

**With The Church of Saint Justin
Learn From Our Christmas Carols**

There are so many beautiful Christmas carols that not only move our hearts and minds; they all teach good theology! No wonder Saint Paul, who actually never knew a Christmas carol, told us to be:

"Filled with the Spirit, addressing one another [in] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father."

[Ephesians 5:18b-20]

So this year, use our annual *Advent Calendar* to get to know our Christmas carols better; sing one each day [you get to choose your own on Sundays and other special days! *Happy Advent!*

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 this Holy Day of Obligation are:
Friday, December 7

5:00 pm

Saturday, December 8:
9:30 AM & 11 only

Daily Eucharist

Receive daily Eucharist to spiritually enter Advent.

Sunday Obligation Masses:

Saturday evening: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 - 9:00 - 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Weekday Mass:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 am

Saturday: 9:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation [Confession]

All should celebrate the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation [also called Confession] to remove whatever hinders Christ's Light from shining through them! Confessions are heard:

**Saturdays at 3:30 pm on
12/01 - 12/08 - 12/15 - 12/22**

All MUST arrive before 3:30 pm!

[Note: due to the 5:00 pm Mass, Confessions **MUST END** by 4:30 pm, so arrive *early!*]

**Advent Penance Service:
Friday - December 14 - 7:00 pm**

Several Priests will be available for individual confession after a communal examination of conscience; this is NOT General Absolution.

Many hands are needed on Sunday, 12/23, after the 12:00 Mass to decorate the church. Please call the office at 732-270-3980 and leave your name so we can give you a job to do!



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 24 (No 8:30am Mass)

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Solemn Mass: 10:00 pm

*This Solemn Mass begins with
Christmas Carols at 9:30 pm.*

Christmas Day: December 25

SPECIAL Mass Schedule:

8:00 am - 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Come to church to pray as a family today.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

New Year's Day 2019

SPECIAL Mass schedule:

Monday, December 31, 2018 - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

10:00 am and 12:00 noon only

Epiphany Pageant: January 6, 2019

at 4:00 pm

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2019

REGULAR weekend Mass schedule

The Baptism of the Lord

January 13: last day of Christmastime

Regular Weekend Mass schedule.

**Church un-decorating and clean up
right after the 12:00 noon Mass.**

Lots of hands and strong backs are needed!

Father Mark, Father Tom, the Deacons and staff extend our best wishes for a spiritual Advent season and a blessed and holy Christmas and new year! May God bless you and your loved ones.

Ash Wednesday: March 6, 2019

Ashes distributed at 7:00 am - 8:30 am

12:00 noon - 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm