

Advent: A Time of Renewal The Gospel so often remembers the encounter of those who experienced God's forgiveness in the person of Jesus. Perhaps we can imagine ourselves in their situation; be it the lost son away from home, the woman with seven husbands, the rich man in search of more, or the Roman soldier who wondered if his son would live. All of these people were in search of the healing power of God's love and some reconciliation with the community – something that would give a renewed meaning to their lives. Take for example those who were blind and deaf, the speechless and lame; each person a symbol of humanity's struggle for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit – salvation. Each representing more than a physical limitation; blind to the vision of God's love for all creation; deaf to the sound of God in the voiceless mass of humanity; speechless before the principalities and powers of discord that rule the world; crippled and unable to walk this earth with dignity and grace. How often humanity finds itself disfigured by the reality of sin rather than reflecting the love and compassion, mercy and justice of the One in whose image we are created. We distort our image and that of others and strive to create a reflection that our culture imagines to be more genuine. Such false images are created by the consumer-marketing and advertising "gods" of our time and sold to people who are hungry for meaning and wholeness. For the Church, each season of Grace serves as an appropriate time to turn from the false pretensions and distortions of our culture; to truly become a living presence of healing and wholeness within our families and community. In a word, we become Servants of Christ. Advent is a time of renewal, a time of transformation, a time of conversion, and a time of new life – a time to recognize God's unconditional love, and in turn enable others to encounter God through us – the Body of Christ. L.Gaetano



Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 8, 2017. Vigil Mass 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening ; on Friday at 7:00am, 9:00am, which will be the children's Mass for the parish and 12:00 p.m.

Advent Penance Service on Tuesday December 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. This is a time of renewal and recommitment to **BE THE MISSION**; allowing Christ the Servant to be born anew in your life and become flesh in your daily thoughts, words, and actions – leaving behind all the baggage that keeps us from being the mission of Christ in our acre of God's world.

PRINCIPAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR 2018

You will notice within the circular diagram of the liturgical year for 2018 the various Liturgical Seasons, which are depicted by color. Green is the color of Ordinary Time; White is the color of Celebrations of Major Feast Days; Purple is the color for days of Penance (Lent) and days of Renewal (Advent). The Paschal Triduum is in Gold, as it represents Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil /Easter - The Triduum are the days following Lent in which we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, and the Resurrection.

The Principal Feasts for the new liturgical year are:

First Sunday of Advent Dec. 3, 2017

Ash Wednesday Feb. 14, 2018

Easter April 1, 2018

Ascension May 10, 2018

Pentecost May 20, 2018

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ June 3, 2018

First Sunday of Advent Dec. 2, 2018

