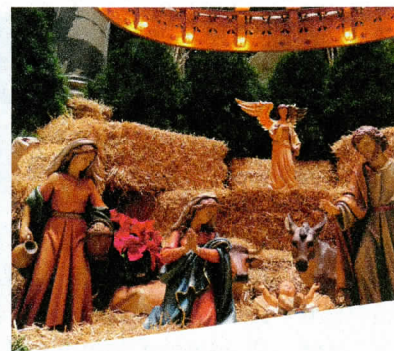




THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY



*Seek the well-being of the city to which I have sent you. Pray for it to the Lord.
For in seeking its well-being, you shall find your own. Jeremiah 29:7*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT (GAUDETE)
DECEMBER 17, 2017**

**A REVOLUTION OF LOVE
AND TENDERNESS**

MASS TIMES

Saturday

5:00pm

Sunday

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

4:30pm, 6:30pm

Monday-Friday

7:00am and Noon

Saint Joseph Chapel

Nursery

Available Sunday 9:30am

Mass for children through
age 4.

Accessibility

West ground level doors for
accessible entrance.

Wheelchairs available upon
request.

Contact

88 N 17th St

Minneapolis, MN 55403

612.333.1381

mary.org

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AUTHENTIC FAITH THIS ADVENT

As we walk through Advent, we are invited to prayerfully consider how we prepare for and welcome Jesus into our lives. Looking back on the Christmas story, it is easy to fall into an idealized version of our actions: "If Mary and Joseph past by my door, of course I would have made room for you in my inn, Lord!" But where are those choices in our life today? Where are we closing the door to God in our life and community?

Each day, we are called to be disciples of Christ. We are called to make choices and act so that God's love is made known in our world. How is that going?

The U.S. Catholic Bishops describe a disciple as those who "make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter what the cost to themselves." This definition makes the strong assumption that there will be a cost. We will each experience some disadvantage from living our life as disciples. Where is this most true in your life?

Pope Francis, in *The Joy of the Gospel* says, "An authentic faith—which is never comfortable or completely personal—always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it" (#183). This gives the challenge of discipleship a profound social dimension. It is impossible to live out one's faith and not get caught in the web of politics—local or global. We are called to enter this arena, and maneuver it with grace and love. We must not avoid it—personally or collectively.

In my experience, one of the biggest obstacles to discipleship today is fear. Fear drives division. Division drives exclusion and oppression. Oppression drives violence.

We can see the challenge of discipleship when we look at some of the hottest issues today. These issues call us to put our faith first—to start and end with a prayer to open our hearts and minds to the love of Christ, and close the door to fear, division, or exclusion. This sounds good, until we get specific.

Issues include: immigration reform, care for the environment, taxes and what Pope Francis calls an "idolatry of money," health care, globalization and trade, racism, care for



Janice Andersen

*Director of Christian Life
The Basilica of Saint Mary*



THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Tours after the 9:30am and 11:30am Mass

9:15am	Children's Learning
9:30am	Blessing of Bambinelli
10:30am	Room for Christmas
11:30am	Blessing of Bambinelli
12:30pm	Room for Christmas
3:00pm	Advent Evening Prayer
5:30pm	Youth Learning/Basilica YES!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:30am	SVdP Shoe Ministry
6:00pm	Lector Practice*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:15am	Advent Morning Prayer
9:30am	SVdP Outreach Ministry
5:30pm	Prayer Shawl Potluck
6:00pm	Lector Practice*
6:30pm	RCIA
7:00pm	Mundus Rehearsal*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00am	SVdP Sandwich Ministry
9:30am	SVdP Outreach Ministry
9:30am	MOMMs Gathering
5:45pm	Choristers Rehearsal*
6:00pm	Children's Choir/Cherub Rehearsal*
7:00pm	Children's Learning
7:00pm	Cathedral Choir Rehearsal*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00am	Men's Book Study
8:30am	Christmas decorating
9:15am	Advent Morning Prayer
9:30am	SVdP Outreach Ministry
6:00pm	SVdP Pathways
7:30pm	BYA Bible Study

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

10:00am	Centering Prayer
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00am	Confession
9:30am	SVdP Shoe Ministry
Noon	Christmas decorating
7:30pm	AA Meeting

**Registration/tickets/audition required*

the most vulnerable, the seamless garment of life, and on and on.

As Catholics, at this critical moment in history, we cannot afford to proceed with business as usual. We must ground ourselves in our faith and join with people of goodwill throughout the world to transform society through the Gospel of love.

God has taken the initiative. God has come to us this Christmas.

Let us open our lives to the Spirit of love and reconciliation. Let us find a way to talk together and work together on the important issues of our day—to welcome God into our midst and experience the love of Christ transforming our life and community. And yes, we may put ourselves at some disadvantage. After all, we are disciples.

PLAN YOUR CHRISTMAS VISIT

WELCOMING PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we welcome thousands of visitors to The Basilica. Please plan accordingly for parking and accessibility to have the best experience possible. There is ample free parking in the lot under I-94 and in the MCTC ramp.

Please plan to arrive at least 45 minutes early for the 3:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Plan to arrive for the prelude music at 10:30pm for the Midnight Mass. Please note the following items to help manage and support extra visitors:

- 17th Street N. will be limited to one-way traffic. Please use the drop-off circle to access the handicap entrance on the ground level.
- The center East bronze doors are now accessible with push pad automatic door openers.
- Additional seating will be set-up for the Midnight Mass in the Teresa of Calcutta Hall, lower level. Eucharistic Ministers will serve Communion.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Basilica continually strives to make the church and campus facilities accessible to all parishioners and visitors. Please ask an usher if you have questions regarding any of the following services.

- American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter at the Midnight Mass Christmas Eve and 9:30am Christmas Day Mass.
- Listening devices available near Hennepin entrance.
- Large print worship aids for Mass and special liturgies.
- Low-gluten hosts (0.01%) are available by request by speaking with an usher. The recipient will receive the host from the priest.
- Mother's Room available to nursing women in the Anne and Joachim Room (Bride's room) on the church's ground level.

Please visit mary.org for additional parking and accessibility information.