

December 2nd, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

I once worked with a secretary who could not wait patiently for a birthday or Christmas. She wanted to know what gifts she might receive, and didn't really care about being surprised. "Tell me what you're getting me," she'd joke as the holidays approached.

The Advent season might make such people a bit impatient. It's all about *waiting*—waiting for the coming feast of Christmas, and waiting for the glorious coming of Christ at the end of time.

On this first Advent weekend we hear about that second coming. The events which Jesus predicts before the end are terrifying—enough to make anyone want to put off those final days as long as possible. But he urges his disciples to be vigilant and pray. He wants us not to be surprised, but rather fully awake and aware.

The Lord's advice, coupled with Paul's words to his mission Church—the Thessalonians—in the second reading, can apply to us in the twenty-first century as well. If the final revelation of the Kingdom demands our vigilance, so does the day-to-day unfolding of that same reality: God is at work all around us. The prophecy of Jeremiah in the first reading promises a reign of justice. The Lord wants to invite each of us to participate, and to act in harmony with that wonderful promise.

Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.

The Church Year

Welcome to the beginning of another Church year. We begin our journey of joyful anticipation (Advent) and travel from the incarnation (Christmas/Epiphany) to reconciliation (lent) and the time of the passion, death, resurrection (Holy Triduum) of Christ. All this is to be followed by Eastertide and Ordinary Time. We renew our walk as people of faith with Christ and his Church. Each year we strive to see something new, fresh and more profound in the journey's lessons.

Advent 2018

Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope. It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.

(From today's homily)

The Spiritual Person is one:

Who has the capacity for transcendence
who has a sense of vocation
who now and then experiences a heightened state of consciousness
who uses spiritual resources
and who lives morally.

Advent Reconciliation Services

Tues. – Dec. 4th – 7 pm – *Sacred Heart Cathedral*

Sun. – Dec. 9th – 2:30 pm – *St. Mary's*

Tues. Dec. 11th – 6:30 pm *Christ Our Saviour*

Fri. Dec. 21st – 7 pm *Immaculate Conception*

Feast of the Immaculate Conception –

Saturday, Dec. 8th

Mass will be at 9 am followed by a gathering in the hall after Mass. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite snack to share.

Immaculate Conception School News

School Mass **9 am Friday, Dec. 7th**.

Café du Kodiaks

On **Sun. Dec. 9th**, after the 11 am Mass, the Grade 6 students will be serving food in the church hall in French for a French project. Admission is by donation.

Caroling Party/Potluck Supper

This will take place on **Sunday, December 16th** from **3:30-6:30pm** in the Church Hall. Please bring food to share and voices to sing.

Monthly Adoration

Emmanuel Hermitage invites you to silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday, December 11th** at the Domano Chapel. Mass will be celebrated at **7:30 am** and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from **8 am – 8 pm**.

Knights of Columbus

Pancake Breakfast **Sunday, Dec. 16th**. Everyone is welcomed.

St. Vincent de Paul Soup/Sandwich Preparation

Tuesday, Dec. 18th at **9:40 am** preparing sandwich and soup ingredients and **Wednesday, Dec. 19th** at **9:40 am** making soup and sandwiches in the Church hall.

Christmas Mass Choir Practice

You are invited to join us in singing at the final **Christmas Eve Mass (10 pm with a carol service beginning at 9:30 pm)**. There will be a practice on **Saturday, December 22nd from 1pm -3pm**. The practice will take place in the church at IC. Please come and join us.



RISE UP CALGARY 2018 "COME AND SEE" ROAD TRIP!

The Youth and Young Adult Office will be taking a 40-seater bus from Prince George to Calgary for Catholic Christian Outreach's (CCO) annual Rise Up conference! Young adults from the age of 18-35 are invited to join us on this amazing opportunity. This year's theme is "**Come and See**". Go to <https://cco.ca/rise-up/> to sign up.

If you want a seat on that bus, contact Lisa at lvfarrell@pgdiocese.bc.ca OR phone 250-964-4424 (ext 2109) The bus will be leaving early **Fri., Dec. 28th** from PG, and returning late on **Tues. Jan. 1st**.

The Rise Up conference ignites faith, provides profound encounters with Christ, and changes lives! Every young adult should experience Rise Up.

ANNUAL RISE UP CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE!

We are having our Annual Rise Up Christmas Fundraiser Coffeehouse on **Sun., Dec. 16** from **6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at the Artspace- 222 - 1685 3rd Ave (Upstairs), Prince George, BC V2L 3G5! There will be amazing performances, great Christmas baking, and testimonies from young adults who have gone to Rise Up. So please mark your calendars!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store [1645 Third Avenue] is in need of a handy-person who can offer a couple of hours per week. If you are available, please contact Colleen, the Store Manager at 250-562-5136.

ST. MARY'S NOON HOUR ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Facilitated by Sisters Irene Baker and Dorothy Ryan. **Noon to 1:30 pm** in the St. Eugene Room at St. Mary's. Please use the Freeman Street Entrance.

Monday -Theme of Hope

Monday, December 10th Theme of Faith

Monday, December 17th Theme of Joy

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to join them in a time of Prayerful Reflection on the Themes of Advent as we prepare for the great feast of Christmas. Everyone is welcome!

MOVIE WITH MEANING- GIFTED

Sunday December 16th, 1:30pm - 4:00pm in the St. Eugene Room, at **St. Mary's Parish**, from Admission by donation. Popcorn and drinks are provided!

Stamps Wanted

We are collecting stamps with 1/2" border and postcards. The proceeds from the sale of these items are used to provide cancer dressings to those patients in need, free of charge. Please place your stamps/postcards in the small black basket on the table in the church foyer.

