

Grace, mercy, and peace to you, dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Happy New Year! Yes, as the Holy Church around the world begins a new Advent season, preparing in repentance and hope for the Coming King, we start a new year. And with the year that we have had, we are SO ready for the new one.



But did you ever notice that the Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Advent is the triumphal entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday? What in the world does Palm Sunday have to do with Advent?

Everything, really. On that day, the King of Kings entered Jerusalem, coming to offer Himself as the ultimate Passover, suffer, die, and rise for all.

Perhaps the image of His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, entering Bethlehem to give birth to Christ some 33 years earlier, echoes in your mind. She carried the Holy Infant in her womb, and He came as the promised Son of a virgin: Immanuel.

Perhaps the image of your pastor, week after week, bringing you the preaching of His Gospel and the Holy Body and Blood of Jesus, is before you. He carries the Blessed Savior, as He comes incarnate in His Holy Gifts.

Perhaps you look forward to the return of the King, descending from heaven, even as the apostles saw Him go. Then the Son of Man will be seated, carried on His throne, to come and to raise every one of His lambs and bring them home.

He came. He comes. He will come. That's Advent. That is the repentant, hopeful watch of His Church for Her Coming King and Bridegroom.

And that is why the Triumphal Entry of Palm Sunday is so pertinent. The entire purpose of Jesus' coming is "to bear our sin and be our Savior." Your loving Lord's interaction with you is always one of coming for you.

A Blessed Advent as you watch and pray for the King who came, who comes, and who will come. Amen!

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor Heinz

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December 2020

Baptisms

Richard Eugene Brewer IV, son on Rich & Hannah Brewer received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 1st. Richard's godparents are Christine Sikma, Jon Bohling, and Margie Brewer.

Katherine Christine Haberlin, daughter of Drew and Alexandria Haberlin, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 22nd. Katherine's godparents are Natalie Cubrinowski, Jared Haberlin, and Mattie Stonebraker.

Weston Michael Sikma, son of Steve and Christine Sikma, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 29th.

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 19:14

Blessed Sleep

Sister in Christ, Virginia Jerzyk fell asleep in Jesus on October 30th, with Christian burial on November 7th.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." - Revelation 14:13

Advent & Christmas Service Schedule

Advent Divine Services will be held Wednesdays on December 2nd, 9th, & 16th. In addition to our 7:00 p.m. midweek services, we will be holding a Distanced Divine Service each Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Members attending the 1:00 services are asked to remain masked, except for when receiving the Sacrament, and to sit distanced during these services which will include singing and music. In addition to our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services on the evening of Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 and 10:00 p.m., there will be an afternoon Distanced Divine Candlelight Service at 1:00 p.m. The Christmas Day Divine Service is Friday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m. Please join us in fellowship as we prepare for and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!

Children's Christmas Service Canceled

Due to low Sunday School attendance and Covid, it has been decided that because we would not be able to present the Christmas Service we had planned, the Children's Christmas Service has been canceled this year. Mark your calendars for a very special Children's Christmas Service to return on December 19, 2021.

Phil's Friends

The Phil's Friends item for December will be journals and small notebooks. For those who like to shop for bargains, the January item will be decks of playing cards and the February item will be lip balm.

Lamb Tree

The Lamb Tree is on display in the Narthex. Please take a lamb or two off the tree and purchase hats, caps, gloves, mittens or scarves for the age of the child listed on the lamb. Please put the purchased items in a ziplock bag and place the bag in the box next to the Christmas tree. These items are greatly appreciated by the families that we serve in our Food Pantry.

December 2020 - Calendar

Birthdays

12/1 Diane Schmidt, Jason Wietbrock
12/2 Janeen Marsh, Tim McIntyre, Caleb Raby
12/3 Sue Burge, Tyler Jinks, Karen Krebs,
Jenna Sickinger
12/4 Austin Romans, Devin Hicks, Atlas Fry
12/5 Braydon Stiener, Dan Thompson
12/6 Taylor Augustson
12/7 Madalyn Suggs
12/8 Tina Rushing
12/10 Shirley Fetsch, Bruce Kampe, Gayle
Santefort, Boyd Schellinger, Jessica Sutor,
Dylan Hicks
12/12 Johnathon Sutor
12/13 Lyle Ziems, Julie Karlson
12/15 Jerry Brown, Margaret Bulanda,
Treyton Corns, Zachary DeValk
12/16 Doug Janota
12/18 Jackie Stiener
12/19 Rowan Plants
12/23 Christina Kampe
12/24 Michelle Viking
12/26 Debbie Cunningham, Darlene Hamilton
12/27 Magdalena Shultz, Kelly Burrignt
12/28 Brenden Markusic, Paul Stiener
12/29 Meredith Brewer, Brooklyn VanVleck
12/30 Jon Bakker, Adrien Brahos
12/31 Emerson Nestorovski, Thomas Shultz

Anniversaries

12/3 Dave & Susie Wietbrock
12/8 Rachel & Jeremy Suggs
12/17 Amber & Kevin Johnson



Advent Midweek Services

Wed., December 2, 9, 16 at *1 & 7pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Divine Services

Thursday, December 24 at *1, 7 & 10 pm

Christmas Day Divine Service

Friday, December 25 at 10:30am

***Please note that all 1pm services are
Distanced Divine Services.**

Events

12/1, 15 Food Pantry 10am-12noon
12/2 Elders Meeting Following evening Advent Service
12/8 Sisters of Mercy Meeting 7pm
12/9 Voter's Meeting Following evening Advent Service
12/21, 12/28 No Youth Catechism Class - Christmas Break

Worship

Sundays 8am & 10:30am
Distanced Divine Service Monday at 7:00pm
Sunday School/Family Bible Study 9:25am

Youth Catechesis Monday at 6:00pm

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