

**COME, LORD JESUS,
LIGHT OUR WAY**



Advent wreath: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from You abundant graces. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

In Advent, thoughts naturally turn to the birth of little baby Jesus and his Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. And yet, the lectionary readings for the first and second weeks of Advent feature quite a few stories about John the Baptist, either with John himself as the protagonist or with Jesus discussing John and his significance.

Why does John the Baptist figure so prominently in the earlier days of Advent? Three reasons. First, Advent deals not only with Jesus's first coming as the babe of Bethlehem in the middle of salvation history but also with his Second Coming at the end of salvation history. Second, John the Baptist is the last of the old covenant prophets. Third, John the Baptist is Jesus's forerunner in birth, message, and death.

Advent means "coming," and it prepares for Jesus's coming. He came as a baby, God incarnate on earth. But, with the readings about John the Baptist in Advent, the Church is teaching us to prepare for his Second Coming. The Gospel texts about John the Baptist paint him as a fiery apocalyptic prophet convinced the mighty one coming after him, Jesus, would bring about the end of the world and usher in the kingdom of God. That's why the Church's lectionary for Advent also presents Gospel texts about Jesus preaching about the kingdom and healing. **Advent is meant to help us get our spiritual lives tuned up so that we're ready when Jesus comes back** for good, for real- to conquer sin, death, hell, & the devil once and for all.

When they're grown, John and Jesus preach the same message, the message that Jesus is the agent of the coming kingdom of God, in which all diseases will be cured, all demons and the devil banished, all the oppressed released as oppressors suffer their punishment, and all death conquered as the saints are raised to eternal life.

It is thus no accident that John and Jesus suffer the same fate. John is beheaded and Jesus crucified at the whim of craven political rulers installed by Rome: Herod Antipas and Pontius Pilate. Both rulers, at the outset, hesitate to have John and Jesus executed, but when push comes to shove, they decide it's more expedient to kill them than to risk their own power, prestige, and position.

And so, Advent prepares us not merely to welcome and worship little baby Jesus, but **to accept Jesus's call to us to take up the cross and follow him.** Our lives may be marked by suffering and martyrdom, but ultimately, Jesus' coming and our salvation are certain.

Leroy A. Huizenga is Chair of Human and Divine Sciences at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND.

Ft. Pierre St.John Draper St.Anthony
4 December 2022 2nd Sunday of Advent

206 W. Main Ave., Fort Pierre SD 57532 605-223-2176
stjohnsfortpierre.org
main.stjohns@midconetwork.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat. 4pm

Saturday 5:30pm CT, Sunday 10:00am
Draper 8:00am Sunday 2pm Adoration

Sat 12/3	5:30pm	For parishioners
Sun 12/4	8:00am 10:00am	Draper + Owen Peterson Ft Pierre + Evelyn Straight
Mon 12/5	5:30pm	+ poor souls in purgatory
Tue 12/6	5:30pm	+ Evelyn Garry
Wed 12/7	7:00am	+ Jessica Loe
Wed Draper	7:30pm	Holyday For parishioners
Thu 12/8	7:00am 5:30pm	Holyday Pro Life ministries + Mary Morin
Fri 12/9	7:00am	+ Rose Nelson

Faith Formation

Sun Dec 4th K-8th regular classes 8:30-9:45am

Wed Dec 7th, high schoolers 6:30-7:45pm meet in Padre Hall

Sun Dec 11th K-8th **Play Practice** 8:30-9:45am in Padre Hall

Wed Dec 14th, high schoolers 6:30-7:45pm meet in Padre Hall

Sun Dec 18th K-8th **Play Practice** 8:30-9:45am in Padre Hall

No Classes Dec 21-Jan 2 Christmas Vacation

Sun Jan 8th K-8th **Play Practice** 8:30-9:45am in Padre Hall

Birth of Baby Jesus Play at the start of the 10:00am Mass

Christmas Mass: Saturday 24 Dec, Ft Pierre 4pm and 7pm.

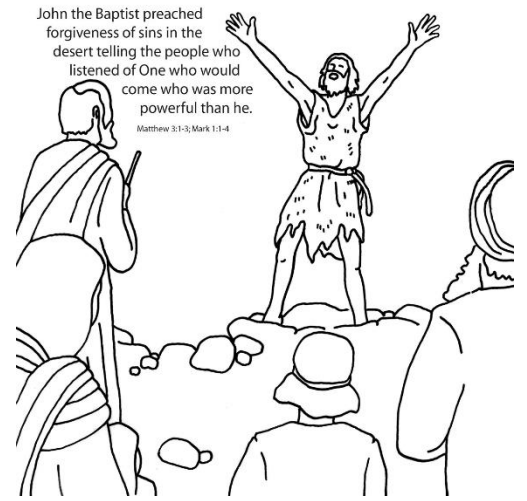
Christmas Morning Ft Pierre 9am

Draper St Anthony Christmas mass: Saturday 9pm

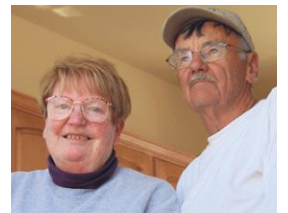
December Confession Each Tuesday 6-7pm each Friday 4:30-6pm

Parish penance service with 4 priests, Thursday 15 December 6:30-7:30pm

Saturday evening December 3rd following 5:30pm Mass in Padre Hall, Knights of Columbus provide **supper in appreciation of Shirley Gross,** an inspirational member of our parish family. Photo 2009



*Marantha
Come Lord Jesus*





Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church. Donations to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. This helps the Benedictine nuns who worked at St. Joseph School and Avera St. Mary's Hospital. Please give

generously using the attached envelope or find information at retiredreligious.org

Please turn in your **DakotaMart receipts**, in a small basket in the west side of church entry, under children's bibles. We redeem them for cash for the Faith Formation Program.

Women's Bible Study Join us as you are, where you are on Sundays at 7pm in Padre Hall during Advent for fellowship and discussion. Join us as, we let the Holy Family be our discussion and leave connected with other women through our faith.



St. Joseph School Christmas Pageant
Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30pm in the Riggs Theatre.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest January 29th at 1:00pm in Parkview gym. Ages 9-14. Winners receive a basketball.

St. John's Church decorating for Christmas, Wednesday, December 21st at 6:30pm.

Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from dedicated worship, and service to your people this Advent. Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent—Christmas—I look toward the day where I will see You face to face, when you come again in glory. I imagine what it will be like. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis. Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. Help me listen today to the voice of John the Baptist for repentance. Come Lord Jesus, Amen.



On Wednesday night the high school youth made St. Benedict Door Hangers for the homebound.

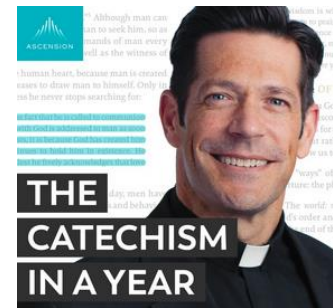
Explanation of the door hanger...

A Powerful Sacramental for Your Home

The centerpiece of the St. Benedict Door Hanger is the St. Benedict medal. Once blessed by a Catholic priest using the special blessing for St. Benedict Medals, the St. Benedict Door Hanger becomes a powerful Catholic sacramental.

The St. Benedict medal is unique from all other medals in the sense that engraved in it is a special prayer of exorcism against Satan. According to the Order of St. Benedict, "The medal is a prayer of exorcism against Satan, a prayer for strength in time of temptation, a prayer for peace among ourselves and among the nations of the world, a prayer that the Cross of Christ be our light and guide, a prayer of firm rejection of all that is evil, a prayer of petition that we may with Christian courage 'walk in God's ways, with the Gospel as our guide,' as St. Benedict urges us."

New Year's resolution for 2023, listen to Fr. Mike Schmitz as he goes through the **Catechism of the Catholic Church in a daily study.**



Go ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear to sign up and for more information.

With this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture
- Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition
- Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

If you have ever wanted to **understand what it means to be Catholic** and allow those truths to shape your life—this podcast is for you!

In Concert for Christmas: Lori Hall, Solo Bells; Jeff Speaect, Vocal; Ron Smith, Organ/Piano
Sunday, December 18th 2-4pm First United Methodist Church, 117 N. Central Ave, Pierre
Free will offering for Women's Prison Ministry Church of Hope.