SACRED SEASONS

Advent: Waiting with Hope

Advent, from Latin, *adventus*, meaning “coming towards” or “arrival” is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and is the start of the Christmas season, which lasts through the Baptism of Our Lord. The first Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of the Liturgical Year, the Church's "New Year's Day”.

Advent and Christmas focus on both the *past*—the coming of Jesus as an infant born into poverty in Bethlehem, and the *future*—the coming of Christ in glory to fulfill God’s loving purposes for humanity. This past and future orientation is reflected in the scriptural readings appointed in the Church for each Sunday of Advent.

Advent is a time of joyous anticipation, but also of penance and preparation for the great Christmas feast. The liturgical color of the season is purple, a sign of penance and hope.

This year, consider seeing the whole Christmas “cycle” as one unit of joyous celebration. Preparation comes first, then celebration extending a few weeks after Christmas Day. Our thirst for the Messiah will be quenched not just on December 25th, but every day of our lives.

The key figures during Advent are of course Blessed Virgin Mary and John the Baptist. Mary, as she waited for the birth of her child into an uncertain world, knew how to live with hope—to believe the promises of God. So Advent is a time when we wait, with Mary, for the birth of new life into a world living in shadows. John the Baptist prepared the way to salvation. Let us listen to them, watch with them, and keep awake with them for the greater celebration of Light.

I personally urge and recommend our families to have stress free preparations and a lasting, joyful celebration. To guide you, join our parish family in the Sunday liturgies each week. As we joyfully give and receive gifts,

let us not forget the priceless gifts we receive through our parish, and be thankful in return.

Let's be purified, and renewed by God's Grace by approaching the Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Holy Season. Please read the bulletin for Reconciliation dates and times and further liturgies. Above all, have a wonderful time of peace and joy. ***Be prepared to sing the "Glory and Peace" with the Angels; and be ready to share the "Good News of Salvation" with the Shepherds.***

Wishing You a Peaceful Season of Advent.

Father Sathi Antony, Pastor St. Peter's Parish
November 28, 2026

Sacrament of Reconciliation Opportunities During Advent:

Tuesdays: 5PM to 630PM

Wednesdays to Fridays: 8AM to 9AM, 9.30 AM to 10.30AM

Saturdays: 4PM to 4.45PM, 6PM to 7PM.

Also check with neighboring parishes bulletins for their dates and times.