

1st *Sunday*
OF ADVENT





**Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Saturday, November 27th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - Carol Consiglio, req. by son Ralph

Sunday, November 28th, First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. - Deceased members of St. Andrew Men's & Ladies Society

Monday, November 29th, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. - William, Stella & William F. Candela, req. by family

Tuesday, November 30th, St. Andrew the Apostle

8:00 a.m. - Steve Valente, req. by niece Ann Donarumo

Wednesday, December 1st, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Thursday, December 2nd, Advent Weekday

9:30 a.m. -

Friday, December 3rd, St. Francis Xavier

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Saturday, December 4th, Vigil of the Lord's Day

4:00 p.m. - James Plano req. by Cousin Ginny & Sal Plano

Sunday, December 5th, Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. - Community Mass

Sanctuary Lamp
Sunday, November 28, 2021

Deceased Members of St. Michael Parish

**In remembrance of those who died,
John Ludovico
May he rest in peace.**

Weekend of November 21, 2021

**Weekly Collection \$
Online Collection \$110.00
Campaign for Human Development**

**One Collection This Week
Weekly Collection**

**Two Collections Next Week
Weekly Collection**

**Annual Collection
As of November 21, 2021**

**Amount Pledged \$21,725.00
Amount Paid \$21,250.00**

**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

Today the Church begins the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting in hope. Our Scriptures celebrate Christ's coming in history two millennia ago, his coming into our present lives and needs, and his future advent when God's plan for our salvation reaches its fullness. Each Sunday's readings set before us all three modes of Christ's coming.

Jeremiah's prophecy presents a divine promise brimming with hope for the future arrival of a just leader bringing the chosen people safety and security. God's claim to "fulfill the promise" came at an astounding moment: Jeremiah proclaimed this word of the Lord to Judah, the only remaining Israelite kingdom, as she was facing the beginning of the end.

The Babylonians had seized political control of the kingdom, and some citizens had already been deported as captives into Babylonia. Judah's dissolution had begun. Eleven years later, the kingdom would exist no more, its people killed or taken captive, Jerusalem and the Temple leveled.

Precisely at this dark moment, Jeremiah urged the people to have hope for their future: "The days are coming" for God to build a chosen people through a royal son of David, restoring them to "what is right and just in the land" crumble around her, to prophet called for trust in a God who would come into her history to set all things right, to restore right relationships, to save a dying people.

Christians today might experience dark days as well, for various reasons: illness or old age, economic struggles, weakened or broken relationships and yet we know that God's promise is already fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22

Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS First Sunday of Advent

Advent – the forgotten Liturgical Season!

We all know that the coronavirus has disrupted and affected our lives in many ways not only health wise but also economically creating shortages which are leading to higher prices. Because of this economic situation, items that are on our Christmas Shopping List may not only be harder to find but also be more expensive. Given this present situation, we are encouraged to shop early not waiting for that possible last minute deal which may not happen. Otherwise, we may find ourselves left out in the cold!

In order to cash in on this current economic situation, big retailers and mail order companies are looking to get our business early by offering pre-pre-pre Black Friday deals. While, there is nothing wrong with trying to get the best deal for our dollars, but perhaps they are playing on our fears that we will not be able to find the perfect gift for that special loved one in our lives if we don't start shopping now. I do realize that the Holyday Season is the most busiest and profitable for retailers in that this is the time when they make most of their profits but perhaps in these trying times with the coronavirus and the difficulties that it poses it just might help us to focus a little more on the true meaning and spiritual significance of Advent and what we are preparing to celebrate and that is the coming of our salvation.

Today, we, as Christians, celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. With this First Sunday, we start our spiritual journey and preparation toward the Feast of Christmas. Certainly, the Church has not forgotten this very prayerful and meditative time as we prepare for the commemoration and celebration not only of the biggest event that has ever happened in human history but also an event which changed us and the world forever and that is the Incarnation and the Birth of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the birth of God's only Son, Jesus Christ on Christmas Day

The word "Advent" means coming. In Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord." For us as Christians, this "preparation of the way of the Lord" focuses our attention on two realities and mysteries of our faith. The first one is that we are preparing to celebrate and commemorate the first coming of Jesus Christ into the world as one of us. As we read in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Jesus has come among us as Lord and Savior.

The second "advent" which we now live in, is our preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of time; when he will come in power and glory with salvation for His people.

Thus, the Advent Season, in a spiritual and salvation way, echoes the angel's glorious news to the shepherds, "Behold, I come to proclaim good news to you, tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day, in David's city a savior has been born to you, the Messiah and Lord. Let this be a sign to you; in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes." Luke 2:10-12

While the coronavirus maybe putting a damper on our material preparation for the Celebration of Christmas, not letting us celebrate in the way that we would like or are used to, but spiritually may we take time out to pray and meditate on the great mystery of salvation that we are preparing to celebrate. One of the ways we can do this is by taking time out of our daily routine and sit reading and praying with the daily Mass readings for Advent reflecting on them in a spiritual way allowing the Word of God to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. Another way to prepare the way of the Lord is through the reception of the Sacraments especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession. In our busy world, this is one of the sacraments that have fallen into neglect. We keep saying, "I need, I want to go to confession but we just don't seem to have the time or make/take the time, or we just forget. As we approach the Christmas Season with its many preparations, let us put the Sacrament of Confession on our to-do-list.

P.S. In our politically correct society, wherein people are afraid to express the true meaning of the season, it is ok to wish me "A Merry Christmas!"

Fr. Roy

MASS BOOK

**PER ORDER OF THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
THE MASS BOOK FOR 2022 IS
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**A NOTICE WILL BE PLACE IN THE
BULLETIN AS TO WHEN THE
MASS BOOK WILL BE OPEN.**

On Line Giving

Realizing that the Coronavirus has affected us in many ways, even financially, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the parishioners of St. Michael's Church who have remembered St. Michael financially by mailing or dropping off your weekly envelopes. We now offer on-line giving through our website, StMichaelWoosterSquare.org, under the Parish Life tab.

**The ABCs of Annulment”
Sponsored by the
Metropolitan Tribunal Bloomfield**

“Father Philip Schulze, Pastor of Saint Margaret Parish, 24 Academy Street, Madison, Connecticut, in collaboration with Father George Mukuka, the Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal in Bloomfield, Connecticut, will host “The ABCs of Annulment” on Saturday of January 22, 2022, from 10 am to 12:00 pm, in the Church Hall at the address above.

Updates of the process initiated by Pope Francis as well as those made in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be presented by Br. Larry Lussier CSC, and Jim Tottenham.

Follow-up Annulment Workshops to help participants write their applications will be held at the same address on Saturday January 29th, and February 12th and 19th, from 10 am to 12:00 pm. Br. Larry, Jim Tottenham, and other members of the Annulment Team, will be present for the Workshops.

The “ABCs of Annulment” event is open to all at no cost. Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials. No registration is required. For further information call Br. Larry @ 475-221-8464 or email him at brolarlus300@gmail.com.



*From the Twitter Account of
Pope Francis*

*Dear young people, if our world
is to arise, it needs your strength,
your enthusiasm, your passion!*

**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

Advent is a season of watchfulness – being alert and waiting. Be attentive to the many ways in which God comes into your life. Be willing to be surprised. If you are surprised that he may be calling you to a vocation as a priest or religious, call Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, Tel 860-761-7456, e-mail vocations@aohct.org or visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.

FOOD BANK – Each week there is a box in the rectory entrance to receive donations of non-perishable foods that are brought to various non-profit agencies and families in need in the New Haven area. **(PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE OPEN AND EXPIRED FOOD)**. Your donation of these items are appreciated greatly by those who receive them. Please consider bringing one or two non-perishable items per month as a way of fulfilling the Corporal Work of Mercy, **To Feed the Hungry**.

Question of the Week

Can I name a person or group of people whom I now realize I have overlooked? How can I seek out Jesus in my neighbor?

Please mail me/us a registration form for Saint Michael Church

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

**Send this request to:
Saint Michael Church Office:
29 Wooster Place
New Haven, CT 06511
Or place in offertory basket.**

The First Sunday of Advent



Advent Begins! **November 28 – December 24**

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest will wear violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose is worn (GIRM, no. 316). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar above can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

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