

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, December 7, 5:00 p.m. Mass + For the repose of the Soul of Father Donald Francis Gavan by the Sutton Family
Thanksgiving by Bellarmine and family.

Sunday, December 8, 9:30 a.m. Mass - For Souls in Purgatory by Karine Langley

11:00 a.m. Mass – Pro - Populo

Monday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. Mass – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 10, No Mass

Wednesday, December 11, 8:30 a.m. Mass – Opt. Memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope

For the Personal Intentions of Fr. Pierre by Karine Langley

Thursday, December 12, 8:30 a.m. Mass – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

For the Personal Intentions of Fr. Robert by Karine Langley

Friday, December 13, 8:30 a.m. Mass – Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

For the Personal Intentions of Fr. Kennedy by Karine Langley

Saturday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. Mass – Pro - Populo

Sunday, December 15, 9:30 a.m. Mass – Third Sunday of Advent

For Deceased members of the Arden Family by Jane LeBreton

11:00 a.m. Mass - For Souls in Purgatory by Karine Langley

SECONDSUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION: One of the great characters of the Advent season is John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus. Later in this gospel Jesus will say: 'Of all the children born of women there is no one greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he is.' (Luke 7:28) John is truly a great man, but what Jesus will bring will be greater. Our gospel reading this Sunday is from the third chapter of Luke's gospel. Luke has already given an account of John's birth earlier in the gospel. Now Luke introduces the adult John and describes his ministry. Luke provides an extraordinarily detailed list of the public officials who were in office when John and Jesus began their work. The names of Pontius Pilate and of Herod the tetrarch are easily recognised here. Luke demonstrates that John the Baptist and Jesus enter into the real world of history, a world in which power and position dominate events. John's work is to travel around the region near the Jordan river, proclaiming 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. With his baptism John challenges the people to a new start, a change of heart, and to seek the forgiveness of God. If they respond, they will be ready to welcome the Messiah. At the end of this gospel passage the evangelist gives a lengthy quotation from the book of Isaiah, which Christians consider to have been fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah. We have come to identify the voice in the wilderness with the voice of John. The whole of creation is described as getting ready for the coming of the Lord. Finally, 'all mankind shall see the salvation of God'. Luke makes clear that the Messiah comes to offer salvation to all nations. How does the preaching of John the Baptist speak to us today? Do we welcome the coming of Christ as a gift for all the people of the earth? Pray for the wisdom to see that God still cares for the real world of our day. Pray for the zeal of John the Baptist to bear witness to Christ as he did.

Collection – November 30 and December 1, 2024: Envelopes: \$2, 275.00., Loose: \$365.00; St. Vincent de Paul: \$1, 533.35; Vigil Lights: \$62.25; Clergy Support: \$405.00; Mass Intentions: All Souls: \$245.00; Healing: \$20.00; Building Fund: \$210.00; Christmas Collection: \$260.00; Funeral Mass: \$300.00; Nigerian Community: \$250.00; Sale of Sunday Missals: \$101.00; Grand Totals: \$6,026.60.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Sunday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Because this falls on a Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity is transferred this year to Monday, December 9. We will be having a special Mass in honour of the Immaculate Conception on **Monday, December 9 at 7:00 pm**; Please come and join us in celebrating this beautiful feast day of Our Lady, the only day in Advent when the Gloria is sung at Mass.

ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER: will be held NEXT Saturday, December 14, 2024 in the parish social space area, after the 5 p.m. Mass. Please plan to join us for good food, a 50/50 draw, door prizes raffles, games for kids and community fellowship.

2024 – 2025 NEW SUNDAY MISSALS: HAVE ARRIVED! And You are welcome to purchase a copy or more of the new Sunday missal at the parish office for \$8.00 each.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions:

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for silent Adoration on **Friday, December 20, from 5:45 - 6:45 pm** followed by Benediction and the 7 pm Mass. Confessions will be available during the Adoration.

SPIRITUAL BANQUET FOR JUBILEE YEAR: Get ready for the Jubilee Year 2025 with this series of spiritual reflections on Luke's Gospel at Sheng Shen (Holy Spirit) Chinese Parish, 1187 Michael Street North. Speaker: Bible scholar, Bishop Yvan Mathieu Dates: Wednesday, December 18, 7-9pm (note date and time change) and Saturday, January 11, 10am-12pm.

Prayer for Stress and Strength: Dear Lord, I come to You today for rest. My responsibilities in life are beginning to weigh me down, and I feel tired and overwhelmed. I pray for strength to keep doing what I'm supposed to do. I don't want to give up on my responsibilities, but I need the strength to keep going. When I'm tired, please give me rest. When I'm weak, please refresh my body and spirit. Thank You, Lord, for the strength I have in You. In Jesus' name Amen.

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW? PRAYER: There is a simple prayer called the "I don't know prayer. You go off somewhere quiet and hidden, and walk right up to the heart of God and say. "I don't know. I don't know where to go from here. I don't know how to process this. I don't know what to do with these emotions. I don't know how to handle this situation. It covers a lot of "I don't know." And with even the tiniest bit of faith you have left, you say, "But You know." And you leave it there. God always hears that prayer, and it brings peace.

ADVENT PRAYER: Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

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ST. PETER'S CHRISTMAS NOVENA - SIMBANG GABI: All are invited to 9 days of Novena Masses for Christmas from Monday, December 16th - Tuesday, December 24th, It is a great source of spiritual nourishment to all of us, as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Jesus Christ. Invite your families and friends and come share in this wonderful time of Reflection. Please note that there will be No Weekday Morning Mass celebrated during our novena. Please see the start times listed. Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7pm, Tuesday, Dec. 17 @ 7pm, Wednesday, Dec. 18 @ 7:00 m, Thursday, Dec. 19@ 7pm, Friday, Dec. 20 @ 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 21 @ 5pm, Sunday, Dec. 22 @ 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Monday, Dec. 23 @ 7pm and Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve @ 7pm. and 9pm.

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DEAR FATHER, I lift those who are sick, suffering, or facing hardships. Please bring your comfort, peace, and strength into their lives. You are the Great Healer, and I ask that You touch their bodies, minds, and spirits with Your healing Power. Let them experience Your presence in a real and tangible way. Guide them through their pain, and grant them the grace to persevere. Surround them with love and support, and remind them that You are with them, even in the darkest moments. Help them to find hope in You. Knowing that You are a God who brings restoration and healing. Thank You, Lord, for being our comforter and healer. I trust that You are working all things for good, even in the midst of suffering. In Jesus' name....Amen.

LIFE IS AN ADVENT SEASON: Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us – as one of us – gives us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned. bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives.”

