



# KETTERING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## St. Albert the Great Advent Newsletter

# THE Promise OF Advent

## PREPARING FOR A SEASON OF HOPE

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

### KETTERING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY MASS & PENANCE SCHEDULE

#### **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

**Vigil Mass: Thursday, December 7**

St. Albert: 5:30pm; St. Charles: 6pm

**Friday, December 8**

St. Charles: 8:30am; St. Albert: Noon;

Ascension: 9am & 7pm

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Vigil Mass: Saturday, December 23**

St. Albert: 4:30pm; St. Charles: 5pm; Ascension: 5pm

**Sunday, December 24**

St. Albert: 8:30am; St. Charles: 8:30am;

Ascension: 8:30am

#### **Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

**Vigil Mass: Sunday, December 24**

St. Albert: 3pm & 5pm; St. Charles: 3pm & 6pm;

Ascension: 3pm, 5:30pm, 10pm

**Monday, December 25**

St. Albert: 9:30am; St. Charles: 9am;

Ascension: 10am

#### **Week after Christmas**

Tuesday, December 26: St. Charles: 8:30am

Wednesday, December 27: Ascension: 9am

Thursday, December 28: St. Albert: Noon

Friday, December 29: St. Charles: 8:30am

**See back page for Parish Events**

#### **The Holy Family**

**Sunday, December 31**

Regular weekend Mass schedule for the KCC

#### **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

*Not a Holy Day of Obligation*

**Monday, January 1**

St. Albert: 10am

#### **The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Sunday, January 7**

Regular weekend Mass schedule for the KCC

#### **Reconciliation Schedule**

**St. Albert the Great**

Fridays after Noon Mass (*unless funeral scheduled*)

Saturdays before the 4:30pm Mass (*3:15pm-4pm*)

**Ascension**

Saturdays before the 5pm Mass (*4pm - 4:30pm*)

**St. Charles**

Saturdays before the 5pm Mass (*3pm - 4:30pm*)

#### **Kettering Catholic Community Regional Services**

Monday, December 4: Ascension

First Reconciliation at 6pm

Parish Family Reconciliation at 7pm

Thursday, December 14: St. Charles

First Reconciliation at 6pm

Parish Family Reconciliation at 7pm



# THE Promise OF Advent

1st Sunday of Advent

## THE PROMISE OF HOPE

Be Watchful! Be Alert!

*"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning." Mark 13:35*

## INSPIRATION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The core message of Advent cannot be more direct or simple: *Be Watchful. Be Alert.* As those who are postured in a spirit of readiness and anticipation, we must always be attentive and vigilant. We have to be ready not only for the anticipated arrival of our Lord, but watchful and attentive to the unexpected visit as well.

While we know that the Christ is coming, we also do not know the exact time. Cultivating this expectant attitude is the purpose of this season. It is easy to grow slack, inattentive, and too self-assured. We can easily deaden ourselves to the wonder and surprise of God's presence. We get so absorbed in so many other distractions that it can seem like Christ's second coming, and even Christ's coming in time, is of lesser importance.

## REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Jesus instructs his disciples to be vigilant for the end times. How can you make this spiritual discipline a focus of your Advent season this year?

## SYMBOLS AND CUSTOMS OF ADVENT

1. The Advent Wreath is traditionally made of evergreen branches formed into a circle with 4 candles. The evergreen circle is a symbol of eternal life. Green from the evergreen is considered a symbol of hope.
2. The Advent candles are comprised of three purple candles and one pink candle. The candles recall the weeks that pass until Christmas. The purple candles symbolize waiting. The pink candle is used on the third Sunday, which is Gaudete Sunday, meaning Rejoice. Sometimes, there is a white candle in the middle representing Christ entering the world.
3. The Jesse Tree is named for Jesse, the father of King David, whose line can be traced to St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. The Jesse Tree is used to explain the Old Testament generational connection between Adam, Abraham and Jesus as explained in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
4. The Advent calendar shows the passing of the days of the season. It can be used as a visual tool of preparation and patiently waiting for Christ to come into our lives.
5. The Nativity scene or Creche is used to commemorate the humble birth of Christ.

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR, FATHER ED PRATT

**Dear Members of St. Albert the Great, a part of the Kettering Catholic Community,**

This is the time of year we prepare for the celebrations of Advent and the upcoming Christmas season. We are thankful for our faith, family, friends, and parish community. We acknowledge Christ's presence throughout our daily life as we remember His birth among us.

We welcome you to our liturgies and activities not only at St. Albert the Great, but also within the Kettering Catholic Community at Ascension and St. Charles' parishes. The front cover of this newsletter contains the schedule for Advent through Christmas liturgical season for the entire Kettering Catholic Community; while the back cover contains the activities and events for the Kettering Catholic Community. We also have listed the website address for Ascension and St. Charles, where you can view their schedules online.

In your Envelope Packet and around campus, you will find donation envelopes for Christmas giving and the parish flower fund. As a donor of the flower fund, you may recognize a loved one, deceased or living, by writing their name on the back of the envelope. They will be remembered at all the Christmas Masses. If you return the flower fund envelope by December 15, their name will appear in the Christmas bulletin in the "In Memory Of" section or in the "In Honor Of" section. The flower fund donations assist with covering the cost of flowers throughout the year. Of note: Envelopes may be given at any of our three Kettering locations.

On-line WeShare Giving is always an option for donations, available on our website (see below) or by contacting our Parish Bookkeeper, Ann McManus, at [amcmanus@stalbertthegreat.net](mailto:amcmanus@stalbertthegreat.net).

As we enter into the season of Advent, I wish you and your family a faith-filled, prayerful journey, eagerly anticipating the special celebration of our Lord's birth.

The staff and I look forward to seeing you!

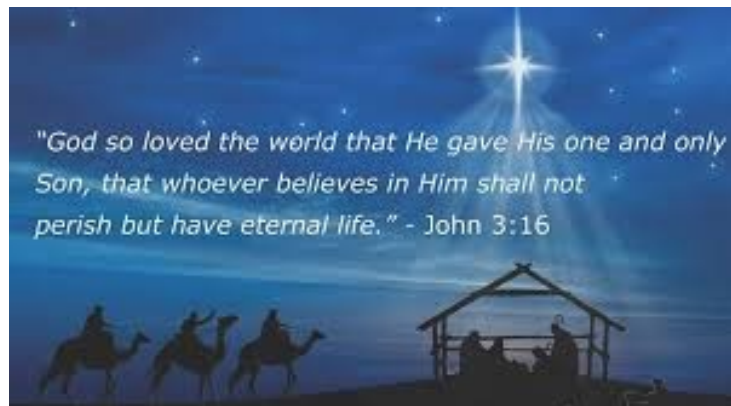
*Rev. Edward T Pratt*

Rev. Edward T. Pratt, Pastor  
Kettering Catholic Community

[www.stalbertthegreat.net](http://www.stalbertthegreat.net)

[www.ascensionkettering.org](http://www.ascensionkettering.org)

[www.stcharles-kettering.org](http://www.stcharles-kettering.org)





# THE Promise OF Advent

2nd Sunday of Advent

## PREPARATION AND PEACE

Prepare for the Way of the Lord!

*“Prepare for the way of the Lord. John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance and forgiveness of sins.”* Mark 1:3-4

## INSPIRATION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prepare the way of the Lord! The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Given the humble means of our lives, how can we do this? It certainly does not require that we stand on street corners announcing God’s future coming! We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing our lives of unnecessary, distracting clutter. By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know.

## REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Mark opens his Gospel by presenting the words and activities of John the Baptist in the context of fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy heard in our first reading. Why do you think connecting Isaiah to John the Baptist was important to Mark and his community?

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS!

As a reminder, Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is the day before, which is Sunday, December 24.

We, as Catholics, are obligated to attend Mass for both of these holy days.

The table to the right, prepared by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, offers guidance for establishing Mass schedules to cover both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Nativity of our Lord.

We look forward to seeing you at Mass!



# THE Promise OF Advent

3rd Sunday of Advent

**JOY & LIGHT: GAUDETE SUNDAY**

God is the Joy of my Soul!

*“A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.” John 1:6-7*

## INSPIRATION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What gives you joy? Joy is stumbled upon when we see a newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, or are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean’s horizon. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

## REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

John tells us that the religious leaders in Jerusalem questioned the identity of John the Baptist, wondering if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet who Moses prophesied would come. John the Baptist responds in humility, with a clear sense of his own call. Do you humbly accept God’s call in your life?

## ATTEND ONE FROM EACH COLUMN

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Obligation may be fulfilled at any Mass after 3pm on Saturday, December 23 through Sunday, December 24 at Noon

**Obligation may be fulfilled at either:**

- A Vigil Mass on Saturday evening (Dec. 23)  
*St. Albert: 4:30pm; St. Charles: 5pm; Ascension: 5pm*
- Any Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 24) before Noon  
*St. Albert: 8:30am; St. Charles: 8:30am; Ascension: 8:30am*

### NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Obligation may be fulfilled after 3pm on Sunday, December 24 and throughout Monday, December 25

**Obligation may be fulfilled at either:**

- A Vigil Mass for Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 24  
*St. Albert: 3pm & 5pm; St. Charles: 3pm & 6pm; Ascension: 3pm & 5:30pm & 10pm*  
*Note: the 10pm Mass at Ascension will begin with prelude music at 9:20pm. Christmas carols begin at 9:30pm with combined choir members and musicians from all three KCC parishes*
- Any Mass on Monday, Dec. 25  
*St. Albert: 9:30am; St. Charles: 9am; Ascension: 10am*



# THE Promise OF Advent

4th Sunday of Advent

## THE PROMISE OF LOVE

Do not be afraid!

*Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."*

Luke 1:30-31

## INSPIRATION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be.

Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior.

We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?

## REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Today's Gospel reading records the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of the upcoming birth of Christ. Mary's acceptance of God's will for her life ("May it be done to me according to your word.") models for all of us unconditional faith. How can we encourage others to embrace such faith?

## FINAL THOUGHTS

With Covid and other viruses going around, it is possible you will not be able to spend time with your loved ones. However, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: **Jesus**.

Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

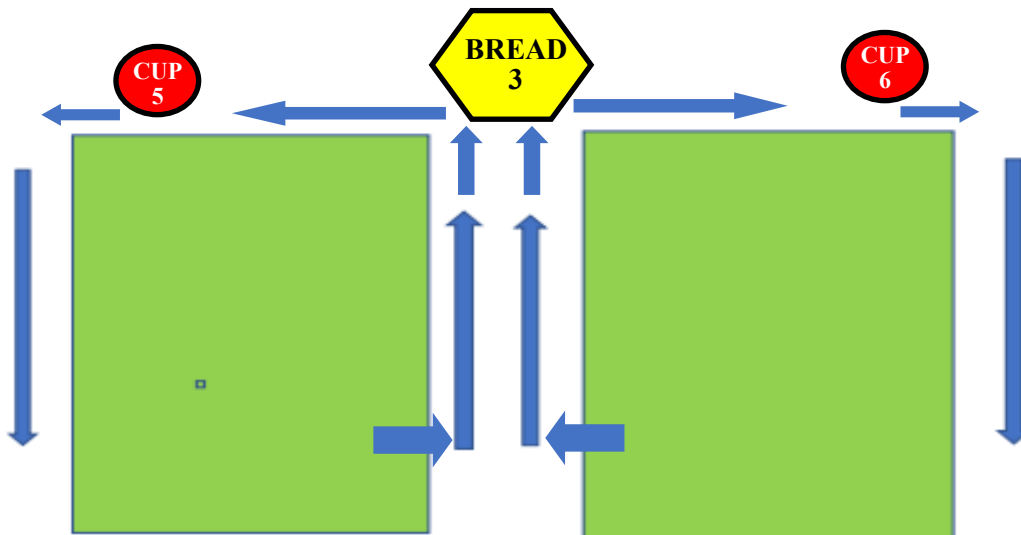
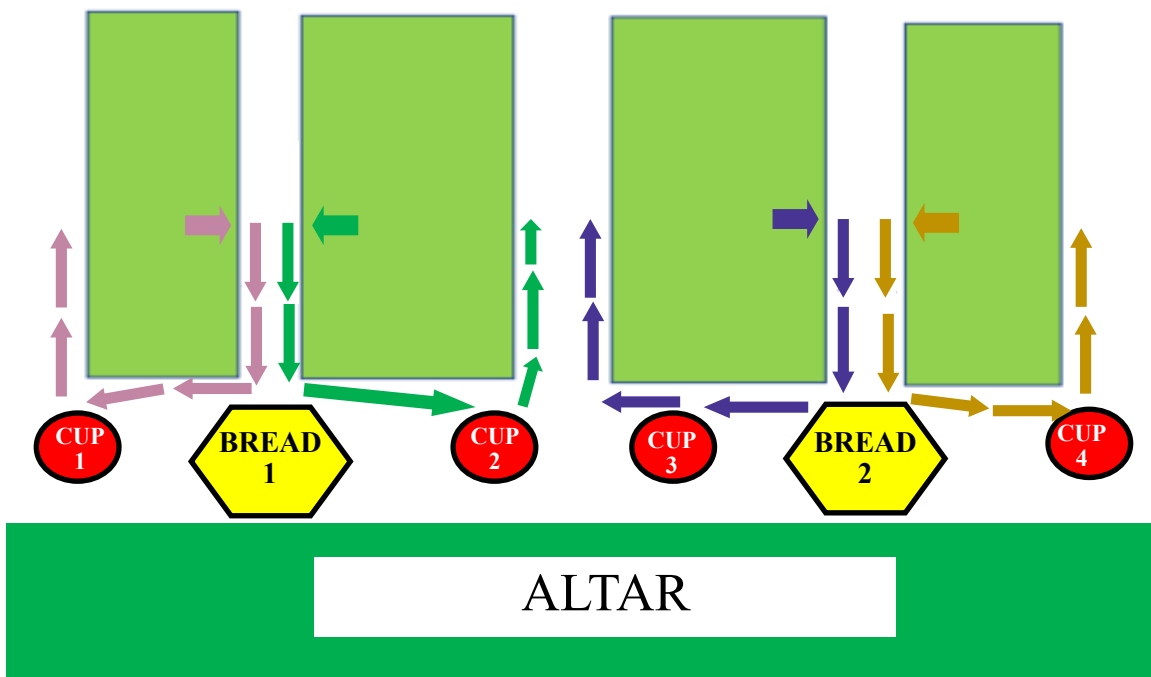
# BRINGING BACK THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST



As we bring back the Precious Blood of Christ in our liturgies, our Communion Distribution will SLIGHTLY change. Please see the diagrams below. Note: it is very similar to our Communion distribution *before* Covid.

If you are a Eucharistic Minister, look for the new alignment layout for receiving Communion Vessels. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office. **Start date: the weekend of December 2/3.**

## CHURCH SIDE



## CHAPEL SIDE

# KETTERING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY EVENTS

## AT ST ALBERT

3033 Far Hills Avenue

Check our bulletin or website for most updated news

[www.stalbertthegreat.net](http://www.stalbertthegreat.net)

- ◆ **Breakfast with Santa**  
**Sunday, December 10**  
Free event  
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus  
Join us in the Cafeteria for breakfast from 9am to Noon. Special guest: Santa Claus!
- ◆ **Christmas School Musical**  
**Seniors Day Out Luncheon**  
**Thursday, December 14**  
All senior members of the KCC are invited.  
Join us for Noon Mass, followed by a lunch and Christmas fun in the Parish Center.  
Please RSVP to Linda, 937-299-5200 by 12/10

## AT ASCENSION

2025 Woodman Drive

Check our bulletin or website for most updated news

[www.ascensionkettering.org](http://www.ascensionkettering.org)

- ◆ **Coffee & Donuts**  
**Sunday, December 3**  
After all Masses
- ◆ **Blood Drive**  
**Saturday, December 16**  
9am-1pm in PAC  
[www.donortime.com](http://www.donortime.com) (1729)
- ◆ **Breakfast with Santa**  
**Sunday, December 16**  
Sponsored by PTO  
Join us in the Parish Activity Center for breakfast from 8am to 11am.  
Special guest: Santa Claus!

## AT ST CHARLES

4500 Ackerman Blvd

Check our bulletin or website for most updated news

[www.stcharles-kettering.org](http://www.stcharles-kettering.org)

- ◆ **First Friday Adoration**  
**Friday, December 1**  
9:30am in Church
- ◆ **Holy Hour for Vocations**  
**Friday, December 1**  
7pm in Day Chapel
- ◆ **Koffee Klatsch**  
**Sunday, December 3**  
After all Sunday Masses
- ◆ **Eucharistic Adoration**  
**Sundays, December 3, 10 & 17**  
2pm-4pm in Day Chapel
- ◆ **Advent Scripture Study (Wednesday)**  
**Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20**  
9:30am-11am in Borromeo Room
- ◆ **Advent Scripture Study (Thursday)**  
**Thursdays, December 7, 14, & 21**  
6:30pm-8pm in Borromeo Room
- ◆ **Blood Drive**  
**Saturday, December 9**  
See St. Charles website for times
- ◆ **Pancake Breakfast**  
**Sunday, December 10**  
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus  
Please see website for time and cost
- ◆ **Live Nativity**  
**Friday, December 15**  
5pm-7pm