

Monday-Saturday, 6th-11th December 2021

Week 2 of Advent - Year C

MONDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; declare it to the distant lands: Behold, our Saviour will come; you need no longer fear.

READING: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.
The lairs where the jackals used to live
become thickets of reed and papyrus.
And through it will run a highway undefiled
which shall be called the Sacred Way;
the unclean may not travel by it,
nor fools stray along it.
No lion will be there
nor any fierce beast roam about it, but the
redeemed will walk there, for those the Lord has
ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting
joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with
Them and sorrow and lament be ended.

PSALM: **Our God will come to save us.**

ACCLAMATION: **Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, the king will come, the Lord of earth: and he will set us free. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: *Luke 5:17-26*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus was teaching one day, and among the audience there were Pharisees and doctors of the Law who had come from every village in Galilee, from Judaea and from Jerusalem. And the Power of the Lord was behind his works of healing. Then some men appeared, carrying on a bed a paralysed man whom they were trying to bring in and lay down in front of him. But as the crowd made it impossible to find a way of getting him in, they went up on the flat roof and lowered him and his stretcher down through the tiles into the middle of the gathering, in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith he said, 'My friend, your sins are forgiven you.' The scribes and the Pharisees began to think this over. 'Who is this man talking blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' But Jesus, aware of their thoughts, made them this reply, 'What are these thoughts you have in your hearts? Which of these is easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven you" or to say "Get up and walk?" But to prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins', – he said to the paralysed man – 'I order you: get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home.' And immediately before their very eyes he got up, picked up what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

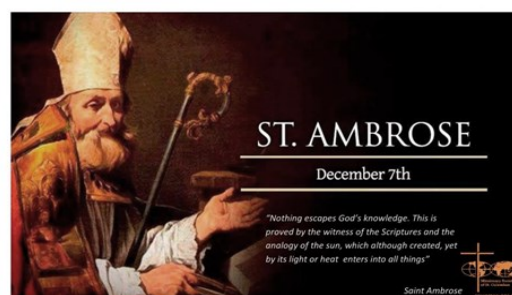
They were all astounded and praised God, and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen strange things today.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **Come, O Lord, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before you with a blameless heart.**

TUESDAY

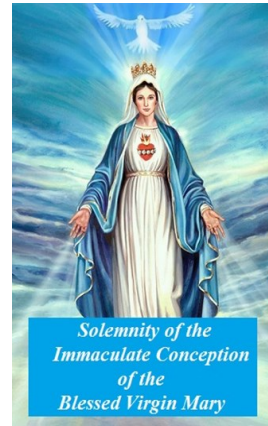
Memorial of St Ambrose

(Alternative Readings used for this Memorial)



WEDNESDAY

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.

FIRST READING: *Ephesians 3:8-12*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

I, who am less than the least of all the saints, have been entrusted with this special grace, not only of proclaiming to the pagans the infinite treasure of Christ but also of explaining how the mystery is to be dispensed. Through all the ages, this has been kept hidden in God, the creator of everything. Why?

So that the Sovereignities and Powers should learn only now, through the Church, how comprehensive God's wisdom really is, exactly according to the plan which he had had from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is why we are bold enough to approach God in complete confidence, through our faith in him.

PSALM: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *John 10:11-16*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him,

abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming,

and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock,

and one shepherd.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride adorned with her jewels.

FIRST READING: *Genesis 3:9-15. 20*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

After Adam had eaten of the tree the Lord God called to him, 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden,' he replied. 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.'

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this,

'Be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts.

You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life.

I will make you enemies of each other:

you and the woman,

your offspring and her offspring.

It will crush your head

and you will strike its heel.'

The man named his wife 'Eve' because she was the mother of all those who live.

PSALM: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord is coming to save his people; happy Are Those prepared to meet him. Alleluia!

SECOND READING: *Ephesians 1:3-6. 11-12*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings Of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be

holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved. And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came.

**ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Luke 1: 26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Glorious things are
spoken of you, O Mary, for from you arose the
sun of justice, Christ our God.**

THURSDAY

Mass of the Day

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: You, O Lord, are close, and
all your ways are truth. From of old I have known
of your decrees, for you are eternal.**

READING: Isaiah 41:13-20

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I, the Lord, your God,
I am holding you by the right hand;
I tell you, 'Do not be afraid, I will help you.'
Do not be afraid, Jacob, poor worm,
Israel, puny mite.
I will help you – it is the Lord who speaks –
the Holy One of Israel is your redeemer.
See, I turn you into a threshing-sled, new, with
doubled teeth; you shall thresh and crush the
mountains, and turn the hills to chaff.
You shall winnow them and the wind will blow
Them away, the gale will scatter them.
But you yourself will rejoice in the Lord, and glory
In the Holy One of Israel. The poor and the needy
Ask for water, and there is none, their tongue is
Parched with thirst.
I, the Lord, will answer them,
I, the God of Israel, will not abandon them.
I will make rivers well up on barren heights, and
fountains in the midst of valleys; turn the
Wilderness into a lake, and dry ground into
waterspring.
In the wilderness, I will put cedar trees, acacias,
myrtles, olives.
In the desert I will plant juniper, plane tree and
cypress side by side; so that men may see and
know, may all observe and understand that the
hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One
of Israel has created it.

**PSALM: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to
anger, and rich in compassion.**

**ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the
earth bring forth a Saviour. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:11-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus spoke to the crowds: 'I tell you solemnly, of
all the children born of women, a greater than John
the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in
the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is. Since
John the Baptist came, up to this present time, the
kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence
and the violent are taking it by storm. Because it
was towards John that all the prophecies of the
prophets and of the Law were leading; and he, if
you will believe me, is the Elijah who was to return.
If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen!'

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let us live justly and
devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of the glory of our great God.**

FRIDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Behold, the Lord will come descending with splendour to visit his people with peace, and he will bestow on them eternal life.

READING: *Isaiah 48:17-19*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

I, the Lord, your God, teach you what is good for you, I lead you in the way that you must go. If only you had been alert to my commandments, your happiness would have been like a river, your integrity like the waves of the sea. Your children would have been numbered like The sand, your descendants as many as its grains. Never would your name have been cut off or blotted out before me.

PSALM: Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord will come, go out to meet him! He is the prince of peace. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Matthew 11:16-19*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus spoke to the crowds: 'What description can I find for this generation? It is like children shouting to each other as they sit in the market place:

"We played the pipes for you,
and you wouldn't dance;
we sang dirges,
and you wouldn't be mourners."

'For John came, neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He is possessed." The Son of Man came, eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners." Yet wisdom has been proved right by her actions.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: We await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our mortal bodies, to conform with his glorified body.

SATURDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Come and show us your face, O Lord, who are seated upon the Cherubim, and we will be saved.

READING: *Sirach 48:1-4. 9-11*

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

The prophet Elijah arose like a fire, his word flaring like a torch. It was he who brought famine on them, and who decimated them in his zeal. By the word of the Lord, he shut up the heavens, he also, three times, brought down fire. How glorious you were in your miracles, Elijah! Has anyone reason to boast as you have? – taken up in the whirlwind of fire, in a chariot with fiery horses; designated in the prophecies of doom to allay God's wrath before the fury breaks, to turn the hearts of fathers towards their children, and to restore the tribes of Jacob. Happy shall they be who see you, and those who have fallen asleep in love.

PSALM: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Matthew 17:10-13*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

As they came down from the mountain the disciples put this question to Jesus, 'Why do the scribes say that Elijah has to come first?' 'True' he replied; 'Elijah is to come to see that everything is once more as it should be; however, I tell you that Elijah has come already and they did not recognise him but treated him as they pleased; and the Son of Man will suffer similarly at their hands.' The disciples understood then that he had been speaking of John the Baptist.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, I am coming soon and my recompense is with me, says the Lord, to bestow a reward according to the deeds of each.



Advent Reflection:

As we approach Christmas, it's important that we spiritually prepare ourselves. You are invited to take part in the advent preparation program on each Thursday at 7.00 pm for four weeks, which commenced on Thursday 25th November.

Friday 10th December -7.00pm: Rovira House

Friday 17th December -7.00pm: St. Kevin's Church