Scripture reading.)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John
[1 John 1:5-7]

Now this is the message
that we have heard from him
and proclaim to you: God is light,
and in him there is no darkness at all.
If we say, "We have fellowship with him,"
while we continue to walk in darkness,
we lie and do not act in truth.
But if we walk in the light as he is in the light,
then we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of his Son Jesus
cleanses us from all sin.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Universal Prayer

Others offer the intentions after the leader begins:

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may

be ready to welcome Him. Our response is,
"Come, Lord Jesus."

- * That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love; we pray:
- * That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin; we pray:
- * That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for Christ's coming; we pray:
- * That the Christmas season may fill us with joy and peace as we strive to follow the example of Jesus; we pray:

Other intentions may be added; then the leader says:

With longing for the coming of God's Kingdom,
let us pray as Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*

Then the leader continues:

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of sin and ignorance. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candle[s] of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. *Amen. (Light the first candle; each week an additional candle is lighted.)*

All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader prays:

May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his kingdom, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Advent Prayers Before Meals

Let us pray. Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive, from your goodness. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen. - or -*

God, the Father of mercies, you willed your Son to take flesh, in order to give life back to us. Bless these, your gifts, with which we are about to nourish our bodies, so that, receiving new strength, we may wait in watchfulness for the glorious coming of Christ. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Advent Prayers After Meals

Let us pray. We give you thanks for all your benefits, O Almighty God, who lives and reigns for ever; and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen. - or -*

V. Let us live soberly, justly, and devoutly in this world.

R. *As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Let us pray. We thank you, all-powerful God, for your kindness in refreshing our bodies by these gifts from your providence. Strengthen us, we pray, not only in body, but also in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



**The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
National Patronal Feast Day**

Wear something BLUE as
we honor Mary under her title
'The Immaculate Conception'
Patroness of the USA

Masses for the
Immaculate Conception are:

Wednesday, Dec. 7: 5:00 pm
Thursday Dec. 8: 8:00 am
12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Sunday Obligatory Masses:

Saturday evening: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am – 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Weekday Masses:

Monday thru Thursday: 8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation [Confession]

Saturdays: 11/26 - 12/03 - 12/10 - 12/17
at 3:30 pm

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS: FRIDAY -
DECEMBER 16, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

In lieu of an *Advent Penance Service*, an
examination of conscience will be provided in the
bulletin and on our website for a few weeks
before confessions. Several Priests will be
available in safe-distanced, private places from
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, December 16th
This is your best opportunity to go to *Confession*
before *Christmas*. Keep a silent, safe distance as
you wait for this great *Sacrament of Healing*.

Church Decorating: All Hands On Deck!
**Sunday, December 18 – after the 11:30 am –
Mass**

Many hands and strong backs are needed to
decorate our worship space and property; Sign up
through the parish website: www.stjustin.org; or
leave your name and phone number with the
office [732-270-3980] so we can give you a job to
do!

Christmas *Eve* Masses:
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Solemn Mass: 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses:
8:00 am–9:30 am–11:30 am

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Friday, December 30, 2022
12:00 noon Communion Service
Come as a Family!

Mary, the Holy Mother of God
New Year's Eve/Day
Saturday, December 31, 2022: 5:00 pm
Sunday, January 1, 2023
8:00 am - 9:30 am - 11:30 am
[note: regular Sunday Mass schedule]

The Epiphany of the Lord
Saturday, January 7, 2023: 5:00 pm

Children's Epiphany Pageant
after 5:00 pm Mass at 6:30 pm

Sunday, January 8, 2022

8:00 am - 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Church un-decorating and clean up right
after the 11:30 am Mass. Lots of strong
hands, backs and vacuum cleaners needed!

The Baptism of the Lord
Monday, January 9: 8:00 am Mass

Cardinal Pierre de Bérulle (1575-1629), founder of the
French School of Spirituality, in a Christmas homily
once proclaimed,

"Let us live in Jesus, let us love in Jesus, let us triumph
in Jesus, and may Jesus live in us, love in us and
triumph in us forever!"

This is a good reminder for all of us of the meaning of
the infant Babe lying in a manger who came to bring
peace, love, and justice to the world.

May He reign in our hearts this Christmas and in the
year ahead. On behalf of Father Bob, our deacons
and our parish staff, I extend our best wishes for a
Blessed Christmas and a new year filled with health,
happiness and peace. Please keep us in your prayers
and be assured of our prayers for you.

In Christ,
Father Mark