

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2017**



Dear Friends in Christ:

Every year, on this day, as preparation for Christmas, the Church leads us on pilgrimage to the Jordan River, so that we might

enroll in the school of John the Baptist, hear his message, and put it into action in our lives. At first glance, it seems like a strange choice to meet him at the Jordan, 30 years after Christ's birth, millennia before his Second Coming. But the reason why the Church always visits John at the Jordan is because he was the one chosen by God the Father from all eternity to get His people ready to receive His Son, who was already walking toward the Jordan River to inaugurate his public ministry.

St. Mark presents John the Baptist as our model for Advent preparation; he is the precursor who announced the Lord's coming and who prepared the people by preaching them "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths," is a common usage during the Advent season. It is an invitation to get ready to welcome the Lord.

We are invited to tread the path of repentance and conversion. So, during this period of Advent when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Our Lord, what should our response be? **We have to fill in the valleys that come from a shallow prayer life and a minimalistic way of living our faith. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we've been walking:**

If we've been involved in some secret sins or in a sinful relationship, the Lord calls us through the challenging words of John the Baptist to end it; if we've been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we're called to straighten them out and do restitution; and if we've been pushing God off the side of the road, if we've been saying to Him that we don't really have the time for Him, now's the time to get our priorities straight.

This Advent—which is a gift of the Lord to us, and who knows it may be our last—will succeed or fail on the basis of how well we convert and clear our lives of sin so that the Lord may come to us.

Saint Juan Diego

Feast Day: December 9

Juan Diego was a Native American Indian born in 1474 in Cuauhtitlan, near Mexico City. He was named *Cuauhtlatohuac* ("The eagle who speaks"). Not much is known about his early life. It is said he described himself as poor, and he was married but had no children. When he was 50 years old, he and his wife were among the first native Mexican people to convert to Christianity in response to the arrival of the Spanish missionaries who had arrived in Mexico with the Conquistadors.

According to tradition, Juan Diego saw his first vision of the Virgin Mary on December 9, 1531. While he was walking over Tepeyac Hill on his way to Mass, Mary visited him and spoke to him in his native language. She asked him to tell the bishop to build a shrine to Her on the hill. Juan Diego obeyed, went to the bishop, and told him what had happened, but the bishop did not believe him: he wanted proof that Mary had really appeared. On December 12, Mary visited Juan Diego again. He told Mary what the bishop had said about proof of Her appearing. She responded by telling him to gather roses and bring them to the bishop as a sign of Her appearance. Juan Diego obeyed Mary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

5:30 P.M. Tom Norton
Bill Vogt
Joseph Giordano
Tom Karwacki

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Ted Sagan
10:00 A.M. Sarah McMurray
Frank & Bella Oriole
Lou & Mary Carona
12:00 P.M. Peter Caporale
Jerry Salvatore
Bill Frasche
Michael Gurneak



MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017

8:00 A.M. Bob Alheidt

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

8:00 A.M. Fred L. Dente

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

8:00 A.M. Marie & Neil DeFazio

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017

8:00 A.M. Gerhard & Johanna Ernst
Pietro Riotta
Intentions of Deneje Watts
Thanksgiving for Isabella Tindoc – 7th Birthday

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

5:30 P.M. John Renick
Tom Norton
David Louis Armentano
Tom Karwacki
Edmund Bakowski

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Bill Vogt
10:00 A.M. Margaret Puzio
Joseph Giordano
12:00 P.M. Rose Gerace
Ernestine Petras
Thomas Morano

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK: Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Helen Lubertazza
Tom Guzowski Audrey Grace Higgins Ava Rae Nebbia
Gary Ragusa Silverio Conte Alex Haines Helen Dacunto
Baby Michael Soojian Jan Hongo Susan Nichols-Boggio
Baby Ryder Sasso Carmela Fusco Frank Morici
Frances De Maria Dorothea King Jerome Foray
Gabe Bellantoni Manuel Esguerra Eileen McPartland
Rosemary Liebman Ceneia Soto Frank Sanclementi
Sharon Acquaire Noah Lorencovitz Sandra Pacifico
Sister Marie Louise George Link Amida Jaloudi
Barbara Kincaid Carmela Bitondo James Quinn

DECEASED: Rosemary Pannone Nina Margossian
Alice Musheno

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday - \$4,849.50 Thank you for your continued support.

again; he searched for roses, and gathered them in his cloak. Then he went back to the bishop. When he opened his *cloak*, dozens of roses fell out. That is when the bishop saw an image of Mary imprinted on the inside of Juan Diego's' cloak. Realizing that Mary had sent this sign directly to him through Juan Diego, the bishop ordered that a church be built on Tepeyac Hill in Mary's honor. Juan Diego lived in a hut next to that same church for the rest of his life, and took care of the pilgrims who came to pray there. He was buried in the church, and his *cloak* can still be seen in the [Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#).

During his 1990 pastoral visit to Mexico, Pope John Paul II beatified Juan Diego. Twelve years later, on July 31, 2002, the same pope proclaimed him a saint. Thousands of people gathered in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the canonization. A poor Indian peasant became the Church's first saint indigenous to the Americas. The Holy Father called him "a simple, humble Indian".

St. Juan Diego cooperated with God's grace in showing his people that the Good News of Jesus is for everyone. It was by God's grace that he overcame his own fears and found the courage to return to Bishop Juan de Zumarraga to plead for the church that Blessed Virgin wanted to be built on Tepeyac Hill. We can also ask for God's grace to help us spread the Good News just like the "simple, humble" St. Juan Diego did.

FAITH RENEWAL HOLY HOUR

Please join us on Dec.16 for our monthly Faith Renewal Holy Hour filled with adoration, contemporary music, meditation and prayer at 4:30PM followed by our Faith Renewal Mass at 5:30PM. Let us all come together and enter the mystery of our Lord's presence in the Eucharist and personally encounter Jesus Christ. Our Faith Renewal mass is for those who prefer an upbeat, more lively worship experience, this Mass with Contemporary Music offers live music with guitars, keyboard and vocalists. Our Faith Renewal Mass will be held every third Saturday of the month. For young adults, teens, families with children, or Catholics of all ages who are young at heart, this Mass is a vibrant worship experience. We would like to invite you to become involved with our Faith Renewal Team and help us come up with new and wonderful, creative fellowship events. We are looking for talented musicians, either vocally or an instrument, who would like to share their talents. For more information or for ways to get involved in this ministry, please email us at stfrancisfaithrenewal@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Communal Reconciliation Service

Monday, December 18th : 7:30 PM

Individual Reconciliation

Tuesday, December 19th: 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 23rd: 4:30 – 5:00 PM

KIDNEY NEEDED

There is a parishioner in our parish who needs, most of all, your prayers, but who is in need of a kidney. Sometimes just knowing of a need or talking about it, brings amazing results. But, above all, prayers are priceless. Thank you and God bless you.

CALENDAR RAFFLE SWEEPSTAKES TIME 90 CHANCES TO WIN WITH EACH TICKET PRIZES TOTAL \$4000

Since tickets may win more than once, each \$10.00 donation gives you 90 chances to win.

Every day is a chance to win a great prize.

Packages of 10 calendar raffle tickets will be available after all weekend masses beginning November 25th or during the week in the rectory.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will support the needs of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

A winner will be chosen for each day from December 25th through March 24th. Check the special days for bigger prize money!

Please return all raffle stubs and unsold calendars to the rectory by Friday, December 23rd. If you need more raffle tickets, please stop by the rectory or contact Erika Reid via the information below.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Erika Reid

Calendar Raffle Chairperson

973-628-7917

eareid@optonline.net

Reboot! Live! With Chris Stefanick

Internationally known speaker, author and tv host Chris Stefanick will be at St. Catherine of Bologna Parish in Ringwood on December 12th from 7:00-9:30pm.

Reboot! Live! Is the fun, inspiring and practical experience for all (ages 12 and up), of applying the beauty and genius of the Gospel to every aspect of your life, from prayer and spirituality, to work, dating, marriage, parenting, health and more! Do not miss the opportunity to hear one of the most sought-after voices of our time!

Come! Be energized during this Advent season! Invite someone!

Chris speaks to over 50,000 teens, young adults, parents and grandparents every year.

Tickets are available at www.reallifecatholic.com/reboot for \$20 and or call Kathy Ranft 973-962-9152 or Marion Tuttle 973-962-7221. Tickets are also available at St. Francis rectory.

ADVENT: THE LOST SEASON

Advent is short, half the time of Lent, and it is often swallowed up by the Christmas preparation frenzy of buying, decorating, cooking, in addition to working in the everyday "to do" schedule. Jesus seems to slip into that manger unnoticed. Suddenly, there He is on Christmas day, and we try to recover the peace and promise of His birth, but mostly we are just tired. The Emmaus group invites you to spend two evenings in Advent reading some of the Advent and Christmas bible stories, reflecting on them, talking about them, praying with them. the second time we will meet is on Wed. Dec. 13 at 7:30 in the chapel. Take a breath, relax, let the peace of His promise refresh your soul. Come be with us.

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
THIRD SATURDAY MORNING
DELICIOUS BREAKFAST**

Saturday, December 16th
8 am – 12 pm
American Legion Hall
65 Oak Street
Oakland, NJ 07436
Adults \$10
Seniors \$9
Kids 10 and under FREE

“SANTA WILL BE THERE!”

Bring the whole family and enjoy supporting the Marines who support veterans 365 day a year!

**2018 Mass Book is now open
Office hours are 8:30am – 4pm Monday - Friday**

CHRISTMAS YOUTH CHOIR

The Christmas Youth Choir will be starting rehearsals in December. This choir is for anyone ages 6-14 who would like to sing at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings before Mass, 9:15-9:45am, starting December 3. Please see our Music Director, Dania Emusov, if you are interested in joining! If you have any questions, email: Dania_Music@yahoo.com

ADVENT

*Prepare a warm and cozy place,
Let Baby Jesus in.
He'll come in meek and mildly there,
Yet save us all from sin.
We know today how His life went;
There on a cross He died.
But during Advent we can rest
Where thoughts of birth abide.
So, open then your heart to Him,
Sing a lullaby.
Hold this Wee One in your heart;
Therein He'll never die.
Prepare a warm and cozy place,
Let Baby Jesus in.
He enters meek and mildly there,
Yet saves us all from sin.*

Ruthmarie Brooks Silver



**2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
*In Giving We Receive***

This time of year, as our nation celebrates Thanksgiving, let us reflect on how we use all of the gifts given to us by a loving God. Consider showing your thanks for all your blessings by making a gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. As we are reminded in this year's Appeal theme – *In Giving, We Receive* – your participation not only impacts the lives of tens of thousands of people in need, but it benefits you as well. Please make a pledge today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2017appeal.org.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Let Us Share Our Thoughtfulness with Others!

9th Grade Service Project

Our ninth graders will be collecting toys for the children of Paterson until December 14.

Toys for Tots for the children of Paterson

Please donate a toy in its original package. The value of the toy can be between \$5.00 and \$10.00. Any kind of gift will be appreciated.

PLEASE help our ninth graders help others by donating!

For Parishioners: there will be boxes in the Narthex.
Thank you St. Francis Community for your help and support!

**LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017**

Maria Invernon & Pat Demarest

LECTORS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

5:30 P.M. Martha Bisaccio

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

7:30 A.M. Bill Boswell
10:00 A.M. John McMurray
12 NOON Linda O'Connell

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

5:30 P.M. Pat Demarest & Peg Carolan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

7:30 A.M. Linda & Jim Hartigan
10:00 A.M. Diane Drew & Diane Drew
12 NOON Barbara Garruto & Tony Mazza

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

5:30 P.M. Scott & Steven Bracken

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid
10:00 A.M. Kelly Frisina & Jonathan Hogue
12 NOON Divine Crilly & Aaron Manalili

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today Second Sunday of Advent | Mark 1:1-8

Cycle B

BE AWARE, PREPARE!

John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, was sent to Baptize many people and prepare them for the coming of Jesus, the True Messiah.

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SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

ARRIVAL OR COMING OF CHRIST

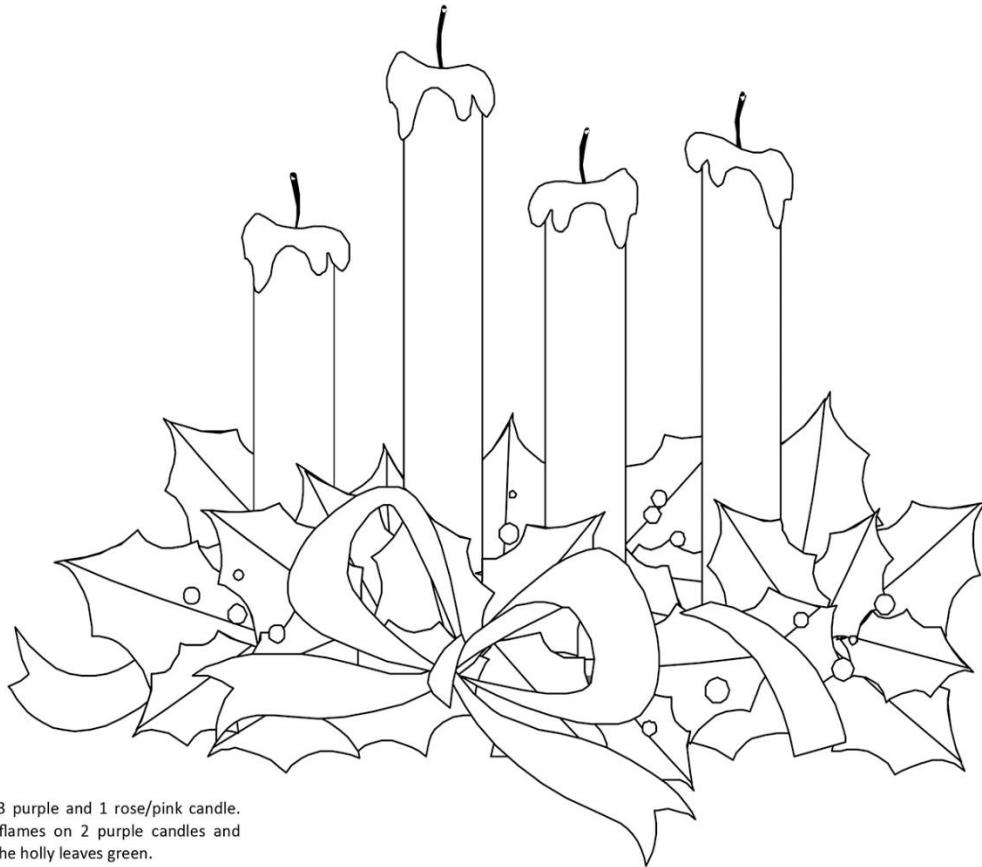
We begin the second week of Advent preparing ourselves for the Messiah. Our Advent wreath has 4 candles (3 purple, 1 rose/pink) for the four Sundays, or weeks before Christmas. The more candles we light, the brighter it gets, and the closer we are to the birth of Christ.

WEEK 2, evening lighting prayer

Prayer said by Father or head of household

"O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Through Christ our Lord, Amen".

Oldest child lights 2 purple candles.



Color 3 purple and 1 rose/pink candle.
Draw flames on 2 purple candles and
color the holly leaves green.