



## The Waiting Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A**dvent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm

the cocoon and so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly's wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

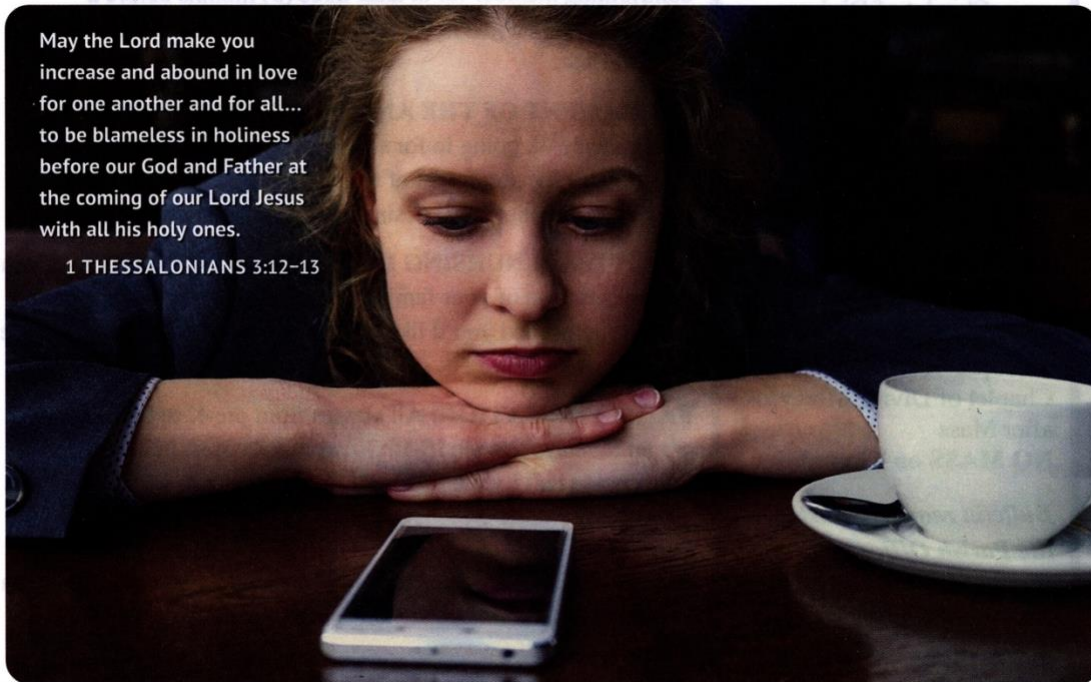
How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel's encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need. ●

### Reflect

**How can you better enjoy times of waiting?**

May the Lord make you  
increase and abound in love  
for one another and for all...  
to be blameless in holiness  
before our God and Father at  
the coming of our Lord Jesus  
with all his holy ones.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12–13



**Saint Benedict Catholic Church**

**336-272-0303**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Website: [stbenedictgreensboro.net](http://stbenedictgreensboro.net)**

**Email: [Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org](mailto:Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org)**

**Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm on Wednesday and Friday**

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.**

**Rev. James Duong, Pastor**

**Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator**

**Weekend Mass**

**Sat.** Miraculous Medal

Novena at 4:45pm

Mass at 5:00pm

**Sun.** Mass at 8am & 11am

Chaplet of Divine

Mercy after 11am

Mass

**Confessions**

Weekdays before 12:15

Mass

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

**Weekday Mass**

Rosary at 11:45am

Mass Monday - Friday

12:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

after Mass

**NO MASS on Thursday**

*Bulletin requests must be in*

*the Parish Office by noon*

*Wednesday, ten (10) days in*

*advance of the weekend of*

*publication.*

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

**HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS:** If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:** All classes from pre-K to high school are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

**RCIA:** Please call the parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 1, 2024**

For all unborn children:  
That their families will prepare to welcome them with joy  
and awareness of the many gifts children bring into the world.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**INTENTIONS**

11/30	Saturday	5:00pm		For the Parishioners
12/1	Sunday	8:00am		The Robinson Family
		11:00am	+	Basic Luciana
12/2	Monday	12:15pm		Mr. & Mrs. William F. Kauder
12/3	Tuesday	12:15pm	+	Kyllikki Collings
12/4	Wednesday	12:15pm		Room at the Inn
12/5	Thursday	NO MASS		
12/6	Friday	12:15pm		Intentions of Father Duc
12/7	Saturday	5:00pm	+	George & Robin VanPelt
12/8	Sunday	8:00am		Leslie Brown
		11:00am		For the Parishioners

**Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers**

Kharll Skycer Villarin  
Sgt. W.R. Williams III  
Maj. Russel Henderson  
Sgt. Bryanna Spade  
Sgt. Kyle Spade  
April Ducote  
Aaron Gaither  
Phillip Kinery  
Christopher Simmons  
Kris Guffey  
Jennifer Kmiecinski

**Sick and Shut-In**

Please remember our brothers and sisters  
in your prayers and at Mass: Carol Camp,  
Lynn Clay, Richard Collings, Virgil  
Dotson, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards,  
Bonnie McIntyre, Barbara Parsons,  
George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel,  
Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny &  
Laura Rodrigues, Kim Snyder, Vivian  
Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin Jr., Teresa Thu  
Tran, Frank Williams, Beth Wilson,  
Brian Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Jean  
Wilson

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory ....

\$ 3,237.00

**THANK YOU!**

**\*\*\* Next weekend we will have a second collection for the Maintenance Fund.\*\*\***

## MINISTER SCHEDULE: DECEMBER 7 and 8

<b>MASS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>E.M.</b>	<b>CANTOR</b>
5 PM	Danielle Hayes	Geoff Stephany	Tom Garcia
8 AM	Mary Ann Garcia	David Kolosieki	
11 AM	Myra Vazquez	Laura Rosic	Choir

## REFLECTION



"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

A special thanks to the parishioners who have included St. Benedict's in their estate plans. These gifts help us build a solid foundation for future generations. Thank you for leaving a lasting legacy!

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:** What will I do to prioritize Christ's coming over all the persistent anxieties of the season? Can I take ten minutes of each day this Advent to pray?



# PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN  
SUPPORT  
APPEAL 2024**

**ONE** *Body in* **CHRIST**

**DSA 2024 - DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL** We are now in the final month of the Diocesan Support Appeal campaign and *as of today 41 families have contributed*. We need each of you to help us reach our goal of \$28,753.00. Thank you.



**ADVENT 2024 IS HERE!** "Advent has a two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight".

*(Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar (henceforth, Universal Norms, 39)*

**GIFT GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE** Saint Benedict parish is partnering with World Relief Triad to 'welcome the stranger' by helping with home setups, collecting household items needed during the resettlement process, and other efforts with local refugees. Again, we are dedicating our Giving Tree to collecting needed items as they start their new life in America. Please prayerfully consider taking one or more tags from the Giving Tree and placing the items under the tree by December 31.



**REMEMBER** to sign up for our Christmas dinner next Sunday, December 8. Sheets are in each vestibule. Please come for a delicious dinner, raffles, door prizes and fellowship.

**FIRST FRIDAY** is this week, December 6. We will have the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction and Adoration following the 12:15 p.m. Mass. Wouldn't 30 minutes of additional prayer be a good way to begin the Advent season?

This week we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Sebastian Espitia-Garcia (12/2), Myra Vazquez (12/3),

Lorraine Portalla (12/6)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday	Dec. 1	Advent begins – A new Liturgical Calendar - Year C
Saturday	Dec. 7	Decorate Parish Hall for Christmas Dinner – 11 a.m.
Sunday	Dec. 8	Christmas Dinner – 4:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pick up the bulletin for more information</li></ul>
Monday	Dec. 9	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Virgin Mary (a holy day of obligation) Mass # 1 at 12 p.m. Mass # 2 at 6 p.m.
Saturday	Dec. 21	Clean the church for Christmas - 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday	Dec. 24	CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS for Children at 6:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS at 11:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS MASS at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	Dec. 29	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Wednesday	Jan. 1	NEW YEAR The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A holy day of obligation</li></ul>

## Faith Formation



*Sunday School 2024-2025 for those age 3 through high school is from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the parish hall.*

To prepare for Christmas, Fr. Duc will offer confession for the students during class time this Advent.



This week's altar flowers were donated anonymously. Thank you!



December 1, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16 | 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 | Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Are you one of those people who flips to the end of the book to find out what happens or maybe you roam the internet for spoilers of your favorite show? We have all been tempted to know what is going to happen before whatever it is unfolds, especially in tension-filled situations. Knowing the ending changes the way we experience the angst of the present moment, especially if it's a great ending! Like today: even as we anticipate and know the comfort and joy of the Advent season, we certainly do not begin there with our Gospel reading from Luke. In it, Jesus describes the coming of the Son of Man: this time will include moments of dismay, tribulation, assault, fright, and death. Contemplating this time of justice can be fearsome, but it is also a source of joy, because Christ is coming! We know that through Christ we have been redeemed – and that, if we remain faithful to him, we have the hope of eternal life. As Luke tells us, we can stand with our heads held high because redemption is at hand. Our Advent does not start with comfort and joy, but it sure ends there. Knowing this ending helps us have confidence and hope in God.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

We are encouraged and challenged by the Word and our Advent traditions this first week to *remember how it ends!* In our first reading, the prophet Jeremiah relays consolation to the nation in crisis when God tells them the days are coming when the Lord will “fulfill the promise.” This will bring them much-hoped-for safety and security. In Luke’s Gospel, Christ’s coming will be with “power and great glory” and although it sounds somewhat frightening, it will usher in redemption. Those are some spoilers providing great confidence and hope. In addition to our readings, the lighting of our first candle this Advent season is a visual reminder of the culmination of our salvation story! The Light who has come into the world has and will dispel the darkness. We can stand erect and raise our heads together to glimpse this light of Advent and fill our hearts again with hope that God surely is the one who keeps his promises. That is the best spoiler of all.

### **SING**

*O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph  
And sadness flee away*

# Dear Padre,

*I've been Catholic all my life, but I don't understand Advent. It's too much like Lent and seems an odd way to prepare for the birth of a baby.*

In a society that is primarily secular, one skill of the believing Christian is the ability to balance competing realities. From a secular perspective, Christmas is part of the period identified as the "holidays," beginning with Thanksgiving until New Year's Day, when it abruptly ends and stores begin advertising Valentine's Day.

For Christians, Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the great promise fulfilled after centuries of waiting and expectation. The creative energy of the Father is displayed in wonder and awe as the angels sing and people of good faith gather to celebrate. We join our ancestors in anticipation of this event through the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

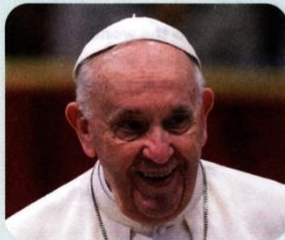
The Christian holy day is a singular day, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas—but the Church continues the celebration of God's life and love through the days that follow, culminating in the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

We are invited to hold the secular and the liturgical experiences in an integrated balance. We can celebrate the secular holidays and we can enter the liturgical season that helps us contemplate something much grander and more spectacular. ●



**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
December 2	December 3	December 4	December 5	December 6	December 7	December 8
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>St. Francis</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>St. Ambrose,</i>	<i>Second Sunday</i>
Is 2:1–5	<i>Xavier, Priest</i>	Is 25:6–10a	Is 26:1–6	Is 29:17–24	<i>Bishop and</i>	<i>of Advent</i>
Mt 8:5–11	Is 11:1–10	Mt 15:29–37	Mt 7:21, 24–27	Mt 9:27–31	<i>Doctor of the</i>	Bar 5:1–9
	Lk 10:21–24				<i>Church</i>	Phil 1:4–6, 8–11
					Is 30:19–21,	Lk 3:1–6
					23–26	
					Mt 9:35–10:1,	
					5a, 6–8	



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become “sleepy Christians”—and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness.... This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.*

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021