



Holy
Cross
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

DECEMBER MASS SCHEDULE:

SUNDAYS: 12:15 AM

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES VARY DEPENDING ON PRIEST AVAILABILITY - SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION @HOLYCROSSBEAVERISLAND

WEEKLY ROSARY OFFERED TUESDAYS AT 10:00 AM

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

Already we are in the middle of Advent, the season of hopeful preparation for Christmas. You may or may not be aware that the Christmas season actually begins on Christmas day and extends into early January. Traditionally, the Christmas season went all the way to the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, which falls on February 2nd. So while it's fun that the Disney and Hallmark have been playing Christmas movies since October, stores have had their Christmas sections up since after school started, and all the radio stations began playing Christmas music long ago, these things can only help us to prepare on a material level. The season of Advent helps us to prepare for Christmas on a spiritual level. It is a season where we prepare to celebrate what Christmas is all about, the coming of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

The word advent means the 'arrival' or the 'coming' of something or someone significant. During the Season of Advent we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. You might be surprised to know, however, that it is not just a season to celebrate the birthday of Christ in history over 2000 years ago. This is certainly the first reason that we celebrate, but there are other reasons as well. In fact, it is a season that helps us to celebrate and prepare for three different 'advents' or 'comings' of Christ.

The first coming of Christ that we celebrate is, as we said, the actual birthday of Christ in history. This is the moment that God was born into our world, took on human flesh and became a new born baby. Of course, we know all the Gospel stories we have been told so many times. We remember the manger in Bethlehem, the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, the Angels and the Wisemen coming to see Jesus. This is the moment of history that sets in motion the saving work of God. We celebrate this coming of Christ with great joy as the Angel choirs did on the first Christmas night.

The second coming of Christ that we prepare for and celebrate is the coming of Christ in mystery. Because Christ, God made man, was born in time and gave his life for us, he can come to us now in many mysterious ways. By 'mystery' I mean the presence of God's grace here and now. We celebrate the ways that Jesus gives us His grace and leads us to transformation. In particular we remember the gifts of His own life in the Sacraments. These are moments of saving grace that allow us access to the very presence and life of God. In particular we can think of the Sacrament of the Eucharist in which we have the fullness of Christ's presence, body, blood, soul and divinity. What a powerful gift!

The third coming of Christ that we prepare for and celebrate is the coming of Christ in majesty. This refers to His second coming at the end of time. We believe that He will come again, and this time He will establish definitively His kingdom where there will be no more sin, no more suffering, and no more death. He will reign supreme and God will be all in all. In this weekend's readings the Lord reminds us of this coming saying "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come... Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say, I say to all: Watch!" (Mark 13:33-37).

Fr. Peter Wigton



IN NEED OF PRAYER

This prayer list will be updated monthly. If you wish for a name to remain on this list, please call the parish office before the 25th of each month.

Christine Barton	Kelton Hunter	Owen McDonough
Vince Beilman	Lester Jeske	Carole Pease
Mike Dunn	Erna Kriigel	William Reed
Crew Feltner (McElwain)	Kathy Maudrie	Kevin Allen
Susan Heller		

STEWARDSHIP

Totals from November 7- November 28

General Offering: \$4,006.71

Mass Stipend: \$80.00

CSA GOAL \$14,216.00

Total Pledged: \$8,695 - 61%

Total Received: \$8,425 - 59%

JOB OPENING

Holy Cross has an opening for a **Parish Hall Facility Manager**. Please visit the Diocese of Gaylord website to view the application and job specifications. If you have any questions please contact Leona at the church office.

Link: www.dioceseofgaylord.org/job-opportunities

DECEMBER MASS INTENTIONS:

12/5 Bob Welke by Sue Welke

12/12 Morris Boyle by Loretta Slater

12/19 Ed Palmer by Gary and Bev Cantwell

12/26 Holy Cross

*Wishing you and
your family a safe,
healthy and joyful
Christmas season.*

