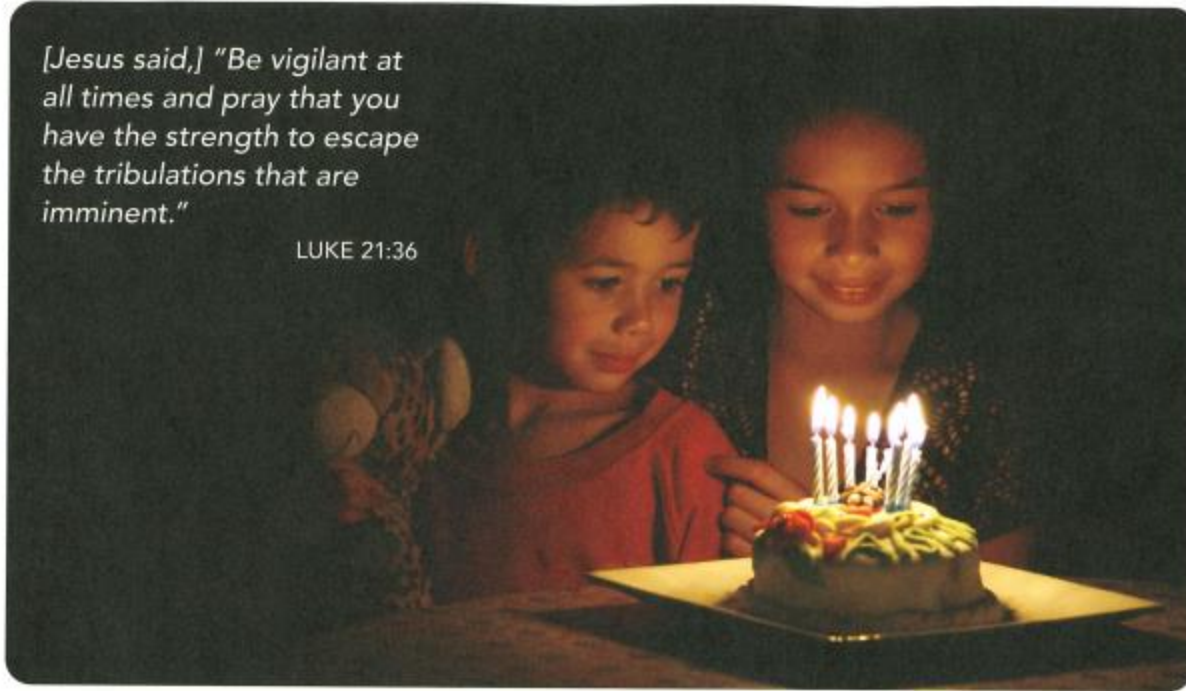


[Jesus said,] "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent."

LUKE 21:36



SHUTTERSTOCK

Birth Day

Our *birth day* is not the anniversary of our birth—that is our *birthday*. Our birth day is the actual day of our birth. However, we do have a second birth day and it is this day to which this Sunday's readings refer. We might call it our final birth day, the day when we are born into fulfillment. Jeremiah assures us that will be the day when God's promises will be fulfilled in us. We will finally have a righteous leader; the nation will be safe, and the place where God dwells amid the people will be secure.

In the Gospel, Jesus is probably speaking figuratively about the end of the world—at least the end of the world as it is known to humans. However, it is not the end of everything, for after cosmic destruction takes place, "then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27). After suffering the so-called birth pangs of the Messiah (see Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), something new will appear; we will see that our redemption is at hand. We will be born into a new life in a new world.

Advent is the time to look forward to this new birth day of fulfillment. We do not simply await the anniversary of Jesus' human birth day, for that day announced the coming of the final birth day of each of us. *His* birth announces *our* new birth.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *How are you preparing for your final birth day?*
- ✦ *What do you find most striking in today's readings? Why?*

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Baptism: Baptismal preparation is required of all parents prior to the celebration of baptism. Please call parish office for an appointment.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Any time by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Please inform the parish office when someone needs a visit from a priest.

Marriage Preparation: Make arrangements with the parish office at least six months before the intended wedding.

Visitation of Sick and Homebound: If you or a member of your family is in the hospital, privacy acts prohibit ministers from obtaining names through the hospital; therefore, you must contact the parish if you would like a visit. Also, please contact the parish to request homebound visits if you become ill.

Announcements/Anuncios

November 28, 2021: First Sunday of Advent

~SPECIAL COLLECTIONS~

ST. CLARE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

Next Sunday (Dec. 5) is the first Sunday of the month, so we will have the usual first-Sunday collection for our building and maintenance fund.

BEREA FAITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Although we have not been taking up our usual "5th Sunday" Berea Faith Community Outreach collection, the needs in our community continue. Normally, on the fifth Sunday of any month that has five Sundays, we take up a second collection for local needs (Berea Food Bank, Rent and Utility Relief, Transient Ministry, Help for the Homeless). Please place your offering in an envelope marked "BFCO" or write "BFCO" on the "for" line of your check.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health care needs of aging members. The Retirement Fund for Religious helps religious communities care for senior members. This collection will be taken up the weekend of Dec. 11-12.

END OF GENERAL DISPENSATION FROM OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS

Effective today, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021, Bishop John Stowe has officially ended the general dispensation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Those who are vulnerable or immune-compromised because of age or health reasons are under no obligation to attend Mass at the risk of their well-being, but all others are obliged to attend.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS!

It's not too early to start thinking about St. Clare Christmas baskets!

When you are out shopping, please consider getting some toys for the Christmas baskets. We will need toys...lots of toys...we anticipate much need. Meijers will again assemble the food baskets, so please send your donations to St. Clare, or put them into the baskets in the narthex and in the church, with "Christmas Baskets" on the memo line.

We will start accepting applications beginning on November 29. Call the church office Monday through Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and noon to apply.

INVITATION TO BISHOP'S OUTSIDE MASS OF GUADALUPE

Bishop John Stowe invites you to the Outside Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe taking place on Sat. Dec. 11 at Cardome in Georgetown (800 Cincinnati Rd., Georgetown, KY 40324). 10:30 a.m.: Las mañanitas; 11:00 a.m.: Holy Rosary; 11:30 a.m.: Dramatization of Apparitions; 12:00 p.m.: Mass. VEA EL VOLANTE ADJUNTO AL BOLETIN ELECTRONICO PARA INFORMACION EN ESPAÑOL.

OUR PARISH OF ST. CLARE



LECTOR SCHEDULE

Nov. 28: Pat Calie
Dec. 5: Caleb Gettelfinger
Dec. 12: Lynn Feltner
Dec. 19: Fred de Rosset
Dec. 26: Carol de Rosset
Jan. 2: Mike Berheide

THIS WEEK AT ST. CLARE

Sun. Nov. 28: No CCD (Thanksgiving Break)
Tues. Nov. 30: Office Hours by appointment
6:30 pm: Cub Scouts, FH
Wed. Dec. 1: 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts, FH
Thur. Dec. 2: 9:00 am-12:00 pm: Office Open
6:30 pm: Cub Scouts, FH
Sun. Dec. 5: 10:15 am: CCD, Friendship Hall

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we look forward to the end of Covid restrictions, please prayerfully consider stepping up and helping in these ministries.

***Altar servers:** It's not just for kids anymore. We need your help! Ages 6-96 are welcome!

***Ushers:** At this time, we expect just collecting the offering and placing it in the sacristy during mass (no processional to the altar as of now).

***Cantors:** While choirs are discouraged, we always need cantors to assist in leading the people in prayer and song (we might even try duets or trios if you'd be comfortable with a little extra support).

***Sacristans:** As we expect to resume weekday masses and expanded Sunday masses, we must have volunteers willing to come a little early and stay a few minutes after mass to set up and clean up the altar and sacred vessels.

For all ministries there will be training, guidance and support until you are completely comfortable.

HOLY MASS SCHEDULE / INTENTIONS

Sat. Nov. 27- 5:00 p.m. (OLMV) Pro Populo
Sun. Nov. 28- 9:00 a.m. (St Clare) Int. William O'Neil, Jr.
11:45 a.m. (St. Paul) Bruno Agosti
4:00 p.m. (St Clare) *Misa en español*
Int. William O'Neil, Jr.
Tues. Nov. 30- 5:00 p.m. (OLMV) No Mass
Thur. Dec. 2- 8:00 a.m. (St. Clare) No Mass
Sat. Dec. 4- 5:00 p.m. (OLMV) Int. William O'Neil, Jr.
Sun. Dec. 5- 9:00 a.m. (St Clare) Pro Populo
11:45 a.m. (St. Paul)
For the Souls in Purgatory
4:00 p.m. (St. Clare) *Misa en español*
Int. William O'Neil, Jr.

PRAYER NEEDS



Parishioners: +Rita Ballinger, Norma Coyle, Beatriz Del Rosario, +Marcella Griffen, Paul Griffen, Lois Lear, Mary Ann Marr, Carol Norman, Bob Rucker, Mari Rucker, Gene Startzman, +Carol Thomure

Family and Friends: +Mary Ann Barnard; Jami Curtis (sister of Fr. John Curtis); Fr. John Curtis; Pat Eutsler; Wauneth Forster (mother of Ed Forester); Celerina Gilbert; +Edward Pararis; Kathy Riegle; Debbie Swisher; +Fr. Kieran Varapal.

Names will remain on the prayer list for the month in which they are inscribed, unless you would like for the prayer request to remain longer—please enter your request into the Book of Prayer in the narthex or contact the office.

ADVENT BEGINS TODAY!

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

Dear Padre,

What do Advent-wreath candles signify?

Most Advent wreaths have three purple candles and one rose candle to echo the liturgical colors of the Church's Advent celebrations.

Whether the wreath is being used at home or in a church, the lighting of the candles should follow the liturgical colors of the Sundays of Advent. The vestments at Mass are purple during the first two weeks of Advent, so we light a purple candle on the first and second Sundays of Advent.

On the third Sunday, the Church celebrates *Gaudete* Sunday or Rejoice

Sunday, named after the first word of the day's traditional entrance verse (Philippians 4:4-5). The priest wears rose vestments at Mass as a sign of our brightening hope and joy, and on the Advent wreath we light the rose candle to reflect the theme of the liturgy. The fourth Sunday of Advent sees the lighting of the last purple candle.

Some churches and families add a fifth candle to their Advent practices by placing a white candle in the center of the wreath. They light this at Christmas, again echoing the Church's liturgical color for the season and rejoicing in Christ our

Lord, whose birth brings light and life to our world.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



ONE PHOTO / USA: JOHNSTON, ST. LOUIS REVIEW



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal, to lead it to its fullness, which is the Lord....God is not distant, he is always with us, to the extent that very often he knocks on the door to our heart.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

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Calendar

Monday

NOVEMBER 29
Advent Weekday
Is 2:1-5
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

NOVEMBER 30
St. Andrew,
Apostle
Rom 10:9-18
Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday

DECEMBER 1
Advent Weekday
Is 25:6-10a
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

DECEMBER 2
Advent Weekday
Is 26:1-6
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

DECEMBER 3
St. Francis Xavier,
Priest
Is 29:17-24
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

DECEMBER 4
Advent Weekday
Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Mt 9:35-10:1,
5a, 6-8

Sunday

DECEMBER 5
Second Sunday
of Advent
Bar 5:1-9
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Lk 3:1-6

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

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JOHN STOWE, OFM, CONV.



BISHOP OF LEXINGTON

To the Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Lexington:

In March of 2020, with the rise of the Corona Virus pandemic and considerable uncertainty about its spread and with every desire to protect the People of God from illness, I reluctantly joined bishops throughout the world in providing a temporary dispensation from the serious obligation of Catholics to attend mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. As time went on, at every point it seemed like we were making progress in containing the spread or ending the pandemic, there were enough continuing concerns about the virus to keep the dispensation in place.

Now, although the pandemic is not ended and we are not certain when to anticipate an end, we have gained knowledge and experience of living with the virus and striving to keep it from spreading to the point that many aspects of our normal way of life have returned. While the pandemic continues to be a threat to our safety and well-being we are nonetheless able to be vaccinated against the virus and limit our exposure to other people who may be infected, knowingly or unknowingly.

With all of that in mind, I am hereby ending the general dispensation from the obligation to attend mass on Sundays and Holy Days as of the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021. **Those who are vulnerable or immune-compromised because of age or health reasons are under no obligation to attend mass at the risk of their well-being.** Parishes should continue to offer the celebration of the mass via livestream for those who cannot risk attending mass in person at the present time.

I invite you to read the accompanying reflection on the importance of Sunday Mass and the moral obligation to attend by Father Anthony McLaughlin, JCD, pastor of Saints Peter and Paul in Danville. Let us continue to pray for all affected by the virus, especially those suffering from long-term effects, our health care workers, the more than 10,000 who have died in our Commonwealth and their loved ones who mourn their passing. And let us ask Almighty God to bring this pandemic to an end.

Given in Lexington this 12th day of November 2021.


Chancellor




Bishop of Lexington

"This is My Body...This is My Blood...Do this in memory of me." (Lk. 22:19-20)

The Third Commandment of the Decalogue states: "Remember to keep Holy the Sabbath Day." (Ex. 20:8). The Jewish people understood that this Commandment obliged them to be free *from* work so that they would be free *for* God. The Sabbath day was set apart for God, as it was a day holy to the Lord. The Lord modeled for us observance of the Third Commandment as Sacred Scripture states: "He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day." (Lk 4:16).

Since Apostolic times, Christians have observed Sunday, the Day of the Lord's Resurrection, as the New Sabbath (Acts 20:7). From the beginning, the Church also exhorted Christians to be free *from* work so that they would be free *for* God on Sunday, but additionally the observance of Sunday also included public worship, "the breaking of the Bread" (Acts 2:42). So the New Sabbath, Sunday, was a day of Rest *and* Worship. With time, and the challenge of half-heartedness and laxity among some Christians, the Church imposed a strict obligation upon her members to participate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays.

This strict obligation reaches full legal expression in the Law of the Church, Canon 1247: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. Moreover, they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body."

The *Catechism* further explains: "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation... Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church" (CCC 2181, 2182). It must always be remembered that the Church has always acknowledged that the obligation is dispensed for those who have a good reason, i.e.: illness, bad weather, child care, essential caregiver duties, etc.

It is true that a language of "obligation" can feel cold and sterile. Why would I participate in Sunday Mass out of obligation? Should I not participate out of love? Yes, indeed, we should participate in Sunday Mass always out of love, and always with a free and total desire to do so. But we live in a fallen world with each of us having a fallen nature. The intellect is darkened and the will is constrained. In short, we don't always desire to love God as we ought. The Church, as our Mother, adds her voice to the precepts of the Third Commandment and "obliges" us to participate in Sunday Mass. There is an old saying, "Love is for the Perfect, law is for the imperfect." If we loved as we ought, we would have no need of law. The Sunday obligation is a recognition that we sometimes struggle to do the right thing.

In a 2017 audience, Pope Francis stated: "...For a Christian, what is a Sunday in which the encounter with the Lord is lacking? How can we respond to those who say that it is of no use going to Mass, even on Sunday, because the important thing is to live well, to love our neighbor? [So], why do we go to Mass on Sundays? It is not enough to respond that it is a precept of the Church; this helps to preserve its value, but alone does not suffice. We Christians need to participate in Sunday Mass because only with Jesus' grace, with his living presence within us and among us, can we put his commandment into practice, and thus be his credible witnesses."

Let us return to the altar of God that he may be glorified and we may be saved. Alleluia!

SÁBADO 11 DE DICIEMBRE DEL 2021
SANTA MISA - AFUERA - DE GUADALUPE

**El Obispo de la Diócesis de Lexington,
Su Excelencia John Stowe,
Te invita**



**THE CARDOME
RENAISSANCE CENTRE, LLC
800 CINCINNATI ROAD
GEORGETOWN, KY 40324**

10:30 DE LA MAÑANA

La SANTA MISA se celebrará A CIELO ABIERTO:

**Estar preparados con ropa para frio y lluvia
Traer sillas plegables de jardín para sentarse afuera
Traer carpas/toldos de protección contra la lluvia**

10:30 AM MAÑANITAS 11:00 AM SANTO ROSARIO

11:30 AM DRAMATIZACIÓN DE LAS APARICIONES

12:00 PM (MEDIODÍA)

SANTA MISA CELEBRADA POR EL SEÑOR OBISPO

