

## ADVENT The Season of Joyful Anticipation

### A Reflection from our Pastor, Fr. Joseph

Four expectant fathers were in a Minnesota hospital waiting room while their wives were in labor. The nurse comes in and tells the first man, "Congratulations, You're the father of twins." "What a coincidence!" the man exclaims. "I work for the Minnesota Twins baseball team!" The nurse returns a short while later and tells the second man, "You are the father of triplets." "Wow, what a coincidence!" he replies. "I work for the 3M Corporation." When the nurse comes again, she tells the third man that his wife has given birth to quadruplets. "Another coincidence!" he tells her. "I work for the Four Seasons Hotel!" At this point, the fourth guy faints. When he comes to, the others ask him what was wrong. He moans, "I work for Seven-Eleven!"

Advent is about waiting, waiting for things to come. But not all waiting is the same. In fact, we can distinguish between two specific kinds of waiting. The first is waiting for things we are certain will take place; the second is waiting for those things that we are less certain will take place. The first kind of waiting requires patience; the second kind of waiting requires trust.

A great deal of waiting in our life is that of the first kind. It is the waiting we do as we wait in the checkout line. No matter how slow the people are in front of us, no matter how many thumbs the cashier has, we know that if we are patient, if we hold on, we will eventually get to the head of the line, make our purchase, and be able to go home. This first kind of waiting also applies as we anticipate an important celebration that is soon to occur. So this first kind of waiting has as its object a goal that is close to us and is clear.

The second kind of waiting has a goal that is less clear and less certain. It is the waiting of Advent. This kind of waiting occurs when someone we love is diagnosed with a serious sickness. We wait to see what the treatment will be, if the treatment will succeed, if the health problem will be resolved. We wait for a healthy and positive resolution, but how and if that resolution will occur is not always clear. This second kind of waiting takes place as we look forward in the years ahead to retirement. We look forward to days in which we no longer have to bear the burden of a regular routine, when we will have our health, when we will continue, in some new way, to be productive. But how and if that retirement will come is less than clear.

Some of the most important issues of life are what we wait for in this second kind of waiting. But our ability to understand how it will occur and if it will occur is less clear. That is why for this second kind of waiting we do not so much need patience as trust. This second kind of waiting is the waiting of Advent. It is an act of faith. It is an act of belief, that our lives are not random or arbitrary, that there is a God who is guiding our life out of love and toward salvation.

So the waiting of Advent is a waiting of trust, of trust in a God who is with us, in a God who will emerge in our lives. We wait then, expecting God's arrival. **We do not know when God will come.** We trust that God will bring healing and love and retirement to our lives. We are not sure that God will bring those things about as we expect, and perhaps not even as we prefer. But we believe, as we wait in trust, that we who place our trust in God will not be disappointed.



### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection will take place this weekend, at all the Masses.

The purpose of this collection is to provide Christmas Hampers to needy families in our area. Thank you for your generous support!



### ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Fri. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5:00 PM - C.Akol, A.Chavez, F.Hua, R.Simsuangco.



Sun. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM - A & G Del monte, J.Manzano, C.Duong, I. Schilling-Regala. 11:00 AM - R & S Bottin, E & E Garrovillas, A & J Roque, A & A Ventura, I.Yun. 5:00 PM - K.Alonzo, H & L Cao, F.V. dela Cruz, E & I Picariello, R.Suganob.

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> - Is. 4:2-6; Mat. 8:5-11, 13

Tue. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> - Is. 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24

Wed. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> - ST. ANDREW, feast

Romans 10:9-18; Mat. 4:18-22

Thurs. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - Is. 26:1-6; Mat. 7:21, 24-27

Fri. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Is. 29:17-24; Mat. 9:27-31

Sat. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, memorial

Is. 30:19-21, 23-26; Mat. 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sun. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9; Mat. 3:1-12



### YOUTH MINISTRY SUNDAY: December 4, 2016

The purpose of this archdiocesan collection is to assist the work of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office (OYYAM) in providing formation, training, and support for youth ministry in parishes.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sun. Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup>	9 am Mass for the int. of Florie Laureola 11 am Mass for the int. of Muriel Chan 5 pm Mass for parishioners
Mon. Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup>	8 am Mass for Benjamin Laureola Sr., R.I.P.
Tue. Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>	8 am Mass for Belen Laureola, R.I.P.
Wed. Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	9 am Mass for Gus Huggan, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Novena Mass
Thur. Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	8 am Mass for John Ng Ka Fai, R.I.P.
Fri. Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8 am Mass for Rolando Laureola, R.I.P. 7:30 pm Mass for Shu Wing Law, R.I.P.
Sat. Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 am Mass Humberto Almeida, R.I.P. 5:00 pm Mass Mateo Gutierrez, R.I.P.

## RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

**Wednesdays, at 6:30 pm, in the church hall.** The program is suitable for anyone who is interested in learning more about our faith, for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith. "Drop-ins" and those interested in a specific topic are welcome. Our topic this Wednesday will be: "The Word of God".



**FIRST FRIDAY, 24 HOUR, EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT**, will be held this Friday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the 8 a.m. Mass, until Saturday, 8:30 a.m. A minimum of 2 volunteers per hour is required, es Please write your name at the hour you can attend,

on the sheet provided on the table in the vestibule.

## PARISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the 5 pm Mass in the school gym.** Hosted by the CWL Adults \$2 and children \$1.

Those attending are encouraged to bring a gift to be drawn (any value).

You bring one, you take one. Tickets will be sold this weekend after the Masses at the entrance of the church or call Evelyn De Vera at 604-879-6409, Luvi Gomez at 604-439-0133 or Imelda Baterina at 604-874-6948.



## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

**- Friendship Day:** will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> after the 9 and 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church. Please joins us!

## SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** This Wed., Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, at 9 am. Join us.
- **Advent Carol Service:** Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in our church. The whole school is involved. All are invited to attend and get into the spirit of Advent.

# ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

## Up-Coming Events

### Stewardship Reflection



Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Especially at this time of year, but often throughout the rest of the year as well, we can occasionally get caught up in the busyness of day-to-day life. With all the noise that surrounds us, it can be a challenge to hear the voice of God in our life. Advent is a wonderful opportunity to be purposeful in our preparations for the Nativity, and in this Sunday's second reading, St. Paul tells us we can be always ready by 'Putting on' Christ. This means that we endeavour, as closely as possible, to imitate Jesus in spirit, words, and actions. In other words, it means being a disciple of Christ. The call to discipleship is also a summons to stewardship. Let us this advent, and all year, "put on" certain virtues particular to discipleship and stewardship; virtues like, simplicity, gratitude, humility, generosity and trust.

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**LITTLE FLOWER ACADEMY** is accepting applications from prospective Grade Eight candidates for the 2017-2018 school year. All students wishing to apply must sit the Entrance Exam on Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. To apply please fill out the online form on our website: [www.lfabc.org/apply](http://www.lfabc.org/apply) or call Kathi Wilson at 604-738-9016 ext.114.

### The Two Wings of Christianity: Reason and Faith

Is it irrational to believe in the supernatural? Is all that we call true a human construction that only exists relative to us? What is modern scientific reason, and how is it limited? We can come to understand many things through reason. Join Catholic After Hours on Monday, Nov. 28, from 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. at the Art Gallery Café, downtown Vancouver (enter from patio stairs off Howe Street). To register, visit [rcav.org/catholic-after-hours](http://rcav.org/catholic-after-hours)

### Advent Retreat - A Time To Nourish Hope

Join us for an Advent retreat that offers an opportunity to get away from your busy daily life and come to know God in a more intimate and personal way. Grow in your own spirituality and mark the season of Advent as a time to nourish hope. Retreat with Ann M. Garrido, DMin, associate professor of homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO. Saturday, Dec. 3 at the JohnPaul II Pastoral Centre, starting at 9 am, ending with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Miller at 4 p.m. Cost is \$25/person and includes retreat booklet and lunch. To register visit [rcav.org/oc-advent-retreat](http://rcav.org/oc-advent-retreat)

### Thinking of the Seafarers at Christmas

Please extend an act of God's love to sailors who will be spending their Christmas in Vancouver, away from their families. Christmas gifts are a warm, caring and loving way to make a sailor's loneliness more tolerable. Tired of shopping? Just make a cheque out to "Archdiocese of Vancouver," put "Seafarers Gifts" on the memo line and we'll do the shopping for you, bringing a gift to the sailors. Please mail your cheque to 4885 Saint John Paul II Way, c/o Finance Office. A charitable receipt will be issued for donations of \$20 or more. Donations can also be made online at [rcav.org/seafarers](http://rcav.org/seafarers)

