

St. Lawrence Parish

Advent 2018

Sunday December 2nd, 2018 marks the beginning of Advent. It is also the beginning of the Church's new Liturgical Year.

Although we are accustomed to Advent beginning the 4th Sunday before Christmas, not all Christians follow this tradition. For some, Advent begins on November 15th every year and lasts for the 40 days prior to Christmas. If this makes you think of Lent and the 40 days before Easter, it should! For Advent, (sometimes known as "little Lent") is, like Lent, a time when we should focus on increased prayer, fasting, and good works.

Advent is also a time of waiting: waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th, as well as a time to reflect upon how we are waiting for Jesus to return, at the end of time. The question for us to ask ourselves this Advent is: **Are we ready?**

Please see complete Advent and Christmas Season Schedule on reverse side

Advent Calendar: One way to mark the passage of time as we prepare ourselves for Christmas, is with an Advent Calendar. Many of us may remember opening the little door each day on the calendar to see what little "prize" was behind it. Following this link will lead us to an electronic Advent Calendar. Behind each door is a reading, a reflection, a prayer, and an action item for us or our family to do together each day during Advent. www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/

Advent Wreath: A great family project is to make an Advent Wreath together. The wreath, consists of evergreen branches, representing eternal life with Christ; and four candles: three violet and one rose colored, each representing the light of Christ. Each week, the newly lit candle represents: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace.

Best Advent Ever: Each Advent, noted Catholic author Matthew Kelly and his Dynamic Catholic team create short daily videos to help us prepare for Christmas. To register to receive these free daily videos, please follow this link: www.dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever

Festival of Lessons & Carols Concert: This family-friendly annual event will be held at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 7 North Main St., Goffstown on Sunday December 16th at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

Christmas Cantata: The Community Church of New Boston Choir, together with the Hillside Methodist Church Choir of Goffstown invite us to attend this free annual performance of "Bethlehem's Child" on Saturday December 22nd at 2:00 PM at Community Church of New Boston, 2 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, New Boston.

Calendar for Advent 2018 and for the Christmas Season

Saturday/ Sunday December 1/2	1 st Sunday of Advent Masses: Sat at 4 PM, Sun at 8 AM & 10:30 AM
Saturday December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass: Saturday at 8:30 AM
Saturday/ Sunday December 8/9	2 nd Sunday of Advent Masses: Sat at 4 PM, Sun at 8 AM & 10:30 AM
Saturday/ Sunday December 15/16	3 rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) Masses: Sat at 4 PM, Sun at 8 AM & 10:30 AM
Sunday December 16	Lessons & Carols at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Goffstown at 7:00 PM
Saturday December 22	Christmas Cantata at Community Church of New Boston at 2:00 PM
Saturday/ Sunday December 22/23	4 th Sunday of Advent Masses: Sat at 4 PM, Sun at 8 AM & 10:30 AM
Christmas Eve/ Day Monday/ Tuesday Dec. 24/25	Masses: Mon at 4 PM, 6:30 PM, & 9 PM Tuesday 9 AM
Saturday/ Sunday December 29/30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Masses: Sat at 4 PM, Sun at 8 AM & 10:30 AM
New Year's Eve/ Day Monday/ Tuesday Dec 31/ Jan 1	Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God Masses: Monday at 4 PM & Tuesday at 9 AM
Saturday/ Sunday January 5/6	The Epiphany of the Lord Masses: Sat at 4 PM, Sun at 8 AM & 10:30 AM