

Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate

Advent and Christmas 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We invite you to take part in some of the events happening in our parish this Advent season. We will honour the Lord's coming with music, Scripture, and Prayer. Please take advantage of the extra time for confession, as the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

May God Bless You and Your Families during the Advent and Christmas Seasons,

Bishop Ustrzycki, Fr. Ian, Fr. Bill, Deacon Quinto, and all the Parish Team

Advent 2023

An Advent Scripture Challenge

On the First Sunday of Advent, we begin reading the Gospel According to St. Mark at Sunday Masses. This Advent, consider taking the time to read through St. Mark's Gospel each day from the beginning of Advent until Christmas Eve. St. Jerome encourages us to know Scripture in order to know Christ.

Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 3 at 7:00pm

The weeks before Christmas are usually a hurried time of shopping, preparations, and card writing. For Christians, however, these weeks should be marked by prayerful preparation for the Feast of Christmas. Plan to attend our annual **Advent Service of Lessons and Carols**, as a way to begin this season in prayer and recollection. This service will be a reflection on the Season of Advent through Scripture and Music. Please come and bring a friend!

Holy Hour and Mass on Saturday Mornings

During the Season of Advent Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am on Saturday mornings. Mass will be preceded by a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 8:00am, with Confessions from 8:00-8:45, and the Office of Lauds (*Morning Prayer*) at 8:30am.

Novena of Masses for The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Once again, this year we will celebrate a Novena (*nine days*) of Masses leading to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, our Parish's Patronal Feast Day. Novena Masses will be held at 7:30 each morning from November 29 to December 7, with reflections on Our Lady in the Gospels.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Friday, December 8

5:30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6:15pm	Vespers (<i>Evening Prayer</i>)
6:30pm	Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00pm	<i>Solemn Mass for the Immaculate Conception.</i>

Bambinelli Sunday

Sunday, December 17

On the Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday, you are invited to take part in one of the newer traditions in our Catholic life. Please bring the Baby Jesus statues from your home nativity set(s). The images will be blessed at all of the Masses on "***Bambinelli Sunday***" before you place them in your home's Nativity.

A Christmas Scripture Challenge

On the following days of the Christmas Season sit before your Christmas Tree, or your Nativity scene, and take a few minutes alone, or as a family, to reflect upon the following passages of Scripture:

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Epiphany (Sun Jan. 7)

St. Luke 2:1-20

St. John 1:1-14

St. Matthew 2:1-12

The Sacrament of Reconciliation During Advent

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be celebrated:

Saturday, December 9
8:00am – 8:45am
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Saturday, December 16 8:00am – 8:45am
3:00pm – 5:00pm

Wednesday, December 20 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Saturday, December 23 8:00am – 8:45am
3:00pm – 5:00pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament During Advent

All Wednesdays of Advent **8:30am – 12:00pm**

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during the Holy Hour from 5:30pm until Benediction at 6:30pm.

All Saturdays of Advent

A Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 8:00am, ending with Mass at 9:00am. Morning Prayer will be prayed at 8:40am.

Holy Hour with the Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday, December 20

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration during Confessions from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, ending with Compline (*Night Prayer*) and Benediction at 8:00pm.

Christmas 2023 Mass Schedule

The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23/24

Regular Masses	Saturday	Confessions 3:00pm-5:00pm Mass at 5:15pm
	Sunday	Mass at 9:00am and 11:00am

Christmas Eve **Sunday, December, 24**

The Basilica will open at 4:00pm
Vigil Masses of Christmas 5:00pm and 7:00pm

Solemn Mass of Christmas at Midnight

The Basilica will open at 11:00pm; Carols begin at 11:30pm

Christmas Day **Monday, December 25**

The Basilica will open at 8:00am
Masses of Christmas Day 9:00am and 11:00am

All Weekday Masses December 26 – December 30 at 9:00am
There will be no Adoration or 12:15 Mass on Dec. 27

The Feast of the Holy Family

Regular Masses

Saturday

Sunday

Sunday, December 31

Confessions 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Mass at 5:15

Mass at 9:00am and 11:00am

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Dec. 31/Jan. 1

December 31

Vigil Mass

5:15pm

January 1

One Mass Only

10:00am

Please Note that January 1st is a Holy Day of Obligation

Parish Office Closures During the Christmas Holidays

The Parish Office will close at 4:30pm on Friday, December 22, and open again at 9:00am on Wednesday, December 27. It will also close at 4:30pm on Friday, December 29 and open at 9:00am on Tuesday, January 2.