



Our Lady of the Lake Parish Advent Newsletter

Our Lady of the Lake Parish

Advent 2017

From the Desk of Fr. Tim

The stories surrounding Advent reveal how God chooses to break into life in ways unexpected: Elizabeth, barren beyond expectation, is not expected to conceive, let alone call her first-born John; a name no other relative ever had.

Mary, too, conceives and in a way shadowed by mystery. She had yet to live with her betrothed. It was so unexpected. I would imagine it had villagers talking and casting suspicious glances her way.

When that happened, Joseph decided to divorce her quietly and without accusation. It was expected in such scandalous situations. So, he did not at all expect an angelic dream to change the course of his life. Yet, it happened; all of it strange, mysterious, unexpected.

During Advent, we sing the hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”. Yet, this birth, swaddled in mystery, happens in ways so unexpected. Defying ancient prophecies, the long-awaited One slips silently into this fallen world by means of vulnerable, infant flesh and while most of us sleep.

In her poem, “Annunciation” Denise Levertov describes God’s unexpected nature in these words:

**to bear in her womb
Infinite weight and lightness; to carry
in hidden, finite inwardness,
nine months of Eternity; to contain
in slender vase of being,
the sum of power—
in narrow flesh,
the sum of light.**

One year after ordination, I found myself back East; reunited with several classmates from Rome. Ruminating over that first year, one of them blurted, “I never expected it to be this way.” All of us nodded in agreement as, together, we commiserated and grappled with a shared disillusionment; the let-downs and disappointments inevitable in life.

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Season of Advent

EXPECTATION ★ WAITING ★ PREPARATION ★ REJOICE

SAYING YES TO GOD by Sara Hanson, Music and Liturgy



This year we hear the annunciation story in Matthew of the angel Gabriel visiting Mary and telling her that she will be having a child. Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Every time I hear this reading (or Luke's version), I am in awe and realize that the bar is raised to a high standard of hearing God's call. Mary first questions, but is acceptant to the life that is laid out for her. I can honestly say that I often, question the direction of my life, and marvel at how often many of the stories in the bible talk about how God's path for them is to be followed with great abandonment. Do you think that Mary continued to question after the angel left? Did she know God's peace within her? There are times in my prayers where I have experienced a peace among me that God's plan is where I'm headed. However, that is not always the case. I question and overthink where I am going and what I "should" be doing. The scripture of Mary's acceptance always brings me back to trusting that God's plan is the right plan, even if it seems crazy and against the norm. I do my best to trust, and Mary's response (which is in Luke the "Magnificat") is what becomes my prayer when I am struggling with where my life's path will lead.

My favorite version of this is the lyrics set to the Folk Tune, Wild Mountain Thyme:

My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my savior:
You have looked upon your servant, You have visited your people.

*Chorus: And holy is your name Through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen, And holy is your name.*

I am lowly as a child, But I know from this day forward
That my name will be remembered, for all will call me blessed.

I proclaim the pow'r of God, You do marvels for your servants;
Though you scatter the proud-hearted and destroy the might of princes.

To the hungry you give food, send the rich away empty.
In your mercy you are mindful of the people you have chosen.

In your love you now fulfill what you promised to your people.
I will praise you, Lord, my savior, Everlasting is your mercy.

Holy is your name dear God.



Advent 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 3 Advent I 9:30 AM Mass Wreath Making 2 PM Resonate Concert 5:30 PM Mass	4	5 7 PM Vespers	6 8:30 AM DAILY Mass	7 8:30 AM DAILY Mass 7 PM Doug Tooke Advent Mission Talk	8 9 AM School Mass 7 PM Mass Immaculate Conception	9 4 Confessions 5 PM Mass
10 Advent II 9:30 AM Mass Rite of Acceptance 5:30 PM Mass	11	12 7 PM Vespers	13 8:30 AM DAILY Mass	14 8:30 AM DAILY Mass 7 PM School Christmas Program	15 8:30 AM DAILY Mass 7 PM Mass Simbang Gabi 8 PM Dinner	16 9 AM Advent Retreat 4 PM Confession 5 PM Mass
17 Advent III 9:30 AM Mass 2PM Choir Christmas Concert 5:30 PM Mass	18 7 PM Advent Penance Service	19 7 PM Vespers	20 8:30 AM DAILY Mass	21 8:30 AM DAILY Mass	22 8:30 AM DAILY Mass	23 4 PM Confession 5 PM Mass
24 Advent IV 9:30 AM Mass Christmas Eve See Other page for Christmas Eve Mass Times	25 Christmas Day 9:30 AM Christmas Mass	26	27	28	29	30 4 PM Confession 5 PM Mass
31 Holy Family 9:30 AM Mass (No 5:30 PM Mass)	Jan 1 Holy Mary Mother of God 9:30 AM Mass	<i>Keep Advent Alive This Season.</i>				

Advent and Christmas Events at Our Lady of the Lake

Wreath Making Sunday, Dec. 3 Jubilee Hall

Join us after mass during the morning coffee hour as we kick off Advent with Advent Wreath making and opportunities to receive new Advent Prayers and other resources. All materials provided and donations will be accepted. A great family seasonal tradition!

Resonate Music Concert Sunday, Dec 3 2 PM

Resonate is a vocal octet based in Maple Valley, WA. The group performs a variety of challenging a cappella choral music. The group is made up of choral directors and other professional musicians. The concert will feature a number of new carol arrangements and stories behind the pieces.

Free will Offering

Advent Vespers Tuesdays 7 PM Dec. 5, 12, and 19

Come enrich your Advent experience by worshipping together in our **Taize Vesper Services.** We will focus on the Psalms and their message for this season of preparation, waiting and patience.

Cocoa and cookies provided after.

Advent Mission Talk by Doug Tooke Thursday Dec. 7th 7 PM

Pope Francis has invited us all to move from a Church of maintenance to one of missionary discipleship. This means you and I have a lot of work to do! Come be inspired by a practical understanding of 21st Century Catholicism and the invitation to live a life of evangelization.

Immaculate Conception Friday, Dec. 8th School Mass 9 AM Mass 7 PM

We celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through whom Christ was brought into the world. We celebrate Mary as the immaculate vessel that said, "Yes," to God.

Simbang Gabi Friday, Dec. 15 7 PM

Once again OLL celebrates Simbang Gabi. A great opportunity to celebrate and prepare for the coming of Christ with this traditional Filipino Devotional Mass. Following the Mass is a celebration filled with traditional and cultural foods from the Filipino Community.

Gloria In Excelsis Deo! Sunday, Dec. 17 2 PM

Our Lady of the Lake Choir joined with the OLL Festival Orchestra will perform Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and other Christmas Favorites. Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music that will lift your spirits and prepare you for the coming of Christmas!

\$10 Suggested Donation
\$20 for Families

Advent Penance Service Monday, Dec. 18th 7 PM

As we "await the Lord with hope" this Advent Season, take some time to find peace and reconciliation with God before Christmas. Our Advent Penance Service is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and find love and forgiveness together.

Christmas Eve Family Mass 5 PM with Carol Sing 4:30 PM Sunday, Dec. 24

As the earliest of our Christmas Eve services, this one is especially geared toward the young in our congregation. Not only will we celebrate the Lord's Supper and hear stories about Christ's birth, but we will also have carol singing that is sure to get the whole family involved!

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 10 PM with Choir and Carol Sing 9:30 PM Sunday, Dec. 24

We come together on Christmas Eve in vigil to celebrate the birth of Our Lord. Join us for music by the choir and carol singing before the Mass. Then the Christmas Vigil begins and we celebrate together.

Christmas Day Mass 9:30 AM Monday, Dec. 25

"Joy to the World, the Lord is come." Join with friends and family on Christmas morning for our Christmas Day Mass. Sing Christmas Songs, hear the story of Christ's birth and share in communion with one another.

Holy Mary Mother of God New Year's Day Mass 9:30 AM Monday, Jan 1

Start the new year off by attending Mass on this Holy Day of Obligation. This feast is an opportunity to celebrate the motherhood of the Virgin Mary and give thanks for her son, Jesus.

I WILL WAIT by McKenzie Mauss, Faith Formation

I find great inspiration from music. I invite you to read the lyrics from the popular band, Mumford and Son's song, "I Will Wait". While this is not a traditional Advent Song, the lyrics are rich with images of what Advent truly means. Advent is a time of joyful, hopeful waiting... waiting for the coming of our Savior. I encourage you to be inspired by the lyrics as we, the Universal Church, wait in joyful hope.

Well I came home Like a stone
And I fell heavy into your arms
These days of dust Which we've known
Will blow away with this new son

But I'll kneel down Wait for now
And I'll kneel down Know my ground

And I will wait, I will wait for you
So break my step And relent

You forgave and I won't forget

Know what we've seen

And him with less Now in some way
Shake the excess

'Cause I will wait, I will wait for you
And I will wait, I will wait for you
And I will wait, I will wait for you
And I will wait, I will wait for you

Now I'll be bold As well as strong
And use my head alongside my heart

So take my flesh And fix my eyes
A tethered mind free from the lies

And I'll kneel down Wait for now
I'll kneel down Know my ground

Raise my hands Paint my spirit gold
And bow my head Keep my heart slow

'Cause I will wait,
I will wait for you...

And I will wait,

I will wait for you

And I will wait,

I will wait for you

And I will wait,

I will wait for you



Blessing the Christmas Tree

Decorating the Christmas tree surrounded by family is a beloved holiday tradition. In keeping with the hope, peace, joy, love of this season what better way to offer up thanks than this simple prayer to bless your Christmas tree.

Lord, Jesus,

Encircle this tree with your blessing. May its twinkling lights remind us of the hope and promise of your coming. May we find joy in the memories we share in its tinsel and trimmings. May the presents we place beneath it give rise to an appreciation for the gift of your presence among us. We ask this in your holy name.

Amen.

May your family and home be blessed this Christmas!

From www.mysaintmyhero.com

From the Desk of Fr. Tim (Continued from front page)

In retrospect, I perceive the unexpected nature of that first year of priesthood as the way God deepens the soul; hollowing us out so that our lives more and more conform to Christ. It's the way we become real. The way, paradoxically, we are born again and how growth happens. I recall the Baptist's words and as he prepares the way: "He must increase, and I must decrease..."so unexpected and humbling. Simply, it's the way we're asked to love. We can't bring it about ourselves, this birth. It must be done to us: like a block of marble before its sculptor. If the marble could talk, it might express how each blow of the hammer seems to be destroying it. Yet, it must learn to trust the sculptor who is creating a beautiful work of art.

We, too, must learn to trust God and the unexpected ways God chooses to break into our lives: bringing to birth something so alive, beautiful and full of grace.

Let the unexpected graces of this Advent happen. Let God act upon you; and simply trust as, once again, the unexpected story unfolds.

A Blessed Advent to each of you.

Father Tim Clark, Pastor

ADVENT AGAIN by Vince McGovern, School Principal

It's almost Advent and Christmas (again)!

Each year, it seems as if the holidays come faster and faster. Perhaps it's the product of age or impatience but I often ask myself, "didn't we just have Christmas?" I like to think the speedy arrival of this day comes from my own inner desire to be part of all the Christmas season brings – things like Advent, the decorating, getting a tree, hanging lights outside and dealing with those bulbs yet again....

In reality, like so many of us, I get caught up in events of the day from raising children (and ushering them to all their events) to the busyness of work or dealing with aging parents. Advent and Christmas sneak up on us much like a 'thief in the night' as we hear from scripture and my first response is to think No, No, No! It's important then to heed the advice we hear in the Gospel of the first Sunday in Advent. Be Watchful! Be Awake! In Mark's Gospel, the author appears to shout at us trying to get our attention. Sometimes, it's necessary to be yelled at in order to shake us out of our complacency. Life has me well trained to be watchful but honestly, I am beginning to be attentive to the wrong things. It's easy to get distracted by the mundane daily tasks we grow accustomed to but clearly, Advent gives us a chance to set aside our dis-

tractions and pay attention to something more meaningful. Perhaps this is why the Gospel writers end Advent with the Annunciation. These two readings are good bookends to an Advent season where God invites us to deeper listening.

This Feast of the Annunciation is as shocking as what we hear in the first Sunday of Advent. Instead of warning us to wake up and watch out, we learn that God, through the angel Gabriel, tells Mary to be awake to the presence of God within her. Although there are similarities between these two Gospels, the difference is significant. Instead of looking for God externally, humanity, in the face of Mary, is asked to see God present within them.

The faster Advent and Christmas approach, the more I need to hear the entirety of the Annunciation story. In it, I know that God finds favor in each one of us and wants us to know that He has great plans for us. Plans that include overcoming the impossible especially when we trust God like Mary did. This is a powerful reminder to say YES each day to what is placed before us. That word awakens within us a willingness to see God from miraculous to the mundane. As the approach to Advent and Christmas begins, may our prayer be a heartfelt Yes, Yes, Yes.

QUOTES ON ADVENT

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.

--Mother Teresa

Were earth a thousand times as fair
Beset with gold and jewels rare

She yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle,

Lord, for Thee.-

-Martin Luther

"The purpose and cause of the incarnation was that He might illuminate the world by His wisdom and excite it to the love of Himself." -- Peter Abelard

Read more at: http://www.faithandworship.com/Advent_themes_and_resources.htm#ixzz4xs7au37Z

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A PRAYER FOR FAITH by Mary Cowan

God of new creating
 Who beckons us to the dance of birthing
 And sustains us in our laboring
 Hear this prayer:
 From fear of the unknown
Deliver me.
 From doubts of my creativity
Strengthen me.
 From ridicule of those around me
Rescue me
 From excuses about my abilities,
 My age, my education, my looks, my status,
Deliver me.
 With your promise of companionship,
Comfort me.
 With your creative spirit
Bless me.
 With your embrace of all of me
Heal me and set me to motion.
 You who called me to life
 That you may be born again in me
 Blessed be your name now and forever. **AMEN**

By faith, we understand, if we are to understand it at all,
 that the madness and lostness that we see all around us and within us
 are not the last truth about the world...

Faith is the eye of the heart, and by faith
 we see deep down beneath the face of things.

By faith we struggle against all odds to see that the world is God's creation, made out
 of peace, to live in peace, made out of light to dwell in light, out of love to be – above
 all things – loved and loving. – Love always, Mary

*Mary Cowan is the wife of John Cowan, Parish Administrator. She passed away a couple
 years ago, and this was found among some things that were left for John.*

**Advent Summons**

Come forth
 from the holy place,
 Sweet Child,
 Come from the quiet dark
 Where virginal
 heartbeats
 Tick your moments.
 Come away from
 the red music
 Of Mary's veins.
 Come out from the
 Tower of David
 Sweet Child,
 From the House of Gold.
 Leave your lily-cloister,
 Leave your holy mansion,
 Quit your covenant ark.
 O Child, be born!
 Be born, sweet Child,
 In our unholy hearts.
 Come to our trembling,
 Helpless Child.
 Come to our littleness,
 Little Child,
 Be born unto us
 Who have kept the
 faltering vigil.
 Be given, be born,
 Be ours again.
 Came forth from your
 holy haven,
 Come away from
 your perfect shrine,
 Come to our
 wind-racked souls
 From the flawless tent,
 Sweet Child.
 Be born, little Child,
 In our unholy hearts.

—Mother Mary Francis. PCC
 (late Abbess of the Coletine Poor Claire
 monastery in Roswell, New Mexico)



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Mark Your Calendars!

Advent Prayer Opportunities

Vespers

7 PM Tuesdays
Dec. 4, 11,
and 18

Immaculate Conception

9 AM School Mass
7 PM Mass
Friday, Dec. 8

Advent Penance

7 PM Monday
Dec. 18

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:30 PM Carol Sing
5:00 PM Family Mass

9:30 PM *Carols and Choir*
10:00 PM Christmas Eve
Vigil Mass

Christmas Day

9:30 AM Christmas Day
Mass

Holy Mary Mother of God

New Year's Day
9:30 AM Mass

Special Advent and Christmas Opportunities

Simbang Gabi

7 PM Friday
Dec. 15

Gloria!

OLL Choir and
Festival Orchestra
Christmas Program
2 PM Dec. 17

Find the light this Advent with Our Lady of the Lake!

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