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# ADVENT AT HOLY ROSARY

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## *Our Hopes and Dreams Lie in Your Coming, O Lord!*

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The Feast of Christ the King marks the final Sunday of the liturgical year. On December 1st we begin the Advent season, and the beginning of the new church year.

We know that Advent is a time of waiting and watching, not just for the baby Jesus who came to earth 2000 years ago, but for the time when Jesus comes again, and we meet him face to face at the end of time. Are we ready? Are we prepared?

We invite you to participate fully in our advent liturgies as we pray for Jesus to come into our hearts. The simple environment and subtle changes in the liturgy suggest a newness that drives us to conversion. We know that we belong to God and to each other as the family of God. Together we prepare to be ready; together we are to be alert and watchful, for we never know when the Son of Man will come at the end of time. If we invite the Lord to come, then we must end our procrastination and truly ready ourselves to meet Christ here and now.



God calls us during this advent season. He calls us to holiness, and he calls us to joyful anticipation of life with him. He has entrusted the gifts of the kingdom to us, to use wisely, and to use to care for each other. What have we done with the gifts we have been given? We are strengthened as a parish community through our shared prayer, song, and faith each week as we worship together. The urgency of this holy season challenges us to tend to all those in need as loving brothers and sisters. May our advent season serve as a wake-up call to attend to the task to which we have been called. May our faith be renewed in yet another advent season of waiting and hoping for the Lord.



*At Holy Rosary, we have planned many ways to help you to wait, watch and hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus not only at Christmas but at the end of time. We hope that, in spite of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, you may be able to choose one or all of these programs to assist you with your spiritual life this Advent. He has anointed all of us; this Advent, may we take this call to service to heart.*

**ADVENT ECUMENICAL SERVICE** Our church will be hosting an Advent Ecumenical Prayer Service for all churches in the Buckhannon community on December 1 at 7:00 P.M. The Prayer Service will include hymns we are all familiar with, Scripture readings appropriate for the Advent season, Intercessory Prayers calling upon the Promised One, a Litany of Hope, and time to reflect upon the coming of the Savior. Fellowship in Marist Hall will follow. Please mark your calendar and join brothers and sisters from our community.

**LITTLE BLUE BOOKS** Don't forget to pick up your "Little Blue Book" which begins the first Sunday of Advent. If you remember from last year, this little book contains short readings and reflections for the entire season of Advent. What a great way to prepare for the birth of our Lord. Pick a little blue book near the Mary altar.

**ADVENT WREATH** We light the candles on our wreath in the sanctuary to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Why not continue this tradition in your own family? Make a wreath and pray or sing while lighting your wreath. The whole family can be involved!

**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE** Mark your calendars for our Advent Communal Reconciliation service which will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 7 p.m. in the church. Several priests will be available for private confessions as well. Since the sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of our Catholic lives, please be aware that you can make an appointment for private confessions anytime by calling the rectory to set up an appointment with the priest. Penance services are also scheduled at St. Brendan's in Elkins on December 3 at 7 p.m. and at St. Patrick's in Weston on December 17 at 7 p.m.

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** Since the Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday this year, it is not considered a holy day of obligation. We will have a mass to celebrate this feast day on Monday, December 9 at 12:05 and 7 p.m. in the church. The mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning will be for the second Sunday in Advent. As members of a Marist parish, we think, act and judge like Mary would do. All are invited to our holy day celebration.

#### **DVD SERIES**

Are you ready to receive the Promised One? To help you prepare for his coming, our church is offering a morning and evening DVD series for three consecutive Thursdays in December. The DVD series will consist of vivid recreations of the first Christmas and engaging stories with a Christmas theme. The morning presentations will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the evening presentations will begin at 6 p.m., both on December 5, 6:00 p.m. both on Dec. 5, 12, and 19. The evening sessions will include potluck so bring something simple if you can. Both presentations will take place in Marist Hall. See Bro. Roy for more information.

**DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS** We will decorate the church for Christmas after the 9 am liturgy on Sunday, December 22nd, so please consider staying an extra hour to help us. Many hands make light work, and if we have several people, it should only take a little while. All are welcome.

**Our Christmas Party** What's Advent without a little Christmas fun? Our church is having a Christmas party! We'll be gathering on December 8 at 5:00 p.m. in Marist Hall. Circle that date. The party will include a pot luck dinner, sing-a-longs, games for children, drawings, and a special guest appearance (care to guess?)

**CHRISTMAS LITURGIES** Please mark your calendars for our Christmas liturgies:

December 24 - Family Liturgy at 7 p.m. (Christmas carols begin at 6:30 p.m.)

December 25 - Christmas Day liturgy - 9 a.m.

December 25 - Liturgy at Sacred Heart in Pickens - noon

**BE ON THE ALERT FOR SYMPTOMS OF INNER HOPE, LOVE, JOY AND PEACE.**

**The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.**

Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

