

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b, 64:2-7; Psalm 80; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9); Mark 13:33-37

**KEY VERSE:** "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming" (v 35).

**READING:** Mark wrote his gospel to encourage Christians who were suffering persecution for their faith. In chapter 13, Mark used an "apocalyptic" form of writing

that was popular during times of crisis. This style borrowed images from the Hebrew scriptures that depicted a time of turmoil and tribulation before the great "Day of the Lord." The author's purpose was not to instill fear, but to inspire hope in God's ultimate triumph over evil forces. While no one knows for certain the exact "day or hour" (Mk 13:32) of Christ's return, God's servants must be vigilant for his inevitable coming. As we begin this Advent time, God invites all of us to reflect on our readiness to bring the Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, to our world today. We are invited to "wait in joyful hope" for the Lord's coming in each and every day of our lives.

**REFLECTING:** What am I doing to help bring about the arrival of God's kingdom of peace and justice?

**PRAYING:** Lord Jesus, help me to use this Advent to prepare my heart for your coming.

### APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

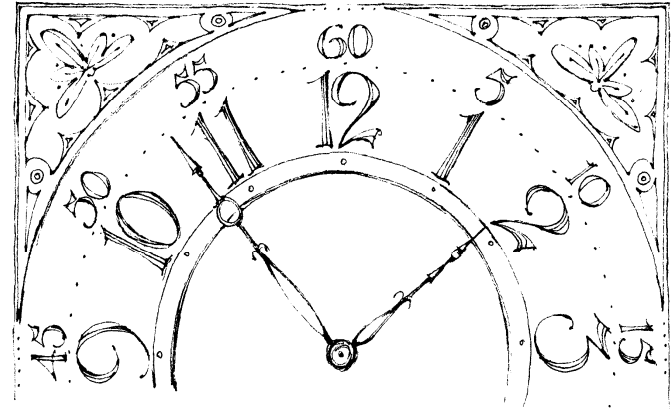
The word apocalyptic means "unveiling" or "revelation." Apocalyptic literature flourished among persecuted Jews and Christians from the second century BC to the second century AD. Apocalyptic writing is crisis literature, the product of oppressed peoples. Basic to its belief is that the evil of a particular historical situation is so overwhelming that only God can rescue the victims and set things right. In these hopeless conditions, the apocalyptic author offers hope and encouragement in trying times.

Holy Family Parish  
National Catholic Church  
1921 Eden Park Boulevard  
McKeesport, Pa. 15132

412.678.0566 Rectory; Auditorium 412.664.7009

[www.hfpncc.org](http://www.hfpncc.org)

M A R K 1 3 : 3 5



**THEREFORE KEEP AWAKE**

November 30, 2008  
First Sunday of Advent

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements, please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.276.5562 or 412.678.0566. **Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Father by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at BSleczkowski@aol.com

#### Parish Staff:

Fr. Bruce Slezczkowski, Pastor 412.276.5562  
Ted Gibala, Committee Chairman 412.678.7347  
Dr. Donald Mushalko, Chopin Choir Director 412.678.4437  
Wendy Blotzer, Organist, Bell Choir 412.673.4495  
Deborah Parknavy, SOCL Coordinator  
David Kost, Lector Coordinator  
Parish Custodian 412.678.7347



OPENING HYMN "Advent Longing" Pew Hymnal, Song 2  
 BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH Sheets in Pews  
 INTRODUCTORY RITE Page 63  
 INTROIT Psalm 130-5-6; Lamentations 3:25-26  
 P: I wait with longing for the Lord, my soul waits for His word. My soul looks  
 for the Lord more than sentinels for daybreak.  
**R: Good is the Lord to one who waits for Him, to the soul that  
 seeks Him. It is good to hope in silence for the saving help  
 of the Lord.**  
 P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
**R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end.**  
 THE KYRIE Page 67  
 OPENING PRAYER  
 LITURGY OF THE WORD  
 First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64: 2-7  
 Responsorial Psalm Psalm 80  
**L: Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we shall  
 be saved.**  
**R: Lord, make us turn to You; let us see Your face and we  
 shall be saved.**  
 Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Alleluia Verse  
 C: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
**R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**  
 C: Lord, show us Your mercy and love, and grant us Your salvation.  
**R: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**  
 Gospel Mark 13:33-37  
 NICENE CREED Page 71  
 HOMILY  
 GENERAL INTERCESSION  
**R: Lord, Hear our Prayer**  
 PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS  
 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING  
 SANCTUS Page 76  
 CANON Eucharistic Prayer 1 Page 77  
 THE LORD'S PRAYER All Sing Page 95  
 LAMB OF GOD Page 97  
 COMMUNION Page 98  
 POST COMMUNION PRAYER  
 BLESSING Page 100  
 CLOSING HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Pew Hymnal Song 20

### Wigilia Dinner Wine

For a \$10.00 donation to the Chopin & Annunciation Bell Choir, the choirs will give you a gift of sacramental wine of your choice for your Wigilia Dinners. Donations will be accepted during the coffee hour after Mass or through the parish office.



The Liturgical Year begins with the first Sunday of Advent, a time of joyful anticipation of the Incarnation of Christ, God's love made visible. "Advent" is a Latin word (*adventus*) meaning "coming." During Advent, Christians prepare for the coming of the Lord into the world through the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and for his final coming at the end of time. The season of Advent reminds us of the three-fold comings of Christ:

1. The first advent, the birth of Jesus
2. The re-birth of Jesus in our own lives
3. The second advent, the final coming of Jesus Christ

The Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season that we celebrate as Christians is not just an observance of events that happened long ago. It is not a sentimental birthday of the "baby Jesus." Nor is the season exclusively future oriented, watching and waiting for the coming of the exalted Christ at the end of time. The season is a celebration of God's self-disclosure in Jesus Christ, the eternal Emmanuel. God who was with the people in the past and who is with us now and for all time to come. This year is Cycle B and the Sunday readings are from the gospel of Mark.

The Children of our Nursery School under the direction of Kristen Korenoski will light the Advent wreath each week. Please use the Advent Liturgy Booklet.

## Christmas Trees



The parish will be purchasing several permanent Christmas Trees to be used in decorating the Church. Donations will be gladly accepted. Please make check payable to Holy Family Parish and give to Fr. Bruce.

*Parishioners are reminded to lock their cars when parking in the Church parking lot. There has been thefts recently in the area.*

### Tri County Choral "Advent Meditations"

A free Advent concert will be performed on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 P.M. by the Tri County Choral Institute's "Village Singers" here in Holy Family Parish. This group is composed of 60 auditioned singers from the surrounding counties in western Pennsylvania and will present traditional and contemporary songs of the Advent/Christmas season. Come and be inspired as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

### Parish Wigilia Dinner

Sunday, December 21, 2008 5:30 P.M.

Adults \$15.00 Child (under 12) \$7.00

For Tickets and reservations call Barb Tadajski 412.953.7823  
or Karen Bongiorno 412.754.1411

Come & enjoy good traditional food, music and koledy.

### Youth Annual Poinsettia Sale

Orders are now being taken for the annual poinsettia sale. This year's donation is the same as last year's, \$10.00 a flower pot. Flowers can be purchased for blessings received or for memorials to loved ones. Angie Jobes will once again coordinate the sale this year.

Oplatek-Christmas Wafers Available in the Church Narthex

Advent Meditation Books in Church Book Rack



"I am coming quickly. Hold fast to what you have, so that no one may take your crown."

Revelations 3:11

### THEME: Am I using God's gifts to advance God's reign?

When we face misfortunes in our lives, we sometimes blame God for our troubles: "You are our Father-why did you allow us to wander from Your ways?" The trouble is not God's faithlessness. It is our own infidelity to God, who longs to guide us as a shepherd leads his flock. "Lord, let us turn to You. Show us Your face and we shall be saved."

Paul is a faithful witness to God's loving-kindness. In gratitude, he thanks God for the favors bestowed on us. He prays that we will recognize that we are the work of God's hands. When we do, the work of our hands will be as beautiful.

Jesus compares Himself to a master who has gone on a journey and left his servants in charge of the household. They are warned to be constantly vigilant, keeping watch at the gate of the house he built. If we stay awake, we will be ready to greet him when he comes again.

### Sunday Ministry Schedules

<u>This Week</u>	9:00 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Lectors	Blue Team	B. Zaucha
Greeter	C. Trumpe	A. Fioravanti
Ushers	W. Albeck & F. Szatkowski Jr.	J. Wagner
Acolytes	All Servers	
<u>Next Week</u>	9:00 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
Lectors	Yellow Team	B. Zaucha
Greeters	M. Krusienski	B. Kijowski
Ushers	J. Chornak & E. Stubock	D. Piesik
Acolytes	All Servers	All Servers

Please note, during Fr. Bruce's recuperation, there will be no office hours due to the driving restrictions placed upon him. Please contact him at his residence. Tel.412.276.5562.

## This Week

### Sunday, November 30, 2008

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.  
+Joseph Korch (5<sup>th</sup> Ann.) Int of wife Helen and children Bill & Janet; +Dwight Momeyer Int M Mike Momeyer & Family  
60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Joseph and Jane Parknavy Blessing  
Nursery School 9:00 A.M.  
SOCL 10:15 A.M.  
Coffee Hour sponsored by Chopin Choir 10:15 A.M.  
Holy Mass 11:30 A.M.  
+Alice Demski (5<sup>th</sup> Ann.) Int of son, Gary Demski

### Monday, December 1, 2008

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.

### Wednesday, December 3, 2008

Frederic Chopin Choir Rehearsal after Mass 7:30 P.M.

### Saturday, December 6, 2008

First Communion Class 10:00 A.M.  
Monthly Confessions 11:00 A.M.

### Sunday, December 7, 2008

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Holy Mass 9:00 A.M.  
+Charlene Staso Int. M/M Dennis Crouch & +Helen Istvanick Int.  
M/M Ed Kustra  
Nursery School 9:00 A.M.  
SOCL 10:15 A.M.  
Coffee Hour sponsored by Chopin Choir 10:15 A.M.  
Holy Mass 11:30 A.M.  
+Mary Savol Int of Family  
SAMBS Monthly Mission Collection after Mass

### **Advent 1**

9:00 A.M.

9:00 A.M.

10:15 A.M.

10:15 A.M.

11:30 A.M.

7:00 P.M.

7:30 P.M.

### **Advent 2**

9:00 A.M.

9:00 A.M.

10:15 A.M.

10:15 A.M.

11:30 A.M.

*SOCL Sarris Christmas Candy Sale Order Forms can be found in the Church Narthex, Carol Popovic is coordinator. Please support our SOCL Program with your support.*

### Enjoy Books

The 2008-2009 Enjoy Books have been reduced to \$25.00. See Ted Gibala after Mass to purchase the Enjoy Book. Using just two/three coupons pays for the price of the book and offers you various restaurants and events at discount prices throughout the year to enjoy with someone you love. The Enjoy Book is a great Christmas gift

### Holiday Cooking

The season's approaching when we will be spending time preparing festive meals in our homes. Need ideas or a special recipe? No problem, our SAMBS has "Feasting with Traditions II" cookbook available now reduced at \$5.00. See any SAMBS Member for a copy. These cookbooks make great gifts for family and friends

### God's Field

A reminder that payments for subscriptions to the Church publication God's Field (Rola Boza) are now due. Rates have increased to \$20.00 due to postal rates. Every member should receive this bimonthly newspaper filled with religious articles, church doctrine and parish events. Don't forget to subscribe via the parish envelope system today.

### Parish Music Ministry

Love to sing? Enjoy playing instruments? Our parish's Chopin Choir and Annunciation Bell Choir are looking for members to enhance the music ministry. See Dr. Mushalko or Mrs. Blotzer to offer your talent and time in singing to the Lord during the Eucharist and special holidays.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Jane and Joseph Parknavy as they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary today during the 9:00 A.M. A leaf has been added to the Parish's "Tree of Life" by their children