

December 1, 2011
Volume 3, Issue 12

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The Season of Advent

Article by CANON ROBERT WILLS, TH.D

(Originally posted on the Mid-South Diocese website on December 2, 2008.)

The season of Advent (from the Latin word, adventus, denoting a coming or arrival) is the season of the ecclesiastical year when the church prepares to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ (Christmas) and engages in self-examination in expectation of his second coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. The collects and Scripture readings embrace these two themes. It begins in the West on the Sunday nearest to and before St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 30) and after Christ The King Sunday.

Advent always includes four Sundays. If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown. In the East the period of Advent is longer, beginning earlier in November.

In the Church, each season has it's own color. Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is Purple, the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. Christians believe that Jesus is the "King of kings and that at the appointed time, "every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." However, many churches, including my own church, now use blue to

distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. Royal Blue is sometimes used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use Bright Blue to symbolize the night sky, the anticipation of the impending announcement of the King's coming, or to symbolize the waters of Genesis Chapter 1, the beginning of a new creation. Red and Green are more secular colors of Christmas, although they derive from older European practices of using evergreens and holly to symbolize ongoing life
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Diocese of Florida Annual Diocesan Clericus November 2011

The annual Diocesan Clericus of the Diocese of Florida was held at the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection Miramar, Florida on November 13th. Many of the clergy and their wives gathered on

Friday evening at the bishop's residence for an informal time of fellowship and to break bread together. The Bishop's Council met on the 10th & 11th. The Bishop announced the reactivation of the Diocesan Youth Commission.

On Saturday the ladies met at the Cathedral before heading off to Bayside and lunch and fellowship returning to join the clergy for Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary.
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Special points of interest:

- The Season of Advent
- 2011 NFL Clericus.
- Our Mission & Priorities
- What's Happenin!

What's Happenin !

Bible Study & Future Events

Sunday Morning Bible Study

– 9:15am in the Student Council Building, room 145,

4th Day Ultreya – Dec. 6th Tuesday, 6:00 pm at the home of Greg and Diane Looker. They are located in The Woods community at 13036 Palmetto Glade Dr., 221-7550. Please RSVP

Wednesday Night Soup

Supper & Prayer – every Wednesday, 6pm at the Law offices of Lansing Roy, 1710

Shadowood Lane Suite 210, office #391-0030.

Youth Fellowship – Meets every Wednesday night at 6:30pm. Check out: www.mycomjax.com for a complete schedule of events.

Christmas Party – Dec. 10th at the Woods Community Center, 12 noon. Please bring a side dish or desert to share.

Christmas Eve Service – Will be on Saturday, December 24th, 7pm at the Sam R.

Marks Chapel at Jacksonville University. Nursery Provided.

Christmas Day Service, Sunday, 10:30am Morning Worship with Holy Eucharist. Nursery, Toddler and Kid's Church, will be provided.

Sun. Jan 1st – Feast of the Holy Name.

Sun. Jan 8th - Epiphany Pageant & Service, Please bring an offering for our King.

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and hope that Christ's birth brings into a cold world.

The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than remembering a 2,000+-year-old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of

creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past

and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a

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Birthdays

December

12/3 Bebe Reese
12/10 Carrie McGrew
12/19 James Barr
12/22 Darla Shiell
12/23 Fr. Robert Thomson
12/27 Fr. Scott Looker
12/28 Deborah Templeman

12/30 Austin Pardee
12/31 Beth Pardee

January

1/2 Earl Shimp
1/5 Greg McGrew
1/8 Alexa Lapinski
1/25 Jane Cunningham
1/28 Merrill Johnson

February

2/7 Cyndy Melanson
2/11 Dru Pardee
2/19 Susie Smitha
2/20 George Noble
2/22 Carla Bitancor
2/23 Fr. Ed Shiell

Update : ICCEC Calendar and Cards Fund Raising

As of this posting, the 2012 ICCEC Calendar has raised \$599 toward it's goal of \$1,500 for the Cars and Cathedral program.

If you have not already ordered a 2012 ICCEC Calendar, please consider doing so. The calendar reflects the people and the events of the church this past year as a year of evangelism. In an effort to make the calendar more accessible this year, the costs have been

reduced and the online ordering and checkout system has been significantly upgraded.

This year, Christmas Cards are also available for purchase. If you have not already purchased your Christmas cards for this year, please consider purchasing the beautiful and high quality cards we have available from the Printery House seminary in Missouri.

Our goal is to bring you these cards at a very reasonable price and to help you to spread the Good News with Christian art and messages, while supporting our Missions and Development Programs in Africa.

Please take a look at the Calendar and Christmas Cards web site located on the International Website. http://www.iccec.org/cal_order.html



Prayer Needed

Please continue to pray against Cancer and against the return of cancer for: Bsp. David Simpson, Kim Black, Ralph Bitancor, Elaine Holloway, Olvia Jones

Continue to pray for Bebe Reese & family and for Cyndy Speer & family as we head into the Holidays.

Continue the Prayer for the Church of the Messiah by Earl Shimp.

Pray for our youth and the

upcoming March for Life in January.

Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Is. 63

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. Ps.80

Advent is a time to recognize both our holy longing and the healing love God has for us, despite the many barriers we put up between ourselves and God. We can start simply and

just rest at the edge of our beds in the mornings, open our hands and whisper, "Come, Lord Jesus!" If we let ourselves feel what is in our hearts, we know they are filled with love. We can carry that experience with us as we go through even the busiest of our days. We may not know exactly where to begin or how to fill this longing in our hearts but it is simple. God waits with infinite love and with arms outstretched to meet us.

THIS BLOOD'S FOR YOU

Please include in your prayers

Advent Continued from page 2

profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates Christ's Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all

creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself." St. Paul says that it was

through the grace of Jesus Christ, sent by God in the fullness of time (Gal 4:4-5). God's eternal design was to send His own Son into the world to redeem the human race, broken and bruised by sin. This is the masterpiece of His wisdom and love.

God willed to prepare the human race for the revelation of this mystery during some thousands of years. Why did God choose to delay the coming of His Son amongst us for so many centuries? Why such a long period? Continued on page 5

Diocese of Florida Annual Diocesan Clericus continued from page 1

Clericus began on Saturday Morning and after Morning Prayer Canon Ed. Skiba presented an overview of Pastoral Crisis Intervention in



a program entitled "Spiritual Intervention In Critical Stress Management (CISM)". In a lively and informative presentation based on many years of experience in this field Fr. Skiba emphasized that a crisis is always a crisis to the person who is in crisis ... whether you think it is a crisis or not. Pastoral crisis intervention is restorative and focuses on the "here and now" when compared to Pastoral Counseling which promotes growth focusing on the past, present, and future. I'm sure all present left with a new perspective.

Diocesan Reports were presented. A report on the state of the Church was presented and Diocesan Congregational Development by Bishop Simpson. Financial Reports – Fr. Herb Purick. [Tres Arroyos](#) – Fr. Bill Sharpe. [Diocesan Website & Calendar](#) – Fr. John Bower. all the presently scheduled dates of 2012 events and activities are posted on the calendar on the Diocesan Website a new Youth Resources page is to be created.

2012 Scheduled Events and Report on reporting and offerings by Fr. Colin Morris.

The **Clergy Lenten Retreat** is once again to convene at the Chapel of Divine Mercy, DeLand March 22 – 24th. The **Florida Diocesan Clericus** will reconvene at the Cathedral on November 3rd, 2012.

The Diocese of Florida's Second Diocesan Women's Retreat is to take place May the 10th – 12th at Camp Wingman, Avon Park, Florida. The next [ICCEC International Convocation](#) is scheduled in July 10th – 12th, 2012 in Madrid.

A report of the Commission on Ordained Ministry was presented by Fr. Jim Nilon and a report on St. Michael's Seminary by Fr. Scott Looker. A report on the recovery and re-consecration [Prince of Peace](#), Jacksonville by Bishop David, following the electrical fire experienced last fall, was presented by Fr. Bill Jordan. Fr. David Paysinger reported on the Purchase of Land for [Church of The Messiah](#), Jacksonville – Fr. Paysinger said "We now own but must possess the Land. In the fourth chapter of Deuteronomy, Moses proclaimed to Israel, "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you." We now possess the land which the LORD God of our fathers has given us!" Fr. Drew Wales presented a report on the activities at [St. Michael the Archangel](#), Rockledge and the financial blessing that had been received anonymously which allowed the mortgage on the

property to be paid off.

The Clergy and Wives came together in the Sanctuary to Celebrate Holy Eucharist. The Bishop in an emotional message remembered his mother and also that the Diocese has lost two Priests to cancer during the year – Fr. James Ross and Fr. Morgan Speer and also the death of Fr. Paul Schauer's wife Connie. Pray for our Bishop, Jane Ross, Cindy Speer, Morgan & Justin, and Fr. Paul Schauer.

A time of prayer for revival, restoration, and empowerment for the Church, the Clergy and their wives was offered. It is good to come together to worship the Lord, for a time of fellowship, renewal and refreshment – "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers



Clericus Eucharist

Article by Fr. John Bower
Church of the Holy Comforter,
Stuart, FL

We cannot fully understand the depths of the reasons why God accomplishes His works under such or such conditions.

The revelation of the mystery of the Incarnation and the majesty of the Redeemer was given by degrees. After the first hint of promise made in Genesis 3:18, all the religion of the human race became concentrated around this "seed of the woman,"

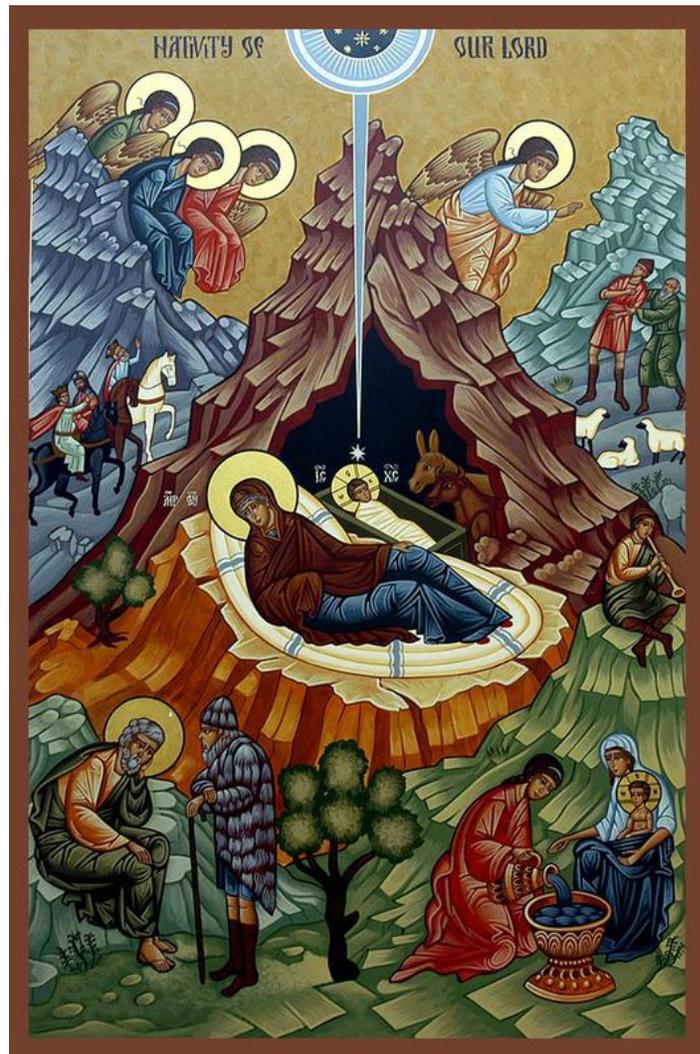
Throughout the years as they pass by, and as the centuries advance, God makes His promise more precise; He repeats it with more solemnity. He assures the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that it is through them that the blessed seed shall come forth.

During Advent, we are reminded of the prophecies of God concerning the coming of the Messiah. God prophesied that one day a Virgin of the family of David would bring forth a son. King David contemplates Him "in the brightness of the saints," begotten eternally; a supreme High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedech" (Ps 59:3-4). He would be anointed to reign over us because of His "truth and meekness and justice" (Ps. 44:5). David contemplates too the pierced Hands and Feet, the garments divided among the soldiers who cast lots upon His coat (Ps 22:17-19); He beholds Him given gall and vinegar to drink (Ps 68:22). He will not be touched by the corruption of the tomb, but, victorious over death, He will sit down at the right hand of God (Ps 15:10).

This contrast is not less striking in Isaiah, so precise and full of detail is he that he might be relating accomplished facts rather than foretelling future events.

"His name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, God the mighty, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace" (Is 9:6). Born of a Virgin, "His name shall be called Emmanuel" (7:14), God with us. And yet this Redeemer, is to be overwhelmed with sufferings, and humiliations. When, therefore, we read the prophecies that the Church proposes to us during Advent, let us in the fullness of our faith, say like the first disciples of Jesus: "We have found Him of Whom... the prophets did write" (Jn 1:45). During Advent we want to "find" Jesus anew in preparation for making Christ the central focus of our lives for the new year.

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Robert Wills is the vicar of St. Luke's Mission in Manchester, Georgia and serves the Diocese of the Mid-South as Canon Theologian, a member of the Bishop's Council, and as a member of the Commission on Ordained Ministry. Canon Wills also is an instructor with St. Michael's Seminary and oversees the students in the Mid-South Diocese participating in the seminary program.



OUR MISSION & PRIORITIES



The mission of our church is to bring the rich sacramental and liturgical heritage of the early church, the power of Pentecost, and the infallible truth of Scripture together in one expression of Christ's church for this generation, providing a home for all Christians who seek a vital, powerful energetic, and yet stable church in which to grow in love with one another and in our knowledge and love of God.

PO Box 8608
 Jacksonville, FL 32239
 904-721-4199

December Daily Office

Date	AM Psalm	PM Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
1-Thursday	18:1-20	18:21-50	Amos 4:6-13	2Peter 3:11-18	Matthew 21:33-46
2-Friday	16,17	22	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1:1-16	Matthew 22:1-14
3-Saturday	20,21:1-14	110,116,117	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 1:17-25	Matthew 22:15-22
4-Sunday	148,149,150	114,115	Amos 6:1-14	1Thess 5:1-11	Luke 1:57-68
5-Monday	25	9,15	Amos 7:1-9	Rev 1:1-8	Matthew 22:23-33
6-Tuesday	26,28	36,39	Amos 7:10-17,24-25	Rev 1:9-16	Matthew 22:34-46
7-Wednesday	38 ::	119:25-48	Amos 8:1-14	Rev 1:17-2:7	Matthew 23:1-12
8-Thursday	37:1-18	37:19-42	Amos 9:1-10	Rev 2:8-17	Matthew 23:13-26
9-Friday	31	35	Haggai 1:1-15	Rev 2:18-29	Matthew 23:27-39
10-Saturday	30,32	42,43	Haggai 2:1-19	Revelation 3:1-6	Matthew 24:1-14
11-Sunday	63:1-8,98	103	Amos 9:11-15	2Thess 2:1-3,13-17	John 5:30-47
12-Monday	41,52	44	Zechariah 1:7-17	Rev 3:7-13	Matthew 24:15-31
13-Tuesday	45	47,48	Zechariah 2:1-13	Revelation 3:14-22	Matthew 24:32-44
14-Wednesday	119:49-72	49	Zechariah 3:1-10	Rev 4:1-8	Matthew 24:45-51
15-Thursday	50	33	Zechariah 4:1-14	Revelation 4:9-5:5	Matthew 25:1-13
16-Friday	40,54	51	Zechariah 7:8-8:8	Rev 5:6-14	Matthew 25:14-30
17-Saturday	55	138,139:1-17	Zechariah 8:9-17	Rev 6:1-17	Matthew 25:31-46
18-Sunday	24,29	8,84	Genesis 3:15-18	Rev 12:1-10	John 3:16-21
19-Monday	61,62	112,115	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Titus 1:1-16	Luke 1:1-25
20-Tuesday	66,67	116,117	1Samuel 2:1b-10	Titus 2:1-10	Luke 1:26-38
21- St. Thomas	23, 121		Job 42:1-6	1 Peter 1:3-9	
21 Evening		27	Isaiah 43:8-13	John 14-17	
22-Thursday	80	146,147	2Samuel 7:18-29	Galatians 3:1-14	Luke 1:57-66
23-Friday	93,96	148,150	Baruch 4:21-29	Galatians 3:15-22	Luke 1:67-80
24-Saturday	45,46		Baruch 4:36-5:9	Galatians 3:23-4:7	Matthew 1:18-25
24-Christmas Eve		89:1-29	Isaiah 59:15b-21	Philippians 2:5-11	*None*
25-Christmas Day	2,85		Zech 2:10-13	1John 4:7-16	
25 Christmas Evening		110, 132	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:31-36	
26-St. Stephen	28,30		2 Chron. 24:17-22	Acts 6:1-7	
26-Evening		118	Wisdom 4:7-15	Acts 7:59-8:8	
27-St. John	97, 98		Prov 8:22-30	John 13:20-35	
27-Evening		145	Isa 44:1-8	1 John 5:1-12	
28-Holy Innocents	2, 26		Isa 49:13-23	Matt 18:1-14	
28 Evening		19, 126	Isa 54:1-13	Mark 10:13-16	
29	18:1-20	18:21-50	2 Sam 23:13-17b	2 John 1-13	John 2:1-11
30	20, 21	23, 27	1 King 17:17-24	3 John 1-15	John 4:46-54
31	46, 48	90	1 King 3:5-14	Isa 65:15b-25	Rev 21:1-6
Jan 1 – Holy Name	103	148	Isa 62:1-5, 10-12	Rev 19:11-16	Matt 1:18-25