**BULLETIN 12-01-2024**

***1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

 ***Pastor’s Message***

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent, the time to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. All today's readings give us a strong hope in the coming of the Lord.

The first reading from prophet Jeremiah is talking about those who experienced the defeat and destruction of Israel. The city of Jerusalem was sacked by its enemies, the temple was pulled down and people were taken into exile. In that dark time of life, Jeremiah was able to foresee the coming of the Lord who would restore and renew Israel.

Jesus in the gospel encouraged his people not to be afraid at the end of time.  Above the tribulations and trials people will endure, it is the time of salvation for God's people, so stand up and get ready to receive salvation from the Lord.

Between the first coming of Jesus and His second coming at the end of time, it is the meantime of our life, to prepare ourselves to receive the Lord. It is a time to make progress in our human life and spiritual life, to build up our relationship with God and with one another. Let us increase our love for God and for others as Saint Paul said in the second reading.

May The Lord bless us with his love and hope so that we continue to have hope in his coming.

In Christ,

— Fr. Joe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1.**     **Please remember that the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary next Sunday has been moved to Monday, December 09. It is a Holyday of Obligation. There will be three Masses: 7:00am, 12:00 noon and 7:00pm in Spanish.**

***2.******Please continue to support our sister parish in Hendersonville, NC.    Without your help, we are unable to respond to their needs. Please make checks available to our parish and clearly marked for “Our sister parish.” Thank you for your generosity!***

**3.**     **Please remember that this Sunday is the deadline to support our parish Christmas gifts program to help mothers and babies at New Life Family Outreach Center. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to church and place them in the box at the entrance of the church. Thank you!**

**4.**     ***The Christ the King Council of the Knights of Columbus is providing FREE winter coats for children in need of them. The coats are distributed this weekend of December 1st.***

**MASS INTENTIONS**

11/30 Saturday 5:00 pm + Eugene Rosensky

12/01 Sunday 7:00 am + Robert Digiovanni

 9:30 am + Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Painter

 12:00 pm + Elvira Flores Sanchez

12/02 Monday NO MASS

12/03 Tuesday 7:00 am + Jesus Mena Lopez

12/04 Wednesday 7:00 am + Marion Staub

12/05 Thursday 7:00 am + Phanxico Xavie Ninh

12/06 Friday 7:00 am + Maria Thenvu

**NEXT WEEKEND**

12/07 Saturday 9:00 am + All Souls

 5:00 pm + Emmery Evans Jr. & Terrace Richardson

12/08 Sunday 7:00 am + Bettie, Doug & John Massey

 9:30 am + Patricia Shively

 12:00 pm + Santos Javier Dominguez

 **(+) Deceased (SI) Special Intention**

**Celebrating Advent** before Christmas is important because it serves as a dedicated time for Catholics to spiritually prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth by reflecting on His oming, and actively engaging in practices like making a good Confession, lighting the Advent wreath before family prayer , preparing the manger with straw representing our sacrifices for Baby Jesus, reading Scripture, essentially creating a more meaningful Christmas experience by intentionally anticipating the holiday rather than just rushing into it.

**Winter Coats**

**For Kids**

"The Christ the King Council of the Knights of Columbus is providing ***FREE winter coats*** for children in need of them.  Please contact the church secretary, Karina Sanchez ***336-501-8278***, with the size and sex of the child.  There are girls **child** sizes 4-6x, boys**child** 4-7, and **youth** girls sizes 7-16.  They will be distributed to those who have signed up with Karina on the weekend of ***December 1st."***

**Let Us Pray For Our Parishioners...**

Johnny Apodaca

Tracy Barber

Joseph Carter

Angel M. Cuellas

Marie Forbert

Theresa French-R.

Amanda Garcia

Mario Garcia

Willa Graham

Myles Harris

Maria Hdz.

Aber Johnson

Jorge Lagueruel

Deacon Larry Lisk

Daysi Martinez

Rosario Martinez

Michael Messengler

Linda McKinney

Felicia Murphy

Nancy Nkwokolo

Gladys Ozor

Rosemary Peterson

Hector SanchezMaria G.Sanchez A.

Gricelda Sanchez

Paula Rodriguez

Andrew Royster

Mariane Smithh

Venuste Tuyikunde

 **LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION**

 Offertory: $ 3,661.00

2nd Collection Human Development:$ 841.00 Immaculate Conception Parish: $ 320.00

 Restricted Donation: $ 175.00

 Mass Intension: $ 60.00

 Priest Retirement: $ 60.00

 Total: $ 5,117.00

 ***THANK YOU!***

**NEW LIFE FAMILY OUTREACH**

This year our parish is doing a collection drive for New Life Family Outreach in High Point for Christmas.  The purpose of the drive is to provide Christmas gifts for the moms to give to their children ages infant thru preschool.

 **Suggested items:**

**- Stockings - Toy for Infants - toys for toddlers to preschool**

**- stuffed animals - games for babies and toddlers**

**-small toys, treats - No puzzles please -**

**There will be a box in the rear of the Church and in the Parish Hall beginning November 9th.**

**All items must be brought in by December 1st**

**Thank you all for the generosity!**

**God bless our parish family!**

UPCOMING

Dec 9 **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Dec 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Dec 17 O Antiphons begin

**Dec 24 Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord** (Tues.)

**Dec 24 - Pilgrims of Hope:**

**Jan 6 ‘25 Jubilee Year of Hope**

Dec 30-31 New Year’s Eve Retreat, Catholic Conf. Cntr

Jan 01 **Mary, Mother of God**

Jan 21 Retrouvailleweekend/HelpOurMarriage.org

**BIBLE STUDY** with

Deacon Francis Skinner

Tuesdays @ 7:00pm

“If you are ruled by the mind, you are a king. If by the body, you are a slave..”

 — St. Catherine of Alexandria (11/28)

**PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED!**

**- Mac n Cheese - Saltine Crackers**

**- Peanut Butter (regular size)**

**- Pork & Beans canned - Canned Fruit**

**- Canned Corn or Green Beans - Pasta 1lb**

**-Cereal - Boxes or bags (regular size, not large)**

**- Pasta Sauce (regular size, not large)**

**- Instant Oatmeal (boxes with individual pouches)**

 ***No glass containers,***

***No fresh food or outdated food, please.***

***As always, we are grateful for monetary donations.***

***God Bless you for your generosity!***

The practice of a **Jubilee Year** has ancient roots in the Jewish tradition (Lev 25).  A jubilee was called every fifty years and was a time to come back into right relationship with one another and with God.  The practice of the jubilee year was adopted into the Catholic Church and in 1300 the first Jubilee was declared by Pope Boniface VII, who recommended a Jubilee every 100 years.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience** on March 21 to 23 in Emerald Isle and May 2 to 4 in Hickory. Information at applications@ NCMarriageDiscovery.org or 704-315-2144.

**Retrouvaille of Western Carolina 2025 Marriage Retreats**  A marriage program to improve communication and help couples rebuild their relationship and rediscover their love. www.HelpOurMarriage.org. Next date: Jan. 24th in Charlotte

