

The Fatima Faithful newsletter is published once a month and is available in the bulletin, on our website, and accessible through Facebook. Let us know what you think! Email newsletter@ourladyoffatima.org with suggestions and pictures. The Newsletter Team: Vicki Johnson, Angie Feltz and Guest Columnists.

Take a Closer Look at The Second Coming

It is helpful to realize that the first part of Advent actually directs our attention to preparation not for the first, but the Second Coming of Christ. The Second Coming is a cornerstone doctrine for Catholics around the world. This event, also known as the Parousia, holds profound theological significance and is eagerly anticipated by believers.

The Second Coming is the hope of believers that God is in control of all things, and is faithful to the promises and prophecies in His Word. Archaeological research, such as the discovery of early Christian house churches and catacomb art, demonstrates that Christ's return was a central hope among his earliest followers. Meticulous research into the earliest Greek manuscripts (supported by volumes of papyri, codices like Sinaiticus and Vaticanus, and additional documentary evidence) shows that the New Testament's statements on the Second Coming are consistent across textual traditions: Christ will come again. From cover to cover, the Bible presents a continuous message about the fulfillment of God's plan, culminating in the return of the Messiah. Jesus Himself said, "They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30). The idea that Christ will come again is not a peripheral teaching, but rather a bedrock doctrine affirmed across the New Testament.

What will happen at the Second Coming of Christ? When will his Second Coming take place?

We get the answer to the second question from Sacred Scripture, as follows: "no one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Mt 24:36).

"As the final prayer of Sunday's Mass begs of God: May we walk amid passing things of this world holding fast to what endures. Or, put another way, a successful Advent is one which deepens our living of the truth that, to draw on C.S. Lewis, all that is not eternal is eternally out of date." Fr. Mark Hellinger

Faith Formation Begins at Home by Deacon Leon Dodd

Imagine it is the year 2040; and you come to Mass one Sunday and there is no Priest, Deacon, Religious, or Altar Servers to help with Mass. The OLOF faithful will have to conduct a communion service.

Now, as alarming as this may sound, it is a possibility. Many folks are consumed with things of this world: jobs, money, education, the Internet, social activities, participation in athletic competitions/ events and in too many cases self-absorption. There is little to no room for Jesus.

Advent is the wonderful Catholic liturgical season of preparation leading up to the blessed birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. Derived from the Latin word for "coming," Advent is a time for Catholics to prepare to receive Jesus and to have Him enter more intimately into our lives.

Here at Our Lady of Fatima, we have a new ministry that focuses on Vocations and Religious life to ensure that each person has a great role model for living out the Catholic life. Research has shown that a domestic church [a family with both parents present, participating in their faith] has a higher yield of young folks remaining in various vocations of Catholic life.

The four primary vocations in the Catholic Church are: priesthood, religious life, marriage, and single life. Included within these categories are permanent deacons, religious brothers and sisters, all who are called to holiness through different ways of serving God.

I can remember going to parochial school from second grade to my first year of college. I had numerous priests or deacons as educators for faith formation. Looking at our busy current world, unfortunately kids are formed by social media, peer pressure, non-traditional environments which provide little or no faith formation.

What can we do to support this new ministry's focus on faith formation to be certain our younger generation experiences a positive call to the many Catholic vocations? Some of the simple things we can do is attend weekly masses, most especially when on vacation. This simple act of devotion demonstrates your faith and commitment to the church even while traveling. Your children perceive commitment by watching your hands, your feet, your choices: what you model. Another thing to consider in strengthening the domestic church is praying the Liturgy of the Hours, a daily rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet as a family which helps reinforce faith formation at home. This formation benefits from a healthy discussion of what is before them in deciding their unique calling and life vocation.

It is my prayer that we slow down this Advent and look at making Jesus the center of this joyous season versus consumerism, being in a hurry, and not being present to one another. It is time to light the Advent candles week by week and reflect on God's mercy in sending us a Savior: our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For where there is no vision; the people perish" [Proverbs 29:18].

FORMED

The Helping Hand

Marcam Advent and Christmas Special
Adore: Advent with Fr. John Burns
Behold Advent with Sr. Miriam James
How to Advent (6 episodes)

You Tube

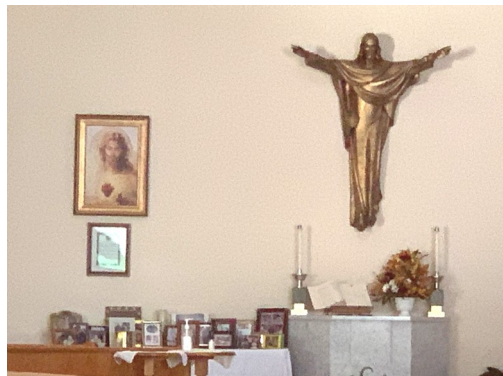
7 Things You Didn't Know About Advent - The Catholic Talk Show
How to Prepare for Christmas Like a Catholic - Catholic TV Network

Amazon

Children's Advent Stories for Bedtime - Julie/David Lavender
Advent with Our Lady of Fatima - Donna Marie Cooper O'Boyle



Altar of the Dead



CWV Wall of Honor



**Comfort Food
Feeds the Soul**



**Children's Liturgy
of the Word**



OCIA—Rite of Welcoming



Decorations



75th Anniversary Mass and Dinner



Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) Saving Life at OLOF by Jim Everett

On many Mondays you may notice the PRC Mobile Unit in the OLOF parking lot near the Blessings Box or on other days in the parking lot near Kroger and Planet Fitness in Maryville or in Madisonville at times. Since March 2023 our parish has welcomed the PRC to expand their reach in bringing a Christ-centered alternative to abortion to the women of our community. The Mobile Unit is assigned some cases by the PRC central scheduler but there is always time for walk-up patients. The Unit, led by nurse Melinda Watson and assisted by a female volunteer patient advocate, provides pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, sexually transmitted disease (STD) tests, and counseling on pregnancy options. With the closure of abortion businesses in Tennessee the mobile mission is about reaching into places where women need help and attracting them to stop by for a conversation. The OLOF parking lot is an ideal spot because the Unit (sort of a rolling billboard) is very visible to passing vehicular traffic, people headed to Aldi and Walmart, people visiting the Blessings Box, and local foot traffic which provides a level of anonymity for women choosing to visit the Unit.

Many of the 33 walk-up patients (through mid-October) have visited Walmart or seen the Unit from Louisville Rd. The PRC aids anyone who asks for help regardless of their religious tradition or having no faith. Since January 2025 the Unit has given 35 pregnancy tests, 23 ultrasounds and 25 STD tests. Of the two patients classified as vulnerable (normally less than 20 years old), both patients chose to parent their children; with the ultrasound exam playing an important role in these decisions. Also 25 patients expressed no spiritual belief in the Lord so these were opportunities to discuss Jesus with them. While most of the abortion-minded clients are handled at the Center because they are longer appointments, there are some abortion-minded clients that come to the Mobile Unit. For example, in late-2023 a walk-up patient came to the Unit while parked at OLOF, she had a positive pregnancy test and revealed that she was abortion-minded. Melinda and the volunteer advocate counseled the young lady on her options, why choosing life was the best alternative and how the PRC would help her. After the interaction Melinda thought the patient was going to have an abortion because the client did not respond to outreach. Several months later Melinda received a text from her, "It's a boy." A year later a second text arrived, "Thanks for talking me out the abortion." This story reveals the Lord saved a life on the OLOF campus that day so please pray for the continued work of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of the PRC mission.



Saint of the Month by Rayanne Wise

St Anastasia or Anastasia of Sirmium was the daughter of a Roman noble and St Fausta of Sirmium. They lived in what is now known as Yugoslavia.



There are many stories considered legends about St Anastasia, but we do know that she was a martyr who died for her faith and near the fifth century her name was inserted into the Roman Canon of the Mass. Some say that on December 25 she was beheaded, though some legends claim she was burned, in Palmaria. What the legends have in common is that St Anastasia visited the faithful being persecuted and was caught several times, but those whose lives she touched appeared to her and helped her. One such story is that St Anastasia cared for imprisoned Christians, including Theodota, who was martyred. After that, St Anastasia was caught and ordered to death by starvation. Theodota is reported to have visited St Anastasia and fed her keeping her alive. It is said that after attempting to kill St Anastasia by starvation, they attempted to kill her by drowning, setting her and Eutychianus out onto the water in a boat with holes in the base. Still, St Theodota appeared to them and steered the ship back to shore. When St Anastasia and Eutychianus returned, they are claimed to have baptized 120 men. Although these stories are considered legends, they show that living a life caring for others can touch many lives. St Anastasia is also known as the "Deliverer from Potions," a title she acquired while healing those afflicted by poisons and potions. It is thought that St. Anastasia's relics were transferred to Constantinople and that a church was dedicated to her. Though we do not know much for certain about St Anastasia of Sirmium, we can examine the legends surrounding her to understand who she was. St. Anastasia is the patron saint of martyrs, weavers, and those suffering from poison. Her feast day is celebrated on Dec 25.

Spotlight on Growing in God's Word This Advent

As we move through the season of Advent and prepare our hearts for Christmas, we pause in gratitude for your wonderful generosity. Thanks to the 2024 Giving Tuesday Campaign, we were able to purchase over 300 new Bibles for our children and youth programs!

Each week, our children and youth open their Bibles, engaging with the Word of God and grow in faith, hope, joy, and love. Your generosity is already making a lasting impact.

A special thank you to all the office volunteers and staff who helped prepare these Bibles for the classrooms—placing covers, labeling, and stamping each one. Your time, care, and attention to detail ensured they could engage with God's Word right away in their religious education.

On behalf of the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Formation Teams, we are deeply grateful for the parish's continued support of our children and youth.

