



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land.

-- Jeremiah 33:15



Daily Mass

Week of December 2nd – 6th

Monday: 8:00 Ron, Tilin, Chris & Gail Dempster+
Tuesday: 8:00 Leo Loh+
Wednesday: 8:00 Ray & Verna Van Deusen+
Thursday: 8:00 Helene Plotken+
Friday: 8:00 James Tedder+



Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Marian Flandick, James Breen, Janet Laurent, Sharon Rinehart, Mike Abell, Michael Carter, Rufus Smith, Peggy Delson-Rini,



Religious Retirement Collection!

Next weekend, December 7th and 8th, is the annual Retirement Fund for Religious appeal. Almost 33,000 religious women and more than 5,500 religious men are past the age of 70. Though they may withdraw from compensated, full-time ministry, the religious continue to visit the sick, tutor children, and volunteer in parishes and among refugee populations. Please give generously.

Today's Readings

First Reading -- The days are coming when the Lord will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

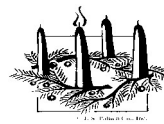
Psalms -- To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

Second Reading -- Abound in love for one another and for all (1 Thessalonians 3:12 -- 4:2).

Gospel -- Stand erect and raise your heads; your redemption is at hand (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

Advent Evenings of Reflection!

To prepare our hearts for the Advent Season, St. Theresa's Church, 30 Mandalay Road in Oakland, is offering two evenings of reflection. The first one, *Advent by Candlelight*, is for women to come together in prayer and fellowship. It will be on Sunday, December 8th, at 6:00 p.m. The second evening, *Advent for Men*, is an opportunity to come together for prayer, reflection and fellowship. It will be on Tuesday, December 10th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Nancy Midlin at: midlin.nancy@gmail.com.



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin the Season of Advent, it is helpful for us to remember that Advent is in some respect a "Little Lent." The four weeks of Advent, like the six weeks of Lent, are a time for reflection and repentance.

While we joyfully anticipate the coming of the Messiah at Christmas, it is important for us to acknowledge our universal need for the incarnation. The Word of God took flesh to dwell among us because we need to be saved from ourselves.

During the Season of Advent, we are invited to reflect on our lives and answer these two questions:

Why is it necessary for Christ to come into the world for me?

What must I do to worthily prepare for His birth at Christmas?

Taking the time to think about the first question and to act on the second question is a way to remain mindful of the ultimate purpose of Christmas.

It is important that we not romanticize this very Holy and wholly necessary event in Salvation History. The birth of Emmanuel that we will celebrate in four weeks will lead to the crucifixion of the Son of God in four months, a death that will be necessary because of the answer that each of us gave to the first question.

Love, Fr. Leo

Christmas Giving Tree!

'Tis the Season, the annual Christmas Giving Tree has returned and your help is needed more than ever! Ornaments will be available on the Giving Tree in the Gibson Center which started last weekend. This year, we are sponsoring an ornament for each member of the fifty families at The Oakland Worker and for the fifty clients from St. Mary's Center. Please select one or two ornaments and purchase a \$25.00 gift card for each ornament to **Target or Walmart**. Return the cards by either giving them to a member of the Living Our Faith Ministry after all the Masses; by dropping them off at the Parish Office; or by dropping them in the mail slot at the Parish Office.

If you prefer, we can purchase the gift cards for you. Please write a check made payable to **Corpus Christi Church** or donate online through your bank. Be sure to write, "**Giving Tree**" in the memo line for either of these options. All checks and/or gift cards must be received by Sunday, December 15th. Thank You!

Upcoming Potluck!

Hospitality's next Potluck will take place Saturday, December 7th, following the 5:00 p.m. Mass in the Gibson Center. Do you have a favorite family recipe to share? Free will donations also accepted. See you there!

Coping With The Holidays!

Coping With The Holidays, hosted by the Grief Support Ministry, will be held on Sunday, December 8th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Gibson Center. It is an opportunity to share your experiences and find comfort in a safe environment. Practical tips will be offered by the team, but equally supportive is the interaction among others who have experienced the death of a loved one or who have had other significant losses. All are warmly welcomed, including your friends who may not be parishioners.

Corpus Christi School Open House!

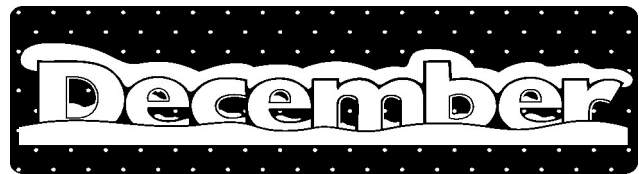
On Tuesday, December 3rd, from 8:15 to 10:00 a.m., our School will hold their Open House for prospective families to visit the classrooms, talk with parents, meet the principal and learn more about our wonderful School. If you or anyone you know is interested, we welcome you to come join us. The next two Open Houses will be on Tuesday, January 7th and Tuesday, February 11th, at the same time. The application is available on the School website at: [Application Link](#) for the 2025-2026 School year. For more information, please call the School at 530-4056.

See's Candies Holiday Fundraiser!

Oakland Elizabeth House needs your support for the Seer's Candies Holiday Fundraiser. It's the perfect opportunity to purchase holiday treats or gift certificates with a percentage of the sales going to the Oakland Elizabeth House. This helps with their mission of providing mothers and children an escape from homelessness, violence and addiction. Between now and December 6th, you can conveniently order online and your candy will be shipped to you or a loved one. To order, visit: www.oakehouse.org/donate. Thank You in advance for your support!

Active Waiting!

As this new liturgical year unfolds, today's readings are most appropriate, for they root us in what it means to live authentically as Christians. The Gospel, with its frightening predictions of the end times, invites the hearer to "be vigilant at all times" (Luke 21:36). This kind of vigilance is not at all passive for the Christian. Instead, it is a kind of active waiting. And what should we be doing while we are waiting for the coming of the Lord? The second reading gives us the answer: "abound in love for one another and for all" (1 Thessalonians 3:12). Today is all about promises made and fulfilled. May this Advent season root us all firmly in a stance of active waiting for the Lord, who brings justice and peace.

**Readings For The Week
December 2nd -- 7th**

Monday: First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5;
Psalm 122;
Gospel Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday: First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10;
Psalm 72;
Gospel Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: First Reading Isaiah 25:6-10a;
Psalm 23;
Gospel Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: First Reading Isaiah 26:1-6;
Psalm 118;
Gospel Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday: First Reading Isaiah 29:17-24;
Psalm 27;
Gospel Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday: First Reading Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26;
Psalm 147;
Gospel Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

The Promise of Justice!

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough, we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and human-kind.

Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement; and, Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise.

Self-Discipline!

The greatest of all warriors in the siege of Troy had not the preeminence because nature had given him strength and he carried the largest bow, but because self-discipline had taught him how to bend it.

-- Daniel Webster