

Saint Justin the Martyr Church  
*Advent during the 'Eucharistic Revival'*

Welcoming an infant is truly a life-transforming experience: routines are radically altered; the child becomes the focal point; nothing is ever the same. **Christmas** is much more than welcoming **Baby Jesus**, for it celebrates the **Incarnation**: the mystery of the **Word made Flesh, God** living among us as one of us - but let's stick with this image for a moment. One goal of our **Catholic Bishops Conference's** 3-year **Eucharistic Revival** is to help us see that receiving **Jesus**, truly present in the **Eucharist**, is like welcoming a newborn. Proper preparations are required; attentiveness is essential; nothing is ever the same! This year's **Advent Calendar** offers **Eucharistic** phrases from holy Mass for reflection. And don't forget to get an **Advent Wreath** and **Nativity Scene** to properly celebrate **Advent** and **Christmas** at home.

*Reverend 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:

**Thursday, Dec. 7: 5:00 pm**  
**Friday, Dec. 8: 8:00 am, 12noon  
and 7:00 pm**

**Sunday Obligatory Masses:**

**Saturday evening: 5:00 pm**

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

**Weekday Masses:**

**Monday through Thursday: 8:00 am**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation [Confession]**

**Please note there will be no confessions:  
11/25 - 12/02**

**Confessions will resume on Saturday, 12/09  
at 3:30 pm**

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS: FRIDAY -  
DECEMBER 15, 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 private places from **5:30 pm to 7:00  
pm** on **Friday, December 15**. This is your best  
opportunity to go to *Confession* before  
*Christmas*. Please take advantage and wait in  
prayerful silence for this great *Sacrament of  
Healing*.

**Church Decorating: All Hands On Deck!**  
**Thursday, December 21 - starting at 12:00noon**

Many hands and strong backs are needed to  
decorate our worship space and property; to  
signup fill out the form on our website  
[www.stjustin.org](http://www.stjustin.org) or leave your name and phone  
number with the parish office so we can give you  
a job to do!

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

**Solemn Mass  
at 9:00 pm**  
**Instrumental  
Music arrive at  
8:30 pm.**



**Christmas Day Masses:**  
**8:00 am—10:00 am—12:00 noon.**

**[note: Christmas Day does not follow our  
regular Sunday schedule]**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**Regular Weekend Mass schedule**

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
New Year's Eve/Day**

**NO VIGIL MASS on Sunday, 12/31/2023!**

**Monday, January 1, 2024  
10:00 am - 12:00 noon**

**[note: NO 8 AM on 01/01/2024]**

**The Epiphany of the Lord  
Saturday, January 6, 2024: 5:00 pm**

**Children's Epiphany Pageant  
immediately after 5:00 pm Mass**

**Sunday, January 7, 2024  
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  
Mass Monday, January 8, 2024: 4:45 pm**  
**[Note: there is no 8:00am Mass this day]**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SINCE CHRISTMAS FALLS  
ON A MONDAY THIS YEAR, WE WILL ONLY  
HAVE 3 MASSES TO FULFILL THE SUNDAY  
OBLIGATION: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> AT  
5:00 PM AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:00  
& 9:30 AM ONLY! THERE IS NO 11:30 AM MASS  
ON DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>.**