



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

DECEMBER 3, 2017

Advent is here, which does NOT mean Christmas is here. Just the opposite. Advent is the liturgical season of expectation and preparation for what is not here yet, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Of course there is already reason for great joy in the Advent season, because we know that God took flesh in her womb nine months before the birth of the Child Jesus. God had already come to his people at the moment of the Annunciation. Many of you are parents and you know pregnancy is a time of great expectation and preparation. When a mother approaches her term, there is no doubt that a baby is already very much alive and preparing to enter into the family life. That's where we are now as a Church. We know the birth of our Savior is about to happen and we are getting our souls ready.

With the goal of preparing ourselves better to receive the Child Jesus, there are three modifications to our parish calendar for Advent and Christmas:

1) Every Monday evening during Lent we will have at least one Priest available for confessions from 5:30pm - 6:20pm. We are referring to these extra times for Confession, as Reconciliation Mondays. I have noticed a very significant uptick in the number of confessions at our parish. That's a wonderful thing and we will continue to increase availability for this sacrament. On Saturday afternoons, please be considerate of the fact that the Priest hearing confessions sometimes also is assigned to celebrate the 5:00pm mass. We try to have more than one Priest hearing confessions, but this is not always possible. You can always call the parish office and schedule a time for Confession during the week, if the times we have scheduled is not enough or does not work for your schedule.

2) Our Advent / Christmas concert will take place on Saturday evening, December 9th at 7:00pm. We have reduced the tickets from \$25 to \$10 per person, or \$15 for families with children. The goal is to make it affordable especially for our seniors and families. Besides our wonderful performer, Nick Trombetta, our parish choirs (Italian, English, Spanish, and Youth) will perform.

3) Following the example of the Vatican, we will have our "Midnight Mass" at 10:00pm this year in English and Italian. Many of our parishioners have told me this will make it easier for them to attend this very special liturgy. We will also have a 7:00pm Christmas Vigil mass in Spanish. The rest of the Christmas schedule is in the bulletin.

Thank you for your constant love for God and your love for our Church and parish.

**God Bless,
Father Jonathan**

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