

Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate

Advent and Christmas 2024



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We invite you to take part in some of the events happening in our parish this Advent season. We will honour the Lord's coming with music, Scripture, and Prayer. Please take advantage of the extra time for confession, as the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

May God Bless You and Your Families During The Advent and Christmas Seasons,

*Bishop Ustrzycki, Father Jan, Father Bill, Father John,
Deacon Quinto, Deacon Moises, and all the Parish Team*

Parish Office Closures During the Christmas Holidays

The Parish Office will close at 4:30pm on Monday, December 23, and open again at 9:00am on Friday, December 27. It will also close at 12:00pm on Tuesday, December 31, and open at 9:00am on Thursday, January 2.

Advent 2024

An Advent Scripture Challenge

On the First Sunday of Advent we begin reading the Gospel According to St. Luke at Sunday Masses. This Advent consider taking the time to read through St. Luke's Gospel each day from the beginning of Advent until Christmas Eve. It is in St. Luke's account of the Gospel that we read the beautiful Nativity story. Consider reading it as a family at the beginning of Advent, as you start to read the Gospel, and then go back and read the Nativity narrative again on Christmas Eve.

Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 1 at 4:00pm

The weeks before Christmas are usually a hurried time of shopping, preparations, and card writing. For Christians, however, these weeks should be marked by prayerful preparation for the Feast of Christmas. Plan to attend our annual ***Advent Service of Lessons and Carols***, as a way to begin this season in prayer and recollection. This service will be a reflection on the Season of Advent through Scripture and Music. Please come and bring a friend!

Holy Hour and Mass on Saturday Mornings

During the Season of Advent Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am on Saturday mornings. Mass will be preceded by a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 8:00am, with Confessions from 8:00-8:45, and the Office of Lauds (*Morning Prayer*) at 8:30am.

Masses on Tuesday Evenings

During Advent we will offer Holy Mass on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. These Masses are particularly for those whose work or study do not enable them to attend a Mass during the weekday, but all are welcome. During these Masses Deacon Moices will lead us in Advent reflections each Tuesday evening.

Novena of Masses for The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Once again, this year we will celebrate a Novena (*nine days*) of Masses leading to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, our Parish's Patronal Feast Day. Novena Masses will be held at 7:30 each morning from November 30 to December 8, with reflections on Our Lady in Sacred Scripture, and the Novena Prayers each day

Advent Evening of Reflection

Tuesday, December 3

On Tuesday, December 3, you are all welcome to an evening of Advent Reflections from the writings and talks of The Venerable Fulton J. Sheen. Allan Smith, a radio host, and expert on Archbishop Sheen's work, will lead the reflections. Allow the stirring words of Fulton Sheen to lead you into a deeper experience of the Advent Season.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Monday, December 9

Due to December 8 being a Sunday of Advent this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. Our Parish Feast Day will be celebrated as follows:

8:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
Morning Prayer and Rosary
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all Day

6:15pm Vespers (*Evening Prayer*)
6:30pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00pm Solemn Mass for the Immaculate Conception.
Reception in the Parish Hall after Mass

Bambinelli Sunday **Sunday, December 15**

On the Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday, you are invited to take part in one of the newer traditions in our Catholic life. Please bring the Baby Jesus statues from your home nativity set(s). The images will be blessed at all of the Masses on “*Bambinelli Sunday*” before you place them in your home’s Nativity.

John B Miller Advent Concert **Wednesday, December 18**

Again this year we are pleased to welcome John B Miller and friends to the Basilica of Our Lady for an evening of Advent music. Please join us on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00pm for an evening of beautiful music. Admission is free but a free will donation would be much appreciated.

A Christmas Scripture Challenge

On the following days of the Christmas Season sit before your Christmas Tree, or your Nativity scene, and take a few minutes alone, or as a family, to reflect upon the following passages of Scripture:

Christmas Eve	St. Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Day	St. John 1:1-14
Epiphany (<i>Sun Jan. 5</i>)	St. Matthew 2:1-12

The Sacrament of Reconciliation During Advent

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be celebrated:

Saturday, December 7 & 14	8:00am – 8:45am 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Tuesday, December 17	4:00pm – 7:00pm
Saturday, December 21	8:00am – 8:45am 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December, 24
Final Mass of Advent	9:00am
<i>The Basilica will be closed at 10:00am and will open at 4:00pm</i>	
Vigil Masses of Christmas	5:00pm and 7:00pm

Solemn Mass of Christmas

<i>The Basilica will open at 11:00pm</i>	<i>Carols begin at 11:30pm</i>
Solemn Midnight Mass	12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day*The Basilica will open at 8:00am*

Masses of Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

9:00am and 11:00am

*Feast of St. Stephen**Thurs. Dec. 26*

9:00am

*Feast of St. John the Evangelist**Fri. Dec. 27*

9:00am

*Feast of the Holy Innocents**Sat. Dec. 28*

9:00am

The Feast of the Holy Family

Regular Masses

Saturday

Sunday, December 29

Confessions 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Mass at 5:15

Sunday

Masses at 9:00am and 11:00am

*6th Day in the Christmas Octave**Mon., Dec. 30*

9:00am

*7th Day in the Christmas Octave**Tues. Dec. 31*

9:00am

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Dec. 31/Jan. 1

December 31

Vigil Mass

5:15pm

January 1

One Mass Only

10:00am

Please Note that January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation