

Saint Therese - Carmelite



Chapel-in-the-Mall

Peabody, MA

Phone: 978-531-6145 www.carmelitechapel.com

DECEMBER



ADVENT

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (meaning, "ad-venio in Latin or "to come to") is the season leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. Advent devotions remind us of the meaning of the season. Special Advent devotions include the lighting of the Advent wreath; the Advent calendar which helps remind us of the season with daily thoughts and activities; Advent prayers that prepare us spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is a wonderful time of the year because it offers us so many opportunities to focus on the Lord. Parents (and grandparents!!!) have a lot of things that they can do to make lasting impressions on their children and grandchildren. We have only to think back on our own childhood and see how many of the things that we did to prepare for Christmas became part of our lives, perhaps even to this day. There are so many beautiful symbols of Advent and Christmas that help us to prepare for Christmas. The children are bombarded daily with so many

things that fill them with excitement and expectation. Christmas is coming: Santa Claus, toys, presents, etc.

The challenge for parents and grandparents is to take that excitement and sense of expectation and focus also to an emphasis on the birth of Jesus. And there are beautiful Advent and Christmas symbols that can help in this task.

The **Advent Calendar** is a great help in this regard. Instead of just counting the shopping days till Christmas, they begin counting the days till Jesus appears in the stable. And each day (or perhaps each night as they say their prayers before going to bed) they can open one of the windows on the Advent calendar, count down another day and say a prayer preparing for Jesus' birthday party.



The tradition of the **Advent Wreath** with its four candles, one being lit each week, usually at the dinner table or at some convenient time during the course of the evening with a simple prayer to be said each night is a great custom which is very popular with

the children. They can even be encouraged to make their own wreath with the help of their parents, so that it becomes truly a family project.

The decorating of the Christmas Tree can be a another great moment to spark the enthusiasm of the children. Explaining the reason for the angel on the top of the tree, the importance of the creche beneath the tree, adding more figures to the crib each day, animals, shepherds, until finally the Holy Family, Jesus, Joseph and Mary. There are some really good booklets in the gift shop on the symbols of Christmas that can be very useful to parents who want to bring a more spiritual emphasis to the celebration of Christmas for themselves and their children.

The **Crèche, the Crib, the Stable, the Nativity Scene**, whatever it is called, should have a special place of honor and important in the home. It is a wonderful instrument for teaching the children and letting them become involved in Christmas by touching and moving the figures around. It is much better to have an inexpensive nativity set that the children can handle without fear of breaking some expensive Hummel or Lladro figure. Whatever Advent symbols you may use in your home, use them to help you and your family to grow in your appreciation of the great gift of the Incarnation, of Jesus becoming a man, becoming en-fleshed in our humanity.

THE COIN COLLECTION I am sure you remember that for the last ten years we have been collecting all **your** spare change during the season of Advent in support of **CIMA**, a home for “Street Kids” in Lima, Peru. There will be a ten gallon water jug at the door of the Chapel to receive your coins; pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. We are looking for all those coins that you throw into cans or vases or jars at the end of each day as your empty out your pockets. If are are just accumulating them from night to night then you really don’t need them and you won’t miss them and they really add up very quickly. (I’ve read that there is actually a billion dollars in coins that are not in circulation throughout the country.) A few hundred dollars will feed a lot of kids. Please remember to bring them to Mass during this Advent season. In the course of the last ten years through the Advent Coin Collection and the Lenten Coin folders, and the little basket next to the cash register in the Gift Shop, we have been able to send almost \$50,000 in support of poor children. Everything goes direct to the support of the children. There are no administrative costs.. Please remember to bring in your coins.



LITURGY

With the new edition of the Roman Missal and the new translation, hopefully the Eucharist can be celebrated with a little more solemnity. The new translation calls for more sung parts of the Mass. We priests (even Fr. Felix) will do our best to learn the music, I do hope that all of you will do your part. Please use the pew cards, so that we will all be using the same words in our prayers. On the pew cards, the words that are in red are the words that have been changed by the new translation and merit special attention.

DECEMBER MEMORIALS

The **Altar Breads** which will be consecrated at all of the Masses during the month of December have been donated in memory of Robert J. Shea at the request of Arlette Shea his devoted mother.

The **Wine** to be consecrated in all of the Masses during the month of December has been donated for the honor and glory of God in memory of **Kathleen & Felix Prior** by the Prior family.

The **Oil** in the altar candles will burn during the month of December for the honor and glory of God in loving memory of **Carmen Pagan** are the request a friend.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** will burn before the Blessed Sacrament this month for the honor and glory of God in memory of the **Kolodziej, and Almeida Families** at the request of the family.

CHAPEL FINANCES. Our principal source of income for the Chapel are the Offertory Collections at the 4:00 and 5:30 Masses on Saturday. I thought that you would like to see just exactly how much is involved in these collections. Please be as generous as possible.

	4:00	5:30		4:00	5:30
Nov. 5, 2011	\$ 779	\$ 711	Nov. 12, 2011	\$ 1034	\$ 692
Nov 20, 2011	\$ 682	\$ 545	Nov. 26 2011	\$ 599	\$ 473

