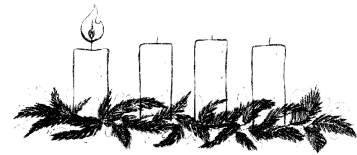


# November 29, 2009 First Sunday of Advent



## Saturday, November 28

5 p.m. **Mary Rusnock**  
r/o Altar Rosary Society

## Sunday, November 29

8:00 a.m. **Francesco, Grazia & Jerry Tirino**  
r/o Joe & Emily Cirone

10:30 a.m. **Genevieve & Joseph Bawiec**  
r/o Jane & Rocco Labato

## Monday, November 30

8:45 a.m. **Leonida Valcos**  
r/o Alex & Arleen Buoye

## Tuesday, December 1

8:45 a.m. **Nicholas Merlo**  
r/o Rose Strohmaier

## Wednesday, December 2

8:45 a.m. **For the Beatification of Fr. Francis Jordan**  
r/o Father Zenek

## Thursday, December 3

8:45 a.m. **Sarah Flowers**  
r/o Susan Reynolds

## First Friday, December 4

8:45 a.m. **Ronald Semonche**  
r/o Family

## First Saturday, December 5

8:45 a.m. **Healing of Robert Gross**  
r/o Angela Gross

5 p.m. **Joseph Matarazzo, Sr.**  
r/o The Haines Family

## Sunday, December 6

8:00 a.m. **Ann Montebello**  
r/o The Tozzi Family

10:30 a.m. **Pieda Castro, Dora Delgado & Cathy Morera**  
r/o The Sanchez Family

Dear Parishioners!

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown.

Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is Purple. This is the color of penitence and fasting as well as the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. Purple is still used in Catholic churches. The purple of Advent is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The nativity,

the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, of the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection. To reflect this emphasis, originally Advent was a time of penitence and fasting, much as the Season of Lent and so shared the color of Lent.

In the four weeks of Advent the third Sunday came to be a time of rejoicing that the fasting was almost over (in some traditions it is called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for "rejoice"). The shift from the purple of the Season to pink or rose for the third Sunday Advent candles reflected this lessening emphasis on penitence as attention turned more to celebration of the season.

In many churches the third Sunday remains the Sunday of Joy marked by pink or rose. Some churches, including some Catholic churches, use blue violet to preserve the traditional use of purple while providing a visual distinction between the purple or red violet of Lent.

During this season of Advent God has a grace to give you. When Jesus was entering Jerusalem for the last time he cried because the people of Jerusalem did not recognize the time of their visitation (Luke 19:41-42). They would miss out on the grace of God. Let us not miss out on the time of our visitation. To use the words of John the Baptist in the desert, are you making a straight way for the visitation of God? Are you receiving the grace God is offering you this Advent? This Advent is a time when God will visit you if you allow him. So how is Advent going for you? If you have not yet begun to make a straight way for the Lord to receive his grace begin today. It is never too late to begin.

How might you receive the grace God is offering you this Advent? Spend more time in prayer with God this Advent. Spend time with God searching for the answers to your problems. You look forward to spending time with a loved one. Look forward with anticipation to spending time with God in prayer each day during Advent. Instead of just going through the motions during this season of Advent can you celebrate Advent with your heart? May I suggest that you use the [Scripture readings for daily Mass](#) for your prayer and meditation. There are also many books available with Advent reflections. If Advent is only a time of consumerism and buying gifts for people that they don't really want or need, it is flying in the face of what Jesus is all about. There is only one gift at Christmas, that gift is Jesus. Jesus is the grace that the Father wants to give to you this Advent. The Father is always willing to give, but it is up to you to unwrap the Father's gift of Jesus to you. Advent is a time to renew and deepen our relationship with God. It is a time of

patient waiting for God, prayerful and trustful waiting for God.  
Fr. Zenek, SDS

### An Evening of Recollection

St. Theodore Church will be holding an **Evening of Recollection on Tuesday, December 1st at 7PM.**

The evening will include adoration, reconciliation, and Mass, followed with a talk by Father Pawel, SDS. We extend an invitation to all to come join us for this opportunity to prepare ourselves for the coming Season of Advent and Christmas.

### Tricky Tray Event December 4

**Doors open 6 pm; drawings at 7:30 pm**

**Admission \$10, which includes 1 sheet of tickets free. Refreshments available.**



Wow! Only 5 days left before the Tricky Tray night. Hopefully, you are in the process of putting your basket together. If you haven't started yet, there's still time. **Baskets should be**

**delivered by Sunday, Nov. 29.** It would be very helpful if you'd wrap your basket with shrink wrap or put it in a cellophane bag. Basket value begins at \$25. **Next Meetings Nov. 30 & Dec. 2, at 6 p.m.** With effort and prayers we can make this fundraiser succeed—we are St. Theodore Parish!

### PARISHIONERS: PLEASE SUPPORT THIS FUNDRAISER: BRUNCH with SANTA

St. Theodore will be hosting a **Brunch with Santa on Dec. 13 after the 10:30 Mass.** Brunch includes Crepes, Chicken Nuggets, Hot Dogs, Juice Box, coffee & tea, sweets. Tickets are now on sale in the Parish Center after all the Masses; at the Rectory Office Monday-Thursday and they also will be available at the door on the day of the Brunch. Children \$8 (under 4: free), Adults \$10. Thank you. Fr. Zenek

### GIVING TREE

Gifts are to be returned (unwrapped) by 11/28-11/29; 12/5-12/6.

**Dutch Valley Christmas Tree Farm in Changewater, NJ** will be open every day after Thanksgiving, 9a to 5p. They have trees, grave blankets & wreaths. 166 Changewater Road; 908-689-0793

**A Special Thank you to Susan Reynolds** for making the beautiful wedding chair covers for our church. Your seamstress

skills are enviable and have contributed to the beautification of our Sanctuary. Thank you very much.  
Fr. Zenek



### First Friday and First Saturday

**Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5:** Mass at 8:45, followed by the Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us.



### Sanctuary Candle in Loving Memory of Peter Matthew Albano, Jr.

By Mon & Dad

### Pilgrimage to Poland, Czech Republic & Austria

**To date, 24 people have signed up. The price per person is \$3,100 for the 11 days; for more details visit [www.sttheodorenj.com](http://www.sttheodorenj.com).** Please join us (Fr Michael from Hampton, and Fr Zenek) for pilgrimage to Poland (Krakow, Wadowice, Czestochowa), Czech and Austria (Vienna and Melk). July 6th - 16th, 2010

### Religious Education Corner

- **Dec. 6 after 10:30 Mass:** Mandatory meeting for Youth Group children wishing to participate in the Christmas program at Warren Haven Nursing Home.
- **Dec 7, 6:15 pm:** Mass for the Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation: **ALL REL. ED. STUDENTS & PARENTS** are to attend.

**Please pray for:** Chris, Bree, Anna & John Saksa, Heather Rupell, Stephen, Ray & Alice O'Donnell, Vickie Li Puma, Theresa, Mary, Robert Gross, Lillian Shaffer, Bridget, Beatrice Gillis, Erin Stanton, Theresa Kugelman, Katlyn Faulkner, Chris Gilheany, Steve, Dolores, Renee Drag, Geri Hedges, John P., Honol Shah, Barbara Zack, Charlie. *To add Name: Call Parish Office 908-689-8318*

### Altar Servers

**Nov. 28:** Auston Viotto, Sean Flaherty  
**Nov. 29:** Robert & Juliette Capaldo-8; Walter & William Gonsiewski, Melody Haag-10:30

### Lectors

**Nov. 28:** Christine DeLellis  
**Nov. 29:** Joan Capaldo-8; Helene Picht-10:30

### Eucharistic Ministers

**Nov. 28:** Charles Shipley E; Jim & Eileen Mattison C

**Nov. 29:** Emily Cirone E, Nadie Hill & Diane  
Keggan C-8ane Labato E, Patricia Kollar & Joy  
Haag C-10:30