



The Last Days of Advent

Most of us have these days of December filled with all kinds of activity, and maybe some of us are already worn out. I have even heard a few people say over the years, “I can’t wait until Christmas is over, and we can get back to normal.” In a way, that is a sad commentary on how secular celebrations of Christmas (including the shopping, card writing, etc.) can really zap our energy and make us feel empty and frustrated. The last days of Advent may be busier than ever for many of us, therefore, making it more difficult to make final preparations for our spiritual side to welcome Jesus into our world and lives.

As my own life has become busier over the years with more responsibilities, I have found one consoling thought to be of great help. If everything is not done by Christmas Day, I do not get too upset. Our society says that Christmas is pretty much over by December 26th. Our church, however, says that our Christmas celebration ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is on January 8th of next year. It is still acceptable to send or receive a Christmas greeting anytime in that period. In fact, some people appreciate some Christmas celebration after the day itself, since they have a little more time to appreciate all that this season is about. It is also still acceptable to give a gift to someone we care about, even if it is after Christmas Day. The spirit of Christmas knows no time limitations. The spirit that brings us to loving others is one that is to last every day of the year.

During these last days of Advent, let us try as best we can to have some quiet time to reflect on what it means for us to have Jesus enter our world and our hearts. When December 26th arrives, let us remember that we are still celebrating the birth of one who came as one of us and continues to make His presence known to us: Jesus Christ.

Father David

Parking on Christmas Eve at Willowbrook Nature Center

Once again, the Willowbrook Nature Center across the street from our church, has graciously offered their parking lot for our parishioners’ cars on Christmas Eve during the 4:00 P.M. Masses (Mass at 4:00 P.M. will be celebrated in both the church and in the Parish Hall.) There are approximately 90 spaces in their lot. You will need to remove your car by 6:00 P.M. at the latest as the gate will be then be closed and locked. Therefore, their lot may only be used for the 4:00 P.M. Masses on Christmas Eve.

Father David

Thank You to Our Art & Environment Committee

As we go through the liturgical year, our church is decorated to reflect the particular theme of each season. So many parishioners have commented how beautiful our church looks that I felt it important to acknowledge the group of people that is responsible for the décor that we have. These dedicated and talented parishioners make up the Art and Environment Committee. The group consists of two chair people, Marilyn Potyen and Pauline Briggs as well as the following: Joyce Carey, Mary Griffin, Mary Ann Kaufman, Noel Luchinski, Jen Nevis, Christie Novak, Marge Pekel, Lea Smetana, Elaine Uhler. I thank all of these people for all they do in making our worship space so prayerful and beautiful. May God bless you!

Father David