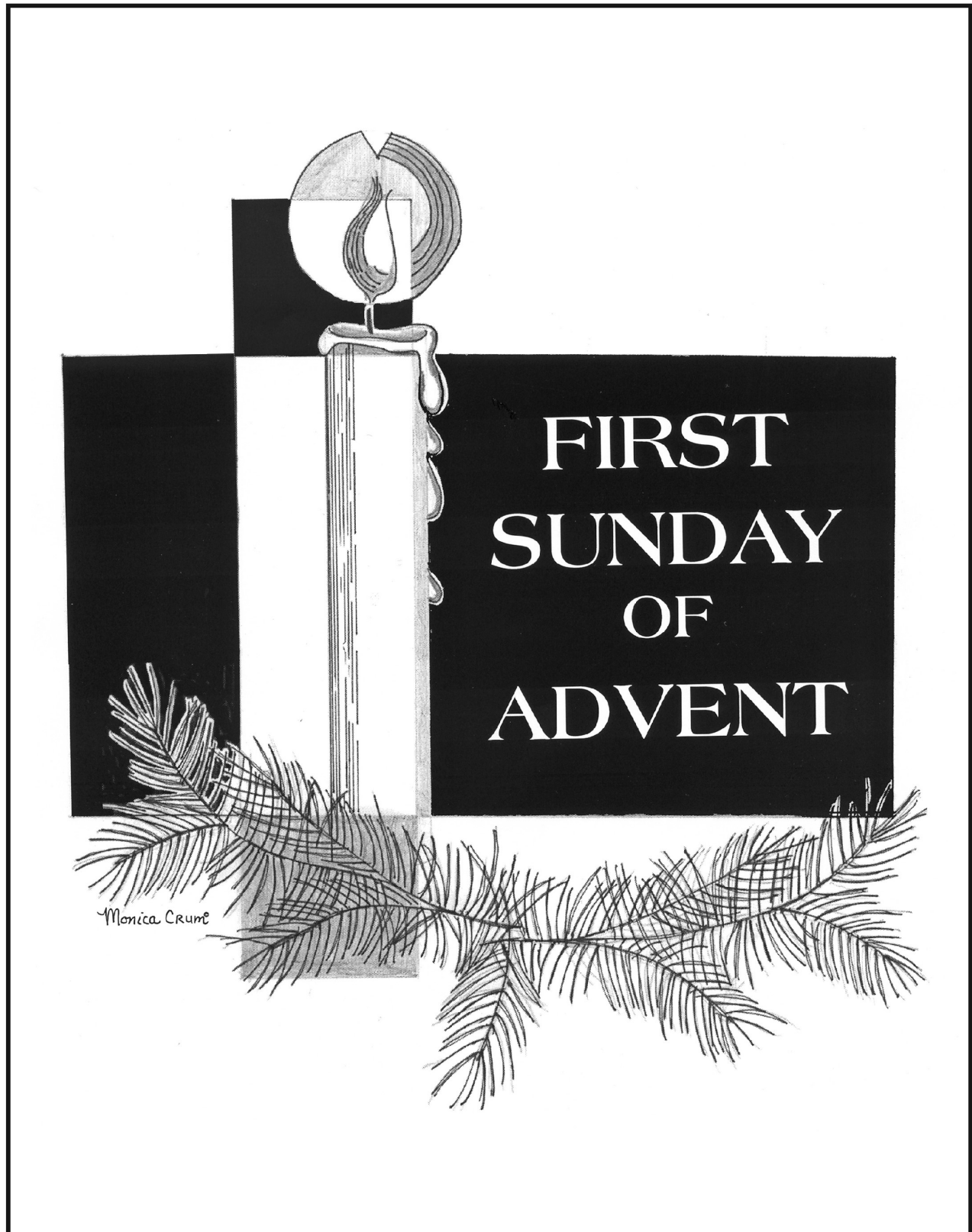


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2023

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH • HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA



A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 02

8:00am: For the Unborn
5:00pm: +Donald Joseph Ross

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 03

8:15am: For the Parish
11:15am: +Ronald Skeens

MONDAY, DECEMBER 04

7:00am: +Fr. Liam Sullivan

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 05

7:00am: +Bonnie Madden Hughes

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 06

7:00am: +Valeria Schneider

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 07

7:00am: +Gary Mahon

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 08

Immaculate Conception

7:00am: +Barbara Manderson

9:00am*: +Patricia Nemmers

7:00pm: +Bob DeHaye

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 09

8:00am: +William C. Morris, Jr.

5:00pm: +Andrea C. Brandon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:15am: +Nancy Marie Leslie

11:15am: For the Parish

***HFS School Mass**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are beginning a new Liturgical Year today. So, I wish you a Happy New Year and all the rich blessings of our God. I mentioned last weekend that it would be a good idea to take a little time to reflect on the past and prepare for the new year beginning with the First Sunday of Advent. The October 2021 issue of *The Word Among Us: Daily Meditations for Catholics*, had this article entitled **5 Habits of an Extraordinary Christian Life: Finding God's Grace in the Ordinary** by Deacon Greg Kandra. I hope you find it enlightening.



The Blessings of Extraordinary Time (Part I)

We Catholic Christians spend most of our liturgical lives in Ordinary Time, but maybe we need to see every season, every time, every moment of life as something out of the ordinary, even extraordinary. Something rare. Something to be treasured. A gift.

Back in the 1970s, a collection of letters by the great Catholic writer Flannery O'Connor was published with the title ***The Habit of Being***. In so many ways, living as a Catholic comes down to that: it is "a habit of being." It is a way of living in the world and embracing God's grace and really, truly looking for it. It also means looking for ways to bring more of that grace into the world ourselves by keeping in our hearts the two great commandments: love of God and love of neighbor. (**Matthew 22: 34-40**).

It sounds so simple. But we know it isn't. We stumble. We fall. We forget. We sin. So, what can we do about it? Here are some ideas: five "habits of being" - choices we can make that can change how we live and how we love. Over time, they can even make the ordinary life an extraordinary one. They can even draw us closer to God.

The Habit of Prayer

This is where it begins. A simple but quiet, persistent habit of daily prayer can begin and end the day on a graced note – literally! Taking just five minutes every morning to place ourselves before God and pray for the day ahead with praise, wonder and hope can leave us open to God working in our lives. It can remind us of the one who brought our world into being and who walks with us through the challenges of life.

Looking for other ideas? Reading Scripture, meditating on God's Word, pausing for a quiet conversation with the Creator, taking part in daily Mass or weekly Adoration. All these can help refocus our lives. And closing the day with a quiet prayer of thanksgiving can similarly keep us grounded and grateful. Which brings me to the second habit.

The Habit of Gratitude

St. Paul told the Thessalonians, "In all circumstances, give thanks" (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**). That remains invaluable advice for us today. An "attitude of gratitude" to God for the simple gift of life can open our hearts to so much that we might take for granted. It can help us to see God's generosity at work in the world and help us cherish even more unexpected blessings.

Next weekend I will continue with Part II of **The Blessings of Extraordinary Time**. Until then, I hope you have a great week filled with many blessings and joys. You are in my daily thoughts and prayers.

Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



James McGee, Barbara Brodeur, Carolyn Wingenter, Zanetta Brown, Rachel Johnson, Faye Fletcher, Batchelder Family, Stachura Family, Sayre Family, Richard Wertz, Maddie Clearly, John Rourke, Jr., Cindy Morales, John & Linda Dimmock, Josephine Stratton, Ralph & Helen Kissel, Dan Vandergrift, John Howard, Sondra Adams, Judi Trygg, Marianna Young, Cecilia Hall, Deacon Mike Rooney, Antonio Beltran, Ramona Hallit, Rene Gonzalez, Bernice Geigel, Jane and Dena Bell, Juliana Goode, Marie Basta, Wanda Boren, Richard Brown, Jena Lanzell, Charlotte Johnson, Jim Kollar, Emma Lang, Patricia Hendersen, Diane Goguen, Matthew M., Selena M., Steven Weems, Serge Corvington, Bob Strang, Mateo Hernandez, Jacqueline Meador, Adrianna Hilburm, Jason & Jaxon Rivera, Therese Thomas, Mary Bell, Emma Rose Montague, Art Sandridge, Chris Karlson, Heidi Brown, Mary Vandergraft, Jeff Baldwin, Ben Sundry, Anna Wilks, Bill Boehme, Claude Davis, Mary Flatt.

Note

If you wish to add someone to the prayer list, please contact Renate at the parish office. When that person recovers, please call again to remove their name so that others can be put on the list. **Thank you, Fr. Joe**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Isaiah 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-9 Matthew 8:5-11	Friday	Genesis 3:9-15, 20 <i>Immaculate Conception</i> Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday	Isaiah 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Luke 10:21-24	Saturday	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Wednesday	Isaiah 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3s, 3b-4, 5, 6 Matthew 15:29-37	Sunday	Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Ps 85:9-14 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8
Thursday	Isaiah 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Matthew 7:21, 24-27		



CHRISTMAS BOXES 2023

It's Christmas Box time at St. Joseph! Please pick up a food item list from the church vestibule or the parish office. All donations must be returned to the church by December 8. You can also purchase Scrip for the boxes, put it in an envelope marked "Christmas Box Donation," and place in the offertory basket. We will have two collections designated for the Christmas Boxes—the Thanksgiving Day collection and a second collection on December 2 and 3. Proceeds from these collections will be used to purchase item shortages and grocery store gift cards. The gift cards will allow recipients to buy perishable items, such as meats and fresh produce, that we do not provide. Please help us on the following important dates.

Dec. 2/3	Second collection at all Masses
Dec. 8	Last day to bring donated food
Dec. 9	Count and sort donated items—9:00 a.m.

Dec. 15	Build packing boxes—5:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Pack the boxes—9:00 a.m.
Dec. 17	Boxes available for pick-up

This is a big annual undertaking for our parish that could not be done without the efforts of all who contribute to this outreach ministry. It is a wonderful way to enter into the spirit of Christmas and a blessed family and community event.

Please give generously of your time, talent and spirit to make this another successful year. For more information, call the parish office at 256-534-8459.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation to seasonal flower arrangements or request a special commemoration, please call the parish office at 256-534-8459.

CURRENT WEEKLY OFFERING

Regular Collection	\$ 7,167.60
Other Designated Funds	\$ 3,840.86

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 09-DECEMBER 10, 2023

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00pm:	Matteo Ayala
8:15am:	Dawson Amos
11:15am:	Robert Whitehead, Kaylen Nyochembeng

LECTORS

5:00pm:	Patty Ayala, Mary Graham
8:15am:	Claire Fried, Jillian Fried
11:15am:	Jeffrey Taylor, Maggie Taylor

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00pm:	Geri Donnelly*, Rita Cusack, Philip Graham, Josette Dant, Laura Hall
8:15am:	Ellen Styles*, Kevin Nash, Michelle Nash, Muriel Weston, Paula Bertrand
11:15am:	Donnis Aragon*, Norma Whitehead, Jane Dodds, Gerald Wocken, Bernita Briggs, Jerolyn Golightly

Religious Education

Formation and Catechesis



ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Our RE students have prepared several activities to take home and share with their families. We pray that parents and guardians will help the children and the whole family make the most out of the Advent Season.

FORMATION CALENDAR

Dec. 3	RE 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. HFS (enter via Messmer Center) OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Parish Office Building Advent Activities for RE
Dec. 10	RE 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. HFS (enter via Messmer Center) OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Parish Office Building LWC @ 8:15 & 11:15 a.m. Masses
Dec. 17-31	NO RE/OCIA A joyful and blessed Christmas to all!
Jan. 7	Classes resume

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)
is the new name for RCIA

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS In just under one year, Catholics from all over the U.S. will gather in Indianapolis, Indiana for the National Eucharistic Congress. It promises to be a defining moment for the Church in America. We are pleased to announce details for those who wish to join the official pilgrimage from the Diocese of Birmingham. Visit <https://bhmdiocese.org/revivalpilgrimage> for details.

PLEDGE CARD REMINDER If you regularly donate to the Holy Family School Capital Campaign and have not submitted a pledge card, please consider doing so. In order to receive permission from the Diocese to move forward with our next building phase, we must show that we have the pledges to financially support the project. If you need more information, contact Patty in the parish office.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Saturday, December 9, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Messmer Center/Gym. Cost is \$6.00 per meal, ages three and up. Includes pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs and milk/juice. Santa will be available for photos. The whole family is welcome. **Sponsored by Holy Family School.**

NEW ADULT FORMATION SERIES Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. beginning on January 10, facilitated by Tom Uss.

There will be three sessions on *The Second Vatican Council*, followed by eight sessions of *Women in the New Testament* by Mary Ann Getty-Sullivan. This study engages with women across a variety of connections to Jesus and the apostles and studies them accordingly. Participants will encounter the strengths and needs of these women, but also how being a woman in the Holy Land during the time of Jesus and the apostles shaped many of the challenges they faced in responding to Jesus. We will enter into discussion and prayer about expectant faith, what it means to be touched by Jesus, and the meaning of discipleship through the lives of the women who lived in the first generation of Christianity.

Mary Ann Getty-Sullivan holds an S.T.D. from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. She has been teaching New Testament courses in colleges and seminaries for more than thirty years and has recently retired from teaching full time to devote more time to writing and lecturing.

Here Is What's Happening This Week

HFS Santa's Workshop, Dec. 4-8, SFH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 04

11:30am: Joan Morean Memorial Service (SJC)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 05

10:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (LIB)

6:00pm: Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 06

9:00am: HFS Builders Meeting (LIB)

6:00pm: Knights of Columbus (LMR)

6:00pm: 11:15am Mass Choir Practice (SJC)

7:00pm: 8:15am Mass Choir Practice (SJC)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 07

6:00pm: Adult Formation (LMR)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 09

8:30am: Breakfast with Santa (FMC)

10:00am: 1st Reconciliation (SJC)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

LWC @ 8:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Masses

9:30am: RE/OCIA (LMR/LIB/HFS/SFH)

12:30pm: KPC/KPCLA (LMR)

12:30pm: Church Christmas Cleaning (SJC)

Facilities Key

FMC = Messmer Center/Gym

SJC = St. Joseph Church

SFH = St. Francis Hall

LMR/LIB = RE Center

BEA = Beasley Hall

STA = St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel

BRZWW = Breezeway

VBC = Von Braun Center