

St. Edward the Confessor

December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent



Christmas Mass Schedule

Please take note of the following Christmas schedule for Masses:

Dec 23 & 24

There are no regular weekend Masses

Dec 24

5:00 Christmas Eve Mass with the choir leading in Christmas carols starting at 4:30.

Dec 25

10:00 Christmas Day Mass.

Dec 30 & 31

There are no regular weekend Masses.

Dec 31

5:00 Yew Year's Eve Mass.

Jan 1

10:00 New Year's Day Mass. Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Jan 6 & 7

Return to regular Mass schedule

Christmas Baskets

Thanks to all who participated in our annual Christmas Basket campaign. We distributed 15 baskets to families on the West Island. To those who are distributing the baskets, if you have not delivered yet, they should be delivered early this week.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2018 are available in the hall after Mass. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box, please see Neil MacPherson or Tom Donahue after Mass.



*For those who would like to attend a later Christmas Eve Mass, St John Fisher has a celebration at 8:00 and St Edmund of Canterbury will celebrate at 10:00 p.m.

Preparing our Hearts and asking for the Grace

Daily Meditation

Monday

A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel."

The longing of God's people lead to a hope that God would save them.

God would replace their corrupt kings and send them a savior.

May our longing these days bring us closer to our God's desire to save us, to shine the Light of Christ on the darkness of our sin.

"Your ways, O Lord, make known to my; teach me your paths,

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior". Psalm 25

Tuesday

"On that day, you need not be ashamed of all your deeds, your rebellious actions against me."

The Lord's coming promises us a time when we need not fear. It will indeed be a time of purifying, a time of humility and trust in God.

We ask for the grace to be like the child whose mind is changed and says, "Yes" to our Lord's call.

"Come, O Lord, do not delay;

forgive the sins of your people."

Wednesday

*"I am the LORD, there is no other.
Turn to me and be safe."*

We have heard the promises and we have begged for more hope.
Today we pray for his saving help and hear his personal invitation
to turn to him, to find our safety in him alone.

How might I yet place my trust in God's love for me?

How might I yet surrender my independence?

How might my heart grow in anticipation and welcome
of the fullness of his coming to me this year?

*"Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above, like gentle rain let the skies drop
it down.*

Let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let justice also spring up!" Is 45

Thursday

"My love shall never leave you.

"Raise a glad cry ...

"Break forth in jubilant song ...

"Fear not ..."

Our God loves us - with "enduring love."

Our God is in a relationship with us that is faithful, forgiving, healing.

Let us accept it, surrender to its power, and feel the joy
and freedom growing in our hearts.

"I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me." Ps. 30

Friday

*"The Lord is coming from heaven in splendor to visit his people,
and bring them peace and eternal life."*

We ask to be guided by his love.

He comes to us in more and more ways
as our longing grows.

At the same time, we are being prepared to receive even more grace
that we might be faithful in our daily lives.

Jesus is the Light that shines in the midst of any darkness and witnesses to us that he
is being sent to us by his heavenly Father.

May we open our hearts to his coming.

Behold the king will come, the Lord of earth: and he will set us free.

Saturday

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

We now begin the second part of Advent.

We follow the Gospel story, as it bring us to Christmas.

Today, we hear the story of God's plan,
using a long line of less-than-perfect kings
and 5 very special women, to bring us to Jesus.

God saved us, by becoming one of us,
entering into our human, and sometimes messy history.

Jesus will come to each of us this Advent in and through our human journey.

"Justice shall flourish in his time and fullness of peace forever." Ps. 72

NOTE- Gaudete Week

Our week begins with “Gaudete Sunday.” *Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, “The Lord is near.” This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophecies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.