

# Dear Padre,

**Many LGBTQ+ youth are homeless, suicidal, or even murdered because of who they are. How can we support them?**

Your desire to be compassionate is very much in keeping with the Church's teaching. In 1986, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, led by then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now emeritus Pope Benedict XVI), issued a strongly worded call for civility and respect for homosexual persons. On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons emphasized, "It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech or in action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses that homosexual persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity" (CCC 2358).

"The Church actively asserts and promotes the intrinsic dignity of every person. As human persons, persons with a homosexual inclination have the same basic rights as all people, including the right to be treated with dignity," wrote the US Bishops in "Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination" (2006). In terms of offering support, this document reads, "As baptized members of the Catholic community, persons with a homosexual inclination continue to look to the Church for a place where they may live in authentic human integrity and holiness of life. Being welcomed into and participating in their local faith community is the foundation of spiritual support that the Church offers to them. Full and active participation is encouraged. Participation in a worshipping Catholic community is a support for living a life of chastity and integrity and an encouragement to an ongoing personal conversion." ●

— *The Redemptorists*  
DearPadre.org



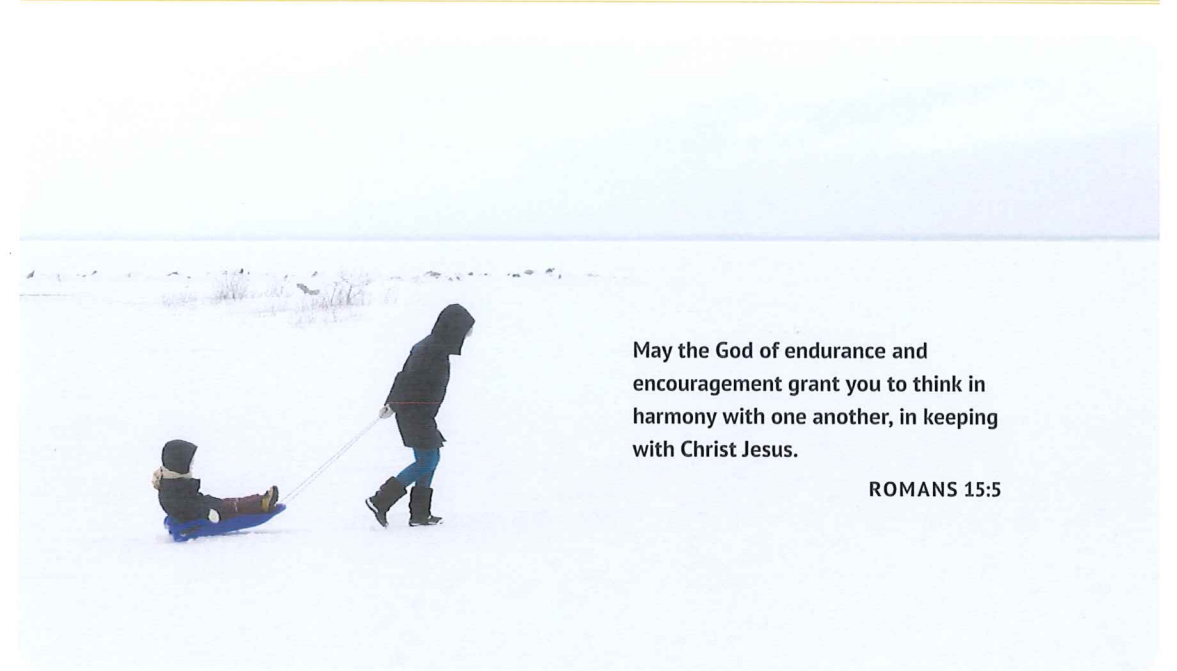
VECTOR GODDESS / SHUTTERSTOCK

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-9 / Matthew 3:1-12



May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 15:5

## Pretend the Dream

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**hen I was in college, we had a professor who would often say that if, instead of acting the way we feel, we would act the way we would like to feel, then we would soon begin to feel the way we hoped. Over the years, I've found a fair amount of wisdom in that advice, although I don't always remember to tap into it. I know it's all a kind of pretending, but somehow the pretending does seem to make a difference.

Each year, we make our journey into Christmas with a year's baggage. We come with good memories of moments of lazy fun, sun-drenched summers, and dappled autumns, vacations, and birthday parties. But we also make our way into this red and green season with a generous share of hurts and pains, failures and even sins, just because most years are lived that way.

And so, during this last month of each year we play at being happy and pretend that all is good. We sing carols

and toast friendships and wish each other blessings and goodness. And we do it all with an unspoken honesty, knowing full well that life is not always so, but maybe by pretending, and by some freakish twist of godliness, we can find for some short time the harmony once prophesied by Isaiah. Maybe the wolf and the lamb will be kind, and the calf and lion will forget their history, and for at least one brief shining moment we will live in harmony with one another. ●

### Reflect

**This Advent, once a week, try to skip doing something that stresses you.**

**Once a week, act the way you would like to feel. Fake it if you must.**

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Many people today are constantly using social media, but are not themselves very social: they are caught up in themselves, prisoners of the cell phone in their hand. What appears on the screen is not the reality of other persons: their eyes, their breath and their hands.**



ADDRESS IN A MEETING  
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE,  
ATHENS, DECEMBER 6, 2021

#### MONDAY

December 5  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 35:1-10  
Lk 5:17-26

#### TUESDAY

December 6  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 40:1-11  
Mt 18:12-14

#### WEDNESDAY

December 7  
*St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*  
Is 40:25-31  
Mt 11:28-30

#### THURSDAY

December 8  
*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

#### FRIDAY

December 9  
*Advent Weekday*  
Is 48:17-19  
Mt 11:16-19

#### Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

*Catholic Update* explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.

#### SATURDAY

December 10  
*Advent Weekday*  
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

#### SUNDAY

December 11  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
Is 35:1-6a, 10  
Jas 5:7-10  
Mt 11:2-11

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/BOB ROLLER



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 Tom Bachman, Grand Knight 640-8259  
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 & Nanette Rice 355-7676

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Violet)**

12/03/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

**Servers:** Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bam-berger

**Reader:** Karen Burden

**EOHC:** Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

12/04/2022—Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

**Servers:** Kirbe Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller, Volunteer

**Reader:** Alvin Bergkamp

**EOHC:** Robert Longoria, Kyle Berning

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Violet)**

12/10/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

**Servers:** Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

**Reader:** Tom Bachman

**EOHC:** Rosemary Bachman, Tom Bachman

12/11/2022—Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

**Servers:** Kingston Guerrero, Cade Berning, Jace Berning

**Reader:** Julie Kaps

**EOHC:** Del Kap, Julia Kaps

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Saturday, Dec.3	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, Dec. 4	9:00 a.m.	Ruth Gorges
Monday, Dec. 5	8:30 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Tuesday, Dec. 6	8:30 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Wednesday, Dec. 7	6:00 p.m.	For the People
Friday, Dec. 9	8:30 a.m.	Sp. Int. Powers Family
Saturday, Dec 10	4:00 p.m.	Curtis Mohr
Sunday, Dec. 11	9:00 a.m.	Suellen Bergkamp

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT –DECEMBER 4, 2022

**Stay awake, the day is coming**

My friends, John the Baptist invites the Pharisees and Sadducees to “Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.” in today’s Gospel passage (Matthew 3:1-12). Harsh words. Most of us would be irritated if someone spoke to us that way. But this was John and had a reputation for telling it like it is.

It may surprise you to know that there was a time when penitents had to publicly “do their penance” before being readmitted into the faith community, before being “reconciled”. But we do it differently today, of course.

In a few weeks we will celebrate Christmas, and once again invite the Lord Jesus into our hearts and minds and souls. We will once again acknowledge just how thankful we are that God became one of us, that God visited his people. And we will also acknowledge just how badly we need our God to be close to us, a God upon whom we are dependent for absolutely every good thing.

My friends --- feeling “bad” isn’t enough. It just isn’t. Producing good fruit is what matters. So let’s make sure the world knows that we mean what we say, that we believe what we profess, and that we want to be better people. God deserves that. Fr. Peter

**COLLECTION** for November 27, 2022: Envelopes: \$1020; Loose: \$168; Online Giving: \$257.64; Total \$1445/64; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under - 315.53

**CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000**—Building Fund To Date: \$18559.27 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

**SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS** Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family, on the passing of your beloved mother, Lucy Martinez. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May she rest in peace.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE** If you would like to donate flowers in memory of A LOVED ONE FOR CHRISTMAS, please put your donation in envelope marked to whom you want them to go to, plus your name and put in with the regular collection or send it to our office.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS**

- Altar Society—Bake Sale Saturday, December 3
- K of C Bierock Fundraiser—Sunday, December 4
- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Wednesday 12/7 Mass @ 6:00 p.m. & Parish Christmas Potluck, right after 6:00 p.m. Mass
- Advent Penance Service—Sunday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass—Monday, December 12 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Christmas Decoration—Thursday, December 15 starting @ 4:00 p.m.
- Bishop John Brungardt's Visit—December 17 & 18
- Parish Sunday Breakfast—Sunday, December 18
- Christmas Eve. Mass—Saturday, December 24 @ 4:00 p.m.—St. Anthony's & 5:30 p.m. (MT)- St. Raphael's
- Christmas Day Mass—Sunday, December 25 @ 9:00 a.m.—Christ the King Deerfield

**PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER** Please take some of your precious times to participate in our parish Christmas potluck dinner on Wednesday, December 7 around 7 p.m. for fellowship, joy, unity, and community to be ready for the celebration of the Lord's birthday. Altar Society will be providing meat for the dinner.

**NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS NEEDS YOU!** From July 17-21, 2024, the first National Eucharistic Congress to be held in the United States in more than 50 years will take place in Indianapolis. We are gauging interest in parishioner participation in attending and being a member of an official delegation from the Diocese of Dodge City. If you are interested, please contact Father Tim S. Hickey at [tshickey@icloud.com](mailto:tshickey@icloud.com) or 203-996-7854 (voice/text) and provide your name, contact information and parish; if you are interested in a family/couple registration please provide your total number of registrations (e.g. husband and wife=2 registrations; husband, wife, two children=4 registrations, etc.). **Your response is gratefully requested no later than Dec. 21.** We are currently firming up the travel and housing costs and will provide that information to those who contact Father Tim by the Dec. 21 deadline. If you need additional information, please contact him or visit <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/congress-2024>.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (from Saint John Paul II) O God, Creator of the universe, who extends your paternal concern over every creature and guides the events of history to the goal of salvation... Renew for us the wonders of your mercy: send forth your Spirit that he may work in the intimacy of hearts, that enemies may begin to dialogue, that adversaries may shake hands and peoples may encounter one another in harmony. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

**UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 3:1-12)**

**John the Baptist** John spent time in the desert, a place people went to discipline themselves and listen for God. He ate what was available. His clothes were like Elijah's (2 Kings 1:8). In Malachi 3:23 we hear that Elijah will return to warn people about the day of the LORD. John fulfilled this expectation. John earned the title the Baptist because he adapted the practice of ritual washing. People were baptized by John because they believed that God was coming soon to judge them. Like the ancient prophets, John warned people to repent, to turn away from their old lives and ready themselves for God's arrival.

**Abraham's descendants** The religious leaders who show up to be baptized don't plan on acting any differently. John yells at them to stop faking it (vv.7-8). Doing the right thing (bear good fruit) is a notable theme of the Gospel of Matthew (see also 7:17-20 and 25:31-46). John also warns the leaders that they shouldn't think God will protect them simply because they're Jews (v.9a). Their claim to having Abraham as their ancestor is meaningless (v.9b).

**Mightier than I** John says several things that contrast him with the one who is coming. • John baptizes with water; the one who comes will baptize with God's spirit • John's baptism is only a sign of change; the one who comes will bring about real and decisive change • John is not even worthy to act as a slave for the one who is coming.

**With fire** John evokes Malachi 3:19 when he warns that God's judgment includes a fiery purgation. John describes a farmer tossing wheat into the air to separate it from the chaff, the inedible part. The grain is kept; the rest is burned. (www.oursundayreadings)

**UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Isaiah 11:1-10)**

**Sprouting in God's spirit** When Isaiah wrote this passage, he was angry about the quality of Israel's kings; none were as good and holy as David (the son of Jesse) had been. The impiety of these bad kings made the hereditary line of Jesse seem like a lifeless stump. Things will change when God sends his spirit upon a descendant of David. This new king won't follow bad advice but will obey only God (v.2). The king will also have the strength to carry out God's will. His many virtues will flow from his total obedience to God (fear of the LORD). We draw our list of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit from this passage. The king won't let personal preferences or favoritism influence his actions (v.3). Instead he will unfailingly act with justice. No one who acts wickedly will be able to stand against him (v.4). Isaiah mentions the customary royal robes and insignia to underscore the king's goodness and loyalty to God (v.5).

**A new world order** Once the new king establishes justice, peace will come to every person and to all creation. Wild animals will no longer be a threat (vv.6-8). God will purge the world of violence and suffering until the holiness of Jerusalem (my holy mountain) encompasses all creation (v.9). Everyone will be drawn to the new king and to God's kingdom. All will know and obey the LORD (v.10).

**Question: I am 73 and a lifelong Catholic. I struggle with the doctrine of the real presence. I say this partially because if Catholics really believed this, the churches and adoration chapels would be full. Polling indicates that substantial numbers of Catholics do not accept this teaching.**

**Answer:** I have had so many questions on the Eucharist but I realize many Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence, so this question is very timely. The Fourth Lateran Council used the word *transubstantiation* to summarize a long tradition originating in the Gospels and St. Paul concerning the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This term is a rich mine from which all sorts of further reflections on the theology of the Eucharist have developed.

First, one must clarify the fact that the term *transubstantiation* refers to the fact that after the priest says the words of institution over the bread, the being of bread is changed into the being of the body of Christ, but all the properties of bread remain. In the late 60s I attended a lecture by a Franciscan theologian given to a large group of Protestant and Catholic seminarians in Berkeley, in which he declared that according to the doctrine of transubstantiation, if one put the host under a microscope, he would see the molecules of Christ's body. As the medieval theologians had no access to microscopes, they could not know that this was not true. Modern scientific investigation had demonstrated that there was no change in molecular structure and so there was no change in substance. As a result the change must not be a change in being, but only in being perceived by the subject through his faith and the use the subject makes of the bread. The bread now means Christ to him and he uses it for the purpose of union with Christ. These last ideas are termed generally by modern theology "transignification" (change in meaning) and "transfinalization" (change in purpose).

The problems in this position are twofold. First, it mistakes the notion of substance for the modern idea of chemical-molecular substance. Substance in the philosophical sense does not refer to elements, but to a being which exists in its own right. A dog is a substance, a man is a substance, bread is a substance, and a rock is a substance. An accident is not an unforeseen event, but a being which cannot exist in its own right. White would be an accident. White cannot exist apart from a white thing like a white dog, a white man, white bread, or a white rock. Transubstantiation then does not mean that molecular structure changes, as this is merely an accidental expression of the material quantity of the substance.

Secondly, it is true to say that the change in the Eucharist includes change in meaning and change in purpose. This is because it involves change in nature. In other words, the objective change must support the subjective change. Otherwise, the Eucharist would merely involve a change in sign and not in truth. It would be subjective and not objective. Pope Paul VI expresses it very well. "As a result of transubstantiation, the species of bread and wine undoubtedly take on a new meaning and a new finality, for they no longer remain ordinary bread and ordinary wine, but become the sign of something sacred, the sign of a spiritual food. However, the reason why they take on this new significance and this new finality is because they contain a new reality which we justly term 'ontological.' For there no longer lies under those species what was there before, but something quite different; and that, not only because of the faith of the Church, but in objective reality."<sup>1</sup>

Christ came in this new way as a gift of himself to the Church. Though one can only know this new way, this change, by faith, it is not just a change in human knowledge which has no relation to the reality of the bread itself. Our Lord gave us this gift to perfect our union with him. Christ began this union by associating the twelve with him in his future passion at the Last Supper.

This change is truly a miracle and there is a marvelous wisdom of God in using this to help us to be present at Calvary and nourish the transforming union in our souls. If we were to break the accidents of the body of Christ in heaven we would have two pieces of a body. But because of the miracle of transubstantiation, if we break the accidents of the consecrated host, we have the whole Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity, under each part. This means that on the altar during Mass and in the tabernacle there are not the thousand bodies of Christ but one body of Christ as it exists in heaven equally present in the thousand different places. You are right to state that if people really believed this, the Masses and adoration would be packed. The fact that there is so little Eucharistic devotion today can be attributed to many sources: lack of catechesis, the denial of transubstantiation, the denial of the Mass as a sacrifice and sometimes just a plain lack of interest on the part of Catholics. Though this gives us pause for thought and concern, it should in no way diminish our own experience of faith. Fr. Brian Mulladay, OP

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Peace to all who enter here**

The holiday season can be full of exciting plans and activities. It can also be stressful, as social demands increase. Shopping and seasonal food preparation take time—a thing always in limited supply. And as families and communities gather, opportunities for harmony or conflict arise. Francis de Sales offers advice for the harried: "Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset." Commit to Isaiah's peaceable kingdom, where calf and lion share the field and childhood innocence leads the way. (Prepare the Word)

## SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

Paz a todos los que entran aquí

"La temporada de las fiestas puede estar llena de planes y actividades interesantes. También puede ser estresante, a medida que aumentan los compromisos sociales. Las compras y la preparación de comidas de temporada requieren tiempo, algo siempre limitado. Y cuando las familias y las comunidades se reúnen, surgen oportunidades de armonía o de conflicto. Francisco de Sales ofrece un consejo para los atareados: "No tengan prisa nunca; hagan todo con tranquilidad y espíritu sereno. No pierdan su paz interior por nada, aunque todo su mundo parezca alterado." Comprométete con el reino pacífico de Isaías, en el que el ternero y el león comparten el campo, y la inocencia de la niñez lidera el camino.