Be vigilant at all times
December 2, 2018 • First Sunday of Advent

In daily life, it’s easy simply to focus on the here and now. Life can be complex and rapidly changing. It’s often plenty for us just to get through the day. Yet it seems that in Luke’s Gospel today, Jesus is asking his followers, and us too, to widen our focus and see a larger reality.

We are asked to observe not only the routines of daily life, not only the large forces of history acting upon us, but also God bringing forth the birth of a new creation. Jesus asks us to see beyond today’s troubles and watch God stirring up hope. We are to more truly see persons in need, those who experience violence, loss, or injustice. We are asked to see beyond the superficial during the Christmas shopping season, and to see Christ as ultimate Gift and gift-giver.

WAITING WELL

Today we begin Lectionary Year C, when the Gospel readings are frequently from the Gospel of Luke. Luke wrote for a community that wrestled with questions about what had happened and what had not (yet) happened. Some in the community had anticipated the promised return of Jesus during their lifetimes. In today’s Gospel, Jesus does not offer a timetable for his coming, but asks us to watch and wait. We can learn to wait faithfully, not knowing what will happen next, but living in trust. Advent is a time to learn again about waiting well.

Many of the events we most cherish in life involve waiting: the birth of a child, graduation, a new job, retirement. How we receive these events often depends on how well we have waited and prepared. Waiting well is not passive. We often work hard to prepare for life’s big events, both externally and in our hearts. We ready ourselves, but allow for surprises. Advent’s preparation for Christmas mirrors our many waitings, knowing that God may come into our lives by surprise, without a timetable.

Today’s Readings: Jsr 33:14–16; Ps 25:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:3 – 4:2; Lk 21:25–28, 34–36

In daily life, it’s easy simply to focus on the here and now. Life can be complex and rapidly changing. It’s often plenty for us just to get through the day. Yet it seems that in Luke’s Gospel today, Jesus is asking his followers, and us too, to widen our focus and see a larger reality.

We are asked to observe not only the routines of daily life, not only the large forces of history acting upon us, but also God bringing forth the birth of a new creation. Jesus asks us to see beyond today’s troubles and watch God stirring up hope. We are to more truly see persons in need, those who experience violence, loss, or injustice. We are asked to see beyond the superficial during the Christmas shopping season, and to see Christ as ultimate Gift and gift-giver.

WAITING WELL

Today we begin Lectionary Year C, when the Gospel readings are frequently from the Gospel of Luke. Luke wrote for a community that wrestled with questions about what had happened and what had not (yet) happened. Some in the community had anticipated the promised return of Jesus during their lifetimes. In today’s Gospel, Jesus does not offer a timetable for his coming, but asks us to watch and wait. We can learn to wait faithfully, not knowing what will happen next, but living in trust. Advent is a time to learn again about waiting well.

Many of the events we most cherish in life involve waiting: the birth of a child, graduation, a new job, retirement. How we receive these events often depends on how well we have waited and prepared. Waiting well is not passive. We often work hard to prepare for life’s big events, both externally and in our hearts. We ready ourselves, but allow for surprises. Advent’s preparation for Christmas mirrors our many waitings, knowing that God may come into our lives by surprise, without a timetable.

Today’s Readings: Jsr 33:14–16; Ps 25:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:3 – 4:2; Lk 21:25–28, 34–36

Copyright © 2018, J. S. Paluch Company, Inc., 3708 River Road, Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158 1 800 621-5197. With Ecclesiastical Approval.

St. Francis Xavier Parish
7th and JEFFERSON STREETS, MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA. 26041
Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):
Sat. 3:30 p.m., or any other time upon request.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:
By appointment. Contact the Parish House at least six months before the date of the marriage. Pre-Cana is required.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:
By appointment. The Diocese requires instructions beforehand for the parents. Contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (C.C.D.):
Sundays during the school term at 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. for Grades 1-12.

REGISTRATION AND CHURCH SUPPORT:
Parishioners should be properly registered at the Parish Office
First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018
I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just in the
land.
— Jeremiah 33:15

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers:
12/8  4:00 p.m. Danny Prado/Mary Taskalines
12/9    8:00 a.m. T. Wise/S. Kent
12/9    10:00 a.m. C. McDonald/ J. Klug

Altar Servers:
12/8   4:00 p.m. Volunteer
12/9   8:00 a.m.  Laberdee
12/9   10:00 a.m.  Targosky/ Swift

Gift Bearers:
12/8    4:00  p.m.  John & Loretta Niemiec
12/9    8:00  a.m. Dan & Lori Laberdee
12/9 10:00  a.m.  Carolyn Gordon

Sacristy Cleaners: Week of December 3, 2018
Julie Anderson & Ruth Anderson

Greeters:
12/8   4:00 p.m. Dave Evans
12/9   8:00 a.m.  Kent Family
12/9   10:00 a.m.  Joe & Jonna Kuskey

Bingo December 7, 2018
Raffle – Bob & Patty Kleinedler
Kitchen – Jenny Ingram

Sunday Lectors: Please pick up your workbooks for 2019 in the sacristy.

COLLECTION: November 18, 2018
Envelopes - $ 2923.00
Loose Offering - $ 1128.00
Electronic Giving - $ 35.00
Building Fund - $ 35.00
Memorial Offerings - $ 25.00
Pennies for God - $  7.50
Attendance - 321

NEXT WEEK SECOND COLLECTION
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND
December 8-9

Kroger earnings for August 1 through October 31
$234.17
38 Households
The Sanctuary Candle
beside the tabernacle burns this week
for: Frank Ross
Requested by
Duane & Daunel Gump

Immaculate Conception
Holy Day Masses:
Friday, Dec. 7 @ 4:00
Saturday, Dec. 8 @ 9:00 A.M.

THE SHUT-IN PROJECT
Correction: We have 52 members of our shut-in community (not 25 as mentioned last week). If you are able to help distribute gifts to them, please meet in the church lot on Saturday, December 15th at 9:00 A.M.. If you are able to help financially with the parish shut-in project, you may put an envelope in the basket marked “shut-in project”. For more information call Mary Taskalines at 304-845-7326 or Loretta Remke at 304-845-9594

Our local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society offers its heartfelt thanks to those who contributed to its Thanksgiving Day Collection ($1075) and to everyone who continues to support its efforts with prayers and donations throughout the year.

Don’t forget we are still collecting canned goods for the needy in our area for Christmas. A container can be found in the vestibule for donations.

Holiday Baked Goods Sale
We are accepting orders for nut bread, nut cookies, apple butter, and pierogis for Christmas. Use the order form in this bulletin or call 304-845-5565.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Dec. 1 - Christmas Church Cleaning 9 a.m.
Dec. 2 - St. Francis Xavier Feast Day Celebration 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 9 - Communal Penance Service 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 14 - Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Dec. 15 - Deliver Christmas Flowers 9:00 a.m.
Dec. 16 - Decorate Church for Christmas 11:00
Dec. 20 - Pick up Holiday Baked goods
Jan 26 - World Youth Day

Our Parish offers prayers and condolences to the family of:
Mark Joseph Novel
May he rest in peace.

Communal Penance Service
Sunday, December 9, at 4:00
St. Francis Xavier Church
Homilist: Father Tom Patronek

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
Friday, December 14 in Xavier Hall. 11 to 5
Fish, Fries, Cole Slaw,
Pierogi, Macaroni & Cheese, Drinks,
Homemade Desserts
Workers and baked goods are needed!
Contact Greg Green 304-238-3621 or Cork Potts 304-845-2686

MOUNDSVILLE: AN AMERICAN STORY
The Strand Theater will hold a premiere of the film Moundsville: An American Story on Friday, December 7th at 7 p.m. Many of our parishioners are featured in this full length documentary that chronicles much of our community’s past and present– while speculating on its future. Two Pittsburgh filmmakers have spent the past year working on this project which was underwritten by the Pittsburgh Arts Council. They will be available for questions following the film. Everyone is invited to attend. Admission $5

2nd ANNUAL LADY KNIGHTS HOLIDAY BASKETBALL CAMP
Basketball drills, skills and games. Practice dribbling, passing, shooting and more!
All campers receive a t-shirt and drinks.
December 27th, 2018 at St. Michael’s gym
Grades k-4 : 10:00 to Noon
Grades 5-8: 12:30 to 2:30
Cost: $25; Register by December 14