

PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL

December 2018

Dear Parishioners,

What is the purpose of the Advent Season? Advent is the expectation of the earthly coming of Jesus and is penitential in tone. It is four weeks long or slightly less. The first two weeks focus on Jesus' final coming as Lord and Judge. The final eight days anticipate His coming in history (*what we call Christmas*). Since the tenth century, the First Sunday of Advent has marked the beginning of the (*Western*) Church Year. The Third Sunday of Advent, expresses the joyful note of anticipation in a season that is penitential otherwise. Hence, the purple color (*penitential*) with the third Sunday being Rose.

The Christmas Season is the celebration of Jesus' Birth and Epiphany (manifestation).

It is second in significance only to the Easter Season.

It starts on Christmas Day and includes the following celebrations:

Holy Family, Mary - the Mother of God, Epiphany, and ends with the Baptism of our Lord.

White is the color representing purity and completeness.

- The weekend of December 1st and 2nd is the First Sunday of Advent.
- Thursday, December 6th is St. Nicholas Day.
- Saturday, December 8th is the Holy Day of Obligation called Immaculate Conception.
- Our Fourth week of Advent is short as Christmas lands on Tuesday.

****Some Events and Happenings to keep in mind****

Tuesday, December 4th is Sacrament of First Reconciliation for the second graders.

There will be three Masses for the Holy Day of Immaculate Conception

- Friday, December 7th at 5:30pm and 7:00pm
- Saturday, December 8th at 8:15am.

Tuesday, December 18th is our Parish Advent Penance Service taking place at 7:00pm.

Besides our normal times for confession, there will be three Extra Confession Opportunities

- Friday, December 14th at 7:00pm
- Thursday, December 20th at 7:00pm
- Friday, December 21st at 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Masses

- 4:00pm
- 4:15pm Overflow Mass in Multi-purpose Room
- 6:00pm
- 10:00pm

Christmas Day Masses

- 8:00am
- 9:30am



Holy Family will be celebrated on the weekend of December 29th and 30th.

The Holy Day of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's) is celebrated on

- Monday, December 31st at 5:30pm
- Tuesday, January 1st at 9:30am and 11:00am

The weekend of January 5th and 6th we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord.

The weekend of January 12th and 13th is the Baptism of the Lord and the conclusion of the Christmas Season.

**Take the time to enter these Parish celebrations on your calendar.
Remember, the more we participate, the more meaningful is our celebration of
God's love and the gift of His Salvation for all of us!**

~~Fr. Jerry