



**Advent is a time of expectant waiting and hopeful anticipation before Christmas**

**12 Ways to Deepen Your Faith and Prepare Your Heart for Jesus' Coming**



1. Attend Morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30.  
Pray the Rosary before Mass at 8 on Wednesday and Friday.  
Participate in Morning Prayer at 8:15 on Thursday.
2. Attend Tuesday Evening Mass. Nov. 29 – 7 pm, Dec. 6 – 6 pm, Dec. 13 and 20 – 7 pm.  
Come early and participate in Evening Prayer at 6:45 on November 29 and December 13.
3. Experience the closeness of Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration:
  - Friday, December 9 after 8:30 am mass (9 – 10).
  - Sunday evening December 11 (7:30 – 8:30).
  - Tuesday, December 13 after 7 pm mass (7:30 - 8:30).
4. Celebrate the Joy of Gaudete (Pink) Sunday by enjoying a spaghetti and salad dinner prepared and served by the youth of our parish on December 18 at 6 pm. Followed by Adoration arranged by the youth from 7:30 to 8:30.
5. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.  
Individual reconciliation during all Eucharistic Adoration times and Saturday, December 3, 10 and 17 (11 am - Noon).
6. Add some joy for our neighbours at Benson Manor on Monday, December 5 at 7 pm.  
Join with our good friends from the Rosemont Area Ecumenical Committee to sing Advent carols, followed by a social time. Bring a plate of goodies to share.

7. Make a donation to the Social Justice Christmas Food Voucher program to provide grocery gift cards for the less fortunate. Special envelopes will be available. Please return by Sunday, December 18 either in the collection basket or to the office.

8. Take a tag from the Giving Tree and purchase a gift for a girl, boy, woman or man to be given to someone in need in our community. The key to gift choice is "Would I appreciate this gift?" Please return by Sunday, December 18.



9. Use the Little Blue Book as your companion for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Pick up one in the Welcoming Area. Suggested donation \$1.

The book travels easily in your pocket, purse or backpack. The goal is to find 6 minutes of quiet time every day to walk through the book a page at a time. Six minutes. That's within reach. And it pays big returns. Reflect on the Gospel passages assigned for weekday Masses with explanation and reflections. The book also includes a variety of quotes, information and timely thoughts.

10. Arrive at weekend mass 15 minutes before the hour for a time of quiet reflection. A slide show with reflections and thoughts will play before mass. This is a special time to help us focus on the mystery of the Eucharist and get closer to the Lord.

**Please limit your conversation during this period.**

11. Pray the 9 Day Novena. Members of our Colombian community invite you to experience a tradition dating from the 1700s and passed from generation to generation. The Novena is a devotion consisting of prayers said every day from December 16 to 24. The prayers tell what happened during the 9 month pregnancy of the Virgin Mary and Joseph.

Each gathering for prayer is in the evening and lasts about 30 minutes. This is a wonderful family spiritual event. Children of all ages are most welcome.

- Friday, December 16, 6:30.
- Saturday, December 17, 6:00.
- Sunday, December 18, 7:00.
- Monday, December 19, 6:30.
- Tuesday, December 20, 6:30.
- Wednesday, December 21, 6:30.
- Thursday, December 22, 6:30.
- Friday, December 23, 6:30.
- Saturday, December 24, 6:00.



12. Watch the "Tear Soup" (a recipe for healing after loss) DVD. Suggestions for dealing with potentially difficult days during the holiday season. The date and time will be in the weekly Advent bulletin inserts.