

CHRIST THE KING

BENTON, PENNSYLVANIA

DECEMBER 10, 2023

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Advent is a time of
Hopeful longing, Joyful expectation,
Prayerful penance and Spiritual
Preparation.

PATHS AND FORMS OF WAITING BY BENEDICT XVI

A second basic element of Advent is waiting—a waiting that is an act of hope. Advent thus shows us the very essence of Christian time and the true nature of history. Jesus revealed this in many parables: in the story of the servants who are waiting for the return of their master or of those other servants who forget his return and behave as if they were the proprietors; in the story of the virgins who await the bridegroom or of those other virgins who cannot wait for him; and in the parables of sowing and harvest.

In his life here on earth, man is one who waits. As a child, he wants to be an adult; as an adult, he wants to forge ahead and be successful; and finally, he yearns for rest. At last, there comes the time when he realizes that he has hoped for too little: he has set his hopes on a job and a good position, but now he has nothing else left for which to hope. Mankind has never ceased to hope for better times; Christians hope that the Lord passes through the whole of history and that he will one day gather up all our tears and labors, so that everything will find its explanation and its fulfillment in his kingdom.

Nothing shows more clearly than a period of illness that man is one who waits. Every day, we wait for signs of improvement, and ultimately we wait for a complete recovery. At the same time, however, we discover that there are very different forms of waiting.

When the time is not filled with a meaningful presence, waiting becomes unbearable. When the present moment remains completely empty—when all we can do is to look for something to come, and there is nothing at all in the here and now—every second is too long. And waiting is an intolerable burden when it remains completely uncertain whether we actually dare expect anything.

But when time itself is meaningful and each moment contains something valuable of its own, the joyful anticipation of something greater, something still to come, makes even more precious that which we already experience. And it gives us a kind of invisible force that bears us across the individual moments. The Christian Advent wants to help us attain this kind of waiting, for this is the truly Christian form of waiting and hoping.

This is because the gifts of Jesus Christ do not belong purely to the future: they penetrate the present time, too. He is already present in a hidden manner. He speaks to me in many ways—through Sacred Scripture, through the Church year, through the saints, through many different events in my daily life, and through the whole of creation, which looks different when he stands behind it than when it is obscured by the mist of an uncertain origin and an uncertain future. I can speak to him; I can utter lamentations in his presence; and I can hold up my sufferings, my impatience, and my questions to him, aware that he always hears me.

If God exists, then there is no meaningless time, no time devoid of significance. Every moment has its value, even if all I can do is to endure my illness in silence. If God exists, then there is always something to hope for, even where no human voice can any longer summon me to hope. And old age and retirement are no longer the last stage of my life, a position from which all I can do is look backward: for something greater always lies ahead, and it is precisely the time of an apparent uselessness that can be the highest form of human ripening.

Christian hope does not devalue time. On the contrary, it means that every moment of life possesses its own value; it means that we can accept the present and that we ought to live it to the full, because everything we have accepted in our heart will remain.

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Monday December 11th:

- 9am Mass at CTK
- Penance Service at St. Joseph in Danville at 7pm

Thursday December 14th:

- Penance Service at St. Columba in Bloomsburg at 7pm

Saturday December 16th:

- Christmas Decorating of Christ the King Church at 9am

Sunday December 17th:

- CYE Christmas Program after 9am Mass
- Brunch after Program

Sunday December 24th

- 9am Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday December 24th:

- 4pm Mass at Christ the King
- 5pm & 7:30pm Mass at St. Columba Bloomsburg

Monday December 25th:

- 9am Mass at St. Columba Bloomsburg

STEWARDSHIP
DECEMBER 3

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Offering | \$2341.00 |
| Christmas | \$2000.00 |
| Flowers | \$20.00 |
| St. Nick | \$210.00 |
| Total | \$4571.00 |



JESSE TREE

We are buying gifts for the Benton Head Start and the Veterans that live at the Orangeville Manor.

Gifts are due back the weekend of December 16th & 17th.

Thank you for your generosity

HALLOW APP

We are excited to share with you a very special gift from the Knights of Columbus that will help you incorporate prayer into your daily lives. We have partnered with Hallow, a Catholic prayer and meditation app that helps people deepen their relationship with God through audio-guided prayer sessions. The app is the #1 Prayer app in the world and has over 10,000 sessions to choose from.

Specifically for Advent, Hallow has created a Pray25 Challenge. You'll even have access to a prayer companion to follow along and jot down your reflections each day, as well as beautiful Advent and Christmas music collections.

This Advent we have partnered with the Hallow team to provide Hallow access to all parishioners for FREE through Easter.

There will be a short workshop on December 10th following the 9:00 a.m. Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST. MARTHA'S CHURCH
260 Bonnville Rd. Stillwater, PA

every Tuesday following the 8:30 a.m. Mass until 9:00 p.m.
Looking for Adorers to spend one hour in the afternoon.
Call Rebecca Micca at 570-256-7329

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9

Ann Lindner by Richard & Tamara Lindner

Sunday, December 10

Tom Tishler by Sharon Tishler

Monday, December 11

People of the Parish

Saturday, December 16

Joyce & Vincent Nardo by Mary Ellen Neal

Sunday, December 17

Adam Capriola by Mark & Patricia Sullivan
Sister Angela Pikus, OCD by 3rd Order Carmelites

Mass intentions are available in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. The donation for having a Mass said for a personal request is \$10.00. You can drop your request in the collection or contact the parish office.

LITURGICAL ROLES

Lector

Dec 10 - Barb Treier
Dec 17 - Paul Haden

Extraordinary Minister

Dec 10 - Judith Scavone
Dec 17 - Patricia Sullivan

Collection Stewards

Dec 10 - Charlotte & Joe Casarella
Dec 17 - Joe & Lee Ann Boiwka

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Today's readings speak to us of preparing for the coming of the Lord through repentance. Repentance requires us to be honest about the times we have fallen short in loving God and our neighbor as the Lord commands. Knowing that we are sinners is a necessary step in recognizing our need for the forgiveness God has graciously offered us through his Son, whose coming into the world we prepare to celebrate.

Isaiah offers words of comfort and hope that the time of exile is coming to an end and the Lord is preparing to reveal his glory to all people. Peter exhorts his community to live in holiness and devotion in anticipation of the day of the Lord. Mark begins his Gospel describing the ministry of John the Baptist who proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and that one greater than he would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

POINSETTIAS

If you are interested in having a flower on the Altar in Memory of, or In Honor of a loved one, please pick up an order form on the back table. You can drop it in the collection or bring to the Parish Office. The donation is \$10.00 per flower.



SECOND COLLECTION DECEMBER 9 & 10

Today's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please donate to help thousands of elderly religious individuals retire with dignity. Your donation will provide essential care, medicine and other necessities for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have served for decades - usually for little or no pay. Let us show our appreciation by generously supporting those who have given so much.

THIRD ORDER CARMELITES OF DANVILLE

On Sunday, December 17th, at 1:00 p.m. you are cordially invited to attend the Carmelite Ritual and Mass at Christ the King. Father Andrew will be celebrating the Mass.

PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

"May all who love the Holy Land seek to bring about among all the parties engaged in the fighting a cessation of violence, respect for civilian populations and the release of hostages. As we pray urgently for peace, we recall especially all the families and individuals suffering from these events.

We call on the faithful, and all people of good will to not grow weary and to continue to pray for peace in the land Our Lord, the Prince of Peace, called home."

(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

UNBORN CANDLE DONATIONS

\$3.00/ week,
\$5.00/ 2 weeks or
\$10.00/ month

Month of December - Memory of Nick Sabo

BENTON FOOD BANK

For the month of December we will be collecting Microwave Popcorn due to the Food Bank by December 17th. The Food Bank at the N4C's is the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

WE ARE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING

Aluminum tabs - supporting the Ronald McDonald House in Danville

Fronts of recycled cards - Supporting St. Jude's Ranch for children and young adults - providing them with life and work skills

Used postage stamps - Program called Stamps for the Wounded (they do not accept the flag stamps)

You can put these items in containers on the table at the entrance of the church. Thank you!

CYE NEWS

December Updates

December 10 - Advent workshop - All grades

December 17 - Kelsey family greeters at Mass and Presentation of the gifts

December 17 - Christmas program - All grades
Parish Christmas brunch

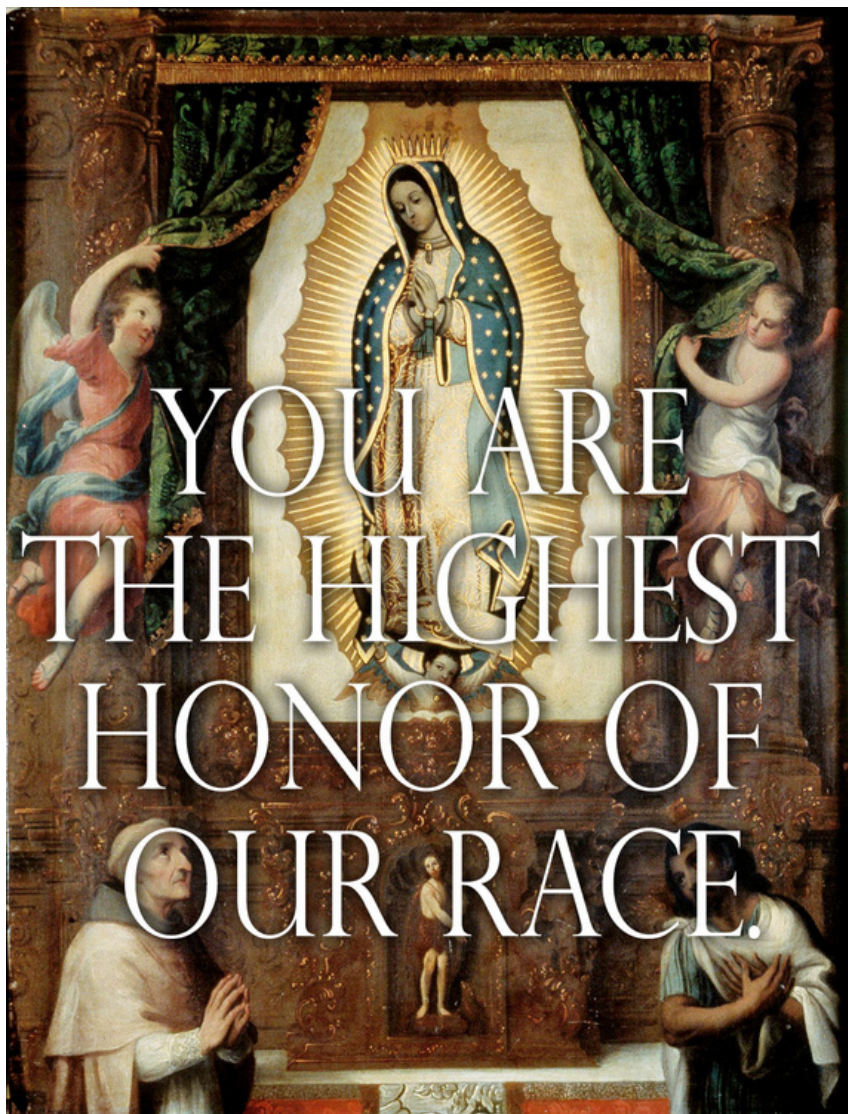
Many blessings to all during this Advent/Christmas season

MONASTERY PANTRY

The sisters at Holy Annunciation Monastery are so grateful for your orders. All items will be available to be picked up at Christ the King on December 16th before the 4 p.m. Mass.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE
REMEMBER:**

- INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER,
- ALL PRIESTS INCLUDING:
 - FR. MOWERY
 - FR. ST. HILAIRE
 - FR. SOLA
- LISA BAHRE
- MICHAEL BARDI
- MAUREEN BECK
- LORENA BENNET
- CANDICE BERGER
- CHRISTINA CAPRIOLA
- RUSSELL CASTROGIOVANNI
- COBERT FAMILY
- HONOR DELL
- RYAN DELL
- CHRIS ERTWINE
- FARWELL FAMILY
- VIVIAN WHITENIGHT HYNICK
- BOB KALIE
- MARGARET KALIE
- AUSTIN KELSEY
- JOSEPH LABONTE
- MARY ANN LEVAN
- DOROTHY O'HANDLEY
- NANCY OMAN
- RICH SCAVONE
- JACKIE SCHERER
- JUDY SERRA
- MARK & PATRICIA SULLIVAN
- LENA TUNAITIS
- MIKE VERTUCCI
- MARISA WHITENIGHT
- JOSEPHINE WILSON
- NANCY WISBAR
- SONNY WOMELSDORF
- MARY ANN ZEVENEY



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

DECEMBER 12, 2023

THE WORD AWESOME HAS LOST ITS ZING. "WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY DEFINES AWESOME AS 'ANYTHING THAT LEAVES YOU IN AWE AND WONDER.' LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY - TWICE," COMEDIAN BILL ENGVALL ONCE SAID. "THAT WOULD BE AWESOME. GETTING A PHONE CALL FROM THE IRS SAYING YOU'VE BEEN AUDITED AND THEY OWE YOU \$50,000. THAT WOULD BE AWESOME." KNOW WHAT ELSE WOULD BE AWESOME? SEEING AN APPARITION OF MARY, THEN HAVING HER GROW ROSES IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER TO PROVE IT TO THE ARCHBISHOP, THEN CONVERTING 9 MILLION AZTECS WITHIN SEVEN YEARS. THAT WOULD BE - WAIT - THAT WAS AWESOME.