



Looking ahead to the Advent Season

As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ at Christmas, the Church gives us the season of Advent to help prepare for his coming.

Below are some of the ways we are invited to "prepare the way of the Lord" in our hearts this Advent.

DAILY MASS & SATURDAY MORNING MASS

A great way to experience the coming of the Lord is to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist at Mass. Why not attend Mass during the week in addition to Sunday? Daily Mass is offered at St. Anne's on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 8am and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30pm.

In addition, beginning on December 15th, we will now offer Mass on Saturday mornings at 8am. This Mass will continue throughout the year. The church will open at 7:30am on Saturdays, and the Rosary will follow Mass. Confessions will now also be heard following Mass each Saturday. *Please note that this Saturday morning Mass does not fulfill the Sunday obligation.*

CONFESSIONS

It is appropriate to prepare ourselves for the Lord by confessing our sins and receiving his mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a good custom to confess our sins regularly, but especially during the seasons of Advent & Lent. In addition to our usual Saturday Confession schedule, Confessions will now also be heard after morning Mass every Saturday. During Advent, confessions will be heard after the Tuesday and Thursday evening Masses.

THURSDAY EARLY MORNING MASS & ADORATION

On December 6th, 13th, and 20th at 7:00am, a simple early morning Mass will be offered at Holy Family Church. Mass will be followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7:20am -8:20am. Mass will be offered *ad orientem* ("facing East"), where the priest and people face the same direction. This way of offering Mass highlights the fact that we all face the coming of the Lord together as we offer our prayers. On these mornings the Church will unlock at 6:45am for quiet preparation (there will be no public recitation the rosary).

RORATE MASS

The "Rorate Mass" is a traditional Advent custom of offering Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This candle-lit Mass reminds us that Christ is the light who shines in the darkness. As we await the coming of the Christ-child, we also honor Our Lady who said "yes" to God's plan of salvation. The word "Rorate" comes from the first Latin word of the Entrance Antiphon for the Mass, "Rorate Caeli": "Drop down dew from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a savior." Mass will feature various Gregorian chants from the Advent season. This year's Rorate Mass will be offered on Mary's side altar at St. Anne's on Friday, December 14th at 7pm.