



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! As we arrive at the Second Week of Advent, the Person and Presence of Our Blessed Mother is particularly highlighted.

This week, we celebrate both her Immaculate Conception (Dec.8) and her Revelation at Guadalupe (Dec. 12). This year, because December 8th is a Sunday, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception on the 9th and for that reason it is not a day of obligation. Nevertheless, both events, i.e. Mary's conception and Guadalupe, are important happenings worth treasuring and celebrating. For they provide hope.

Hope is a virtue that gets us to the roots of things. We hope "in" something/someone. Hope brings forth and manifests the object/source of things. And the Root of Christian Hope is God's Love for us. In Mary, we see the first fruits of God's Love for the human race.

The Season of Advent --- celebrated in the dark and cold winter -- invites us to dig deep. To get to the roots. To see beyond the barren trees and hardened earth; to hear and see over the noise and distractions of our own day. And because of God's Love, we know there is something under and over it all. The child in the womb, roses in winter, shelter in the storm and mercy in the mess. It takes a lot of discipline and desire to see these things, to be attentive to these hidden things and Mary helps us do just that. I share with you now a hymn that highlights our Lady and her relationship with Christ. Each phrase of the hymn can help us be attentive to the hidden things in this Advent Season. And I pray that reflecting on this hymn this week, makes you more attentive.

Mary the dawn, Christ the Perfect Day;
 Mary the gate, Christ the Heavenly Way!
 Mary the root, Christ the Mystic Vine;
 Mary the grape, Christ the Sacred Wine!
 Mary the wheat, Christ the Living Bread;
 Mary the rose tree, Christ the Rose blood-red!
 Mary the font, Christ the Cleansing Flood;
 Mary the cup, Christ the Saving Blood!
 Mary the temple, Christ the temple's Lord;
 Mary the shrine, Christ the God adored!
 Mary the beacon, Christ the Haven's Rest;
 Mary the mirror, Christ the Vision Blest!
 Mary the mother, Christ the mother's Son
 By all things blest while endless ages run. Amen.

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*****PLEASE TAKE NOTE*****

Please note the time change for Christmas Eve Mass.

The 4:30PM Mass has been changed to **4:00PM**.

The 6:30PM and 8:15PM Masses remain the same.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, December 16 @ St. Maximilian Kolbe, West Chester

Tuesday, December 17 @ St. Cornelius, Chadds Ford

Wednesday, December 18 @ St. Gabriel, Avondale

Thursday, December 19 @ St. Patrick

All Penance Services begin at 7:00PM.

