



## *Our Lady of Sorrows Church*

November 29, 2020

*From the Pastor's Desk*

My Dear People:

Many people are so busy with the day's work, that they lose track of the whole picture, the real goal of our lives. The whole picture is our eternal life with God. Sometimes, working for this enormously great goal gets put on the back burner and sometimes off the stove.

In the work on devils, C.S. Lewis describes the senior devil teaching the junior devils that the best way "to get" people is to convince them that there is "no hurry." When the last sickness comes, and we can barely say one prayer because of sickness or semi-consciousness, we postponed all that prayer for our final sickness...but then we feel so sick we can barely offer one prayer. Yet, developing a relationship with God is the whole purpose of our lives on earth.

The Church, in her wisdom, gives us the Advent season for us to stop and see the whole picture, the indescribable importance of our salvation. Yet, custom and the secular world make the weeks before Christmas the busiest weeks of the year. So, the Church puts an emphasis on Advent, so that this great season is a season of extra prayers and good works to really celebrate the birth of the Savior.

Doesn't it bother us to have people say, "Happy Holidays," in order to avoid the word Christmas, which carries with it the name of Christ? The more nativity scenes the better, on our cards, in our homes and in our yards. The Advent wreath, with the evergreen foliage that survives the winter, reminds us that we can survive the winters of our lives.

There is a two-fold aspect of our Advent readings: 1) The historic longing and waiting for the First Coming of Christ in Bethlehem, and 2) The Second Coming, when He "comes back to take us to Himself." We need to delve into the Old Testament history, reading about Isaiah and other prophets predicting the coming of Jesus. The first aspect is satisfied when we celebrate on Christmas the actual coming of Jesus in that Infant in Bethlehem. The Second Coming of Christ is the longing for heaven. We may not know we have that longing, but as we experience one desire after another on this earth, we say with St Augustine:

LORD, OUR HEARTS WERE  
MADE FOR YOU AND THEY  
WILL NEVER REST UNTIL THEY  
REST IN YOU.

I love the way Thanksgiving rolls right into the Advent season because we need to keep the spirit of giving thanks right through Advent, thanking God for the Gift of all gifts, the gift of His Son born in Bethlehem.

Advent is a holy season, meaning extra prayers or extra effort in the daily prayers we say already. We know the greatest of prayers is the offering of Jesus to the Father at Mass on Sundays and, if possible, during the week.

With prayers and blessings,  
Father Muller

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**Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation** from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, January 10. We will continue to livestream Masses. The moral obligation of keeping the Lord's Day holy remains, even for those who use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.

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**The Advent Penance Service** is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, at 7 p.m. We will have seven priests hearing confessions. **The confessionals will be set up for social distancing and we ask that everyone wear a mask.** Please join us!

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**Join us** Wednesday, December 2, from 6-9 p.m. for an **Advent Night of Mercy.** We will have two dynamic speakers, Sr. Bethany Madonna and Dom Quaglia. Come hear our musicians Sarah Kroger, Ike Ndolo, and Ricky Vazquez. Let's focus on how to "Be the Gift" to one another this Advent. Brought to you by Catholify and Arise Worship Ministries.

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**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception** is Tuesday, December 8. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass Schedule is:

**Monday, December 7: 6 p.m. Vigil**  
**Tuesday, December 8: 6:30 & 7:30 a.m.**  
**12 Noon**  
**6 p.m.**

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Pizzitola, Kenny Skellie

Mamie Carruba, Ronnie Williams, Tony Schilleci, Amanda Gagliano, Carolyn Jefferson, Bob Doyle, Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise, Tim Carlisle, Tom James, Mike Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan



Monday, Nov. 30	The Mottel Family E. J. Thornton Roy Gagliano
Tuesday, Dec. 1	Michael Baecher Jude Tombrello Sp. Int. Jeanne McGinty
Wednesday, Dec. 2	Special Intention E. J. Thornton Lee Maniscalco
Thursday, Dec. 3	Special Intention E. J. Thornton Sp. Int. Jeanne McGinty
Friday, Dec. 4	Special Intention Jude Tombrello E. J. Thornton
Saturday, Dec. 5	Donors to OLS School Foundation Fran Lahey Dr. Bill & Mildred Stephens
Sunday, Dec. 6	People of Parish Jude Tombrello Mary Claire Brouillette

**Rezoning for New Parking**

Please pray that the Homewood City Council will vote to rezone the former Gorrie-Regan property to Institutional Zoning Classification so the property can be used by Our Lady of Sorrows. Because of Library expansion and the future potential use of Library property, there is concern that Homewood's offer to allow parishioners to use Library parking may come to an end in the future. Praise God our Parish is growing and so will the need for parking and buildings.

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**John Carroll Catholic High School** is currently scheduling tours and student Shadow Days for the month of December. All 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and prospective transfer students are invited to Experience the Value of a John Carroll Education! Contact Tina Wos, Admissions Director, to schedule your tour or Shadow Day. Email [twos@jcchs.org](mailto:twos@jcchs.org) or call 940-2400. Come see us in December!

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## ***What's Going on in Youth Ministry?***

Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy to our Toy Drive. Proceeds benefit St. Barnabas Parish. Donations may be dropped off through December 6.

Parents are encouraged to sign up to help with meals and praying for our youth ministry this semester. Please check your email for the SignUp Genius!

If you are in quarantine for school at this time, we ask that you do not attend Youth Group during that time, as well. Thank you!

For complete calendars, check out [www.olsyouth.com](http://www.olsyouth.com).

## **Life Teen High School**

**Sunday, Nov. 29: No Youth Group this weekend! Enjoy your holiday.**

**Wednesday, Dec. 2:** Join us for an Advent 'Night of Mercy' in the Church. Special guests, Dom Quaglia and Sister Bethany Madonna, will be speaking. Our musicians will be familiar to you, as all three have sung at the Steubenville conferences!

Sunday, Dec. 5: Faith Formation at 10 a.m. We will discuss the Gospel readings and putting our faith into action with Food for Our Journey service. We will continue our service that evening at 7 p.m.

## **Edge Middle School**

**Sunday, Dec. 5:** We will meet IN FRONT of the Family Life Center for "Hall of Fame," an Edge night on where Jesus is buried. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. and pick-up is at 8:30. Masks and social distancing are required! **Please tune in virtually if you are in quarantine for school!**

# **DECISION 2020**

## **ARE YOUR FINANCES READY?**

The Result of the Recent Presidential Election Could Impact Your Retirement. It's Time to Prepare for Today's Volatile Environment That Can Cause Disruption To Your Financial Situation

- **CORONAVIRUS AND THE ECONOMY:** Learn the latest on how your retirement assets & legacy could be at risk with the current pandemic.
- **MARKET VOLATILITY:** Strategies to help preserve your assets from another market downturn, reduce taxes and fees.
- **ELECTION-YEAR INVESTING:** Positioning Your Portfolio for the 2020 Election.

Financial Planning Seminar  
Thursday, December 3rd  
6:00 p.m.  
Family Life Center  
Joel Barlow, CPA, CFP

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**GOOD NEWS!** Dr. John Cuddeback of Christendom College just announced he is offering his Man of the Household course for free. Men, make your own plan for growing as Man of the Household. Sign up for Dr. John Cuddeback's 4-part online course, complete with live office hours for discussion. It's Catholic, philosophically based, and provides brotherly support for spiritual growth. Go to [www.life-craft.org](http://www.life-craft.org).