



TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

November 29, 2020 | VOLUME 49 NUMBER 48 | First Sunday of Advent

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:

BE WATCHFUL
BE ALERT

YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE TIME WILL COME

—
Mark 13:33

Advent at Home

JESSE TREE WEEK 1 THE PROMISE OF GOD

The symbols of the Jesse Tree this week represent the Promise of God made to man in the Early World – The Time of Creation to Abraham and Isaac.

November 30 – Creation

Symbol- The Earth

Scripture – Genesis 1:1-2:3

This symbol reminds us how we all began: from God's desire, with God's breath filling us, and with God reminding us that we are good.

God's word brought light to darkness and creative shape to the formless abyss. May God, who can create worlds out of nothing, recreate our lives and bring light to the darkness of confusion.



December 1 – Adam & Eve

Symbol – Apple/Snake

Scripture – Genesis 2:4-3:24

This symbol represents the first parents. We are fascinated by this story of our fall into sin – the snake, the apple, the desire to be like God. At the Easter Vigil we proclaim: O happy fault, O necessary sin... that won for us such a great redeemer!

In our first fall from grace lay the seed of our return to eternal bliss. May it teach us to learn from our mistakes.



December 2 – Noah

Symbol – Ark/Rainbow

Scripture – Genesis 8:21-9:17

This symbol reminds us of Noah's obedience, which saved his family and his world. After the great flood, a rainbow appeared in the sky to remind us of God's everlasting covenant with us.

Sin and grace meet in our lives as God's chosen ones. Our obedience to God will help us navigate the stormy seas of life.



December 3 – Abraham

Symbol – Night Sky

Scripture – Genesis 12:1-7, 15:1-6, 17:1-8

Abram was given a new name and a new promise: you shall be called Abraham and your descendants shall be more numerous than the stars of the sky. Our father in the faith believed in one God.

*Abraham believed in God's promise, and in his faith our own was born.
May we, like Abraham, walk with strong faith in God's presence.*



December 4 – Isaac

Symbol – Ram

Scripture – Genesis 22:1-18



Born to aged parents, Isaac nearly became the sacrifice that Abraham was to offer to God. Ever obedient, Abraham is given his son back and God's intention is made clear.

Your eternal covenant, O God is a covenant sealed in the blood of your son. May the God of Abraham and Isaac weep with us when we grieve those we have lost.

Check out this free resource from *Catholic Inspired*:

https://www.catholicinspired.site/uploads/1/1/0/0/110088477/jesse_2.pdf

Please note that if you look up Jesse Tree you will find some variation in the symbols and passages depending on what version you come across. Each week we will list the symbols and passages that we are using here at STM, feel free to use the resources you find on your own or follow along with the ones presented here.



Pope Francis

@Pontifex

Every form of fundamentalist intolerance damages relationships between individuals, groups and peoples. Let us be committed to living and teaching the value of respect, a love capable of welcoming differences, and the priority of the dignity of every human being.

Make your Angel Tree selection this weekend

Volunteers will be in the back of church after all Masses the weekend of Nov. 28 - 29, to help you and your family select an Angel from the STM Angel Tree. The Angel Tree Project has a collection of Angel ornaments for children, adults and seniors. Angel gifts/gift cards should be returned to the tree, wrapped, and affixed with the Angel ornament code facing out, by Dec. 6.

If you have any questions regarding the STM Angel Tree Project or want to find out how you can help, please contact Crystal Hebert at 225-400-5326 or Lisa Johnson at 225-802-3222.

God Bless you for sharing with the less fortunate this Christmas season!



SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Ronald Gauthier the week of Nov. 29 as requested by Sharon Mann.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Dec. 1 - 6 p.m.: Carol Thibodeaux, Fannie Schittone, Jeffrey Crockett Sr., Shirley Pecoraro

Thursday, Dec. 3 - 8:45 a.m.: Gwen Smith

Saturday, Dec. 5 - 4:30 p.m.: Frank Alello

Sunday, Dec. 6 - 8 a.m.: Flo Rageur; **10 a.m.:** Kirby Courville, Peggy and Tommy Day, Jenny Maddie, Ida Mae Alonzo, Frances Haydel, Brian Dowling, Frank Richard, Helen and Leo Griggs; **5 p.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors

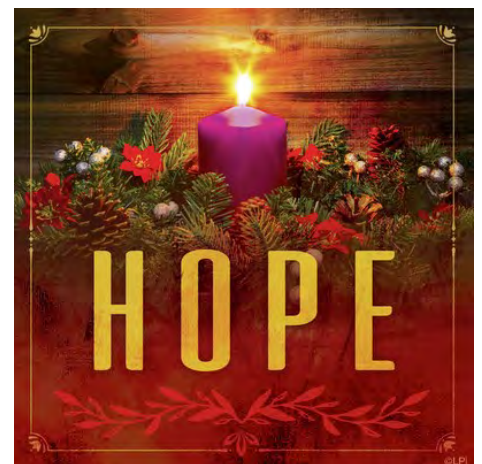
PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers these seriously ill persons: Gail Babin, Bill Bailey, Pat Bailey, Johnnie Broussard, Liz Ferguson, Helen Fox, Jane Gelpi, Larry Gibson, David Longwell, Cathey Merle, Carolyn Perkins, Lydia Pourciau, Shelly Romero, Adelaide Rule, Suzette Snow, Brant Theriot, Grace Thompson, Barbara Tureau, Loressa Watts, D.J. Webre, Thomas Webre.



PRAYER LINE

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call Sharon Hebert at 225-978-1246 (leave your name and phone number if there is no answer), or send a request by email to prayerline@stmbr.org.



MORE Advent at Home

Blessing of Advent Wreath and Daily Prayer for Week 1

Each day your family should gather around the Advent wreath, generally before the evening meal. The proper number of candles are then lighted and a prayer is said.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

It starts at the evening meal on the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent with the blessing of the wreath. The head of the household is designated as the Leader and the candle is lit each night by a designated family member. The following prayer can be used or if you have already had this tradition in your household use what you have used in the past or find a different version online.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from You abundant graces. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The wreath would then be sprinkled with water. The following prayer should be repeated each day during the first week.

After the prayer, the family's youngest child lights the first purple candle. (Family members can also take turns lighting and blowing out the candles on each night.)

Leader: O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come, That by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The candle is allowed to burn during evening meals for the first week.



Join us in church for **Bambinelli Sunday** — either virtually or in person this year — the weekend of Dec. 12-13. All families are invited to bring the Christ Child figure from your Nativity scene at home to church with you (or have them with them as they watch the live streamed 10 a.m. Mass) to receive this annual blessing. This year the students at STM School will participate in a special way. Each classroom is creating their own Nativity scene, and classes will choose representatives to bring “their” Christ Child forward for blessing during each Mass!

Due to Covid restrictions the fellowship activities for families after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses will be outside or take-home. We WILL have the opportunity to take family pictures at the creche, and encourage you to come and have your photo taken. The photo will help your family remember “the reason for the season!”

CHURCH STAFF

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Permanent Deacon

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Pastoral Associate

Sr. Janelle Sevier

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Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

Hospitality Ministers & Liturgical Assistants Needed

With the increased number of attendees at Mass on the weekends, we are in need of more volunteers to serve as Hospitality Ministers or Liturgical Assistants. Especially as we look toward Christmas services at the end of December, we will need extra smiling eyes and cheerful voices to welcome people at the doors to our church.

Our current group of Liturgical Ministers has been going strong for almost seven months but some Masses are now becoming short-handed as personal schedules and life happenings prevent them from being able to commit to a continued weekly attendance.

If you are willing to help greet people at the door, remind them to keep their masks up, and to stop and sanitize their hands as they enter the building, please contact Sarah Neau (neaus@stmbr.org) at the parish office to be added to the list of available people.

There does not have to be direct contact with people as you greet them or, if you have figured out the seating arrangements we use, directing them to be seated.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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