

November 27  
To  
December 24

# **Advent @ St. Ben's**

## **Mark your calendars!**



### **From Father Mark...**

Dear Parishioners,

We will soon be entering into the sacred season of Advent. Traditionally Advent requires two things of us: Waiting and Watching. Neither of which many of us are all that good at. Whom likes to wait? Whom likes to be quiet?

We spend time Waiting to welcome the newborn Christ who was born and became part of our world (which we celebrate on December 25th); and waiting to welcome the second coming of Christ at the end times (in which we do a "spiritual check-up" to see if we are leading good moral lives; if not, what do we need to change for the better?).

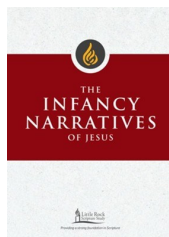
We also focus on Quiet Reflection. Our world and our lives are filled with countless distractions, busy schedules, and deadlines. We try to spend time in quiet prayer, this helps us to listen to God speaking to us and focus on what truly matters in our lives – our faith, family, friendships, and reaching out to those less fortunate.

There are many opportunities at St. Benedict to help us grow spiritually this Advent season – from our Giving Tree and Reconciliation Services, to Lessons and Carols, The Infancy Narrative of Jesus, and An Adult Appreciation of the Christmas Story. Please take some time to read about these offerings and see if any appeal to you.

"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of others." Pope Francis

God's blessings to you on your Waiting and Quiet Reflection this Advent Season!

Fr. Mark



### **Bible Study: *The Infancy Narratives of Jesus***

Brothers and Sisters,

Please join me this Advent season for a three-week study entitled "The Infancy Narratives of Jesus." All materials will be provided and I will offer a morning and evening session the first three Mondays of December.

Morning classes will be at 9:15 am and evening classes will be at 6 pm.  
Dates: 12/5, 12/12, 12/19

I'm sure the program will provide insight and inspiration, as well as fellowship, as we learn from one another. Please rsvp via my email, [bjanssen@stbensparish.org](mailto:bjanssen@stbensparish.org), and indicate which session (morning or evening) you would like to attend. I am looking forward to sharing this journey with you.

May the peace of the Lord be with you all!  
Ben Janssen, Adult and Teen Formation



*The four candles of the Advent wreath represent Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy*

### **Advent Lessons and Carols**

#### ***Lessons of Peace***

Sunday, December 4  
4:00 PM

A traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. Scripture lessons are read followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

At St. Benedict we have put a more contemporary slant on the traditional festival. The evening is created to evoke contemplation and reflection using stories, prayer, and music.

The "busyness" of this time of the year sometimes makes it difficult to remember what is most important – preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ and the promise He brings. Join us for Advent Lessons and Carols – Lessons of Peace. Leave the outside world behind and immerse yourself in preparing for the wonder upon us in the Christmas Miracle!

*Followed by a cheese & sweets, wine & juice reception*

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### The St. Benedict Giving Tree

The St. Benedict Human Concerns Commission is hosting the Giving Tree for the children of this year's clients of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The tree and tags for gift cards will be available on Saturday, November 26, and all donations must be received by Sunday, December 11 in order to be distributed before Christmas.

Your donation of store, food, gas, and treats cards are most appreciated.

Prefer to write a check? Please write your check to St. Benedict Human Concerns and we will gladly do the shopping!

For questions or more information:

Rita Pilarski 312-505-1092

Jeanette Cincinelli 847-530-8645



### Reconciliation During Advent

Reconciliation will be offered every Saturday during Advent:

Saturday December 3, 10, 17 at 9:00 am

\*Also Thursday, December 8 after the 8:15 am Mass and the 5:30 pm Mass.

Confessions will not be heard on Christmas Eve.



**Masses at 8:15 AM & 5:30 PM**

*Followed by Reconciliation at  
9-10 AM and 6:30 - 7:30 PM*



We are in need of help to welcome people as they enter for the 4:30 pm and 8:00 am Masses, as well as take up the collection and invite people to bring forward the gifts.

If you can help, or would like more information, please contact Karol Bidwill in the Liturgy office.  
262-275-2480 ext. 280  
liturgy@stbensparish.org

**Would you like to light  
the Advent Wreath at  
Mass?**

Contact Karol

in the Liturgy Office

262-275-2480 ext 280

liturgy@stbensparish.org

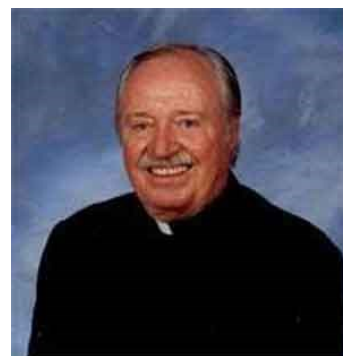
### An Adult Appreciation of the Christmas Story Sunday, December 18 4:00 PM

For those of us who follow Christ, we may not be able to remember a time when we did not know the Christmas Story, the story of the birth of Christ. Even before we were able to fully comprehend it, our parents, grandparents, teachers, and all those who loved us, told it to us over and over again. Yet it is so much more than a children's story. It is a story filled with wonder, meaning, and mystery of faith for adults. It is the revelation of God's intervention into the human condition. It is a story of a counterculture to the power of emperors and kings.

The imagery is amazing: kings, magi, shepherds, angels, swaddling clothes, gifts, star, virgin mother. Each of these images is packed with meaning. We will examine each one of these and many more to help us, as adults, understand and appreciate the presence of God in this Christmas story and in our lives this Christmas.

Please join us for this special presentation as Fr. John Cusick walks us through the familiar, yet somehow always new, re-telling of the Christmas Story. Employing Gospel texts and the rich tradition of Christmas stories, Fr. John Cusick will tease our memory and imagination to discover anew the astounding possibilities of Emanuel, God with us.

*Followed by a soup supper*



*Father John Cusick*