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**First Sunday In Advent B December 3, 2023**

**Saint of the Week: December 7th— Saint Ambrose**  
*Ambrose was born into the aristocracy in Trier, Germany, about 340, and served the powerful Roman Empire. As governor, he intervened in a dispute over the election of the bishop of Milan. Although he was only a catechumen, the laity elected him as bishop. He hesitated at first, but later was baptized and ordained. Ambrose became a remarkable preacher and teacher of the faith. His most famous student was Augustine of Hippo, whom he baptized. Ambrose died in 397. In 1298 he was declared one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church (with Jerome, Augustine and Gregory I).*

**Commentary by Augustine**  
 “Our God will come openly; our God will come and will not keep silent.” The first coming of Christ the Lord, God’s Son and our God, was in obscurity; the second will be in sight of the whole world. When he came in obscurity no one recognized him but his own servants; when he comes openly he will be known by both good people and bad. When he came in obscurity, it was to be judged; when he comes openly it will be to judge. He was silent at his trial, as the prophet foretold: “He was like a sheep led to the slaughter, like a lamb before his shearers. He did not open his mouth.” But, “Our God will come openly; our God will come and will not keep silence.” Silent when accused, he will not be silent as judge. And he is not silent now. By no means; when people of today recognize his voice and despise him, Scripture assures us that he will not be silent, he will not hold his hand. Nowadays when the divine commands are spoken of, some people begin to jeer. They are not at present shown what God promises, they do not see what he threatens—so they laugh at his commands. After all, good people and bad enjoy this world’s so-called happiness; good people and bad suffer from what are deemed this world’s misfortunes. Those whose lives are geared to the present rather than the future are impressed by the fact that this world’s blessings and sufferings fall to the lot of good and bad without distinction. If wealth is their ambition, they see it being enjoyed not only by decent folk, but also by people of the worst kind. If they are in dread of poverty and all the other miseries of this world, they also see that the good and the bad both suffer from them. Therefore they say to themselves, “God does not care about human affairs, he exercises no control over them. On the contrary; he has sent us into the abyss of this world, and simply abandoned us to its sufferings. He shows no sign of his providence.” Consequently, seeing no evidence of anyone being called to account, such people hold God’s commands in derision. Nevertheless, each person would do well to take thought even now, because when he wills to do so, God looks, and he judges; he will not tolerate an hour’s delay. When he wills to do so, he waits. Why does he do this? Surely if he never passed judgment in this present life, some people would think he does not exist. But if he always gave sentence here and now, there would be nothing reserved for the Day of Judgment. That is why much is kept for that day; but in order to put the fear of God into those whose cases are deferred, and so convert them, some judgments are made here and now. For it is clear that God takes no pleasure in condemning. His desire is to save, and he bears patiently with evil people in order to make them good. Yet we have the Apostle’s warning: “The wrath of God will be revealed from heaven against all ungodliness, and God will reward each one according to his deeds.” The Apostle takes scoffers to task by asking them: “Do you think lightly of God’s abundant goodness and his forbearance?” Do you despise him and think his judgment a matter of no account because he is good to you, because he is long-suffering and bears with you patiently, because he delays the day of reckoning and does not destroy you out of hand? “Do you not know that the patience of God is meant to lead you to repentance? By the hardness of your heart you are storing up wrath against yourself on that Day of Retribution,” when the righteous judgment of God will be revealed and he will give every one the reward his or her deeds deserve. Sermon 18, 1-2: PL 38, 128-29

Augustine (354-430) was born at Thagaste in Africa and received a Christian education, although he was not baptized until 387. In 391 he was ordained priest and in 395 he became coadjutor bishop to Valerius of Hippo, whom he succeeded in 396. Augustine’s theology was formulated in the course of his struggle with three heresies: Manichaeism, Donatism, and Pelagianism. His writings are voluminous and his influence on subsequent theology immense. He molded the thought of the Middle Ages down to the thirteenth century. Yet he was above all a pastor and a great spiritual writer.

**MASS INTENTIONS for the week of December 5th to December 10th**

Tuesday	5th	9AM	+Ulysse & +Richard Pedneault +Michael Dufresne	The Pedneault Family Vicki Queen
Wednesday	6th	9AM	+David Morrissey Intentions of the Rusak Family	Angie Shura Bill Toner
Thursday	7th	9AM	+Katherine Pidursky +Earl Johnson	Rodney Hall Kathy & David Petracek
Friday	8th	9AM	Martha, +Joseph, +Dan Riehle Maria and Andre Barnabe	Melanie Riehle CWL
Saturday	9th	5PM	For the Parish	
Sunday	10th	10AM	+Debby VanWalleghem +Margaret DuGandzic	Mary Ellen Lemay Ange & Cam Schussler

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with General Absolution** will take place December 16 and 17 at the 5:00 pm and 10:00 am masses.  
 Christmas Eve Mass 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm  
 Christmas Day Mass 10:00 am  
 New Years Eve Mass 5:00 pm  
 New Years Day Mass 10:00 am

First Sunday of Advent: STORY  
 The Advent season begins on Sunday December 3rd. This season of preparation not only looks forward to the celebration of Christmas, but it also reminds us of the whole story of salvation, beginning with the birth of Jesus and ending with the fullness of God’s kingdom at the end of history. Advent gives us an opportunity to reflect on what God has done for us, but also invites us to see what God is doing in our own lives right now. The story of Jesus’ coming is a story of great love. So with this divine mystery in our lives, God will surprise us. Let us take the time this season to pay special attention to what God wants to share with us.

*We pray: Heavenly Father open our eyes and hearts this holy season. Amen*

**Nov 25&26, 2023 Envelope collection \$2,888.07**

**Readings for week of December 3-9**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	Isaiah 63.16b-17;64.1,3-8 PSALM 80
<b>2nd Reading</b>	1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.33-37
<b>MONDAY</b>	Isaiah 2.1-5 PSALM 122 Matthew 8.5-11,13
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Isaiah 11.1-10 PSALM 72 Luke 10.21-24
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Isaiah 25.6-10a PSALM 23 Matthew 15.29-37
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Isaiah 26.1-6 PSALM 118 Matthew 7.21,24-27
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Genesis 3.9-15,20 PSALM 98
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Ephesians 1.3-6,11-12 Luke 1.26-38
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Isaiah 30.19-21,23-26 PSALM 147 Matthew 9.35-10.1,5a,6-8