



The Season of Advent marks the start of a New Year in the Church. It is a season of increased prayer, penance, and good works. It is a time to renew our love of Jesus and through Him our love of others. It is a time in which we ask God's mercy and rededicate ourselves to His joyful service. In this way, even as we mark the birth of Jesus, we ourselves are making a new beginning as Children of God.

“THE BLESSINGS OF WAITING,” AN ADVENT EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR ~

Sunday, November 27, 3:30 – 4:30 PM. Come and prepare your hearts for the season of Advent by spending one hour of prayer and reflection before the busyness of Christmas takes over. Join us in the church for an Advent Retreat with Eucharistic Adoration. Tom Petty famously once wrote, *“The waiting is the hardest part.”* While that may sometimes be true, it doesn't always have to be. Since ancient times, the people of God waited for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. Now 2,000 years later, as Christians, we are waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus. We long to see Him and look forward to the perfected earth and the new Jerusalem. Psalm 27 compels us to be patient. *“Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!”* Why would God make us wait? It is because there is a goodness to waiting. Through our patience, we have the opportunity to receive blessings while preparing more room in our hearts to receive the fullness of His love.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION ~

Wednesday, December 7 Vigil Mass at 6:30 PM.

Thursday, December 8 Feast Day Masses at 9 AM & 7 PM. The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna's womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.

WEEKLY ADVENT ADORATION WITH CONFESSION ~

Tuesdays, November 29; December 6, 13, & 20, from 7 - 8 PM. Bring your day to a restful end by basking in the True Presence of our Eucharistic Lord. Clear and quiet your soul from all that has come between you and God by making a good Confession – especially if it has been awhile. Confession is a healing encounter with Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The Lord's mercy, healing, and grace are given to us through this encounter. In it Jesus also strengthens us to resist future or ongoing temptation. The Sacrament of Confession is a moment of accountability for us before the Lord. The Lord's forgiveness and mercy is infinite. Nothing we have done can ever separate us from experiencing God's forgiveness through this sacrament. Confession will also continue to be offered Saturdays in the church from Noon to 12:45 PM, *except on December 24.*



GIVE A GIFT ~ December 3 & 4 at all Masses.

Once again we ask the people of St. Mary's to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, unwrapped together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating "Boy" or "Girl" and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 3 & 4. Gift bags only please.



COOKIE WALK FOR HAITI ~ December 10 & 11,

after all Weekend Masses. Long rows of tables will be set up in Fr. Haley Hall – tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary's Middle School Youth Group Members. For \$6, you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then "walk" down the rows of tables and select a dozen cookies which youths (wearing masks and plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will benefit the poor of Haiti, a deeply impoverished nation rocked by a presidential assassination, a major earthquake, and a hurricane.

"LONG LAY THE WORLD!"

An Advent Mission With Katie Patrizio ~



The centuries before Christ were a time of upheaval. Wars raged in Palestine and one nation after another rose up in conquest against the Jewish people. But a simple prophecy in the Book of Daniel had all Israel holding its breath, for it gave an exact timeline for when to expect the arrival of the Messiah.

Join nationally acclaimed Catholic Speaker Katie Patrizio as she unpacks the Old Testament roots of Christmas and the historical backdrop of the Nativity story. Plan to go home with a greater appreciation for the pining of the Jewish people, and the longing of our own souls for the Coming of the Lord.

**Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 PM in
St. Mary's Church. All are welcome!**



LESSONS & CAROLS ~

Friday, December 16, 7-8 PM in the church.

Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of our Lord Jesus. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature St. Mary's Adult Choir under the direction of Mr. Christopher Pelonzi. The program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Ord, Thompson, DeSilva, and more. Bring your whole family and fill your Christmas preparations with plenty of holiday cheer!



Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Mass in the Church

**4:00 PM Mass in Fr. Haley Hall
with Children's Pageant**

5:30 PM Mass in the Church

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11:00 PM Midnight Mass in the Church



Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church

Saturday, January 7, 5 PM Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

On this Final Feast of the Christmas Season, Saint Mary's is honored to host the Ordination of Pietro Rossini to the Transitional Diaconate. Pietro has been in residence at the Fatima Shrine for several years, studying for ministry one day as a Xaverian Missionary Father. All are invited to attend this special celebration.



The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be conferred by the Most Reverend Vitus Rubianto, s.x. Bishop of Padang, Indonesia. Bishop Rubianto is a Xaverian Missionary who is the first Indonesian to be ordained a Bishop there. The Diocese of Padang is on the island of Sumatra, where the first Xaverian Missionaries were sent in the 1950's.

