

Advent & Christmas 2024



Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



There shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise out of his root.

Isaiah 11:1

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.



And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Luke 1:26-28

Blessing of the Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is made of four candles and a circle of branches. Before the first candle is lighted, the household gathers for this blessing. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the Sign of the Cross. The Leader begins: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
All respond: Who made heaven and earth.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

Then the Scripture is read: Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: 9:1-2
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, all join in the Lord's Prayer: Our Father...

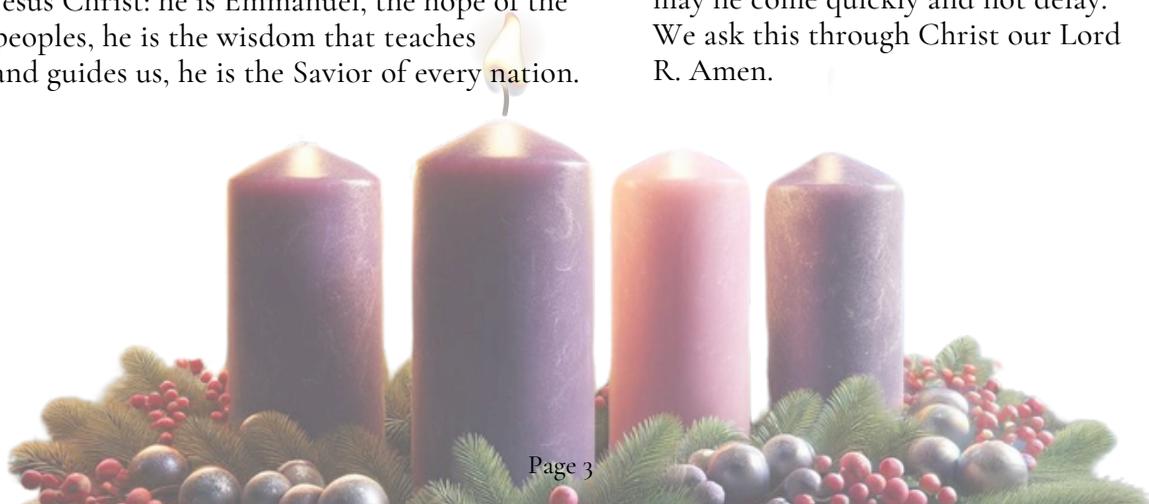
Then the leader invites:

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.

After a short silence, the leader prays:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation; may he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord
R. Amen.



Sunday
December 1st



1st Sunday of Advent: HOPE~prophecy candle

Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle. During the first week of Advent we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation.

St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast

10:30am-4pm in the Cathedral Center

Mothers in Christ is sponsoring a delicious pancake breakfast with special guest: St. Nicholas! \$5 per individual or \$25 per family

*Loving God,
we thank you for the example of St. Nicholas,
who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned,
gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all.
May we strive to imitate him by putting you first in
all we do. Give us the courage, love and strength of
St. Nicholas, so that, like him, we may serve you
through loving our brothers and sisters.
Amen.*



Additional Confession times during Advent
Mondays (Dec 9, 16, 23), 4-6pm at the Cathedral
Tuesdays, 6-7am at the Cathedral



Mon, 6pm
December 2nd

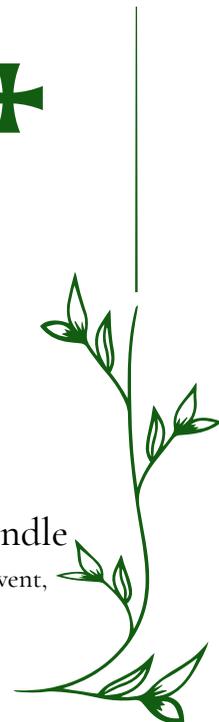
Penance Service
ENGLISH at the Chapel and SPANISH at the Cathedral

Thurs, 6:30pm
December 5th

EXALT: Come Lord Jesus
Advent Praise & Worship and Eucharistic Adoration at the Chapel

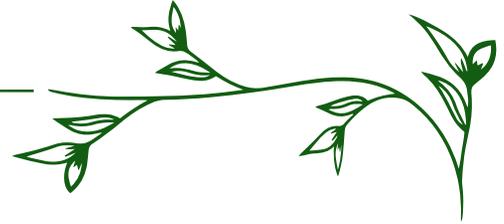
Sunday
December 8th

2nd Sunday of Advent: PEACE~Bethlehem candle
Light the second violet candle today. During this second week of Advent, we reflect on the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.



Monday, December 9th

Not a Holy Day of Obligation



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Cathedral: 7 am, 5:30 pm, 7 pm (SP)

Chapel: 12:05pm

Confession available 4-6pm at Cathedral, will continue during Mass

Mary, the Blessed Virgin, is the beauty that makes “glad the eyes of all the other saints.”

Paradiso XXXI, 134-135



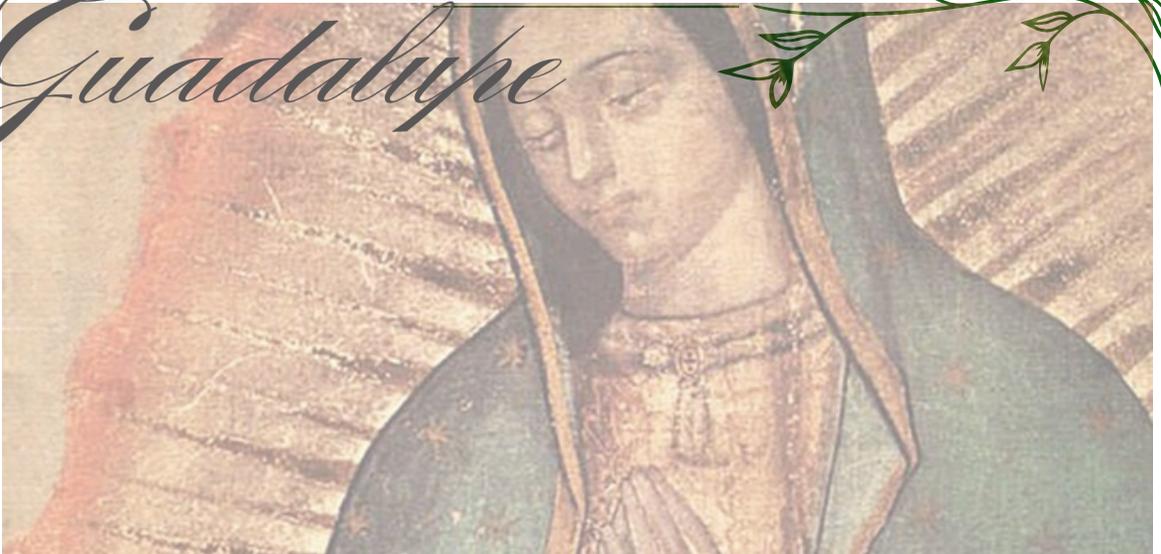
TOTA PULCHRA ES MARIA

*Thou art all fair, Mary
And the original stain [of sin] is not in thee
Thou art the glory of Jerusalem,
Thou art the joy of Israel,
Thou art the honor of our people,
Thou art the advocate of sinners.
O Mary, virgin most wise,
Mother most clement
Pray for us,
Intercede for us
With Our Lord Jesus Christ.*



Tota pulchra es Maria | A Mexican baroque painting of the Immaculate Conception, Museo de la Basilica de Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe



These events are in Spanish, but all are invited to participate

Wednesday
December 11th
Cathedral

10:30pm Rosary
11pm Dramatization of the apparitions of Our Lady to Juan Diego
followed by mañanitas*
*traditional hymns sung to greet Mary on the morning of her feast days
12:15am Holy Mass

Thursday
December 12th

5 pm Procession from the Rose Garden to the Cathedral
6:30pm Rosary
7 pm Holy Sacrifice of the Mass



Friday, 7pm
December 13th

Candlelight Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration at Cathedral

Saturday, 6:30pm
December 14th

GAUDETE!
*Pilgrims of Hope rejoice in
the coming of the LORD*

Join us at the Chapel for Scripture, Prayer,
and Sacred Music of Advent and Christmas



Sunday
December 15th

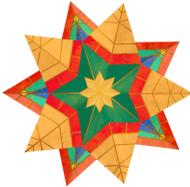
3rd Sunday of Advent:

GAUDETE Sunday: JOY~ shepherd's candle

The title for this Sunday is taken from the Entrance Antiphon:
"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Light the ROSE
candle and reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

Novena Events: December 16-24

Cathedral Center
7 pm



Chapel
8 pm weeknights

Posadas

Posadas is Spanish for "lodgings" or "accommodations." These evenings are marked by dramatizations of Mary and Joseph seeking a lodging upon their arrival to Bethlehem. After this, all the participants enjoy singing and traditional Mexican treats. These events are in Spanish but everyone is welcome to participate.

Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi, which in Tagalog means "Night Mass," is celebrated at dawn in many rural parts of the Philippines. Churches are decorated with *parol*, which are star-shaped lanterns. Mass at the Chapel is in English and all are invited to attend.

Additional times: Sat, Dec 21: 4:30 pm and Sun, Dec 22: 6 pm



Sunday
December 22nd

4th Sunday of Advent: LOVE - angel's candle

During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel. Light the final violet candle.



Noel

Grim was the world and grey last night:
The moon and stars were fled,
The hall was dark without song or light,
The fires were fallen dead.
The wind in the trees was like to the sea,
And over the mountains' teeth
It whistled bitter-cold and free,
As a sword leapt from its sheath.

The lord of snows upreared his head;
His mantle long and pale
Upon the bitter blast was spread
And hung o'er hill and dale.
The world was blind,
the boughs were bent,
All ways and paths were wild:
Then the veil of cloud apart was rent,
And here was born a Child.

The ancient dome of heaven sheer
Was pricked with distant light;
A star came shining white and clear
Alone above the night.
In the dale of dark in that hour of birth
One voice on a sudden sang:
Then all the bells in Heaven and Earth
Together at midnight rang.

Mary sang in this world below:
They heard her song arise
O'er mist and over mountain snow
To the walls of Paradise,
And the tongue of many bells was stirred
in Heaven's towers to ring
When the voice of mortal maid was heard,
That was mother of Heaven's King.

Glad is the world and fair this night
With stars about its head,
And the hall is filled with laughter and light,
And fires are burning red.
The bells of Paradise now ring
With bells of Christendom,
And Gloria, Gloria we will sing
That God on earth is come.

J.R.R. Tolkien
first published in 1936 in the
Annual of Our Lady's School, Abingdon



Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

Cathedral

5 pm Children's Mass with Nativity
7 pm, 9 pm (SP)
11:15 pm Choral Music followed by Midnight Mass

Chapel

6 pm Children's Mass with Nativity
9 pm



Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas Day

Cathedral

10 am English
12 pm Spanish

Chapel

9 am English

Saturday
December 28th

Feast of the
Holy Innocents,
Martyrs

Sunday
December 29th

Feast of the
Holy Family
Regular Sunday
schedule



*Holy Innocents Venetian Plaster
by Corinne Layton*



Madonna of the Lilies by William-Adolphe Bouguereau

*Solemnity of
Mary,
Mother of God*

Not a Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday
December 31st

Cathedral
10pm Bilingual Mass, 11pm Holy Hour

Wednesday
January 1st

Cathedral: 10am, 12pm (SP)
(No 7am Mass)

Chapel: 9am
(No 12:05pm Mass)





Adoration of the Magi
Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi

Sunday, January 5th

Epiphany of the Lord

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth,
and thick clouds cover the peoples;
but upon you the LORD shines,
and over you appears his glory.
Nations shall walk by your light,
and kings by your shining radiance...
riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you,
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.
Caravans of camels shall fill you,
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;
all from Sheba shall come
bearing gold and frankincense,
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Isaiah 60:1-3, 6

Sunday, January 12th

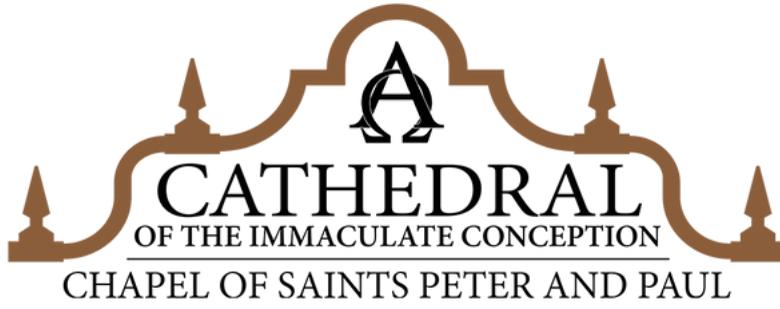
Baptism of the Lord

Thus says the LORD:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
upon whom I have put my spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

Isaiah 42: 1-4



Baptism of Christ by Fra Angelico



CATHEDRAL

OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

CHAPEL OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL