

## BEST ADVENT EVER

### How to Prepare for Christmas

Think about it this way. We prepare for everything we consider important in life. You wouldn't show up to play in a football game and expect to win if you had been training. You wouldn't show up unprepared to give a big presentation at work and expect to get the project. We don't expect to excel in exams if we have not studied. Consider the preparation that goes into hosting a party, barbecue or wedding.

Preparing for Christmas does not mean the typical Christmas preparations like buying and wrapping presents, baking cookies, planning get togethers, putting up the lights, decorating the tree and the house. You need to get yourself ready. When was the last time you prepared your heart for Jesus' coming at Christmas?

*ADVENT is a season of preparation. And if we want to experience true magic and meaning of Christmas, we need to get our hearts ready for Christmas.*

The word Advent is a word derived from "adventus" which means coming. For Catholics Advent is a four week season leading up to Christmas. During Advent we anticipate the coming of Jesus. It's a time of reflection, excitement and hope.

### When Does ADVENT Begin?

**ADVENT** begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24<sup>th</sup>. This year the Sunday's are November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup> with Christmas on a Friday.

Jesus came into the world at the first Christmas for you, to bring meaning and deep satisfaction into your life, to fill you with lasting joy, and ultimately to bring you to eternal happiness with him in heaven. That is what we celebrate at Christmas. Are you ready?

# THE ADVENT WREATH

Traditionally, the Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen branches. Both the evergreen branches and the circular shape symbolize the passing of time and eternal life. The shape of the wreath with no beginning or end, reflects the complete and endless love that Jesus has for us. During the Advent season we eagerly anticipate his coming and the promise of eternal life in heaven with him.

The wreath holds four candles and they represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit, and sometimes a fifth candle is lit on Christmas. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness.

## **1. *The Candle of Hope—Purple "The Prophet's Candle"***

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent look forward to Jesus' coming with HOPE.

Dear Jesus,

You are the hope in our messy world. This Advent help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. WE place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen

## **2. *The Candle of Peace—Purple "Bethlehem Candle"***

During the second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming.

Dear Jesus,

You entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best versions of ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen

## **3. *The Candle of Joy—Pink "Shepherd's Candle"***

This third candle is pink, symbolizing anticipation and rejoicing! During this third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day.

Dear Jesus, Help us to focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on *Christmas*. Amen

**4. *The Candle of Love—Purple "Angel's Candle"***

During the final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son.

Dear Jesus, May the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you Jesus. Amen

## **ADVENT PRAYER FOR FAMILIES**

**Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need everyday. Help us to always trust in you. Come Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen**

# Lectio: Mary

## The Bible and the Mother of God

Who is Mary? Why is she so important to Catholics and where do the Church's teachings on Mary come from? Find out the answers to these questions and much more in *Lectio Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God*.

Join us for an eight-week parish-wide study of *Lectio Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God*, featuring the insightful biblical teaching of Dr. Brant Pitre, and discover what Scripture, the life of Christ, and the early Church Fathers reveal about our heavenly Mother.

### Week One December 2

Session 1: The New Eve

### Week Two December 9

Session 2: The New Ark

### Week Three December 16

Session 3: Mother of the Messiah

### Week Four December 23

Session 4: The Queen Mother

### Week Five December 30

Session 5: The Perpetual Virgin

### Week Six January 6

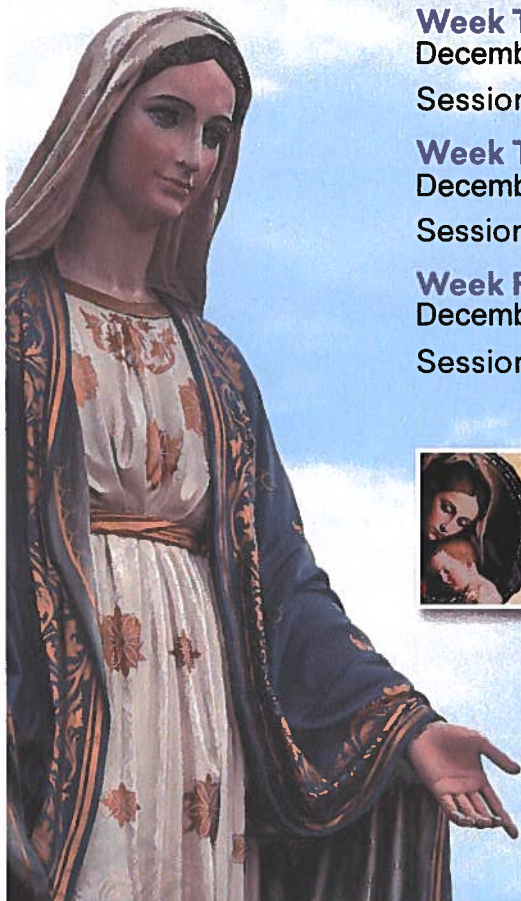
Session 6: Mother of Sorrows

### Week Seven January 13

Session 7: The New Rachel

### Week Eight January 20

Session 8: Question and Answer



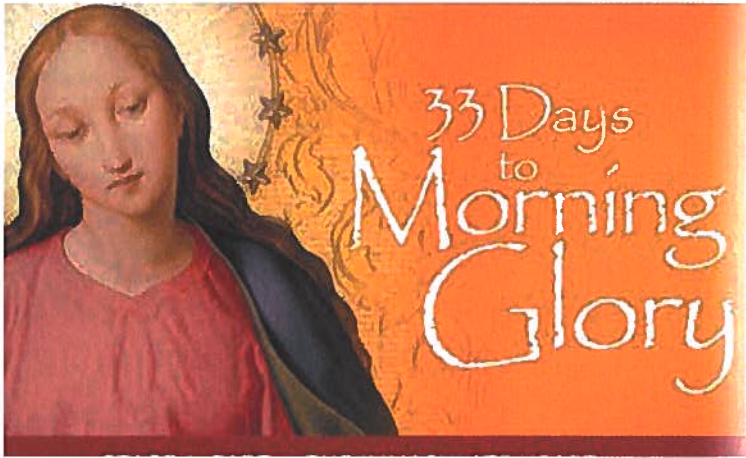
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Martha at [martha.farrell15@gmail.com](mailto:martha.farrell15@gmail.com)

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November 22, 2020



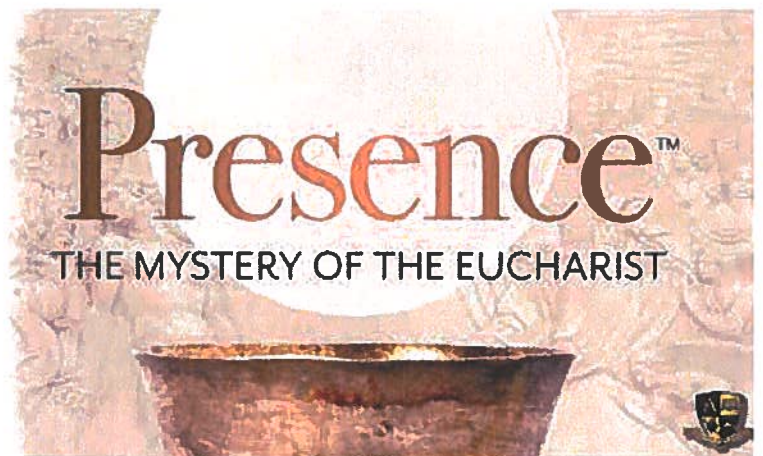
### 33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY

Ever considered consecrating yourself or your family to the Mother of God? Follow Fr. Michael Gaitley this Advent in order to draw nearer to Mary—the Mother of God—and her Son and to prepare yourself for a spiritual renewal.

WATCH

### PRESENCE

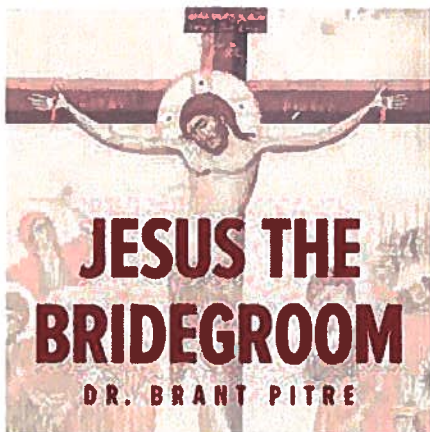
This week we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Ring in this great feast by diving deeper into the mystery of Christ's greatest gift to His Church—the Holy Eucharist.



LEARN

### JESUS THE BRIDEGROOM: THE GREATEST LOVE STORY EVER TOLD BY BRANT PITRE

Listen in as Dr. Brant Pitre examines what it really means to have a "personal relationship" with Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior, and Bridegroom.



LISTEN

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

# NOVEMBER

*almsgiving for holy vocations*

In November, we will give alms for the intention of holy vocations. More information will be shared in the bulletin and social media. You can also visit [ReconnectToledo.org/November](https://ReconnectToledo.org/November).

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

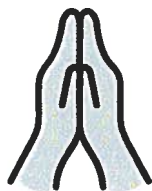
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### **Week of Sunday, November 22**



#### **Give Alms**

Make a donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Donations are essential for the education of seminarians and permanent deacons.



#### **Pray**

Print (or cut out from your bulletin) the diaconate formation poster. Pray for the men who are in formation for the diaconate and all deacons of the Diocese of Toledo.

#### *Prayer for Permanent Deacons*

Holy God, Saint Vincent served You as a permanent deacon and gave his whole life and soul to You, even to the point of becoming a martyr. I lift up to You the deacons of the Church and all those who are being called by God to become deacons. Guide them as they discern how to serve the Body of Christ. Prevent the attractions of the world and the busyness of secular jobs from interfering with their vocations. Teach them to grow in humility. Help their families learn from their examples and support their diaconates with trust and joy. Saint Vincent, pray for us. Amen.



#### **Watch**

Go to [reconnecttoledo.org/november](https://reconnecttoledo.org/november) to watch a series of videos about the permanent diaconate.

*Reconnect*  
navigating Catholic life through a pandemic

# Men in formation for the Diaconate

2020-2021



**BRUCE ALGE**  
*New Washington, St. Bernard*



**KEVIN COULTER**  
*Maumee, St. Joseph*



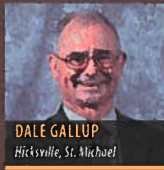
**MICHAEL DAZLEY**  
*Glassboro, Saint Michael the Archangel*



**PAUL FEASEL**  
*Pastoria, Saint Wendelin*



**GREGG FOHT**  
*Toledo, St. Joan of Arc*



**DALE GALLUP**  
*Hicksville, St. Michael*



**DAVID GERARDI**  
*Findlay, St. Michael the Archangel*



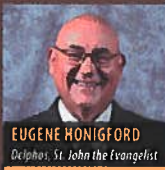
**FRED HEROLD**  
*Lima, St. John*



**JASON HANNERS**  
*Huron, St. Peter*



**THOMAS HOJNACKI**  
*Walbridge, St. Jerome*



**EUGENE HONIGFORD**  
*Delphos, St. John the Evangelist*



**MATTHEW KETTINGER**  
*Findlay, St. Michael the Archangel*



**DAVID KREMPEC**  
*Assumption, Holy Trinity*



**JEFFREY LIGHTLE**  
*DeRance, St. John the Evangelist*



**DAVID MAAS**  
*Ottawa, SS Peter & Paul*



**JOHN MURRAY, JR.**  
*Harwell, St. Mary*



**JAMES O'DONNELL**  
*Kelleys Island, Saint Michael and Put-in-Bay, Mother of Sorrows*



**WILLIAM PETRO**  
*Toledo, Gesù*



**RICHARD SASALA, JR.**  
*Assumption, Holy Trinity*



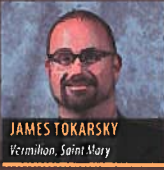
**JAMES SAVAGE**  
*Assumption, Holy Trinity*



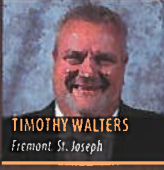
**GREGORY SIEBENALLER**  
*New Riegel, All Saints*



**MICHAEL SWANSON**  
*Oregon, St. Ignatius*



**JAMES TOKARSKY**  
*Vermilion, Saint Mary*



**TIMOTHY WALTERS**  
*Fremont, St. Joseph*

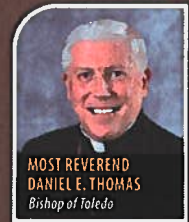


**JOSE ZAMORA**  
*Chula, St. Mary*

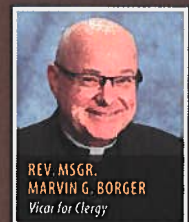


Diocese  
of Toledo

[www.toledodiocese.org](http://www.toledodiocese.org)



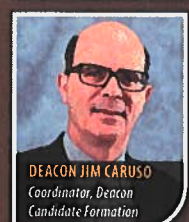
**MOST REVEREND DANIEL E. THOMAS**  
*Bishop of Toledo*



**REV. MSGR. MARVIN G. BERGER**  
*Vicar for Clergy*



**DEACON HAL WELCH**  
*Delegate for Permanent Deacons*



**DEACON JIM CARUSO**  
*Coordinator, Deacon Candidate Formation*

The Deacon Candidate Formation Program is made possible by your generous donations to the Annual Catholic Appeal.