

1st Sunday of Advent



December 3, 2017

Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64: 2-7

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37

Do you remember a time when you had to wait for something you wanted very much, or absolutely needed but couldn't get right away? While waiting, what did you do? What helped you to find hope? What made you impatient or despairing?

As we begin Advent, God asks us to wait, but not in frustration, idleness, or hopelessness. Quite the contrary. We are asked to wait "in joyful hope." Can waiting really be joyful? It can, because we know that what we most deeply long for in our lives and in our hearts, is coming; in fact, it is with us even now. But we wait in darkness, in the still, quiet place where perhaps we can't see or feel the answer to our heart's longing.

You may be aware of a dark place inside your heart, a part of you that feels you will never receive what you most long for, where you feel unloved, or alone, afraid, ashamed, despairing, lost or bewildered, angry, hurt. There may be disappointments in yourself, in other people, in life; a pain you carry with you. There is, perhaps, a part of you that just can't find hope, or can't seem to be healed.

Perhaps there is darkness in the world around you. Isaiah describes the world's darkness: "Nobody calls on your name," as he explains to God. There is so little faith, so little love, everybody seems to be hurting each other or doing sinful things, acting as though God were far, far away. Do you see places in your world where people seem to be turning away from God, or failing to call on God's name? Does it seem sometimes as though God has forgotten, or abandoned, your world?

Take courage to enter into the dark places in your own heart and in the world. Isaiah reminds us that God is present even there, even especially there. Jesus was born in a dark, poor, humble place, a weak and vulnerable place. Don't be afraid of such places. Let him show you how he wants to come to life in you. "Keep awake!" the Gospel cries. Watch for God's presence in all the little places where he loves to come. Stay awake in the darkness, and watch for the light that most surely is among us even when we are blind to it.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Come, God of light, fill our hearts with your hope and joy. Come prepare in our hearts a place for your love to be born. For you are a good God and a God of love. God, I give you thanks for (*name one person*), for (*name one gift I have*), and for your faithfulness and love. Come into my darkness. Wait with me, where I am waiting for you. Amen.

Psalm 80

The refrain for Psalm 80 continues the prayer of Isaiah: "*You, O Lord, are our father; 'Our Redeemer from of old' is your name.*" We ask God for new life, to show us his face, he transforms and saves us!

In the stanzas of the Psalm, note the images used for God [Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts] and Israel [flock, vine, son of man or human being]. We long for the Lord's coming, and we will not be disappointed, for God is faithful.

Pope's Prayer Intention for Dec. 2017

Universal: *For the elderly* ~ That the elderly, sustained by families and Christians communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Stewardship

"*Be aware, keep alert*", Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. Advent is a time of great anticipation and joy tinged with penance. The season is filled with anticipation and joy because we can imagine nothing more precious than the Christ Child and His Mother Mary's joy at His arrival. There is a need for penance because we as stewards of this great gift must properly prepare ourselves. One of the traditional themes of Advent is Hope. For the Christian steward hope is expressed in hoping in a good and gracious God to always provide for our needs.

Sunday Missals

New Sunday Missals for 2017/18 - \$5.00/book, for Young Catholics - \$10/book, are available at the back of the church. To purchase your copy just leave your money in the basket provided. Thank you.

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 2

5:00pm –RIP Duane Kolbuch req. by Joe & Ivy

Sunday, December 3 – (Coffee Sunday)

9:00am – (Petersfield) – for the health of Elaine Hunt

10:30am – RIP Sophie Bosak, req. by Joe Bosak

Wednesday, December 6

2:00pm (RR) – RIP Jean, Ralph & Tom Beckett, req. by Linda & Bert Parker

6:00pm (CWL) - Mass

Thursday, December 7

10:00am – RIP Wayne Mercer, req. by Bertha & family

Friday, December 8, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00am – RIP Tom Ingstad, req. by friends

7:00pm – for the Intentions of Joe Kolbuch, req. by friends

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 9

5:00pm –RIP deceased family members of Danylo & Maria req. by Christian & Terry

Sunday, December 10 – (Knight's Breakfast)

9:00am – (Petersfield) – for the health of Logan Erickson

10:30am – for the catechism children, catechists & their families,

Please Pray For the Sick

Let us remember our friends and relatives who are sick or in the hospital including: Bernice Bekavac, Milagros Berena, Sally Budolowski, Bill Camiere, Clint Danko, Dolly Felix, Vicky Huewan, Helen Kennedy, Verna Matt, Kathy Morris, Owen Remple, Joe Schilling, Lorraine Smith, Roy Vinke and Robert Wallis.

Readers/Altar Servers

Dec 2nd - 5pm: Jennifer / Doreen; Thierney, Zurielle, Bree

Dec 3rd – 10:30am: Tom / Pat; Hope, Chantal, Abby

Dec 9th - 5:00pm: Carol / Fiona; Sam, Bree, Beau

Dec 10th - 10:30am: family Mass; Hope, Zurielle,

Thierney

Parish & Parishioners' Activities

1. Blood Donor Clinic: Tues. Dec. 5, 4 – 8 pm

2. CWL Mass & Christmas Party: Dec 6, 6pm, dinner to follow at the Selkirk GC

3. First Reconciliation: Dec 7, 6:30pm

4. CWL Bake Sale & Silent Auction: Dec. 9/10

5. Knights breakfast & Catechism Party: Dec. 9, 10am – 1pm

Mary: Our Advent Hope

This Friday, **December 8th**, [7pm Mass] is the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary*, when we give thanks that Mary "*was redeemed from the moment of her conception*" [Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC, 491] and could become the mother of the Lord.

This feast dedicated to Mary's conception first appeared in the 7th century and by the 12th century it was firmly established in England. In the 13th century, great thinkers such as St. Bernard and St. Thomas Aquinas debated whether or not Mary could have been born without original sin if, as St Paul says, all persons are born in sin (Romans 5:12). By the 19th century, the theological debate was resolved and in 1854 Pius IX defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as dogma of faith. In 1846, the Catholic Church of the United States had declared this to be its patronal feast.

Season of Advent

Advent has a twofold nature: It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation.

During Advent, each Sunday's gospel has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season.

Advent Penitential Services

Notre Dame Church Advent Penitential Service will be held on **Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00pm** for all parishioners. Please mark your calendars all services will be at 7pm!

Other Penitential Services:

December 13: Christ the King, Stonewall

December 14: St. Theresa's, Middlechurch

December 15: St. Michael's, Gimli

Christmas, New Year's Schedules

4th Sunday of Advent:

Sat., Dec. 23, 5pm

****Sun., Dec 24, 10am****

No morning Mass in Petersfield.

Christmas Masses:

Sunday, Dec. 24, 5pm & 10:30pm; 8pm Petersfield

Monday, December 25, 10:30am.

Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God: (New Year's)

Sun., December 31, 5:00pm;

Monday, January 1, 10:30am.

(Please check for the regularly scheduled weekday/end Masses).

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to join the Altar Guild Ministry. **Altar guild** is a group of laypersons in a parish church who maintain the ceremonial linens used in worship; these are the small linens used during the Mass. Volunteers are scheduled on a monthly basis and are currently needed for the months of March, July, August and December. Please contact Marlene Bosko (204-482-4023) or the office (204-482-3422) for more information.

Selkirk Christmas Hamper Drive

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is administering the Selkirk Christmas Hamper Drive. Our goal is to provide the ingredients for each family to have a **Complete Christmas Dinner** and to supply each child with a Christmas gift.

This year we are looking for help in the following areas: preparing hampers, delivering hampers (Dec 8-16), donating food, new unwrapped toys, money or volunteering your time. If you wish to prepare a hamper for a family or individual please call: 204-481-3468 or 204-481-0370. Donation hours are M-F 9am – 4pm at 202 Christie Ave, all donations must be dropped off before December 9th.

CWL News

Bake Sale “Baking” for the upcoming Bake Sale & this can be dropped off downstairs prior to mass December 9 & 10. All proceeds from the Bake Sale will go to support the Northern Missions.

Rainbow Auction. The CWL is appealing to all parishioners for donations of NEW items for the auction December 9th/10th. Items may be left downstairs in the kitchen with a note from whom they were donated. Proceeds from the Auction are in support of our Bursary Fund to be presented to 12 graduates of Notre Dame Church. Thank for your support.

Christmas Party, Wednesday, Dec 6th: Mass @ 6pm, dinner to follow at Selkirk Golf & Country Club. Cost \$25.00/person. Rides are available. Sign-up sheet at back of church. Advance payment appreciated (to any executive member)

Knights of Columbus Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus’ next Breakfast will be held on **Sunday, December 9**, 2017, at Notre Dame Church Hall – 10 am to 1 pm. Thank you for your continued support.

Saint John Damascene – Dec. 4

John was born into a Christian family in Damascus about 675. After working at the court the caliph in Damascus, he became a monk and later a priest near

Bethlehem. The last of the Greek fathers of the Church, John was a renowned scholar. One of his best-known works, The Fountain of Wisdom, had a great influence on later theology. He also wrote hymns and homilies in honour of the Blessed Virgin. He died about 750, and was named a Doctor of the Church in 1890.

Saint Nicholas – Dec. 6

Little is known about the early life of Nicholas. In the early 4th century he was made Bishop of Myra in Lycia (now Turkey). Famous for his charity, he became the focus of popular cults and devotions in the early Middle Age. He was so popular that he was chosen joint patron of Russia with St. Andrew; he is also a patron of sailors and children. In many parts of the world, he still plays a role as Santa Claus. *St. Nicholas, pray for us!*

Saint Ambrose – Dec. 7

Ambrose was born into the aristocracy in Trier, Germany, about 340, and served the powerful Roman Empire. As governor, he intervened in a dispute over the election of the bishop of Milan. Although he was only a catechumen, the laity elected him as bishop. He hesitated at first, but later was baptized and ordained. Ambrose became a remarkable preacher and teacher of the faith. His most famous student was Augustine of Hippo, whom he baptized. Ambrose died in 397. In 1298 he was declared one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church (with Jerome, Augustine and Gregory 1).

Notre Dame Church

269 Jemima Street, Selkirk, MB,
R1A 1W9

Phone: (204) 482.3422 Fax: (204) 482.7514

St. Anne’s Church

500 Edith St. Petersfield, MB Phone: 204 738 2742

Served from Notre Dame, Selkirk

Pastor: Fr. Stan Gacek

Secretary: Fiona Lawson

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Church Website: www.ndparish.ca

Bulletin announcements: due 1 week in advance

DEVOTIONS at Notre Dame, Selkirk:

Thursday - Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

1st Friday – Holy Hour (Sacred Heart of Jesus, Divine Mercy),

Other Fridays – Devotion to St. Joseph

CONFESIONS:

Selkirk, Notre Dame - Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 pm

Petersfield, St. Anne’s – before Sunday Mass

Marriages: Call at least 6 months in advance

Baptisms: By appointment 6 weeks in advance