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**FROM THE PASTOR** The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

**Friday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass schedule is under the daily schedule.

I had mentioned that I would be leading an Advent study series. However, because of ill planning on my part and the fast and furious nature that this Advent season will have, I will not be leading a study series this Advent. I apologize for not delivering on what I had previously agreed to do.

8On Tuesday, December 19th, Bishop Vincke will be visiting our parishes. It also so happens St. Joseph communal penance service is Tuesday evening. In addition to confessions, Bishop Vincke will be giving a short talk. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of if you will be participating in the penance service.

**The Advent Confession schedules** are at the entrances of the church. Please refer to them for confessions at each of the parishes in the West Deanery.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Sacred Heart Parish Mission in Colby on December 17-20, 2023, featuring Guest Speakers Bishop Gerald Vincke of the Diocese of Salina and Fr. Scott Bailey of the Archdiocese of Denver! Topics include the Eucharist, Confession, Devotion to the Sacred Heart, & Friendship with Jesus. There will be a Reception in the Church Basement following the first night of the Mission with Bishop Vincke for all mission attendees. Childcare will be provided! We hope you will join us that week to grow in faith and love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Office of Family Advent Family Challenge: We will do our second annual Advent Family Challenge. Please make sure you are keeping an eye on our website and social media for more information. <https://salinadiocese.org/office/family-life/advent-family-challenge/> Pick one night a week during Advent for a family night. Clear your schedule, put the phones in the other room, turn off the TV, make and share a meal together, and then watch something together from Formed.org. Pray the Novena for Marriage and Families with us. Each day (December 22nd – December 30th), we will send out the daily prayer through social media and on our website so your family can join with families all over our diocese praying together for marriages and families. Go to Mass together as a family on the Feast of the Holy Family (December 30th).

**Oakley Musicians Abroad** students are selling Poinsettias. They are offering 3 different colors red, red glitter, and white for \$37 each. If you are interested, please contact Nolin Kuhlman, Brooke Smith, or Kenna Selzer. **NOTE – These do not replace the normal poinsettias for the parish.**

**ST. JOSEPH NEWS**

If you have not received your contribution envelopes in the mail, they should be arriving soon. This will be the new method of distributing contribution envelopes instead of yearly boxes. I believe they will be delivered quarterly. If you did not receive your contribution envelopes and wish to receive them, please contact Fr. Luke as soon as possible.

**Attached to the new ministry schedules** is a simple reminder of the duties that come with each ministry. Please take a couple minutes to look over them to freshen up on them. Thank you!

**ST. PAUL NEWS**

Knights of Columbus meeting is Monday, December 4th at 7pm in the hall.

The Night of Prayer for Life will be at St Paul's beginning at 8:00pm on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is to go to the Feast of St Juan Diego on December 9th. We are praying for not only the end of abortion, but for people to understand why abortion and contraception have not been condoned by the Catholic Church. The normal format will be followed.

At the beginning of Advent, I will put out signup sheets with lists of tasks to be done for clearing out the church on Wednesday, December 27th. Some things that will be generally needed are clean pickup beds to haul to the K of C Hall, basic power tools, a couple ladders, boxes, and carpet remnants to put between the faux organ pipes while they are being stored in the garage.

**Capital Campaign Update:** \$638K pledged and \$321K in the bank. Thank you for your continued support!!!!

**Our Tithes from Last Week**

Oakley: \$2842.00    Angelus: \$428.00

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

Sat	02 – 8am Confessions 9am Mass 5pm Mass + Robert "Bob" George 6pm - 20 <sup>th</sup> Annual Winterblast Fundraiser for St. Joseph School
Sun	03 – 8am Mass (Angelus) - Parishioners 9am Coffee & Conversation at the Annex 10:30am Mass + Loretta Schoenfeld
Mon	04 – No Mass
Tues	05 – 8:30am Mass + Special Intention 9:30am Bible Study
Wed	06 – 7:30am Mass (Angelus) + Cleon Heinrich 7pm CCD classes
Thur	07 – 8:30am Mass + Dale Chrisler 5pm Mass + Parishioners 7pm Mass (Angelus) + Royce Fellhoelter
Fri	08 – 6:50am Mass + Jesse Hockersmith 6:30pm Mass + Kathleen Weigel
Sat	09 – 5pm Mass + Pauline Zimmerman
Sun	10 – 8am Mass (Angelus) + Don Loader 10:30am Mass - Parishioners

Confessions 30 minutes before Weekend Masses, by appointment, or if indicated on the schedule.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Darin Munk	Mrs. Aimee Zimmerman - Chair
Mr. David Manhart	Mr. Mason Sheetz
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Mrs. Bridgit Bockwinkel	Mrs. Dana Charles – Vice Chair
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Mr. Bernard Dickman	Ms. Diane Solomon - Chair
Mr. Clem Fellhoelter	Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
Mrs. Kristy Fellhoelter - Vice Chair	Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> 5 pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 am	Servers	Carter K., Madeline K. & Payton K.
	Lector	Elaine Wycoff		Lector	Bailey Anderson
	Gifts	Darren & Tori Goetz Family		Gifts	Jerrad & Casey Zerr Family
	Hospitality	David & Dana Charles		Hospitality	Jerrad & Casey Zerr Family

Sunday, Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> 8 am	Servers	Johnathan Ostmeyer
	Lectors	Bill Kuhlman & Barney Dickman
	EMHC	Ron Lager
	Gifts	Eugene & Linda Schwarz
	Hospitality	Ron Lager, Larry Mense, Gary Ostmeyer & Jeff Ostmeyer