

St. John of the Cross Parish presents ...



The Season of Advent

Nine Advent Attitudes

Advent is a season of hope. To live as a person of hope can be characterized by nine attitudes. Join us for a journey that will challenge us to reflect on our own behaviors. Weekly reflections are available in the bulletins or at www.saintjohnofthecross.org.

Advent Wreath Activity

Sunday, December 3 – 12 noon

To prepare for the Advent season, we invite you and/or your family to make your own Advent Wreath in the Sacred Heart Room. Registration ends Nov. 26.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Communal Penance Service at SRW
Monday, December 4 – 6:30 pm**

We are called to examine our lives and to see where the sacrament of reconciliation may aid our preparation for the return of Christ and for the celebration of His nativity at Christmas. Join us to celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness as a community of faith at Sts. Robert & William Parish.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also celebrated on Saturdays from 3 to 3:30 pm or by appointment.

Immaculate Conception

**Thursday, December 7, 6:30 pm
Friday, 8:15 and noon**

This **Holy Day of Obligation** honors the conception of Mary without original sin and in the state of sanctifying grace by the power of the Holy Spirit.

CD Release Concert

Friday, December 8, 7 pm

Fr. Sal and musicians will perform songs from the new CD, *Blessed Beyond Measure*. Reception to follow.

Anointing of the Sick

Weekend Masses, December 9 and 10

We pray in thanksgiving over the oil blessed by the Bishop and call to mind the healing power of God. Those who come forward will be anointed on their foreheads and palms as we pray for one another.

Nine Lessons & Carols

Friday, December 15, 7 pm

This late 19th-century tradition using scripture, song and prayer to celebrate the coming of our Lord is held in our church and led by St. John of the Cross and Covenant Baptist Church pastors and choir members.

Bambinelli Sunday

Weekend Masses, December 16 and 17

On this day, the Pope blesses the baby Jesus brought by the children of Rome to connect our nativity sets at home with our church. Bring your baby Jesus to Mass this weekend to be blessed after the homily.

Christmas is a time of hope, but during the busy holiday it's easy to get overwhelmed and lose sight of the reason for the season. This Advent, take an incredible journey to rediscover the gift of hope. Join Dynamic Catholic for the *Best Advent Ever!* Every day during Advent you'll receive short inspirational videos, practical tips, or real-life stories that will help you experience a Christmas full of hope. Are you ready for your best Advent—and Christmas—ever? The program is simple. All you have to do is sign up at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever>.

St. John of the Cross Parish presents ...



The Season of Christmas



Throughout the season of Advent we watchfully wait and prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate his arrival during the Christmas season, not just in history, but in our hearts as well. Our God, who is love, has come to dwell with us and show us how to love so that we may show that love.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass: Monday, January 1, 9 am

Although not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, this Solemnity commemorates the divine motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the God-Bearer, Mother of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ.

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Mass Schedule*:

**Vigil Masses – Sunday, December 24
4 pm (Children’s Liturgy), 6:30 & 10 pm**

**Mass during the day – Monday,
December 25, 9 am**

We begin our new year with the Church’s oldest celebration. This solemnity continues our Christmas celebration by giving us an opportunity to reflect on the blessings God has given us in both Mary, the Mother of God, and her son, Jesus.

**Dec. 24 is also the 4th Sunday of Advent. Attending the regularly scheduled weekend Mass does not fulfill your Christmas obligation.*

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Mass Schedule:

Saturday, January 6, 4 pm

Sunday, January 7, 9 am & 11 am

This feast day commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child and celebrates the revelation of God in his Son as human and a physical manifestation to the Gentiles.

The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Mass: Monday, January 8, 6:30 pm

At this festival closing the Christmas season, we remember Jesus’ baptism, and celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. This is a crucial event in the Church and one that calls us to live our lives as the baptized.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Regular Masses: Sunday, December 31

This feast day presents the Holy Family as the example or model for our families and how we are to live holy lives.