

St. Edward the Confessor

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent



Thank You

. . . very much for your support and generosity.



Last Sunday's regular collection was \$833.



The church's year begins today with the first Sunday of Advent. Missals for 2017-2018 are available at the back of the church. Each family is welcome to take one for free

Christmas Baskets

There are still a few families needing someone to deliver their Christmas baskets. See Lynn Jansen. Grocery store gift cards for the Christmas baskets will be available next week following each mass.

Christmas Schedule



Please take note of the following schedule for special services and Masses as we approach Christmas.

Dec 10

4:00 Lessons and Carols with St John's. Choirs from both churches participating.

Dec 19

Celebration of Reconciliation at 7 p.m.

Dec 23-24

There will be no regular weekend Masses.

Dec 24

5:00 Christmas Eve Mass with the choir leading in Christmas carols before Mass.

Dec 25

10:00 Christmas Day Mass

Daily Advent Prayer:

As we begin Advent, we light one candle in the midst of all the darkness in our lives and in the world. It symbolizes our longing, our desire, our hope. Three "advents" or "comings" shape our desire. We want to be renewed in a sense that Jesus came to save us from our sin and death. We want to experience his coming to us now, in our everyday lives, to help us live our lives with meaning and purpose. And we want to prepare for his coming to meet us at the end of our lives on this earth.

MONDAY

Loving God,

I sense that all is your creation
and everything, and all of us,

are being drawn back toward your loving heart.

Help me to be a person of peace,

to speak about it in an uneasy world, and to live it among the people you have put into my life
every day.

Light in me a desire to prepare for your coming, to stand in the darkness, waiting, eager and
filled with joy.

TUESDAY

God of forgiveness,

I turn to you in my great weakness and beg for your help.

Let me feel the joy growing in my heart as I anticipate your coming.

I hear the message of the prophets of old and know that the Messiah will bring new life and
new ways of living.

From the humbleness of my life,

help me to grow and bloom

and hear the words

that will change the world.

WEDNESDAY

Lord of all,

you are a God of plenty, a Lord who provides for us in our need.

As I begin these early days of Advent, help me to believe that you know what I need.

Give me the courage to listen to your voice and the freedom

to open my heart to the graces you are offering me to place my trust in you.

THURSDAY

God of strength and protection,

I turn to you because I need help.

I long to be free enough to trust

that I can lean on you.

But I become afraid.

Help me to trust in you, Lord.

Your strength and power

are a gentle place of protection.

Be a safe refuge when I am being trampled.

I long for your help, your protecting care.

Help to deliver me from the cold

loneliness of these dark nights.

FRIDAY

Jesus, protector, I long for your coming.

The promise of new light is there if only I can believe.

Protect me from dangers and lead me through the
gloom and darkness to the joy I so long to find in you.

Lift me from my lowly sins and give me the promise

of salvation with no more shame,

only the light and saving grace of your love.

Let the ancient dream be fulfilled in you

and peace come to this life and world.

SATURDAY

Lord of Hope, Dare I? Can I really hope?
From out of the darkness I sense a dim light ahead,
the light of your coming into the world.

I so long for the time
when you are no longer hidden from me
and my deepest desire is
to trust in your warm voice I hear behind me,
guiding me along a hidden path I do not know.
Dry my tears, heal my wounds and help me
to wait for the dawning of the dim light ahead,
with a brighter vision of healing and freedom.

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

Every night this week, we can pause briefly, perhaps as we sit for a minute at the edge of the bed. We can be aware of how that one, small candle's worth of desire brought light into this day. And we can give thanks. Going to bed each night this week with some gratitude is part of the preparation for growing anticipation and desire.

**Come, Lord Jesus! Come and visit your people.
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.**

