

LOOK TWICE

I will look twice until I see Christ in you

Advent | Christmas 2024



Christmas Mass Times

NEW! - We have updated our Christmas Mass schedule for 2024. Please take note of our new schedule. Our hope is that these new times will aid in traffic flow and allow for a better Christmas experience for everyone who attends.

Christmas Eve | Tuesday, December 24

- 2:00 pm | Church & Fenlon Hospitality Center
Family Mass in the Church with the Singing Angels Children's Choir
- 4:30 pm | Church & Fenlon Hospitality Center
Adult Choir and Brass in the church with prelude music
- 8:30 pm | Church
An intimate "candlelight" liturgy with prelude music

Christmas Day | Wednesday, December 25

- 10:30 am | Church
Music prelude with brass beginning at 10:00 am



ADVENT MISSION

Bags of Compassion

Embrace the spirit of giving, donate and help assemble Bags of Compassion which will be dispersed by parishioners to people experiencing homelessness in our community during the Christmas season.

Items needed to reach our goal of 4,000 bags:

- Original Chapstick
- \$5 McDonald's gift cards
- Travel size toothbrush
- Travel size toothpaste
- Individually wrapped Beef Jerky
- Individually wrapped granola bars
- Individual pack of Wet Wipes



Scan QR code
for Amazon Wishlist.



Assembly of the bags will take place at our Advent Mission on December 9 at 6:30 pm in the church following our guest speaker.

From the Pastor



Dear Friends,

Our best selves really shine through at this time of year. The atmosphere invites people to turn their attention towards those who are, unfortunately, not noticed during the year. Our hearts

and attention turns towards helping and supporting others. I see in the faces of people a real joy when they give of themselves to help others. I personally have noticed that this season seems to be expanding and celebrated for more days. For some, it can be disappointing that the Christmas atmosphere begins in October. I can see the need for something better for many of us. We long to care for others, we long to share with others, we long for inclusion and to be noticed. This expanding of the time to celebrate this season is trying to fill a space that our human spirits need.

Our parish theme this year is, ***"I will look twice until I see Christ in you."*** This theme has been well received by many people. There are many stories of how relationships have been healed, that people are trying to see the good in others, that people are reminded that good behavior towards others is central to following Christ. This theme was chosen because we are all witnessing a restlessness in many people. We have been through a lot in the past years and we ask ourselves, "What does a Christian do to respond to such pain and sorrow?"

To "look twice" is to see the good, or draw out the good, in others. That others can be valued and be seen. It is what we bring to a broken world that can make a difference in other's lives and our own lives.

This year we are bringing back Bags of Compassion. These are bags filled with items that are useful to those living on the streets. We encounter them many times, and they are often looked past. It does not feel good to be invisible. We have talked to organizations that help those living on the streets and they have given us items that can best offer help for them. We will be putting these bags together at a special evening Advent Mission on December 9 at 6:30 pm in the Church. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we look twice at the people in need around us. We have a dynamic speaker who will share with us that evening and we will assemble the Bags of Compassion. Then, at our Christmas masses, we will bless all the bags and invite everyone to take them as they leave Mass and give them to those in need. We will have information on how to safely approach others and how to be respectful towards those in vulnerable situations.

During the Advent/Christmas season we will see so many people eager to serve others. Our human hearts are longing for such a way of life. Our hope is that our theme, and our calling to see Christ in every person we encounter will have a ripple effect that lasts long past this holiday season.

Please read and enjoy this Advent catalog. There are activities for the family, information on our liturgies and opportunities to enter more fully into this season. I look forward to seeing many people at our Advent masses and events, and also at our Christmas masses.

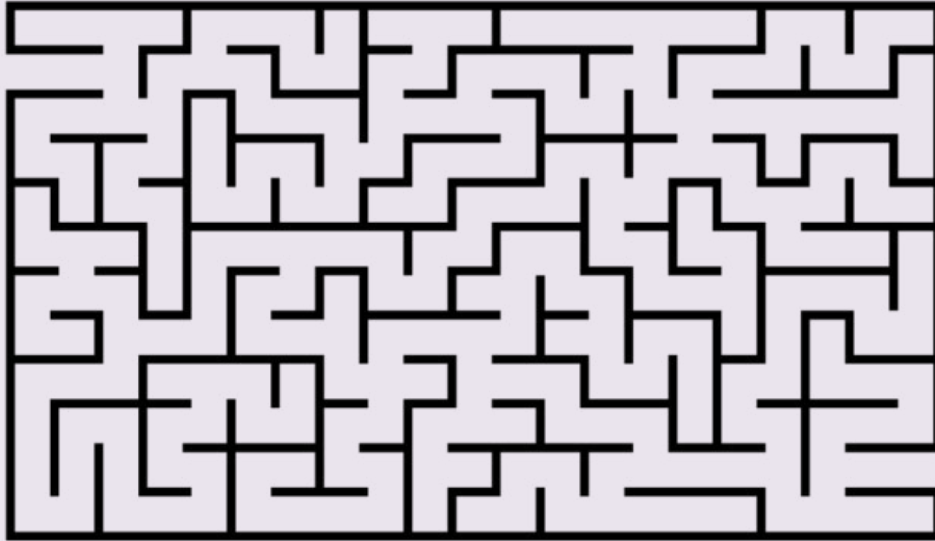
Peace in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Eric". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Eric Tellez
Pastor

Family & Kid Activities

Help Mary & Joseph reach the manger by completing the maze:



Advent Word Search

H	I	W	N	C	E	M	A	R	Y	E	E	D	U
A	T	W	A	M	L	N	O	N	N	N	S	S	N
H	D	I	M	M	H	E	S	E	L	S	H	A	A
R	C	V	R	H	K	S	T	A	R	E	E	S	M
H	A	L	E	A	E	I	U	P	M	J	P	S	E
T	M	C	K	N	R	I	O	S	M	S	H	E	S
A	E	E	N	D	T	D	T	N	E	S	E	E	I
E	L	A	R	R	K	D	R	T	H	J	R	A	W
R	S	N	A	R	E	W	I	E	H	H	D	N	N
W	H	G	B	M	M	N	R	E	H	S	J	A	M
T	C	E	G	C	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
E	D	L	M	O	S	N	D	D	O	N	K	E	Y
S	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	E	T	A	E	A	N
D	H	C	A	N	D	L	E	D	H	P	C	E	S

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| Jesus | Mary |
| Camel | Joseph |
| Candle | Wreath |
| Advent | Barn |
| Donkey | Angel |
| Christmas | Wiseman |
| Shepherd | |

Together as a family, brainstorm some of the ways you have been blessed as a family in 2024

Nativity Scavenger Hunt

Search for items or complete tasks related to the nativity story and Christmas traditions.

Materials Needed:

- Scavenger hunt list
- Small bags or baskets for collecting items
- Optional: stickers or small prizes



Scavenger Hunt List:

- **Star:** Find something that represents the Star of Bethlehem (e.g., a star ornament).
- **Angel:** Look for an angel figure, decoration, or picture.
- **Shepherd:** Spot a shepherd or a sheep (this could be a toy or a picture).
- **Wise Man:** Find a figure that represents one of the Wise Men.
- **Baby Jesus:** Locate a baby doll or any representation of baby Jesus.
- **Manger:** Search for a small box or structure that resembles a manger.
- **Nativity Scene:** Identify a nativity scene (could be a decoration or a book).
- **Christmas Card:** Find a card with a nativity or Christmas message.
- **Holiday Ornament:** Look for a holiday ornament that represents the season.

Prayer: Share a short prayer about the true meaning of Christmas with your family.

Advent Wreath Blessing

The advent wreath is a tradition that has found its place both in the Church and in the home. The blessing of an advent wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or the evening before. 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.

Leader: Our help is from the Lord,

All: who made heaven and earth.

Reader: Read Isaiah 9: 1-2 & 5-6

Leader:

Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of all people,
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.

All: Amen.



See Christ Through Service This Advent

Serving during Advent can be a wonderful way to embrace the season of giving and prepare spiritually for Christmas. Engaging in activities provides time together as family and friends to serve and talk about a variety of topics. Here are some meaningful ways to serve this Advent:

Volunteer at a Local Food Bank or Shelter

Many families struggle during the holiday season, and food banks or shelters are often in need of extra hands. You can help by sorting donations, preparing meals, or serving food. St. Vincent de Paul has a family dining room where children as young as five can serve.

Visit Nursing Homes or Senior Centers

Spend time with elderly residents by singing Christmas carols, delivering homemade cards, or simply talking with them. Many residents may not have family nearby during the holidays, and your visit can lift their spirits.

Support a Refugee or Immigrant Family

Partner with Welcome to America or an organization that supports refugee or immigrant families. Your family could help with donations, tutoring children, or hosting them for a meal.

Bake and Deliver Treats to Neighbors or First Responders

Bake cookies or other treats as a family and deliver them to neighbors, police stations, fire departments, or hospitals. It's a simple but heartfelt way to express gratitude and spread joy.

Donate Winter Clothes

Go through your closets as a family and donate gently used coats, scarves, hats, and gloves to a local charity. Many organizations run winter clothing drives during this season.

Create "Blessing Bags" for Teachers or Healthcare Workers

Prepare small gifts or notes of appreciation for teachers, medical office workers, or other essential workers. It's a tangible way to show gratitude for their hard work.

Pray for Those in Need

Set aside time each day to pray as a family for the less fortunate, the sick, the lonely, and those going through difficult times. You could create an Advent prayer chain, adding a prayer intention each day leading up to Christmas.



Sock Drive

Each weekend during Advent we invite you to bring white socks with you to Mass. There will be baskets in the church to drop off socks. Socks will be donated to André House, Justa Center, and Paz de Cristo. Thank you for your generosity during this season.



Adopt-a-Family and Giving Tree Return

- Please return your **Adopt-a-Family** gifts on the weekends of November 23 & 24 and November 30 & December 1.
- Please return your **Giving Tree** gifts (with ornament attached) on the weekends of November 30 & December 1 and December 7 & 8.
- Return to the House of Mercy



Bags of Compassion

Please return all items for the Bags of Compassion to the bins in the church or parish office by Sunday, December 8. Our hope is to assemble 4000 bags at our Advent Mission on December 9. For more information and a list of items needed, please see the inside cover of this catalog.

The Advent Season

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15 & 22

Regular Mass Schedule

White Sock Collection

at all Weekend Masses during Advent

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil at 4:30 pm.

Sundays at 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm.

ONLINE LITURGY

Mass will be broadcast on Facebook and YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 am and available on-demand any time after that

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday at 8:00 am and

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Penance Prayer Service on Facebook & YouTube
December 10 at 10:00 am and available on-demand any time after that throughout the season

Confession Times:

Saturdays | 3:00-4:00 pm (one priest)

December 4 & 11 | 6:00-7:30 pm (two priests)

December 18 | 6:00-8:00 pm with the Crosier Priests

Pointing to the Promise with Kevin Saunders

Saturdays, December 7, 14, & 21 | 9:00-11:00 am

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Celebrated Monday, December 9

Mass at 8:00 am & 12:05 pm (No 5:30 pm)

Advent Mission

Monday, December 9 | 6:30 pm

Special Guest Speaker: Rev. Rock Fremont
Bags of Compassion Assembly

Cookies & Carols

Tuesday, December 17 | 6:30 pm

Music, stories & dessert potluck

Christmas Mass

Christmas Eve | Tuesday, December 24

2:00 pm, 4:30 pm & 8:30 pm

Christmas Day | Wednesday, December 25
10:30 am



12th Annual Cookies & Carols

Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 pm

Featuring songs and stories of the season with great Advent/Christmas music sung by the combined Music Ministry featuring the Adult Choir, Singing Angels and the Youth and Young Adult Choir!

Dessert Potluck to follow. Bring a treat to share and drop it in Fenlon Hospitality Center before the event.



Pointing to the Promise

with Kevin Saunders

Saturdays

December 7, 14, & 21

*A three-session journey
through the Bible
on the way to the Nativity*

In this Advent-themed lecture series, Kevin Saunders will lead participants through all the significant Biblical passages that point to the promise of the Messiah who will be born as a baby in Bethlehem. Come to one or all of the sessions.



Good and Gracious God,

We come before You
with our hearts open
and eyes eager to see
Your presence in one another.
Help us to look twice,
beyond the surface,
and recognize Christ in each
person we encounter.

Grant us the grace
to see with eyes of love,
patience, and understanding.
May we reflect Your light and
love in our actions, words, and
thoughts, so that everyone
feels seen, valued, and loved.

Guide us on our journey to
truly see and be Christ
for each other.

Amen.



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