



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

## THIS SUNDAY November 27 & BEYOND

This Sunday we enter Advent, the season in which we prepare for the comings of our Lord Jesus Christ. While the season will culminate with our celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas – his first, historical coming – we can't forget that there are two others: his final coming “with power and great glory” *and* his ongoing one. At his birth in Bethlehem, the Word of God himself enters human history, and the Advent Mass readings provide the context for that. In the Old Testament readings from the prophets we hear the message of hope in the coming Messiah and how he would be recognized. In the Gospel readings we hear John the Baptist preparing the people of that specific time, reminding them of the prophecies and calling them to repentance. In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus himself reminds us that this call is no less urgent today, as his final coming will be at an “unexpected hour.”



The Preaching of John the Baptist by Pieter Bruegel, the Elder

We need to be especially mindful then of all the ongoing ways that Jesus comes to us, whether through his grace, his providence, or the sacraments, and that isn't going to happen by accident. We don't honor Jesus or make the most of what he's offering if we come to the sacraments unprepared. If our hearts aren't already familiar with him, it's difficult to even recognize Jesus' coming through grace and the various circumstances of our lives.

Advent is a great time for the kind of intentional preparation we need to receive Jesus ever more fully into our lives. Much like New Year's resolutions, spiritual resolutions require some reflection on our current state and the steps we can take to change it for the better. How often do we give ourselves the opportunity to encounter Jesus, whether through prayer and worship, Bible study, or service to others? And are we mostly present and reverent in these times, or often just going through the motions? Once you've considered those things, make specific goals, like spending fifteen minutes a day reading the gospel lesson from Mass and meditating on it, choosing a specific book of the Bible to study in more depth, or reading a particular book about the spiritual life. As Paul tells us, we're closer to Jesus'

arrival than when we first believed – so let us with joy and urgency make the most of the present time.

Father McQueen

## Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 24:37-44

## Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)  
9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)  
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue*—

*Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)  
9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

### AA Meeting

6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)  
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)  
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY: 11:00a Rosary in St. Mary's Chapel  
11:30a MASS in St. Mary's Chapel  
Noon Potluck Luncheon in the Parish Hall