

Homily Themes

1st Sunday of Advent through Baptism of the Lord, Year C

Theme is: Jesus, Hope of the World

Advent theme song will be Gather, #909 *Jesus, hope of the world*
There is no special Christmas song after Advent. Use Christmas hymns during Christmas season.

Note: The memorial acclamation for Advent is
We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

The Memorial Acclamation for Christmas is
Save us, Savior of the World, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Nov 30/Dec 1 1st Sunday of Advent

“Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21: 36)

We have hope in salvation through the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is that Blood which proclaims God’s love for all humankind and which gives us the strength to fight against evil. It is that Blood which marks us as belonging to God and heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven. It is that blood that gives us hope in our redemption.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Advent Wreath with a chalice in its centre.

Dec. 7/8 2nd Sunday of Advent

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1: 6)

Yes, we have hope that God will keep us all in a state of grace, to live out our vocations to the fullest and with a strong desire to witness to the world, the compassion, mercy and unbounded love God has for all people, especially those on the margins. Today is a great day to tell your own vocation story and how you’ve grown from that first call to the person you are today.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Advent Wreath with glass of water in the centre, symbolizing our baptismal grace.

Dec. 14/15 3rd Sunday of Advent

“The Peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4: 7)

We find hope in the peace that God wants to bring to our lives, to our local communities, and to our world. Today is a good day to talk about what threatens that peace and what we can do to safeguard ourselves against such threats. It’s also a day to remind everyone of the peace that Jesus brought through the shedding of his Precious Blood on the Cross.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Advent wreath with a peace sign made of card stock in the centre.

Dec. 21/22 4th Sunday of Advent

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” (Luke 1: 42b)

We find hope in the witness and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary whom the Lord has given to us as our Mother as well. We find hope in human life from womb to tomb and in the gift that her Son brings us of eternal life. The Church’s position on euthansia may be presented as some Catholics are option to end their lives.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Wreath with a small statue of the BVM in the centre. If none is available, use card stock and print off an image of BVM.

December 24/25 Solemnity of Christmas

Our hope has incarnated among us! Let us rejoice in the hope that our Immanuel brings to our world today! What are some of the signs of hope that the Lord brings to our world?

Liturgical Art & Environment: Christmas manger.

Dec. 28/29 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“After three days, they found (Jesus) in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions.” (Luke 2: 46)

Jesus gives us an example of childlike wonderment and an excitement to learn new things. In this Christmas season, we can challenge ourselves and our congregation to continue learning about the scriptures, the church and our world. We can also challenge ourselves to keep updated with the latest theology and pastoral praxis. It’s in these ways that God continually reveals himself to us.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Manger Scene.

Dec 31/January 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

“The shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.” (Luke 2: 16)

Do we go with haste to meet the Lord at church (Bayit Lehem, the house of Bread)? Are we eager to encounter Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the saints in our prayer? Do we have an excitement and awe about these encounters?

Liturgical Art & Environment: Manger scene

January 4/5 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

“They (the magi) knelt down and paid him homage.” (Matthew 2: 11b)

How do we pay homage to the Lord for the many gifts and blessings he has given us? How can we make a return to the Lord? In what ways do I enthrone Christ as Lord, Savior, and King in my life? As Missionaries of the Precious Blood, how do we recognize ways in which others' blood is spilled in wars and conflicts and migration? What are we doing about it? What can our congregations do about it?

Liturgical Art & Environment: Manger Scene with Wise Men gathered around.

Jan. 11/12 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

“Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.” (Matthew 3: 13)

The New Life of Christ incarnate is made real to us in our baptismal consecration. It is made real for us in his Living Body and Precious Blood at Mass. The New life of Christ is made real in our witness to all of the saving Love of Christ for all humanity. A renewal of baptismal promises may be appropriate today.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Manger scene

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time is celebrated next week on Jan 18/19.

NOTE: From the 2nd Sunday in OT until Lent, our Theme Song shall be in Gather # 817 We shall overcome!
This song reflects the hope of the jubilee year.