

Advent Gospels

(Paul Turner)

On the four Sundays of Advent, the Catholic lectionary presents a series of Gospel readings that prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ. The Sunday Advent readings all rotate on a three-year cycle, but they always follow the same pattern.

The Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent always tells of the reign of Christ at the end of time. It echoes the theme of the previous Sunday, the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. Advent starts with the message that we await the second coming of Christ. This entire season is not just a reminder of a past birth but an anticipation of future glory.

The Second and Third Sundays of Advent always have Gospel readings about John the Baptist. John is an adult in these passages, proclaiming the nearness of the kingdom of God and serving as the prophet who bridges the Old and New Testaments. John foreshadows Jesus in his birth, his preaching, and his death. John's message on these two middle Sundays of this season inspires us to follow Christ.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent always tells part of the story that just precedes the birth of Christ. These familiar episodes set the stage for one of the Bible's best-known passages, the story of Christmas.

The Gospel readings of the four Sundays of Advent come to us in reverse chronology. We start with the end of time. We continue to the period when Jesus was an adult. We end in the days before his birth. Like a funnel, Advent opens with a giant theme, the grandness of Christ the King, and it ends with a specific one, the child lying in a Bethlehem manger.

(This bulletin insert originally appeared in Ministry & Liturgy, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your parish as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright 2007 Resource Publications, 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, MO, holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome.

Rejoice, for the Lord is near; let your kindness be known to all.



December 2012



CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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Advent Focus 2012

*Rejoice, for the Lord is near; let your kindness
be known to all.*

MASSES
Sunday
11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Mondays
4:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday
11:30 a.m.

✕

MORNING PRAYER
Monday-Friday
7:40 a.m.

There will be no Spanish
Mass scheduled for
December

RECONCILIATION
Sunday, December 23rd
Offered after each Mass
or by appointment any time

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Vigil Mass
December 7th, 4:30 p.m.
Feast Day Mass
December 8th, 11:00 a.m.

✕

CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24
Vigil - 8:00 p.m.
(with carols at 7:30 p.m.)

Christmas Day
December 25th
at 11:00 a.m.

✕

SOLEMNITY OF MARY
January 1st, 11:00 a.m.

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events *(Continued)*

December 8th: Advent Evening of Reflection. 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Edmundite Dining Hall. All are welcome to join us for a simple meal and reflection on the readings throughout the season of Advent. RSVP required; please contact Anna Lester at 654.2897.

December 9th: Community Advent Brunch. 12:00 p.m. in the Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall. Brunch will follow the 11:00 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to join us. Please RSVP to Laurie Sabens at 654.2333 or lsabens@smcvt.edu by Wednesday, December 5th.

December 10th: Cookies & Hot Cocoa. To help ease the burden of exam week for students, Edmundite Campus Ministry will be serving hot cocoa and cookies from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Alliot Lobby. Everyone is welcome!

December 16th: Schola Concert. Festival of Gregorian Chant and Seasonal Music by the Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola (free and open to the public). A free-will offering will be available. 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

LOW (Liturgy of the Word) Lunch: An opportunity to reflect and discuss the Scripture readings for each Sunday. We meet in the Campus Ministry office (Alliot Hall, Rm. 132) at Noon on Fridays. Contact Jerome Monachino at 654.2254 for more information.

The Liturgical Choir includes students and adult members of the Worshipping Community.

We rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. If you would like to join the choir, please call Jerome Monachino at 654.2254.

Worshipping Community Program

Thanksgiving Bags for Joseph's House: Thank you to everyone who helped out with this drive. We contributed 30 bags to families in need.

January 5, 2013: Twelfth Night Celebration: The Essex Children's Choir presents the 26th Twelfth Night Celebration in the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel at 6:30 p.m. Twelfth Night, a collaboration between the choir and adult artists, is a holiday tradition of song, dance, instruments, and narrative. This joyous occasion, enhanced by the beauty of the chapel, artistry of the musicians, and audience participation, brings to close the celebration of Christmas. Snow date: January 6th at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 863-9161.



VITA is a group of students who are committed to ministering to other students through practicing our faith and leading many of the liturgical, retreat, and service programs. Student-led programs include:

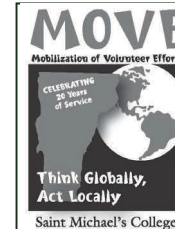
Link: A large group that meets weekly and combines discussion, meditation, music and more to help bridge the gap between our college and faith lives. Everyone is welcome to join us! **Wednesday, December 5th, 8:00 pm** in the Upper Room, Chapel.

Wings and Worship: Come join us for praise and worship music with wings following our time together. **Thursday, December 6th, 8 p.m.,** in the Upper Room of the Chapel.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Henri J.M. Nouwen



Looking for a way to support the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf? In lieu of sending holiday cards to your friends on campus, please consider making a donation to support the Food Shelf. A large Christmas card has been placed in the lobby of Alliot Hall and your name will be listed as a donor towards this worthwhile project. Thank you for your support! Donation envelopes are also located at each entrance of the Chapel.

December 4th—7th: International Market: Items from last year's service trips will be sold. Please help support our International programs by purchasing holiday gifts from around the world. Alliot Hall, 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. Donations for the trips are welcome; please contact Heidi St. Peter at 654.2674.

Hurricane Sandy Relief: Our collection total for the Hurricane Sandy Relief Project totaled \$2,000. Thank you all for your generous support!