

**December 10, 2023**

### **A Note from Fr. José Arroyo**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

This week we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent. As the secular world has begun to celebrate Christmas, the Catholic Church waits and celebrates the season of Advent prior to Christmas. The Advent season is penitential, as it is a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The question that people may ask is: "Why celebrate Advent and not just go from Thanksgiving to Christmas mode like everyone else?" The simple answer is that all things worth waiting for require much patience.

Liturgically, Advent serves as a great reminder that we are to be prayerful, patient, and vigilant. It is a reminder that in a hectic life we must learn to slow down and wait our turn. Sometimes we rush through phases of our lives. For example, imagine a couple who love each other, yet love God even more. Every baptized person is required to live the virtue of chastity. For non-married and widowed people this means sexual abstinence. For married couples, this means living with integrity the marital commitment which is open to life and learns how to control one's impulses out of respect for the spouse and the sacrament of marriage. For some divorced, this means to wait for an annulment before falling in love. The reality is that life is complicated. We may complicate it even more by rushing into forbidden relationships. At times, we may place our emotions and our conveniences before the Word of God, the 10 commandments, and the Church's teachings regarding faith and morals. We may think that by waiting for what God asks of us we may not be happy.

For example, why wait for the approval of the Church for marriage if one can just get married civilly or in another non-Catholic Christian Church? Unfortunately, for some people, marriage is just a contract that can be broken and redone with no supernatural consequences. Since we are in the Parish Year of the Eucharistic Revival, I would like to ask if it is worth it to lose the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist due to a decision of living in a constant state of mortal sin? Of course, this question can be very uncomfortable because we can become emotionally charged. We can justify our decisions in order to numb our consciences. We are in need of God's grace, which comes to us through the sacraments.

I want to take the opportunity to clarify a common mistake regarding divorced Catholics. Divorce is a terrible evil. I am very sorry for anyone who has gone through it or is considering it. People are not likely to go to their wedding with the desire to divorce the person in the future. That being said, a person who is divorced and is living a good Catholic life by remaining single, can and should receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist as often as possible. The problem is if the divorced person enters into another relationship, creating a situation in which he or she is in a state of perpetual adultery. If the former spouse passes away, then he or she is technically widowed. Then they can go through the regular marriage-prep that any single person goes through. If the divorced person receives an official declaration of nullity and has received permission from the Ecclesiastical Tribunal to enter marriage, then the civilly divorced can enter into a new marriage or remain single. In some rare circumstances some even decide to enter a monastery, a convent, or a seminary.

There is even the possibility of some couples who make a commitment to each other to live as “brother and sister” (abstaining from marital relations) and are able to receive the sacraments with the approval of the pastor. It may require much patience, but with Christ’s grace, all things are possible. If you or any one you know has questions regarding the process of annulment, please feel free to contact me and I will be very happy to help you as I have helped several of our parishioners who are now able to receive the sacraments regularly.

Patience is a virtue that must be cherished throughout our lives, particularly within the Advent Season. May Our Lady and St. Joseph teach us to be patient and in a right relationship with God as we put Christ, the Eternal Word of God, at the center of our lives; for Jesus indeed was the center of the Holy Family.

## Second Sunday of Advent

### Mass Intentions

#### Dec. 9th Advent Weekday (Saturday)

9:00 a.m. † Carol Puls  
5:00 p.m. † Mark Chrzanowski

#### Dec. 10th Second Sunday of Advent (Sun.)

8:00 a.m. † Trent Mowrey & Bud Meyer  
10:30 a.m. † Justin Hinen  
2:00 p.m. Parroquianos

(Eucharistic Adoration one hour before each Mass) (Holy Rosary 30 minutes before each Mass)

#### December 11th Advent Weekday (Mon.)

8:00 a.m. † Kathleen Fry

#### Dec. 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe (Tues.)

8:00 a.m. † Ted Alles

#### December 13th St. Lucy (Wednesday)

5:00 p.m. † Guy Bixel

#### Dec. 14th St. John of the Cross (Thur.)

8:00 a.m. † Matthew Weber

#### Dec. 15th Advent Weekday (Friday)

8:00 a.m. † Ray & Rose Fearnow

#### Dec. 16th Advent Weekday (Saturday)

9:00 a.m. † Joyce Pawlak  
5:00 p.m. † Andy Lowe

#### Dec. 17th Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. † Ed Peters  
10:30 a.m. † Steve Koski  
2:00 p.m. Parroquianos

### Collections for December 3, 2023

<u>Adult Offering Envelopes</u>	\$ 2,155.00
Loose	\$ 683.75
Candles	\$ 33.00
Repair	\$ 252.00
Retirement fund	\$ 20.00
Flowers	\$ 10.00
CCD	\$ 23.00
Total in pews:	<b><u>\$ 3,176.75</u></b>

#### Online Collections

Reg. Envelopes	\$ 1,477.00
Repair Fund	\$ 255.00
Second Collection	\$ 111.00
Other	\$ 15.00
Total Online	<b><u>\$ 1,858.00</u></b>

### **St. Vincent DePaul Corner**

Clients served on December 4, 2023

Families **47** People **145** New **5**

### **NEEDS**

Cereal, peanut butter and ketchup.

If you would like to help with St. Vincent DePaul, please contact the office and leave a message for Barb Bockelman or Sara St. Clair.

Thank you so very much for your ongoing support! Please keep in mind that St.

Vincent DePaul Food Pantry is open EVERY Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If Monday falls directly on a holiday, the pantry will not be open. Evening hours are the third Monday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

### **St. Peter and St. Paul Penance service**

If you missed our penance service, SS Peter and Paul church in Huntington is having their Advent Penance service on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### **Ministry Schedule for Christmas Masses**

Please keep an eye out for emails with requests for volunteers during the holiday Masses. We count on you to help fill these positions that are needed during Mass.

These positions are lectors, extraordinary eucharistic ministers, ushers, and servers. Thank you for giving your time to our church.

### **The Giving Tree is HERE!**

We still have a few tags on the giving tree. Please consider taking a tag. Please enter the following information in the roster book. Find the tag number in the roster book and enter your name, phone number, and email by the tag number. There are information papers in the front of the roster

book for you to take home, that will explain when the gifts are to be returned.

Gifts need to be wrapped, with the ornament tag attached and visible. Please have all wrapped gifts back to the church by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

For questions, please contact Sue Jansen, 812-746-7346, [sjansen53@yahoo.com](mailto:sjansen53@yahoo.com)

Thanks for your generosity!

### **Text Message Scam**

Please be aware that there has been a scammer striking our parishioners. There is someone pretending to be Fr. Jose and sending out text messages asking for money. Father will never request cash or credit cards. Please be very aware around you.

# Saint Paul of the Cross

# HEALING

## SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11TH 6:30 PM

Please plan to join us for our **Healing service** on Monday! Father Drew Curry and Father José will be available to pray over people for *emotional, spiritual, and physical* healing. There will be a priest present to hear confessions. There will also be music. It is a wonderful opportunity to ask the Holy Spirit for healing and to pray for the healing of others.



**HOLY HOUR OF POWER** is on Friday, December 15th from 6-7 PM! Have you been to a Holy Hour of Power yet? If not you REALLY should come! It's an hour of beautiful Praise & Worship Music and intense prayer with Jesus in the Monstrance! The lights are low, the incense is wafting towards Heaven, confessions is offered, and God is present in a physical and spiritual way that is so powerful it must be experienced!

The Saint Paul of the Cross

# BIBLE STUDY

team presents:



## A PASSION...FOR THE EUCHARIST

A Bible study for parishioners of

**St Paul of the Cross**

NEW SESSIONS WILL BEGIN

**Starting the week of January 8, 2024**

**Thursday at 6 pm**

or

**Wednesday at 9am**

**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX  
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE**

