

## Advent Waiting in the Presence of Love

By Deacon Doug Wigton

Advent is a season of profound expectation. It is not a passive waiting, but a hopeful, prayerful vigilance, much like the silence we embrace when we kneel before the Blessed Sacrament. In the Adoration Chapel we wait, not for an idea or a memory, but for a Person. Jesus Christ is truly present before us: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. The same Lord whom we await anew at Christmas already dwells among us. He is here.



As we enter Advent, we recall the great mysteries of our faith. He came to us as a helpless infant, born in obscurity. He walked among us,

healed the broken, and taught with authority. He gave His life for us on the Cross and rose in glory on Easter morning. And as we await His second coming at the end of time, He continues to feed us with His own Body and Blood. In the Eucharist, the infinite God humbles Himself again and again so that we may never be without Him.

In the Adoration Chapel we praise Him, glorify Him, and adore Him, not only for what He has done, but for who He is. Yet many of us come burdened. Our hearts can be heavy with worry, illness, strained relationships, financial uncertainty, or grief that feels unending. We pray persistently, sometimes through tears, and occasionally with words that feel empty. In those moments, it is easy to feel alone, as though heaven is silent.

But Advent reminds us of a deeper truth: God often comes quietly. He does not wait for our strength; He enters into our weakness. Jesus did not come into the world with earthly power, and He does not come to us now with loud displays. He comes as Presence. He comes as Love. He comes to remain with us.

This truth is beautifully reflected in the story of St. Juan Diego. In December of 1531, he was a poor, humble

indigenous man making his way to Mass when Our Lady appeared to him on the hill of Tepeyac. Juan Diego was burdened with fear and sorrow, especially because his uncle lay gravely ill. He felt small, unworthy, and overwhelmed. When Mary spoke to him, she did not begin with commands or explanations. She began with tenderness: *"Am I not here, who am your mother?"*

Her image, miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma, spoke volumes to a suffering people. Our Lady appeared as one of them, clothed in symbols they could understand. Most strikingly, she appeared as a pregnant mother. In Aztec culture, the black sash tied around her waist unmistakably signified pregnancy. Over her womb was placed the four-petal flower, a symbol of life and of the divine. Without words, Mary proclaimed a powerful Advent message: God is with you. Life is present. Hope is carried within.

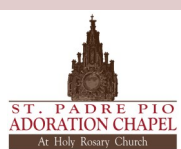


Mary came not merely as a messenger, but as a mother bearing Christ to her children. She did not remove suffering instantly, but she brought assurance. The God she carried was already at work. In this image, Mary silently echoes the promise of Advent: salvation is nearer than we realize.

So it is for us in Eucharistic Adoration. When our prayers seem unanswered, when burdens remain heavy, Jesus is still present. He is not distant. He is not indifferent. He is here to bathe our wounded spirits in His love and peace. Like the Christ Child hidden in Mary's womb, His work often unfolds quietly within us, strengthening, healing, sustaining us in ways we may not immediately perceive.

Advent teaches us to trust in presence rather than proof, in prayer rather than control. As we kneel before the Blessed Sacrament, we wait not in despair, but in faith. The same Lord who once came as a baby, who now feeds us in the Eucharist, and who will come again in glory, is already with us here.

We are never alone in the Adoration Chapel. Heaven bends close. Christ remains. And in this sacred stillness, we learn again to hope.



### St. Padre Pio Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Located in the Old Convent Building at HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
6982 S. Schomberg Road \* Cedar, MI 49621 \* 231-228-5429 \* mail@holyroarycedar.org  
For more information about Adoration, contact: Dosie Kermode, 231-632-7834  
Submissions for the Chapel Insert, contact: Carol Tondreau, 231-590-5598

*Faithfully Praying  
Since June, 2012*  
**Celebrating 14 Years of  
Perpetual Adoration!**

# HOLY ROSARY PRAYER CORNER

Prayer feeds our lives. Prayer is a gift. It is a gift because Christian Prayer is based on knowing the Lord Jesus, and having the Holy Spirit stir and move through us in prayer. Please keep these intentions in your prayers.

## Pray for those that are not able to attend Mass with us

Jill Anderson - Home

Ted Bodus - Woodside Assisted Living

Betty Flaska - Pavilions \* Gerri Galla - Villa in Traverse City

John King - Home \* Loraine Kulanda - Home

Kelly Priest - Lansing Area Asst. Living \* Ruthie Popa - Bay Ridge

Eunice Novak - French Manor \* Joyce Novak - Maple Valley

*Please call the office to correct & update this list.*

## Pray for the Vocations in our Diocese



### Seminarians:

Jake Belanger  
John Mawby  
Mark Steck  
David Witkowski

### Candidates for Diaconate:

Jason Maday  
Neil Witkowski

### Religious Life:

Sister Philomena  
Marie of Christ Crucified  
(Gianna Belanger)

Margaret Foster  
Christopher Witkowski

## Let US Pray **PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT & THEIR FAMILIES**

- Ken Artz — US Air Force
- Isaiah Belanger — US Navy
- Charles Berninger — US Coast Guard
- Nicholas Bryan — US Army
- John Bunek — US Navy
- Curtis Bunek — US Navy
- Keith Castle — US Marines
- Matthew Culver — US Navy
- Timothy Fisher — US Army
- Peter Freundl — US Coast Guard
- Daniel Guilday — US Navy
- Joshua Harris — US Coast Guard
- Jesse Kohler — MT National Guard
- Jacob Kunde — US Air Force
- Austin McQueer — US Marines
- Collin Platts — US Army Nurse Corp
- Ryan Tondreau — US Army
- Andrew Turner — US Coast Guard
- Leif Vanderwerf — US Marines
- Capt. Daniel Weber, DO — US Army
- Sam Wigton — Law Enforcement
- Tim Wigton — MI National Guard
- Andrew Zeits — US Army

Wishing you all a blessed Advent Journey that brings

you closer to our Lord!



*St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

## *In Our Thoughts & Prayers* Recent Prayer Intentions

Jan Wigton \* Ray Pleva - Rehab Broken Ribs \* Carol - Discernment  
Jesse LaCross - Cracked Ribs \* Ruthie Popa - Aging Health Issues  
Merleen M. - Recovery from BC Surgery \* Bob Gregory - Surgery  
Pam Heming Weber - Hand Healing from Scleroderma Surgery  
Susan Weber - Vertigo & Eye Problems \* Barb H - Dementia  
Ann Pasch - Lung Issues \* Jaclyn Herman - Double Mastectomy Healing  
G - Serious Health Issues \* Two TC Teens Accused of Murder  
Family & Friends of Murder Victim Lawrence Boyd IV & His Soul  
Soul of Rebecca Park & Unborn Baby, and Family Accused in Her Death.  
J & L - House sale to be finalized \* Randy W. \* Roberta Tarker \* Suzette  
Therese Jones \* Young Family - Financial & Marital Problems  
Kasey - Anxiety Attacks & Health Problems

### ~ ~ ~ CONTINUED PRAYERS NEEDED FROM PREVIOUS MONTH ~ ~ ~

Maria Eckler - Serious Infection \* Becky R. - Tumors Surgery & Cushing Syndrome  
Donakowski Family - Various Health Issues \* Eunice Novak  
Suzanna - Continued Health Improvement \* Kathy Darga - Continued Healing  
Jim Mattis - New Surgery Recovery



### For the Recently Deceased & Their Families

Kathy (KB) Hays \* Anita Novak  
Sr. Mary Aquinas Weber (Age 102, Grand Rapids Dominican From Hannah)  
Jim Steinmiller \* Jack Tarrant \* Lawrence Boyd IV  
Rebecca Park & Baby \* Bill Denoyer \* David Spinniken  
Jim Rumbach \* Louise Belanger \* James Werth



### Cancer Patients:

Ben \* Kristen Bauer \* Claire - Breast Cancer (Lost toddler boy a year ago)  
Brecklyn Couturier - age 5-Leukemia \* Dorothy Couturier \* Karol Czyka  
Ted Fleis - Pancreatic \* Peter Freundl \* Martin Gallagher \* Jan  
Joe Garvin \* Jaclyn Herman - BC \* **Kip Hewitt** \* Steve Johnson  
Tim Keilty \* Marilyn Lane \* Cynthia Leiby \* Merleen Mattis  
Christopher McGlynn \* Vic McCarty \* Heidi Sedlacek Musser  
Stephanie Klumpp Maeder \* Jan Novak \* Steve Packer  
Francis Rosinski \* Therese Rosinski \* Tom Savage \* Gordon Solomon  
Craig Stallman \* Herbie S. \* Kelly Winowiecki Florip \* Tina VanderWulp  
Ben \* Christi \* Danielle - Breast Cancer \* \* Dan S. \* Gabby - Melanoma  
Kathleen \* Lori \* Marissa \* Patricia - Lung \* Randy \* Steve

### \* Ongoing Prayer Intentions \*

- \* Chris Berkey - ALS \*
- \* Mike Buell (GTACS) - Ongoing Health Challenges \*
- \* Brittany C. - Brain Aneurysm Surgery / Stroke Recovery \*
- \* Ed Budd - Diagnosed with Agent Orange Complications \*
- \* Delores (Ditto) Couturier - Stroke Recovery \*
- \* Toddler Henry Gauthier - Cont. Progress in Mobility & Normal Development \*
- \* Lucas P. - teen - serious food allergies and EOE \*
- \* Conor Rigan - age 6 - Continued clear brain cancer screenings \*
- \* Hailie Tondreau - Hypermobile Syndrome, POTS, Autonomic Dsyfunction \*
- \* Randy W. (Buckley) - Parkinson's \*
- \* Rich Zywicki - Continued Healing - Serious Head Injuries \*

## **PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS**

Call Rita Wilson 231-499-3214 \* Judy LaCross 231-883-1212