

December 7, 2014

The Second Sunday of
Advent
2014

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the
way of the Lord!
Make straight in the
wasteland a highway
for our God!
Every valley shall be
filled in, every mountain
and hill shall be made low.
~ Isaiah 40:3-4

ST. PRISCILLA CHURCH
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*John the Baptist appeared in the
desert proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT



It happens every year, as predictably as drawing up a shopping list, decorating the tree and planning the Christmas Dinner. Every year we think, "Now THIS is the year when I really will enter into Advent." And there it stays. Nothing happens. We know in our hearts that Advent can be more than a "pre-Christmas" season, more than those four weeks of getting ready for the Big Day on December 25th. We sit in Church and hear the different readings, the darkness and the promise of hope.

We ponder in our hearts: Our lives are full, our families are good, our homes beautiful. We have everything, simply everything we could want. But in the quiet darkness, we are aware of something stirring in our hearts, a longing we can't name. Something that no trip to the store, no decorations, Christmas dishes or new ornaments can fill. The longing might be risky, even dangerous, so we push it away — quickly — and busy ourselves again. There is so much to do in these weeks.

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. Jeremiah 3

The stirring returns. What is this promise for us? What does it mean for us in our comfortable, complicated and messy lives? We want to be better people, and our lives are not perfect. We don't want to delve into our relationships at home because we don't want to upset the way things are. We are so often impatient with our children, unreasonable with our spouses and we might even admit, disappointed in our lives. We echo the disciples' confusion and disappointment after the crucifixion: "We had thought it would be different." But we have everything we could want. What else is there?

The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain. Isaiah 25

What if this Advent, we allow ourselves to imagine a life that is different? What if our hearts were at peace and our lives more satisfying? That longing in the most hidden corners of our hearts is something holy, a Holy Longing, a desire for a deeper relationship with God.

We might squirm at that and stammer all of the excuses we know: "Not now. I'm really busy. I'm not a very holy person. I'm going to get to a serious relationship with God as soon as my kids are gone... when I don't have to care for my parents; when I get the promotion at work; when we move to a new house." There are dozens of ways we can evade the issue, but still, that longing is there for something more.



Like a shepherd he feeds his flock

Advent is a time to recognize both our holy longing and the healing love God has for us, despite the many barriers we put up between ourselves and God. We can start simply and just rest at the edge of our beds in the mornings, open our hands and whisper, "Come, Lord Jesus!" If we let ourselves feel what is in our hearts, we know they are filled with love. We can carry that experience with us as we go through even the busiest of our days. We may not know exactly where to begin or how to fill this longing in our hearts but it is simple. God waits with infinite love and with arms outstretched to meet us. The words we say don't matter. We can speak as if God is a friend we have not seen in a long time, but one with whom we can sit in a comfortable silence.

It's just about taking the first step. Even if we are fearful about this next step, we can say to God what is in our hearts. In this Advent season, it's time to risk, to make the first step, to find our way back home.

Loving God, I don't have the right words. I'm not sure where to begin, but I know you are the hope and promise of the peace to come in my life. Be with me this day. Let me look at my life and my day today and open my heart completely as I begin, "Come, Lord Jesus."

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (7)**

- 8:30 — +Martin Weldin Birthday Remembrance (Daughter)
 +Nick M. Grossmayer (Grossmayer Family)
 +Albert Mazur (Smigiel Family)
 +Angelina Ricciardone (Lidia)
 +Helen Wasiukiewicz Death Anniversary (Family)
 +Dorothy Cloherty (Family)
 +Genowefa Wójcik (Son and family)
- 10:30 — O Bł. Boże dla Ojczyzny i wszystkich Polaków na całym świecie, święte owoce działalności Ligi Katolickiej oraz dusze w Czyśćcu cierpiące
 O Boże Bł., opiekę M. Bożej i wszelkie potrzebne łaski dla Edyty Matel (Babcia)
 Dla Marlenki z racji 21 urodzin o zdrowie, Boże Bł. i wszelkie łaski w dorosłym życiu (Rodzice i siostra)
 O dary ducha św. i wszelkie potrzebne łaski dla Emilii i Rodziny Tytro
- O radość w wieczności dla:**
 +Zenon Denisiuk (Siostry)
 +Patricia Tytro (Rodzice)
 +Leokadia Stacherczak
 +Dominik Kalinowski (Żona i dzieci)
 ++Katarzyna i Paweł Dziura (Tato z rodziną)
 ++Victor i Adolf Burzynski (Hanna)
 +Antoni Burawski w 9-tą rocz. śmierci (Rodzina)
- 12:15 — AnnaFe and Renato Nucup 30th Wedding Anniversary
 +Francisco Espina Sr. 27th Death Anniversary (Rodriguez family)
- 6:00 — +Krzysztof Pękala w 4-tą rocz. śmierci (Siostra)
- MONDAY (8) Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 8:00 — +Pauline C. Gerber - Mother (Children)
 +James Sloan 11th Death Anniversary (Emily and Family)
- 11:00 — St. Priscilla Parishioners
- 7:00 — ++Antoni i Leokadia Stacherczak (Rodzina)
- TUESDAY (9) Advent Weekday**
 8:00 — Health and Blessings for Michael and Bridie Flaherty (Friend)
 +Sophie Szeszol 1st Anniversary of Death
- WEDNESDAY (10) Advent Weekday**
 8:00 — ++Lorraine and Otto Ackermann (Daughter)
 8:30 — O Bł. Boże dla dzieci
- THURSDAY (11) Advent Weekday (Saint Damasus I, Pope)**
 8:00 — Health and Blessings for Padraic Dirrane
 +Dolores Nielsen (Friend)
 +Helen Pochocki Death Anniversary (Arlene Palac)
- FRIDAY (12) Our Lady of Guadalupe**
 8:00 — ++Ann and Ray Burns (Rosalie McGlynn)
- SATURDAY (13) Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**
 8:00 — Health and Blessings for Delia Conneely and family
 8:30 — +Stanisław Karbarz w rocz. urodzin
 +Aleksander Czechowicz (Córka z rodziną)
- 4:00 — +Theresa O'Hara (Una White)
 +John Greco (Philomena)
 +Jack Ferrier (St. Priscilla Ushers)
 +Priscillo Cabrera (St. Priscilla Ushers)
 +Frank Toporek (St. Priscilla Ushers)
 +Raymond Miller (St. Priscilla Ushers)



Rest in Peace

Idilio Campana



SCOUTING FOR FOOD
 PLEASE HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

PLEASE HELP THE BOY SCOUTS OF TROOP 803 TO
 HELP THOSE IN NEED

Your donation of canned and packaged foods will be distributed by local food banks to our neighbors in need.

ITEMS NEEDED: Canned Meats/Fish, 100% Fruit Juice, Soups, Baby Formula, Jello/ Pudding Mix, Pasta/ Pasta Sauces, Canned Fruit/ Vegetables, Baby Cereal, Powdered Milk, Peanut Butter, Hot or Cold Cereal, Dried Fruit

INSTRUCTIONS: Place your items into the box at the door from Saturday, December 6 to Friday, December 12. Scouts will pick up and deliver to districts on Saturday, December 13.

Any questions, please call Jerry Lis 773-909-1091

PLEASE NO OUTDATED/EXPIRED ITEMS

Celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



Monday, December 8, 2014 (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:00 am, 11:00 am - English Mass
7:00 pm - Polish Mass

Please turn to page 4 for more details.



November 23, 2014

Currency	\$ 3,635.00
Checks	\$ 2,479.00
Loose Coin	\$ 6.64
Total	\$ 6,120.64
Weekly Goal	\$ 7,500.00
Budget Year to Date	\$157,500.00
Collections Year to Date	\$126,667.43
Under Budget	\$<30,832.57 >

Thank you for your generosity and support of our Parish.

Monday, December 8, 2014 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the United States. Because of the importance of this Solemnity, which celebrates the saving work of God in preserving Our Lady from the stain of original sin, December 8th is always a Holy Day of Obligation, even when it falls on a Saturday or Monday.

You may fulfill your obligation for Monday by attending the anticipatory Mass on Sunday evening, December 7, provided that the Mass takes place after 4:00 p.m. and that you have already fulfilled your Sunday obligation at an earlier Mass (either on Sunday Morning or Saturday evening). Attending Mass on Sunday evening alone does NOT fulfill the obligation for both days. It is permissible to receive Holy Communion on both Sunday morning and Sunday evening, provided the usual conditions are met (a fast of one hour prior to reception of the Eucharist and full attendance at each Mass).

SAINT PRISCILLA CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 16th 7:00 p.m. Penance Service & Confession - *English*
 Saturday, December 20th 3:00-4:00 p.m. Bilingual Confession - *English & Polish*
 Sunday, December 21st 4:00-7:00 p.m. Bilingual Confession - *English & Polish*

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA (773)625-1118
 8033 W. Addison St.
 Chicago, IL 60651

Saturday, December 13th, 3:00-5:00 pm - English
Monday, December 22nd, 5:00-8:00 pm - Polish

Web Site: www.saintfrancisborgiachicago.com
 E-Mail: stfrancis-borgia@archchicago.org

OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH (773)625-3369
 8701 W. Lawrence Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60656

Please contact the Rectory for Holiday Confession details.

Web Site: www.ourladymotherchurch.com
 E-Mail: ourladymotherchurch.com

ST. WILLIAM (773)637-6565
 2600 N. Sayre Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60707

Monday, December 22nd, 6:00-8:00 pm

Web Site: www.saintwilliamparish.org
 E-Mail: stwilliam@archchicago.org

ST. CELESTINE (708)453-2555
 3020 N. 76th Ct.
 Elmwood Park, IL 60707

Please contact the Rectory for Holiday Confession details.

Web Site: www.stcelestineparish.org
 E-Mail: stcelestine@archchicago.org

ST. GERTRUDE (847)455-1100
 9613 Schiller Blvd.
 Franklin Park, IL 60131

Please contact the Rectory for Holiday Confession details.

Web Site: www.saintgertrudechurch.net
 E-Mail: stgertrude-schiller@archchicago.org

ST. ROSALIE (708)867-8817
 4401 N. Oak Park Ave.
 Harwood Heights, IL 60706

Tuesday, December 9th, 6:00-8:00 pm

Web Site: www.saintrosalie.org
 E-Mail: office@saintrosalie.org

DIVINE SAVIOR (708)456-9000
 7750 W. Montrose Ave.
 Norridge, IL 60706

Please contact the Rectory for Holiday Confession details.

Web Site: www.divinesaviornorridge.org
 E-Mail: dsavior@aol.com

ST. CYPRIAN (708)453-4800
 2601 N. Clinton St.
 River Grove, IL 60171

**Saturday, December 13th, 3:00 pm - Adult Advent
 Penance Service**

Web Site: www.stcyprian.org
 E-Mail: stcyprianchurch@netzero.net

ST. BEATRICE (847)678-0138
 4157 Atlantic Ave.
 Schiller Park, IL 60176

**Tuesday, December 16th, 7:00pm - Combined Advent
 Reconciliation Service at St. Maria Goretti**

Web Site: www.stbeatriceparish.org
 E-Mail: stbeatricechurch@sbcglobal.net

ST. MARIA GORETTI (847)678-3988
 3929 N. Wehrman Ave.
 Schiller Park, IL 60176

**Tuesday, December 16th, 7:00 pm - Advent
 Reconciliation Service**

E-Mail: stmariagoretti@archchicago.org

**Most Reverend
Blase J. Cupich**

**Ninth Archbishop
of Chicago**

**November 18th,
2014**

**WELCOME
Archbishop
Cupich**



**Francis Cardinal
George, OMI**

**Archbishop
Emeritus of
Chicago**

1997-2014

**THANK YOU
Cardinal George**



November 19, 2014

Dear Father and Parish Staff,

Yesterday, I mentioned that one of the reasons I chose November 18 for my installation was to highlight in this Year of Consecrated Life the great contribution of religious women as the Church celebrated the feast of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, RSCJ. And so, I am pleased that my first letter to you is a request asking for your help in promoting the annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Each of us has our own story of how our faith lives have been enriched by religious through their ministry in our dioceses, parishes, schools, hospitals and in countless other ways. Their efforts and service have allowed the Church to put its best foot forward and the world is better for it.

As I ask your support of this appeal, I invite you to think of it not only in terms of a matter of justice to care for their needs, but as an act of solidarity with them, letting them know that our appreciation for their witness is so strong that it prompts a desire to join them in their unique contribution to the life of the Church and society. That is the message I ask you to share with your parishioners on the weekend of December 13/14, as you take up this special collection. Please feel free to share this letter from the pulpit and/or publish it in your parish bulletin.

I take this opportunity to thank you for the many ways you as pastor and parish staff witness to the Gospel by your service to the people under your pastoral care. Please express to your parish family my heartfelt best wishes and pledge of remembrance in prayer as I thank God for many gifts.

Please forward your parish contribution to: Retirement Fund for Religious, Archbishop Quigley Center, P.O. Box 1979, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979, Attention: Sr. Lisa Polega, by January 31, 2015.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

**St. Priscilla gives Thanks to all our Parishioners and
Guests that make this Church flourish!**



Pictured above: St. Priscilla Thanksgiving Day Decoration

**SIMBANG GABI
ST. PRISCILLA CHURCH**



DECEMBER 20, 2014

**6:30 P.M. - Holy Rosary
7:00 P.M. - Simbang Gabi Mass
8:00 P.M. - McGowan Hall**



**Volunteers are WELCOME for
your time, talent, and treasure!
Bring a favorite food to share!**

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



WHY WE ASK YOU TO HELP

Skyrocketing Costs

- There are more than 35,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2013, the average annual cost for their care was \$39,400 per person.
- For each of the last five years, the total cost to support women and men religious has exceeded \$1 billion.

Insufficient Income

- By 2024, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earning religious by four to one (see chart, below).
- For most of their lives, elder religious worked for small stipends. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.
- Religious communities are financially autonomous and solely responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is \$5,123.43—roughly one-third the amount received by the average beneficiary in the United States.

HOW THE RFR MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Generous Donations and Careful Stewardship

- Over the last 25 years, Catholics in the United States have donated \$726 million to the RFR.
- Over 93 percent of donations to the RFR aid elder religious, with seven percent used for administration.

Financial and Consultative Support

- Since 1989, nearly \$609 million has been distributed to support the day-to-day care of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.
- An additional \$76 million has been allocated toward self-help projects initiated by religious communities, including collaborative health-care facilities and comprehensive retirement planning.
- In 2009, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) implemented a new process to help religious communities that are critically underfunded for retirement address their funding shortfalls. Since then, the NRRO has helped 103 communities, representing 12,955 religious, develop long-range retirement strategies.

Give thanks for religious. A parishioner writes, “We thank God today and every day for every religious sister who taught us in school, not only our ABCs, but also to love God.” Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



By 2024, the ratio of wage-earning to retired religious is projected to be 1:4.

Sources: Statistics for reporting years 1994, 2004, and 2014 based on data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office by participating religious institutes; 2024 projections based on William M. Mercer Mortality Tables for Religious.

Membership Status, NRRO Participating Religious Institutes

