



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

1st Sunday of Advent | 29th of November, 2020

Advent

PREPARING THE WAY



©LPI

To seek the greater honor and glory of God and the salvation of souls, by teaching, sanctifying, and shepherding the faithful through dynamic orthodoxy.

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GOSPLE MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes! That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us. God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

WORSHIP

[*We are no longer holding in person Mass, but Mass can be heard in the parking lot via FM Radio!*](#)

Sunday Obligation

Saturday Vigil Mass- 5pm

Sunday: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm & 6:00 pm

Daily Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:00 am in person and online

Monday - Friday 6:00 pm

Confessions- in the Adoration Chapel

Monday - Friday at 9:30 am & 5:00 pm, Saturdays at 2:30pm

Church is open for prayer everyday

9:30 am - 6:00 pm

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29TH, 2020

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Adult Formation ALPHA

Do you ever find yourself pondering the bigger faith based questions in life?

What is the Church?

Am I apart of a bigger community?

Why does it seem like everyone around me is referring to the Church as if though its more than a building??

What about the Church is so special?

If you've asked yourself any of these questions, Alpha is the program for you! Register online at www.stanm.org/alpha and join us for a night of joyful conversation and spiritual growth - 100% online and COVID compliant.

**Explore & discuss
life's biggest
questions.**

Join us!

Tuesday at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Register online: stanm.org/alpha



THIS ADVENT SEASON

*Do not be
afraid*



WEEK ONE: DO NOT BE AFRIAD TO HOLD HOPE

With the way this year has been going, it's almost hard to believe that Advent is here, which means that Christmas is right around the corner!

In light of Advent, take this moment to think about your priorities this holiday season. What is on the front of your mind? Is it finding presents for the kids? Wondering where the in-laws are going to stay? Is it Christmas dinner that you're thinking about? Or are you taking the time to look inward and preparing your heart for the birth of Jesus Christ?

Every year, we're being given a valuable opportunity to begin preparing for the coming of Christ, and we encourage you to evaluate how much of our heart is taken up by other lesser or material things. What material things are you holding onto that you can let go of this season?

Tune in for the first week of our Advent series: Do Not Be Afraid, available on YouTube and the STANM app today.

WE'RE HIRING!

Part-time Communications Specialist

Skills: some experience or exposure to graphic design, copywriting, social media management, photography and website upkeep

Perks: Retirement & Health benefits, Paid vacation & sick leave, friendly environment and more!

Come work for a team dedicated to serving our Lord.

visit: www.stanm.org/employment



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COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

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LOOKING FOR
YOU!**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Q & A

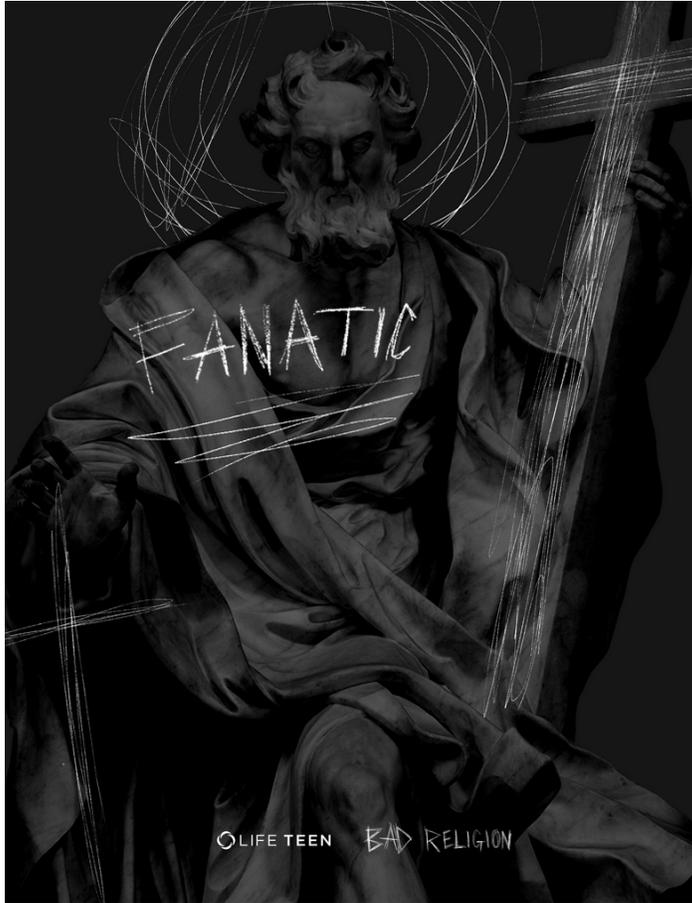
WHEN WE SAY THE PENITENTIAL ACT AT MASS, WHY DO WE STRIKE OUR CHEST THREE TIMES?

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the “I Confess” of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian’s striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a “humbled contrite heart” or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

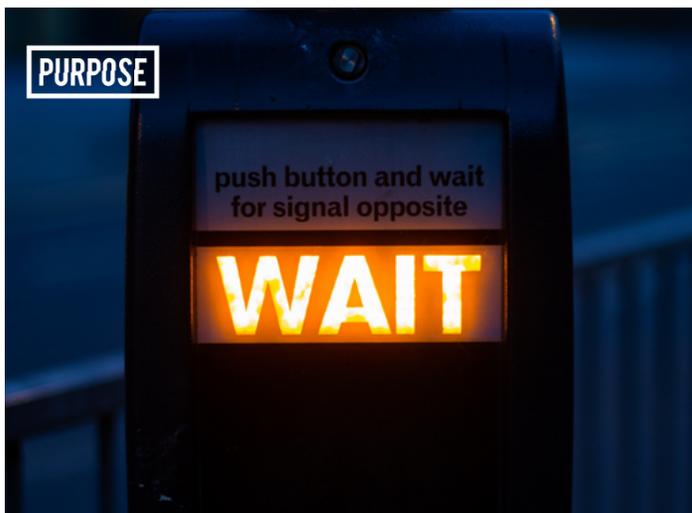
YOUTH MINISTRY



FANATIC - NOV 29, 2020

If you had something you knew other people needed, what would you do with it? We might ask some important questions first: How much is there? Can everyone have it, or do I need to decide who gets it? Do I also need it? What happens if there is not enough? There are two major obstacles that can prevent us from sharing something we have that other people need. One is fear and the other is ignorance.

If we have something others need, we may recognize the need but become fearful that by giving what we have, there will not be enough left for us. This is a fear of scarcity. When we are afraid of losing what we have and sharing with others, we hide what we have and we also hide from people.



The Good News is not just a piece of interesting information; it is a message that the world changed through Jesus' death and Resurrection.

This new reality was proclaimed boldly by the early Church thanks to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Pentecost and on every community who converted.

The death and Resurrection of Christ had the final word for those who accepted the Good News. Nothing else mattered: not status, wealth, family, friends, suffering, or even death. The followers of Christ believed there was more to life in Christ.

