

THE *Angelus*

THE HOLY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. No. 18 | Winter 2022



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

by Father Rick



As we bless our Advent Wreath we hear, “Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.” If we as a community, (a Holy Family Community) fully enter into this Advent season, I truly believe “Blessing will come upon us.” New birth will not only be celebrated in the Christ child, but also in us!

Advent as we know, is the beginning of the new liturgical year. How quickly the last liturgical year goes by. So we should take advantage of every day the Lord has made for us. If we celebrate each day, we will have new birth in us. We will grow each week in the light of Christ, and Christ’s light will shine in us. Yes, in this past year there has been darkness in our lives and in the lives of our community. All the more reason to walk in the light of Christ given to us in Baptism. How quickly we can get lost in darkness! The new born Christ, that we prepare the way for, is the way, truth, and light!

So once again, may we fully enter into this Advent season. As I said last year, let us invite someone to join our community and come home for Christmas. Let us not be afraid to extend an invitation to a family member, neighbor, or a stranger. What a joyful, and complete Christmas season it will be!

I promise you my prayers for this new year. Please pray for our Holy Family Community in your personal prayers.

Advent Blessings,

Fr. Rick



UPCOMING EVENTS

O Come O Come Emmanuel!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 7: Mass Times

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 8: 8:00 a.m.

12:10 p.m.

Holly Jolly Latrobe

Outside of Holy Family Church

Saturday, December 3: from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

St. Nicholas Brunch

Holy Family Social Hall

Sunday, December 4: at 11:30 a.m.

Living Nativity Fair

Outside of Holy Family Church

Saturday, December 10: from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Feast of the Nativity (Christmas)

Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday, December 24: Mass Times

4:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

12:00 a.m. (Midnight)

Sunday, December 25: 8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

1:00 p.m. (Latin)

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Monday, Dec 12th:

St. James, New Alexandria

Tuesday, Dec. 13th:

St. Rose, Latrobe

Wednesday, Dec. 14th:

St. Joseph, Derry

Thursday, Dec 15th:

St. Bartholomew, Crabtree

Monday, Dec 19th:

St. John, Latrobe

All services begin at 7 p.m.



FAITH FORMATION K-6

We welcome all children in grades kindergarten through grade 6.

The fall season has been a very busy one in Faith Formation! Classes meet each Sunday from 9:00-10:15 in CDT School. Every week, the children share the week's gospel with each other and learn ways they can spread this important message to their family and others they meet.

In October, the students honored the saints with an All Saints Celebration! They enjoyed learning about amazing saints and their stories. We should all strive to be more like them!

St. Teresa of Calcutta's motto that she lived by and wanted us to follow is:

"Do small acts of kindness with great love."

While preparing for Thanksgiving, the students shared the many blessings they have received, and wanted to share some blessings with others. They did this by collecting and bringing in items to put in the Holy Family Food Pantry (Blessing Box)



"We are all saints in the making."



Advent

As the students prepare their hearts and minds for the "true meaning" of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, Our Savior.



The students will invite the parents on Dec. 18th to share in some special traditions of the Advent season. Everyone will enjoy cookies and cocoa.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Please keep all these students in your prayers.

First Reconciliation: Students had a retreat with Deacon Mike on November 19th. They learned the steps for first reconciliation and even got a tour of the reconciliation room.

Special activities and crafts were completed to reinforce reconciliation and God's grace and forgiveness that we receive each time we go to confession .



Grade 2 students preparing to receive their First Reconciliation on December 10th:

Anslee Ament
Vincent DePalma
Andrew Foss
Elsie Lowman
Raphael Rossmiller
Noelle Stoup

7th Grade Students

Mason De Vincentis
Cameron Ferri
Timothy Foss
Emily Lackey
Vinny Razza
Michael Witherspoon



Confirmation Prep: 7th and 8th graders are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Students receiving confirmation this spring are:

Holy Family

Gabriella Amatucci
Kolbe Foss
Lindsey Rachocki
Kayla Ferri
Joseph Razza

St. Rose

Sofia Cinamella.
Matthew Cinbulk.
Nathaniel Cox
Julianna Kozar
Jacob Leonard
Melody Marsh.
Morgan Skolada



The sharing of the Word of God and our faith would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our catechists:

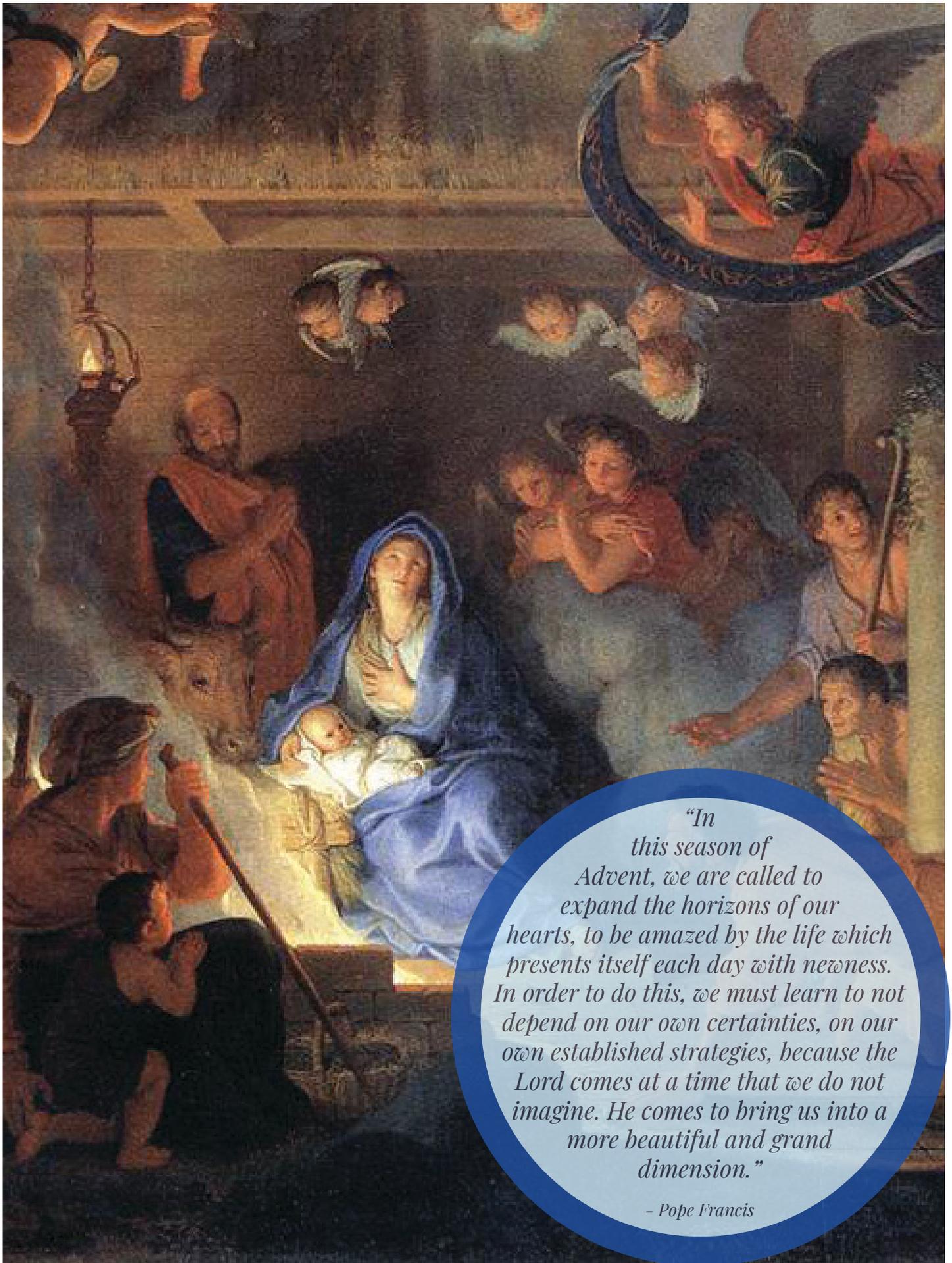
FAITH FORMATION K-6

Kim Marsh Jackie Henry Judi Kiesel Jody Taylor

CONFIRMATION PREP

Tracey Downs Rachel Pavlik Jody Taylor

Thank you for all you do!



*“In
this season of
Advent, we are called to
expand the horizons of our
hearts, to be amazed by the life which
presents itself each day with newness.
In order to do this, we must learn to not
depend on our own certainties, on our
own established strategies, because the
Lord comes at a time that we do not
imagine. He comes to bring us into a
more beautiful and grand
dimension.”*

- Pope Francis

TRANSITIONING FROM ORDINARY TIME TO ADVENT

by Deacon Mike Orange



When can you officially start celebrating Christmas? That question brings a varied number of opinions on the time to put up the tree, listen to Christmas music, and purchase your peppermint mocha.

I'm coming to appreciate the Liturgical Calendar for the church more each year. Technically, Advent begins Sunday, November 27th leading us into the Christmas season.

Ordinary Time refers to the season in the Liturgical Calendar prior to Advent or specific seasons like Lent and Easter. Often, Thanksgiving on Thursday moves us directly into the first Sunday of Advent.

Kate Bowler in her book "Everything Happens for a Reason" shares about her wrestling with cancer, the gospel, and dealing with what people have advised her. She says this about Ordinary Time in her life presently with cancer:

"If I were to invent a sin to describe what that was—for how I lived—I would not say it was simply that I didn't stop to smell the roses. It was the sin of arrogance, of becoming impervious to life itself. I failed to love what was present and decided to love what was possible instead. I must learn to live in ordinary time, but I don't know how."

Do you live in Ordinary Time? The transition from ordinary time to Advent between Thanksgiving and Advent invites us to pause. We find ourselves driving the nostalgia and energy of the Christmas season while seemingly missing the present.

On the other hand, the Christmas season has

become difficult for some of us. We will face the grief of missing a loved one for the first holiday. The financial stress and expectations will haunt us. I have heard people share that the dysfunction of their family becomes acutely felt.

The week of Ordinary Time is a gift for us this Christmas season. It moves us from the hoopla of the holidays to the celebration of Savior stepping down from heaven to earth. It moves us from the cynicism of our current circumstances to the reality of Jesus who has walked into our darkness with us. Ordinary Time represents the 300-400 years between the Old Testament and New Testament — a faithful Messiah in the moments of silence and the brilliance of glory.

I'm not saying to put on hold the Christmas tree, turning off the holiday songs, or giving up your peppermint mocha.

Ordinary Time calls us to see Jesus presently before Advent. It calls us to see the people He has invited us to love today. It reminds to experience the silence and solitude of His presence before rushing to the next event.

How will you move from Ordinary Time to Advent? I pray that this transition prepares your heart to experience the Good News of the Gospel found in Jesus.

May you find the Peace, Joy, Hope, and Love this year and may we all look to our Lord as the light we so desperately need!

God Bless,
Deacon Mike



LITURGICAL LIVING DURING ADVENT

by Caroline Nelson

What are we supposed to do during Advent? I struggle with something that I think most members of our Catholic Faith often struggle with throughout the seasons of life – complacency. I often find myself hoping that the liturgical seasons of the year will help break me from the mundane patterns of my routines. Yet, as I began reflecting on this article, I couldn't help but think how stale I've become in my approach to Advent. Every year, a parish is challenged to repackage something that we are all very used to in a way that reinvigorates her parishioners to prepare! In our own hearts we are similarly challenged to profoundly shift our perspective to prepare for Christ's coming.

Preparing – that's what Advent really is! The scripture we are exposed to, the colors used in the church, all the elements of liturgy in this season are geared toward reminding us to prepare. But this is a specific kind of preparation. Lent is a time of preparation too, but it is completely different from Advent! No, Advent is preparing for the celebration of Christ coming into the world for the first time. Simcha Fisher, a writer for *The Catholic Weekly*, very beautifully framed Advent as similar to when a baby is near: "What do you do when a little baby is nearby, maybe sleeping in the next room? You try to quiet down, gentle down, make everything a little less harsh and cold." In our hearts, we quiet ourselves to make a place for this gentle joyful Christ child to inhabit within us.

While it is great to read quotes like this that help us re-frame our Advent preparation mindset, while the homilies and liturgical aspects of the season are great to invigorate us in the pews, my earlier point still itches in the back of my mind. How can I avoid letting all this blend in with all the other Advents of my life, especially when I leave the pew and go home? How do I avoid complacency in my faith during a time of quiet?

The simplest answer is to do something different! Advent is rich with very practical and visual traditions that we can adopt into our Advent this year. Below are just a few suggestions for practical additions to your Advent routine to help you practically prepare, and maybe help shake some of the humdrum feelings this year.

1 *Use your Advent Wreath!* Many of us have an Advent Wreath that goes unused, or that we just light out of habit. This Advent, introduce a new routine to your night by sharing prayer at a consistent time while lighting your Advent Wreath.

2 *Create a Jesse Tree.* A Jesse tree is a nice spin on the usual Advent Calendar that can help build up your knowledge of Christ's lineage. There are lots of resources online about creating your own that come with scriptural references to read with each ornament that goes on the tree!

3 *Pray the O Antiphons as a family.* The O Antiphons are Scripture verses that are used during Mass in the seven days preceding Christmas Day. You can find O Antiphons online. It's a beautiful way to end your Advent and enter into the Christmas season with hearts full of joy and gratitude.

4 *Get involved with a service activity.* We often consider Lent as a penitential season in which we become more involved with community service or volunteering at our parish in some capacity to help the less fortunate. However, Advent is actually also a penitential season (though a joyful one), and we are called to participate in similar ways to Lenten practices, such as alms-giving and sacrificial acts of charity.



FAMILY ACTIVITY: THE JESSE TREE

“WHAT IS A JESSE TREE?”

A Jesse Tree is a decorative tree used during Advent to retell the stories of the Bible that lead to Jesus’s birth. Since Advent is a season of waiting, a Jesse Tree will help to build joy and anticipation as you wait for Christmas.



WHERE JESSE TREES COME FROM

The term Jesse Tree comes from this verse in the book of Isaiah:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

In this verse, Isaiah predicts the coming of Jesus. He is telling the people that, one day, a great ruler will rise up from the descendants of the great King David. Jesse, was David’s father.

This was exciting news to the people of Isaiah’s time. Many of the kings who ruled after David were poor rulers. They lead their people away from worshiping God. Eventually David’s kingdom split in two and then faded away.

Isaiah’s prophecy of a stump shows how the family of David had been “cut down”. Jesus would be like a new growth and a new hope for the kingdom that was once strong and worshiped God as one.

The Tree of Jesse in Isaiah was the original use of the family tree. So, all of our family tree’s today are based on Jesus’s family tree.

HOW IT WORKS

Jesse Trees have three main parts: A tree, symbolic ornaments, and passages or scripture readings to go along with them.

Each day during advent, you will hang a new ornament on the tree and read a passage. We’ve also created a Magnetic Jesse Tree set for all your Jesse Tree characters. Although Advent technically starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, we will start on December first to keep things simple.

Every reading you need to celebrate Advent with your Jesse Tree is included in this guide. You can download the free printable ornaments and eBook [HERE: www.myjessetree.com](http://www.myjessetree.com)”

NATIVITY ACTIVITY

In Conjunction with Holly Jolly Latrobe

Come and experience the childlike wonder of the nativity with Holy Family Latrobe - fun decorative crafts, a Nativity dress up station, and hot chocolate under the creche set up for baby Jesus! Children of all ages are welcome to come dress up as angels, shepherds, Mary or Joseph, craft up, and celebrate the Christ in Christmas!

*Saturday, December 3rd | Time TBD
In front of Holy Family Church
1200 Ligonier St. Latrobe, 15650*



LIVING NATIVITY FAIR

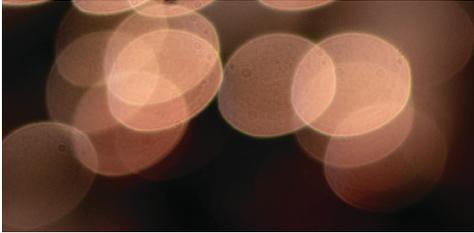
Come and see the Nativity scene brought to life!

Saturday, December 10, from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Holy Family Catholic Church, 1200 Ligonier St. Latrobe, PA.

LITURGICAL MUSIC

by Bob Mason



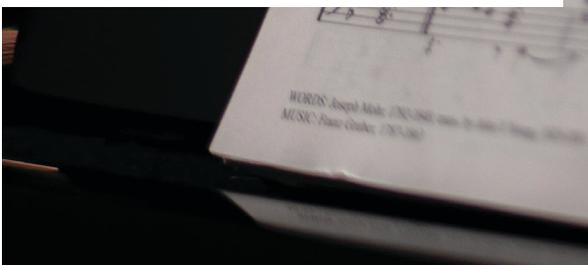
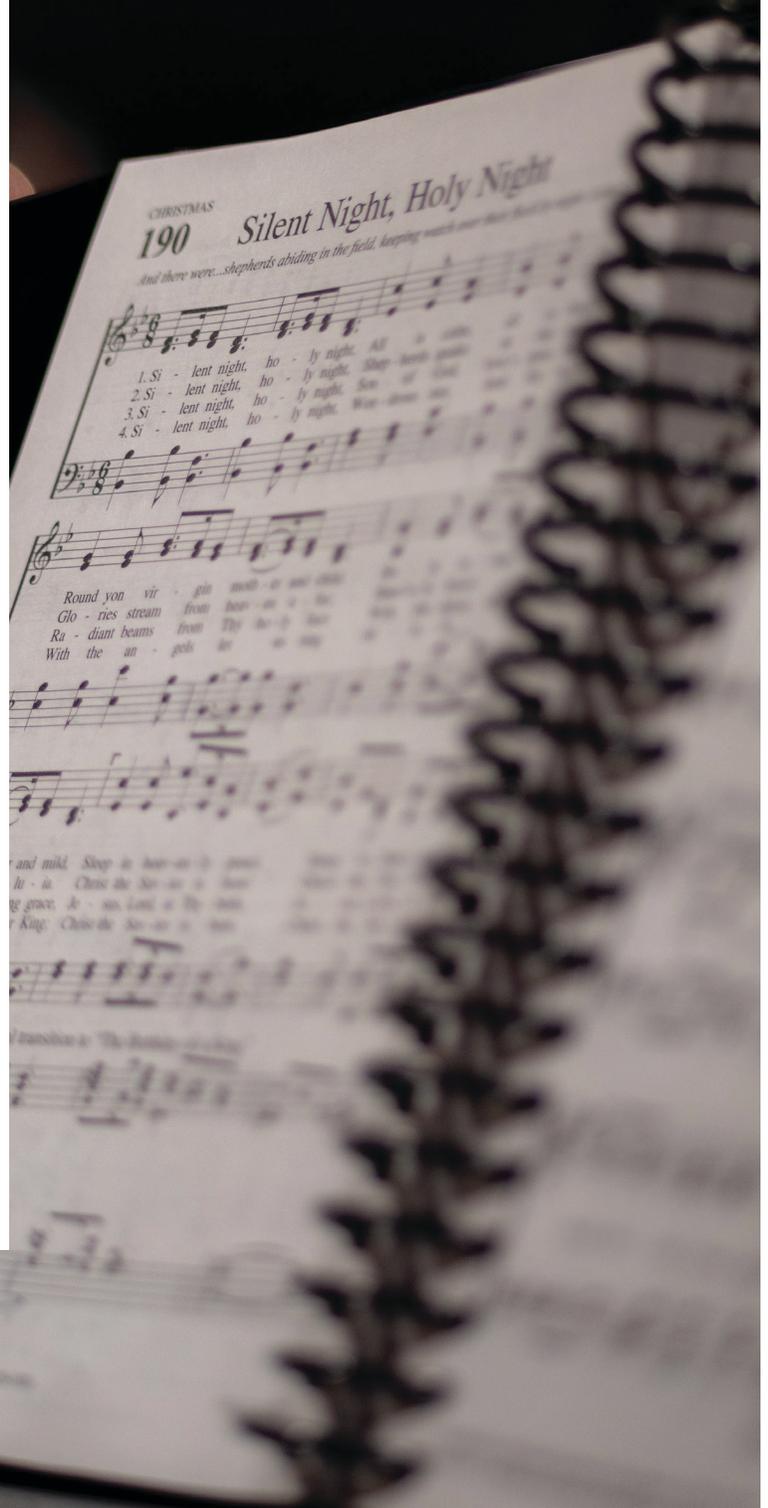
Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. The colors change from green to violet, the Gloria is left unsung, and so the music shifts as well. Music directors set the tone for Advent. The music for the parts of the mass will change from the Renewal Mass to the Heritage Mass. If it feels unfamiliar to you, please visit us online at www.holyfamilylatrobe.org/parts-of-the-mass to listen and practice during the week! We will sing the Kyrie instead of the Gloria until the Christmas Vigil.

Advent is a time of joyful expectation and longing, and a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. All the music that is chosen is done to mirror the themes of waiting and of hope. All of this will lead us up to...

A joyful celebration of Christ's birth! Half an hour before Midnight Mass, at 11:30 p.m., the Choir will joyfully sing us into the Christmas season with carols and hymns, accompanied by scriptural readings. We invite all of you to come and sing along with us for this joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus!

Blessings,

Bob



Holy Family Catholic Church
1200 Ligonier St.
Latrobe, PA 15650

(724) 539-9751
www.holyfamilylatrobe.org



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The Newsletter Staff:

Editors: Father Rick Kosisko
Maggie Takrony

Contributors: Deacon Mike Orange
Jody Taylor
Caroline Nelson
Bob Mason



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