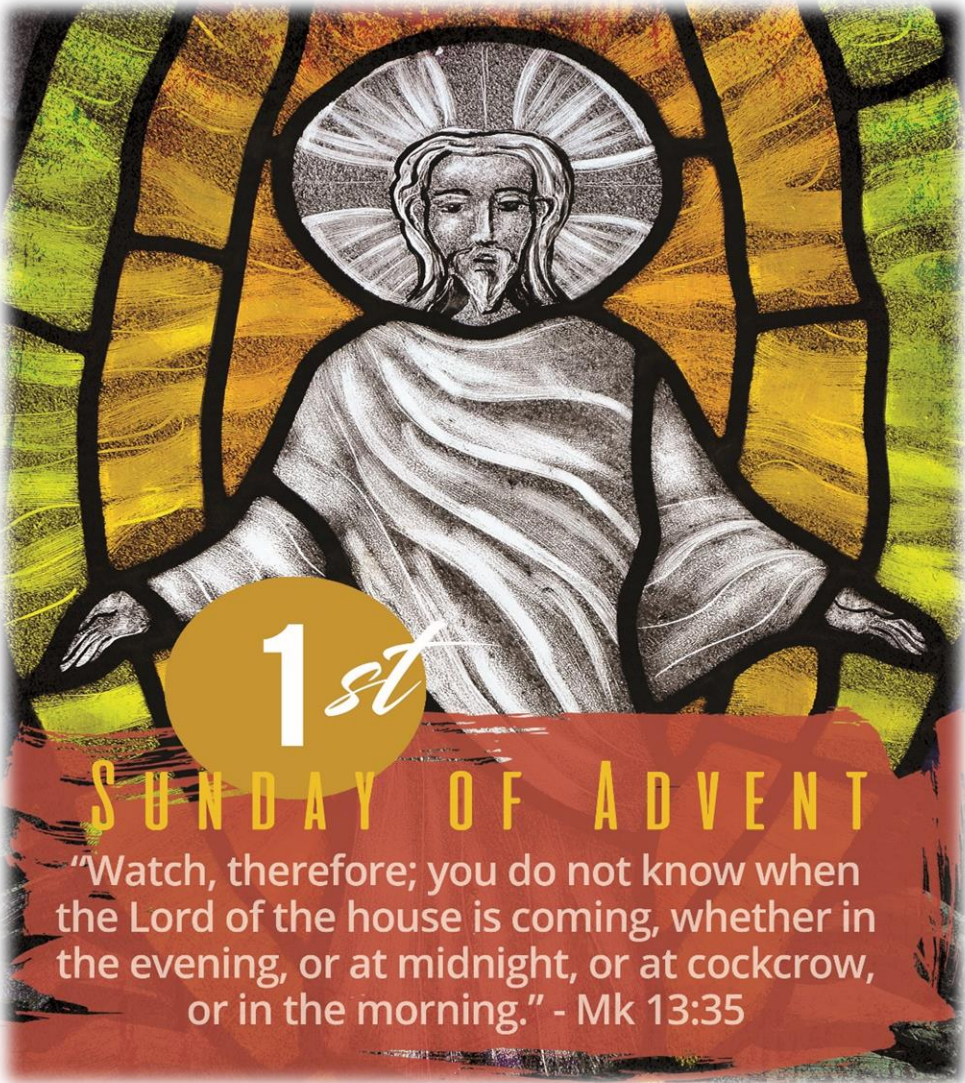


# Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



## SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning." - Mk 13:35

**3411 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20032  
[www.assumptiondc.org](http://www.assumptiondc.org)**



***Rev. Gregory Shaffer, Pastor***

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** 4:30 pm  
**Sunday Mass:** 10:00 am  
**Daily Mass:** Monday thru Saturday 12:10 pm  
**Eucharistic Adoration:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 12:00 noon  
**Confessions:** Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm, Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 noon  
or anytime by appointment

**Address:** 3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20032

**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Tuesday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**Pastor:** Father Greg Shaffer  
202-561-4178 Cell 240-463-9960

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**Secretary:** Mrs. Cheryl Hamlin-Williams

**Phone:** 202-561-4178 Fax 202-561-0336

**Email:** [info@assumptiondc.org](mailto:info@assumptiondc.org)

**Pope Francis**

**Outreach Center :** Food Pantry and Clothing Room

**Director:** Ms. Mildred Brown

**Assistant Director** Ms. Brenda Hare

**Hours of Operation:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

**Phone:** 202-561-5941 Fax 202-561-4024

**Email** [outreach@assumptiondc.org](mailto:outreach@assumptiondc.org)



**First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2017**

Is it just me, or did November completely fly by? Hard to believe, but we are into December and thus, into the season of Advent. I thought it would be good to be reminded of some popular Catholic traditions concerning Advent as well as good insights from catholiccompany.com to get us into the spirit of this holy season.

May you know the peace of Christ,

Fr Greg

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### **WHAT DOES ADVENT MEAN?**

Advent derives from the Latin *adventus* meaning ‘arrival’ or ‘approach’. For thousands of years the world waited for the coming of the Messiah to redeem and to save the human race, restoring mankind’s relationship to God.

We, too, experience this same longing for the coming of Christ. Spiritually, we long for the coming of Christ into our hearts as the Holy Spirit draws us into ever deepening relationship with Him; we also long for Christ in his Second Coming, when He will return physically to earth—as He promised—to restore all things to Himself.

### **Therefore, the Advent season has these characteristics:**

It is a season of,

- 1) Hopeful longing,
- 2) Joyful expectation,
- 3) Prayerful penance, and
- 4) Spiritual preparation.

It looks to,

- 1) Salvation history of the past,
- 2) Our present redemption being accomplished, and
- 3) the future coming of Christ.

**Advent connects us spiritually with God's whole plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.**

### Popular Advent Traditions

**Advent Wreath:** One of the most popular ways to celebrate Advent is with an Advent wreath or Advent candleholders. Four candles (three purple and one pink), are used to count down the weeks until Christmas. Each Sunday of Advent one of the candles is lit and special prayers are said. Each Sunday of Advent has a particular theme leading up to the birth of Christ.

**Advent Dinners:** Make the Sundays of Advent into something special. Prepare a nice dinner or host a potluck and invite over family & friends. This would be a great time to light the candles on your Advent wreath and invite all to join in the special prayers for that week.

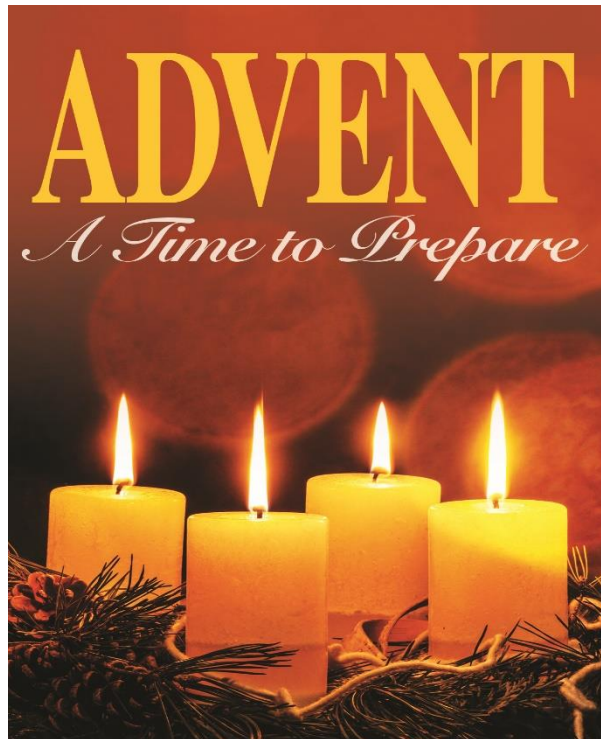
**Advent Devotional Reading:** There are lots of great Advent books ([www.catholiccompany.com/advent-prayer-books](http://www.catholiccompany.com/advent-prayer-books)) that take you deeper into the profound theology of Advent. God comes to us as a Child, and this is amazing to think about! Going through each day with devotional reading is one of the best ways to spiritually prepare yourself for Christmas, the birth of the King of Kings.

**Nativity Scenes:** Nativity sets are a classic tradition and are great to display during the Advent season. To make the display especially poignant, wait until Christmas Eve to place the Baby Jesus into the scene. The Vatican has a neat tradition of the Holy Father blessing the Baby Jesus from family nativity scenes, called Bambinelli Sunday. This takes place on the third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday. Perhaps you could ask your parish priest to bless your Baby Jesus figure!

**Advent Penance Services:** Advent is known as the “little Lent” and is therefore a time for penitential practices. Many Catholic parishes have special penance services for Advent. Confession is an important part of preparing room for the coming of Christ into our hearts, that is, allowing Him to draw us into deeper conversion.

**Small Sacrifices for the Christ Child:** Because Advent is known as the “little Lent,” prayer, alms, and sacrifices are also a part of Advent season. Just as the Magi labored through a long journey to worship and gave precious gifts to the Christ Child, so we can do the same; we can give the Baby Jesus our sacrifices during the Advent season.

**Almsgiving:** Good deeds and generosity have always been an important part of preparation for Christmas



**Healing Prayers for:** Yvonne Lesesne, Ayanna Hook, Juanita Watkins, Deacon Ralph Cyrus, Burdell Thomas, Angella Greene, Frederick McNeil, James Anthony Murphy, Queen Bundy, Earnest Ingram.Jr., John Howard, Iris Best, Helena Haley, Dorothy Hollis, Calvin Best Gisele Best, Lezeal Rorie, Corinne Bachiller, Lillian Taylor, , Tracy Stachitis, Veronica Brown, Deacon McBurnett Smith, Marsha Carlson-Meyers, Dr. Dee Jones Adams, Barry Robella, Father Dan Vitz, Eleonora Best, Jane Rhyne, Faye Lyon, Abby Fargo, Mildred Selmar, Heather Wooten-Rollins, Brenda Newman, Malek Elloit, Kennedy Wood, Courtney Barlow, Christine Jones, Benjamin Davis, Ronald Horton, Madison McKenzie, Jamil McKenzie, Samuel James Guadalupe, Shawntrice Moore, Bridget Barlow, Veronica Harris, Teresa Wilkinson, Sherri Ewing, Pauline Haggins, Dorothy Sylvester, Tiffany Jacobs, Darlene Jones, Paul Higgins, Audrey Saunders, Pauline Johnson, June Murphy

**Our Homebound Parishioners:** Mary Cooke, Sybil Depeazer, Louvenia Gray, Fr. Charles Green, Pauline Johnson, Yvonne Samuel, Audrey Saunders, Joan Shields, Elizabeth Smith.

### **LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK- December 3, 2017**

On this First Sunday of Advent, we are asked to be watchful and alert. Because of our baptism we are called to be gatekeepers of God's house and God's servants. We have been put in charge of caring for what God has made--the earth around us and our brothers and sisters. Being responsible means being attentive to what is within our care. Are we responsible and attentive stewards or does our attention and focus often wander to things that are not important to the kingdom of God?

### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK -Mark 3:33-37**

Jesus warns his disciples to be alert for the end-time. How will you practice this spiritual exercise during the season of Advent?

### **READINGS FOR THEWEEK**



Monday: Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Lk 1:26-38  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8  
**Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8**



# Announcements

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be at 12:19 PM and 7:00 PM, on Friday December 8, 2017.

## A Penance Service here at Assumption

One of the best birthday presents you can give to Jesus is your sins! Two priests will join Fr Greg in hearing confessions in the Church. This is a great Advent practice. Please join us on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:00 PM

## St. Benedict the Moor's Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 16, 2017 the Women's Day Committee is sponsoring a holiday bazaar. Vendors, Crafters, Food and Music. Buy that special someone a unique gift. Bring a friend 320 21<sup>st</sup> Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20002, from 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

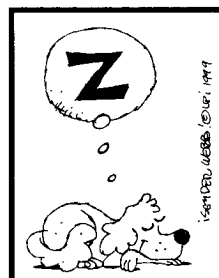
## Assumption Christmas Social sponsored by Glorify Praise Team

On Sunday, December 17, 2017 following the mass, please join us caroling and fellowship. Light refreshments will be served. Our Youth Choir will sing, along with other musical performers. Come and be blessed

## St. Thomas More Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 3:00 pm. To purchase tickets, please contact Mrs. Cheryl Hamlin-Williams at the rectory. Tickets: \$15.00

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*December 3 This Sunday, as we celebrate the 1st Sunday of Advent, our parish and others across the Archdiocese of Washington also begin the Find the Perfect Gift invitation. Through Find the Perfect Gift this Advent, we are challenged to invite family, friends, neighbors, or coworkers who are not currently practicing their faith to join us for Christmas Mass to experience the love and joy of the Jesus, our Perfect Gift. Find Christmas invitations, additional resources, and parish Mass times online at [FindthePerfectGift.org](http://FindthePerfectGift.org).*



**The Dominican House of Studies** student Brothers, of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph have released a new album of Americana music, *The Hillbilly Thomists*. With folk classics such as “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms,” “What Wondrous Love,” and a new take on “Amazing Grace” the Hillbilly Thomists of the Brothers go back to classic American spirituals to bring our listeners closer to the Lord. Your support of this album will aid the formation of the many Dominican student brothers in Washington, DC. CDs can be purchased for \$15 from ---Brother Damian or Brother Barnabas after Masses on December 9 and 10 or through the brothers’ daily blog at <http://www.dominicanajournal.org/ht/>. Thank you for your generosity!

*December 3, 2017*