



# ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

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**November 22, 2020 The Last Sunday after Pentecost  
Christ the King Sunday**

Worship with the Diocese of Albany at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjVmrEwtur7R8akk7Drd9TQ>

## **At Advent**

Worship is scheduled for Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. We will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist with a special service.

## **Matthew 25:31-46 What is Eternity?**

This week I want to ruminate with you about eternity. When our Gospel for this week speaks about Jesus return, this is at the end of time. Eternity at a deeper level is beyond my understanding.

Some people think of eternity as endless time. Eternity exists outside of time; Time began with creation. You and I cannot measure eternity with time because eternity supersedes time.

What was the state of affairs before that first day? We know from Genesis that there was existence before time. Remember in Genesis when it was said from heaven: ..."let us..." There was a first day; we also know that time will end. There will be a last day within time.

Eternity is a state of affairs outside of time. For me that is incredible to comprehend, because I have always been within time! It is an experience not bound by time. Eternity is before the beginning and after the end. Time actually exists within eternity.

Eternity has always existed and will never cease existing. Eternity is an age without borders. Heaven is in eternity! We pray about heaven on earth, but only glimpses of heaven on earth are possible because heaven is outside of time.

When things go well in our lives we don't want it to end. That's why we associate it with, "Heaven on Earth." When things are going badly in our lives we want them to end. It's like Hell on Earth. However, both of those expressions are interpretations from within our limited experience. When we read of Biblical revelations of heaven and of angels, there were also experiences of people within time.

When is Eternity? It isn't someday far away. Eternity is right now for the Heavenly beings. Eternity is right now for our loved ones in Jesus. They have passed out of death into life everlasting.

God is not bound by time, He exists outside of time, He created time. This is why God doesn't see things the way we see things. The Word states that "one day to God is like a thousand years."

1 day = 1,000 years or 25 Generations

1 week = 7,000 years or 175 Generations

1 year = 364,000 years or 9,100 Generations

Now I'm 75 years old. 75 times 364,000 years is a pretty large number...too big for my puny brain. That speaks of an amazing sequence of experiences, knowledge, and wisdom.

One day, because we have entrusted our future to Jesus and His work on the cross on our behalf, we will be ushered into eternity. What a promise.

Father God is eternal...The Son is eternal...The Holy Spirit is eternal. We will exist outside of time.

We are told in scripture that the current state of affairs will come to a conclusion. The Lord has bigger plans for us than this existence; we are the objects of God's love; this was His plan from the beginning. God knows where we are going and has done all for us to join him in eternity. The Lord bless you this week!

Pastor Paul Laursen

**This Week at Advent**

**Sunday, November 22**

**8:00 a.m. Holy Service**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**Monday, November 23**

**Tuesday, November 24**

**Wednesday, November 25**

**7:00 a.m.** Men's Bible Study at Advent  
**9:00 a.m.** Wednesday Morning Prayer Group  
**7:00 p.m.** NO The Praise Community

**Thursday, November 26 Thanksgiving**  
**Church office is closed**

**Sunday, November 29**

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

**Prayer Request**

*Health and Recovery*

Lillian Kwasny	Ed Kwasny	Joan Joye
Mary Lou Dixon	Marilyn Decker	Stacey Smith
Bob Allen	Karen Zolar	Rose Walker
Barb Frank	Lois Zolar	Arthur Beel
Michael Uhrich	Sharon Rice	George Belinsky
Bill & Judy Arkley	Steve Boyce	Shirley Moore
Lucille Benedict	Dave Luptak	
Denise Geyer-Keller		

*Friends of Advent*

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma	Fr. Richard Lutz
Ken and Jim	Betty Clark
Eliza Jennings residents	
Liz Schilling, friend of JoAnn Beck	
Stella, friend of Bev Cummings	
Tina, friend of Bev Cummings	
Residents of Pinzone Tower	
Will Hayes, friend of Cynthea Sabolich	
Gabe, grandson of Jan & Jerry Nagy	

*Safety Protection*

David Arkley, Detective for Cleveland Police  
Son of Bill & Judy Arkley  
Rachel Moffitt, ER Nurse daughter of Bill & Judy Arkley

*Please contact the church office if you would like your name added or removed from our list.*

**Server Schedule Today, November 22**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Dick McCormick

**10:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Dick McCormick

**Lector** Dick McCormick

**Prayers of the People** Dick McCormick (Form 2)

**Ushers** Peter Meckes & Teddi Augustine

**Intercessory Prayer** Bev Cummings

**Counter** Anne Crothall (11/23)

**Close Advent** Peter Meckes

**Next Sunday, November 29**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Kathleen Huffman

**10:00 a.m.**

**Assistant** Lewis Meriam

**Lector** Lewis Meriam

**Prayers of the People** Lewis Meriam (Form 3)

**Ushers** Jan & Jerry Nagy

**Intercessory Prayer** Ray Busony

**Counter** Anne Crothall (11/30)

**Close Advent** Ray Busony

**Stewardship**

All of us look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving in a couple of weeks. With that in mind, please prayerfully consider your blessings and complete the stewardship card previously mailed (or ask the Ushers for one.) We ask that you return the card **TODAY November 22**. Thank you for your continued faithfulness to the Lord's work at Advent.

## Take-aways From Virtual Diocesan Convention, November 14, 2020

The Diocese met virtually to nominate and elect persons to Diocesan offices; to vote on proposed resolutions and changes to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Ohio; and to adopt the Diocesan program and budget. Approximately 240 clergy and lay attended. Some take-aways are:

- Bishop Hollingsworth's Convention Address spoke to pandemic fears and possible future church restrictions, systemic racism, and Isaiah's charge of "Here am I, send me" being our fitting response to today's challenges
- Nominations for vacancies had few candidates beyond the minimum required; nominees willing to serve were from, predominantly, a few large congregations
- Resolutions approved were clergy compensation and changing a commission name and its mission to Commission for Racial Justice
- 2020 9-months year-to-date showed a deficit which will be zero'ed at year-end via transfers from special funds
- The 2021 budget was approved; forecasted receipts and expenses are \$3.4 Million, a 4.6% decrease over 2020
- 2021 assessments from congregations are expected to decline by 7.3% or \$163,000
- 61% of receipts or \$2.1M come from congregations, 18% from endowment and investment income, and 21% from transfers and fees
- The Diocese received \$413,000 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, likely to be 100% forgiven; 31 parishes also received PPP loans
- The Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) across the Diocese averaged 5,100 in 2019, down from 5,800 in 2015
- Of the 82 parishes over the 2014 to 2019 period, 14 saw increases in ASA, 17 were stable, and 51 congregations experienced a decline in ASA
- Advent's ASA in 2019 was 43. Of the 82 parishes, 47 had ASA larger than Advent's, 29 had smaller, and 5 about the same as Advent's
- A virtual convention is an efficient and cost-effective means of conducting Diocesan business; what is lost is person-to-person interaction
- Fr. RJ Johnson was announced as the new clergy at St. Mark's Canton



### Advent Wreath – Readers

Thank you to those who have volunteered to be Advent Wreath readers! These include: Art & Marilyn Decker—November 29, Bev Cummings—December 6, Dick McCormick—December 13 and Cynthea Sabolich—December 20. Please let JoAnn know if you are unavailable on your date.

### Christmas Poinsettias

Order forms for poinsettias are available from the Ushers today. The poinsettias will adorn the altar for the Christmas services. The cost of each plant is \$10.00.

If you wish to purchase and donate a plant in memory or honor of a loved one, or in thanksgiving, please fully complete an order form (please print legibly), and put it in the offering plate, with cash or a check made payable to Advent and Poinsettias on the memo line.

**The deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 29.**



### Church Update

The Cuyahoga County advisory is vague, as of this morning. In our services, we have been disciplined in practicing mask, social distancing, pew separation, temperature testing, and other guidelines suggested in the past. We are being responsible and safe, in my opinion. At least for this Sunday, I believe we should hold services as normal. Things can change day by day.

People can certainly choose not to come and we all should honor and respect those individual decisions. For those with internet access, the services from the Diocese of Albany will continue to be provided. **I believe it's time for all to consider in-person church to be an "essential business".** So, let's not stop meeting to worship the Lord.

Senior Warden Dick McCormick