

Homily Themes

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

Theme is: Come and make your home among us!

Our Advent theme song will be in Gather, #397 Maranatha, Lord Messiah

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.

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

Nov 29/30 1st Sunday of Advent

“O house of Jacob come! Let us walk in the light of the Lord!” (Isaiah 2: 5)

Our homes are places where we can be ourselves. They’re places where we live with those whom we love. They’re places of growing in holiness and grace. They’re places where we can reflect on our lives and make substantive changes to grow in the holiness that Advent is meant to foster in our hearts, minds and souls! It begins with a heartfelt commitment to renouncing our sins and embarking on a path that involves increased prayer, attentiveness to those in need, and a consciousness of the precious time we have left on earth, and to use that time wisely witnessing to Kingdom values. Lighting our Advent Candle reminds us of the holiness of our baptismal consecration and a commitment by us to make our light shine!

Liturgical Art & Environment: Advent Wreath with a House or Manger Scene in the Middle.

Dec. 6/7 2nd Sunday of Advent

“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together, you may, with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 15: 5-6)

Homes are meant to be places where we can live in harmony with one another, where we can find encouragement in our difficulties and steadfast love regardless of what we may have done or failed to do. Let us allow Christ Jesus to make his home among us! Let us allow his voice to speak to our hearts! Let us allow his Word to guide us to actions that will glorify Him more and more each day.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Advent Wreath with a house or manger in the middle.

Dec. 13/14 3rd Sunday of Advent

“The desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus, it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.” (Isaiah 35: 1)

Many homes have flowering plants. These plants help to bring joy to those in the home. They reveal a joy that is often obscured by the gloom and doom of our world. Perhaps the flowers in our church can also bring some joy into your heart, that Jesus’ birthday will bring to fullness. Perhaps the flowers in our church can reflect something of the hopeful expectation that we have that love will triumph over evil, chaos, and destruction, that we often see in the new headlines. Perhaps we can become embodiments of that same flowering joy, in the ways we reach out to the poor and the alienated.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Advent wreath with house or manger in the middle, plus flowering plants in front of the Altar.

Dec. 21/22 4th Sunday of Advent

“Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary the people, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel.” (Isaiah 7: 13-14)

The House of David will have a baby! Israel’s hopes for new life will be born! His name will be Emmanuel! His mother Mary will rejoice at the birth of this Messiah, who will show the world what it means to be sons and daughters of God, heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Wreath with a home or manger in the middle.

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. 27/28 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“He made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the Prophets might be fulfilled.” (Matthew 2: 23)

Nazareth was nothing special. It was a back-water town. Yet this is where Mary, Joseph and Jesus chose to live. It's here that Jesus was taught by his parents how to be a faithful Jew. It was here that Jesus learned what sin was and how terrible its effects upon our lives could be. It was here that he would learn how to navigate this passing world when he left the comforts of home to begin his public ministry.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Manger Scene.

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

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.” (Luke 2: 20)

Shepherd didn't spend much time at home. They spent time in the fields with their flock. Sometimes when we are not attached to a particular place, we can find our anchor in the church. It is here that Jesus becomes our home. It is here where we are nourished and fed by Christ. It is here that we find companionship and support among fellow believers.

Liturgical Art& Environment: Manger scene

January 3/4 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother and they knelt down and paid him homage.” (Matthew 2: 11b)

How do we adorn our walls with images of God or of the saints? 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? How do we recognize the ways in which others' blood is spilled in wars and conflicts and migration? What are we doing about it? What can our churches or work places do about it?

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

Jan. 10/11 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

“That message spread....how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” (Acts 10:38)

Baptism brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and allows the Holy Spirit to make Gods dwelling in our hearts 24/7. That indwelling brings power to confront anti-Gospel values in our world and to build a house of justice and peace for all people. Not even the devil has power over us when we are led and empowered by the Holy Spirit!

Liturgical Art & Environment: Manger scene