

17 December 2023
III Sunday of Advent (Both Calendars)
Gaudete Sunday

Sunday Mass: Anticipated Sat. 4PM/Sun. 8AM Ancient Rite Latin Mass
Sunday 9:30 AM (Live-streamed) 11 AM
Confessions: Please consult the schedule on the opposite page for
Confessions before Christmas

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Mon. 18 Dec. Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8 AM Ancient Rite Latin Mass
For: Special Intention

Tue. 19 Dec. Bl. Pope Urban V (1370), Pope
8 AM For: Stephen Pacykowski+
Req: Mr. & Mrs. William Alessi
Holy Rosary for the Preborn and the Newborn

Wed. 20 Dec. Sts. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Patriarchs
7 PM For: Cathy Stich+
Req: Frances Durant

Thu. 21 Dec. St. Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church
8 AM For: James D. Sheehy+
Req: Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Breckenridge

Fri. 22 Dec. Sts. Chaeremon & Ischyron, Martyrs
8 AM For: Lionell Morin+
Req: Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Dostie

Sat. 23 Dec. St. John of Kanty
NO 8 AM MASS TODAY/ NO CONFESSIONS AT 7:30 AM
4 PM For: The Parishioners of OLGCC

Sun. 24 Dec. IV Sunday of Advent
8 AM For: Katie Mazur+ (1st Ann.)
Req: Her Parents

9:30 AM For: Doris Maciag+
Req: Mr. & Mrs. Stephen van Lieshout

NO 11 AM MASS THIS SUNDAY

ROSARY SOCIETY COOKIE SALE TODAY AFTER ALL MASSES

The women of the Rosary Society have been hard at work to make those special treats that add to our Christmas celebrations. Please patronize them and support their good work.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: TUE. 19 DEC. RECTORY

Jr. High Class 7 PM Adult Education 8 PM

EMBER DAYS THIS WEEK

Those who follow the traditional liturgical calendar of the Church may wish to observe the Ember Days, (Wed., Fri. and Sat.) of this week. The Ember Days are days of prayer and penance at the beginning of each season. Formerly, it was required to fast and partially abstain (meat only once a day) on the Wed. and Sat. of the week, and of course, complete abstinence on Friday. While these days are no longer in the new liturgical calendar, it is praiseworthy to observe them still out of devotion.

ENVELOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR

If you would like a set of envelopes for 2024, and have not been issued a set in the past, please print your first and last name on the list on the bulletin board, and we will issue you a set.

MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

Please note that there will be **NO MASS Sat. 23 Dec. at 8 AM,**
and there will be NO MASS Sun. 24 Dec. at 11 AM.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Mon. 18 Dec. "The Light is On" 4-7 PM

Wed. 20 Dec. 6-6:55 PM

Thu. 21 Dec. 11-12 Noon

Sat. 23 Dec. 2:30-3:30 PM and 6:30-7:30 PM

THE MASSES OF CHRISTMAS

Sun. 24 Dec. 4 PM Mass of the Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord

Mon. 25 Dec. 12 Midnight Mass in the Night (Ancient Rite Latin)

Mon. 25 Dec. 9:30 AM Mass at Dawn

Mond. 25 Dec. 11AM Mass in the Day

Fathers, Bless your Wives and your Children

“The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills.”

(Gen. 49:26).

In *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, Cardinal Ratzinger discusses the importance of various gestures and postures, and has this beautiful passage about the importance of the Sign of the Cross:

“I shall never forget the devotion and heartfelt care with which my father and mother made the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, mouth, and breast of us children when we went away from home, especially when the parting was a long one. This blessing was like an escort that we knew would guide us on our way. It made visible the prayer of our parents, which went with us, and it gave us the assurance that this prayer was supported by the blessing of the Savior. The blessing was also a challenge to us not to go outside the sphere of this blessing. Blessing is a priestly gesture, and so in this Sign of the Cross we felt the priesthood of our parents, its special dignity and power. I believe that this blessing should come back in a much stronger way into our daily lives.”

The Patriarchs of the Old Testament understood the importance of blessings. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, all blessed their children, particularly the first-borns. In fact, the first-born blessing was so important, that Jacob stole Esau's blessing from Isaac (Gen. 27:27-29). And, as the book of Genesis concludes, there the long blessing of Jacob to his twelve sons, who became the twelve tribes of Israel.

In Latin, the word “to bless” is *benedicere*: literally “to speak well”. The opposite is *maledicere*, “to speak evil” or “to curse”. St. James reminds us that from the same mouth come blessing and cursing (Jas. 3:10). Let's be men and speak well and give blessings! Let's be conduits of God's love and mercy to those around us. Let's take Pope Benedict's advice about our parental priesthood, and give out Signs of the Cross to our wives and children.

One of my favorite responsibilities as a father is the blessing before bed: Simply make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one you are blessing and say: “May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain forever.”

(Adapted from the article by Bryan Gomez in “The Catholic Gentleman”, 15 Dec. 2023. Thanks to Tim Brzuszkiewicz for referring me to this article).