

FIRST SUNDAY OF

Advent

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

“You also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”

MATTHEW 24:44

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There are numerous photographs of people who sleep on mountainside ledges, who carelessly dangle their feet into the space of geological chasms, and of course there's the iconic photograph of workers eating their lunch on a beam of the under-construction Chrysler building in New York. Some people seem attracted to these precarious, stomach-churning locations; many of us are not. More of us have had the experience of beginning a new stage in life, with the excitement and occasional stomach-churning newness of a moment that can put us a bit on edge. Advent—its first couple of Sundays in particular—has a similar role in the passage of time that we call the liturgical year. It's unlikely that the First Sunday of Advent makes many stomachs churn, but perhaps more would if we truly took it seriously that we are to make ourselves ready for the coming of the reign of God at any moment.

WALK IN THE LIGHT

When we encounter the daily news, it can seem as though Isaiah's prophecy of swords turned into plowshares is running in reverse, making despair seem wiser than hopefulness. This is where Advent as the brink of God's reign comes into play. Advent can be a time for each of us to de-weaponize, even in the smallest of ways, the world around us. Advent's days offer a chance to look for opportunities to make the world a bit more hopeful for others. As we head through Advent, the elevated focus we have when we are standing at those new moments, those new stages of life, can help us tune out the despair, so we might open our ears and hearts to Jesus. This way, we can turn our backs on gloom, and accept Isaiah's invitation to walk in the light of the Lord: Jesus Christ, the Word-made-Flesh!

Today's Readings: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9;
Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
Deacon John Erdag

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

1612 S. FM 2869
Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765
Church Phone: 903-769-3235

Fr. Mike Snider
Cell Phone: 903-490-3883

Deacon John Erdag
Cell Phone: 949-285-5695

www.holyspirithollylake.com
holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."
Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

“Peace”

By Deacon John

“Because of my brothers and friends I will say, “Peace be within you!” – Psalm 122:8

Advent. As we all are aware, Advent is the season for us to prepare for the coming of the Lord. The first week of Advent is always directed at Christ’s second coming, while the other three weeks are dedicated to His Incarnation; Him coming to the earth in flesh. But what are we anticipating by His coming? Well, peace on earth. It’s what the angels said on Christmas, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Lk 2:14)

That’s what we’re anticipating from the Savior, peace on earth, recognized through His incarnation and especially in His second coming. In all our prayers, some kind of peace is always the underlying tone, isn’t it? It’s what we hope that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring to our hearts, to our families and to the world when He comes.

So now in the first week of Advent, our readings call us to wake up and be ready to receive Christ and peace. In today’s first reading, Isaiah says: “We see the mountain of the temple of the Lord, already etched against the Eastern sky.” He’s encouraging us with his vision of the imminent reign of peace through the coming of our Messiah, where we will “beat ‘our’ swords into plowshares, and ‘our’ spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”. Peace on earth. We know we can’t do this on our own, which is why we look so forward to Christ’s return.

Advent is a season of awakening and preparation. Both the second reading and gospel call us to be ready and awake. From Romans, Paul announces the closeness of our Savior: “Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.” He also reminds us that: “it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.” He tells us to be ready by conducting ourselves properly. The gospel tells us to “Stay awake!” Awake and ready.

And to be awake and ready, in Advent we especially turn to God in prayer of great hope in the birth, and return, of the Messiah. Through our fervent prayers, our hearts progressively grow towards the joy of His coming. And His peace. As it says in today’s Responsorial Psalm: “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.”

That’s my Advent prayer for all of you: “Peace!”

First Sunday of Advent

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Suzanne DiCarlo, Chris Hodges, Ben Clymer, John & Nitja McGrane, Pat Schmeier, Ethan Cowles, Cayla Goodson, Ruth & David Barber, Msgr. Ron Diegel, Richard & Dottie Schuetz, Tom Fabitz, Jodie Woods, Doris Hoffman, Yolanda & Eldon Boyd, Wanda & George Duke, Jean Hamilton, Kathleen Fleming, Jaye Anderson, Greg Mooney, Garry Fetsch, Karee Haney, Charlie Parker, Jacob Stephens, Elise Sugg, Avery Boultinghouse. We list the names of our sick Parishioners, Friends and Relatives for one month.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SICK.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens), 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan), Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster), Staff Sergeant, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York), Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan), Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman), Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan, U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma), Petty Officer 2 Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD NAME & RANK TO THE ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE.

Mass—Intentions

- Sat. 11/26 Cupertino & Cremilda Pereira+ (M/M Evans)
- Sun. 11/27 Caitano Albuquerque+ (M/M Evans)
- Tues. 11/29 Sebastiao Albuquerque+ (M/M Evans)
- Wed. 11/30 Anibal Pereira+ (M/M Evans)
- Thurs. 12/01 John Kominis+ (K of C)
- Fri. 12/02 Carol Kominis (K of C)
- Sat. 12/03 Jeanne Cooper+ (Marie Hansen)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the year of 2021

Expenditures \$ 3,666

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,799

Will Have Attendance Numbers Next Weekend

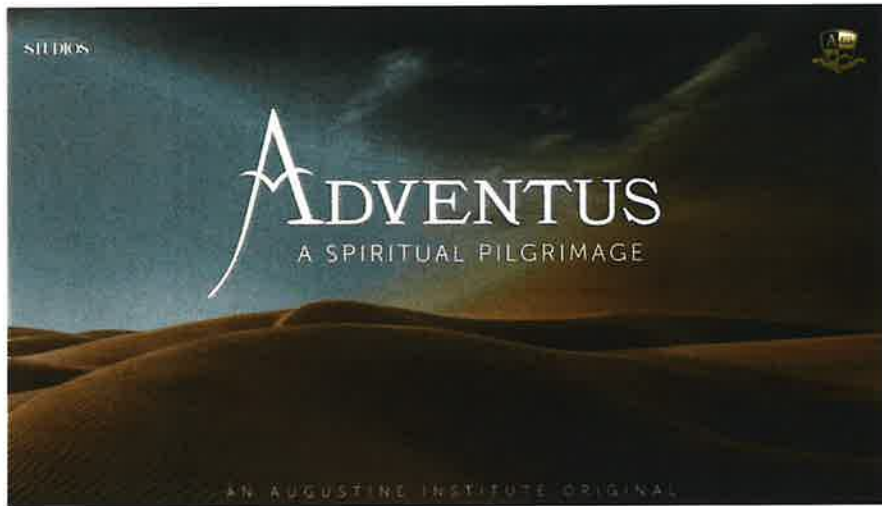
One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.

November Second Collections:

- 5th & 6th: "Building & Maintenance Fund."
- 12th & 13th: "Archdiocese of the Military Services."
- 19th & 20th: "Catholic Charities—Diocese of Tyler."
- 26th & 27th: "Christmas Flowers."



THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



Pope's Intention for December:



For volunteer not-for-profit organizations. We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation..

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** First Sunday of Advent
- Wednesday:** St. Andrew
- Thursday:** World AIDS Awareness Day
- Friday:** First Friday
- Saturday:** St. Francis Xavier; First Saturday

Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, you will need to be compliant on your ethics and integrity training with VIRTUS. Please notify our contact person to get signed up contact person Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or

Legion of Mary— Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

NOVEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Sun., Nov. 27th: No coffee & donuts after 9:00am Mass

Tues., Nov. 29th: 9:00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm.

Wed., Nov. 30th: 9:00am Mass.

**GOOD BYE, NOVEMBER
HELLO, DECEMBER**

Thurs., Dec. 1st—Fri., Dec. 2nd: 9:00am Mass

Sat., Dec. 3rd: 9:00am Mass of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart & Patriotic Rosary.

Sun., Dec. 4th: K of C Breakfast following 9:00am Mass. Adults \$ 5.00. Children through senior year in high school is free.

Tues., Dec. 6th: 9:00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm. **Confessions 10:00am—12:00pm with Fr. Mike and Fr. Ron Demski.**

Wed., Dec. 7th: 9:00am Communion Service.

Thurs., Dec. 8th: **Holy Day of Obligation—Immaculate Conception of BVM 9:00am Mass.** K of C Meeting 7:00pm.

Fri., Dec. 9th: 9:00am Mass.

Sun., Dec. 11th: 9:00am Mass. Coffee & donuts St. Jude's Hall

Tues., Dec. 13th: 9:00am Mass

Wed., Dec. 14th: 9:00am Mass. **Parish Christmas Pot Luck Dinner ST. Jude's Hall**

Thurs., Dec. 15th: 9:00am Mass

Fri., Dec. 16th: 9:00am Mass

Sun., Dec. 18th: 9:00am Mass. Coffee & donuts St. Jude's Hall

Tues., Dec. 20th: 9:00am Mass

Wed., Dec. 21st through Fri., Dec. 23rd: No Mass preparing for Christmas. Diocese of Tyler and Church Office Closed.

Sat., Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Mass 5:00pm

Sun., Dec. 25th: Christmas Day Mass 9:00am. No coffee & Donuts

Tues., Dec. 27th: 9:00am Mass. **Fr. Mike celebrating his 14th Ordination Anniversary.**

Wed., Dec. 28th through Fri., 30th: No Mass & Church Office closed

Sat., Dec. 31st: 5:00pm Mass



Annual Altar Server Mass

Where: Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul in Tyler

When: Sat., Dec. 3rd at 10am

Who: Priests, deacons, parish altar servers

What: Mass with Bishop Strickland and an opportunity to hear about Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life, and the Diaconate.

Detail: A meal will be provided by the Knights of Columbus at the Bishop T.K. Gorman Campus.

If your interested notify: Fr. Mike By noon on Wed., Nov. 30th 903-490-3883



Choose your Angel

Children's Christmas Wish Lists will be on the Tree in the Narthex next weekend, Sat., Nov. 26th. It is not necessary to buy everything on the child's list. Return no later than 11:00am Fri., Dec. 9th



Through your blessings we are able to fill our holiday food boxes. We're still feeding 15 families weekly and still need can goods: pasta; pasta sauce, etc.

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry. Call or email Bryan Todd at 972-672-4218 or toddtalk@hotmail.com Thank you, to our Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team!

Win a great Christmas gift for yourself or someone else!

Several generous people have donated **Two TV's to raffle off Proceeds go to our parish**

Tickets on sale after Masses starting Sat. Nov. 26th.

Winners drawn at Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Wed., Dec. 14th You do not have to be present to win, but we hope to see you at dinner!

2023 LECTOR WORKBOOKS

Are located by Bridget's office. **Lectors** please take one per family & sign out your book.

Thank You, Bridget

God is good! All the time!

And every Wednesday morning at 10:30 (except the first Wednesday), a few of us gather together to share a cup of coffee, and or a biscuit or donut, with the Holy Spirit. We read, discuss, digest and appreciate scripture together. We have room for 2 or 3 more "Bible Buds" and we would love to have you join us. Please feel free to attend our next gathering, November 30th, at 10:30; and in the meantime, please read 2 Kings, chapters 13-18 (if you do not have access to a Bible, you can either find it on line at the USCCB website or ask the facilitator and he will find a Bible for you). If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact Randy Munoz at 972-971-4067.



First Sunday in Advent



Christmas & New Year's Schedule

Sat., Dec. 24th: Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas Eve Mass 5:00pm

Sun., Dec. 25th: The Nativity of the Lord—Holy Day of Obligation -Christmas Day Mass 9:00am

Sun., Jan. 1st: New Year's Day 9:00am Mass

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 23 November 2022 Edition
(Submission date: 18 November 2022) Submitted by Randy Munoz

The magnificent history of the maligned and misunderstood fruitcake By Jeffrey Miller, Associate Professor of Hospitality Management, Colorado State University.

Nothing says Christmas quite like a fruitcake – or, at the very least, a fruitcake joke. A quip attributed to former “Tonight Show” host Johnny Carson has it that “There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep sending it to each other.” It’s certainly earned its reputation for longevity. Two friends from Iowa have been exchanging the same fruitcake since the late 1950s. Even older is the fruitcake left behind in Antarctica by the explorer Robert Falcon Scott in 1910. But the honor for the oldest known existing fruitcake goes to one that was baked in 1878 when Rutherford B. Hayes was president of the United States. What’s amazing about these old fruitcakes is that people have tasted them and lived, meaning they are still edible after all these years. The trifecta of sugar, low moisture ingredients and some high-proof spirits make fruitcakes some of the longest-lasting foods in the world.

The original energy bar – Fruitcake is an ancient goody, with the oldest versions a sort of energy bar made by the Romans to sustain their soldiers in battle. The Roman fruitcake was a mash of barley, honey, wine and dried fruit, often pomegranate seeds. What you might recognize as a modern-style fruitcake – a moist, leavened dessert studded with fruits and nuts – was probably first baked in the early Middle Ages in Europe. Cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg were symbols of culinary sophistication, and these sweet spices started appearing alongside fruit in many savory dishes – especially breads, but also main courses. Before long, most cuisines had some sort of fruited breads or cakes that were early versions of the modern fruitcake. Fruitcakes are different in Europe than they are in America. European fruitcakes are more like the medieval fruited bread than the versions made in Great Britain and the United States. The two most common styles of fruitcake in Europe are the stollen and panettone. British and American versions are much more cakelike. For over-the-top extravagance, honors have to go to a British version that crowns a rich fruitcake with a layer of marzipan icing.

Sweetening the pot – Fruitcakes came to America with the European colonists, and the rising tide of emigration from Britain to New England closely mirrored an influx of cheap sugar from the Caribbean. Sugar was the key to preserving fruit for use across the seasons. One of the favorite methods of preserving fruit was to “candy” it. Candied fruit – sometimes known as crystallized fruit – is fruit that’s been cut into small pieces, boiled in sugar syrup, tossed in granulated sugar and allowed to dry. Thanks to this technique, colonists were able to keep fruit from the summer harvest to use in their Christmas confections, and fruitcakes became one of the most popular seasonal desserts.

A dessert with staying power – Fruitcakes were also popular due to their legendary shelf life, which, in an era before mechanical refrigeration, was extremely desirable. Fruitcake aficionados will tell you that the best fruit cakes are matured – or “seasoned” in fruitcake lingo – for at least three months before they are cut. Seasoning not only improves the flavor of the fruitcake, but it makes it easier to slice. Seasoning a fruitcake involves brushing your fruitcake periodically with your preferred distilled spirit before wrapping it tightly and letting it sit in a cool, dark place for up to two months. The traditional spirit of choice is brandy, but rum is also popular. In the American South, where fruitcake is extremely popular, bourbon is preferred. A well-seasoned fruitcake will get several spirit baths over the maturation period.

Credit for the fruitcake’s popularity in America should at least partially go to the U.S. Post Office. The institution of Rural Free Delivery in 1896 and the addition of the Parcel Post service in 1913 caused an explosion of mail-order foods in America. Overnight, once rare delicacies were a mere mail-order envelope away for people anywhere who could afford them. Given fruitcake’s long shelf life and dense texture, it was a natural for a mail-order food business. America’s two most famous fruitcake companies, Claxton’s (Claxton, Georgia), and Collin Street (Corsicana, Texas), got their start in this heyday of mail-order food. By the early 1900s, U.S. mailrooms were full of the now ubiquitous fruitcake tins.

[Popularity today] – As late as the 1950s, fruitcakes were a widely esteemed part of the American holiday tradition. A 1953 Los Angeles Times article called fruitcake a “holiday must,” and in 1958, the Christian Science Monitor asked, “What Could Be a Better Gift Than Fruitcake?” But by 1989, a survey by Mastercard found that fruitcake was the least favorite gift of 75% of those polled. Haters and disrespect aside, fruitcake is still a robust American tradition: The website Serious Eats reports that over 2 million fruitcakes are still sold each year.



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CATHOLIC CHURCH

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all proceeds go to Holy Spirit Catholic Church



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HOLY SPIRIT CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER
you do not need to be present to win

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