

The End of Advent By: Joseph Bottum

Every secularized holiday, of course, tends to lose the context it had in the liturgical year. Across the nation, even in many churches, Easter has hopped across Lent, Halloween has frightened away All Saints, and New Year's has drunk up Epiphany. Still, the disappearance of Advent seems especially disturbing — for it's injured even the secular Christmas season: opening a hole, from Thanksgiving on, that can be filled only with fiercer, madder, and wilder attempts to anticipate Christmas. More Christmas trees. More Christmas lights. More tinsel, more tassels, more glitter, more glee — until the glut of candies and carols, ornaments and trimmings, has left almost nothing for Christmas Day.

For much of America, Christmas itself arrives nearly as an afterthought: not the fulfillment, but only the end, of the long Yule season that has burned without stop since the stores began their Christmas sales. Of course, even in the liturgical calendar, the season points ahead to Christmas. Advent genuinely is *adventual* — a *time before*, a *looking forward* — and it lacks meaning without Christmas. But maybe Christmas, in turn, lacks meaning without Advent. All those daily readings from Isaiah, filled with visions of things yet to be, a constant barrage of the future tense: *And it shall come to pass . . . And there shall come forth . . .* A kind of longing pervades the Old Testament selections read in church over the weeks before Christmas — an anxious, almost sorrowful litany of hope only in what has not yet come.

What Advent is, really, is a *discipline*: a way of forming anticipation and channeling it toward its goal. There's a flicker of rose on the third Sunday — *Gaudete!*, that day's Mass begins: *Rejoice!* — but then it's back to the dark purple that is the mark of the season in liturgical churches. And what those somber vestments symbolize is the deeply penitential design of Advent. Nothing we can do earns us the gift of Christmas, any more than Lent earns us Easter. But a season of contrition and sacrifice prepares us to understand and feel something about just how great the gift is when at last the day itself arrives. More than any other holiday, Christmas seems to need its setting in the church year, for without it we have a diminishment of language, a diminishment of culture, and a diminishment of imagination. The Jesse trees and the Advent calendars, St. Martin's Fast and St. Nicholas' Feast, Gaudete Sunday, the childless creches, the candle wreaths, the vigil of Christmas Eve: They give a shape to the anticipation of the season. They discipline the ideas and emotions that otherwise would shake themselves to pieces, like a flywheel wobbling wilder and wilder till it finally snaps off its axle.

Maybe that's what has happened to Christmas. The ideas and the emotions have all broken free and smashed their way across the fields. On the other hand, there are plenty of Christmas elements that remain forward looking. In many ways, the season has become little except anticipation — anticipation run amuck, like children so sick with expectation that the reality, when at last it arrives, can never be satisfying. This, too, is something broken off from the liturgical year: another group of adventual feelings without the Advent that gave them form, another set of Christmas ideas set loose to run themselves mad.

Back in the early 1890s, William Dean Howells published a funny little fable called "Christmas Every Day" in one of the most popular venues of the time, *St. Nicholas Magazine for Boys and Girls*. Once upon a time, the narrator explains as the story begins, "there was a little girl who liked Christmas so much that she wanted it to be Christmas every day in the year." What's more, she found a fairy to grant her wish, and she was delighted when Christmas came again on December 26, and December 27, and December 28. Of course, "after it had gone on about three or four months, the little girl, whenever she came into the room in the morning and saw those great ugly, lumpy stockings dangling at the fireplace, and the disgusting presents around everywhere, used to sit down and burst out crying. In six months she was perfectly exhausted, she couldn't even cry anymore." By October, "people didn't carry presents around nicely anymore. They flung them over the fence or through the window, and, instead of taking great pains to write 'For dear Papa,' or 'Mama' or 'Brother,' or 'Sister,' they used to write, 'Take it, you horrid old thing!' and then go and bang it against the front door."

These days, by the time Christmas actually rolls around, it feels as though this is very nearly what we've had: Christmas every day, at least since Thanksgiving. Often it starts even earlier. This year the glossy catalogues of Christmas clothing and seasonal bric-a-brac started arriving in September, and there were Christmas-shopping ads on the highway billboard signs before Halloween. The anticipatory elements reach a crescendo by early December, and their constant scream makes the sudden quiet of Christmas Day almost a relief from the Christmas season. It is this that Advent, rightly kept, would prevent — the thing, in fact, it is designed to halt. Through all the preparatory readings, through all the genealogical Jesse trees, the somber candles on the wreaths, the vigils, and the hymns, Advent keeps Christmas on Christmas Day: a fulfillment, a perfection, of what had gone before. *I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh.*



For the Week of December 24, 2018 – December 30, 2018

4:00 P.M.-Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann & in Memory of: *Parishioners of St. Ann, Horace & Camille Boquet family, Gus & Sis Naquin family, Rhea P. Voisin, Eddie Voisin Jr., Bill Sheffield, Carmen Ann & Michael Boquet, Harris Ledet, Glen Falgout, Eula Mae, Paul & Roland Rodrigue, Cindy R. Broussard, Bourg & Rogers family, Frank Rogers family, Clinton & Wilma Picou, Bill Morris, Alton Neil Henry & Hazel Eschete, Matthew Prosperie, Marie Eschete, George Derrington, Mark Triche, Antoine & Manella Verrett, Linda Schouest, Kenneth J. Breaux, Anthony Breaux, Dolores Viteaux, Diana Bourg, Norris Bourg, Loyd Savin, Ezoline Bourg, Keri Lynn Niette, William P. Leonard, John Arceneaux, Keith J. LeBouef, Leray Jr. & Tommy Nelton, Agnus & Wallace Rodrigue, Ellis & Rozina LeBouef, Raymond Picou, Gary LeBouef, Lee Lapeyrouse Sr., Cy Ledet, Leblanc & Lapeyrouse family, Bourg & Schouest family, Clarice & Bobby LeBlanc, Jody, Geneva, Celeste & Linda Schouest, Shara & Douglas Ramsier, Roy & Dean Hunter, Marty Nutter, Julian Bourg, Nicholas Nutter, Thelma & Alvin Ledet, Faye & Tommy Rogers, Dennis, Wade & Melvin Ledet, Ledet & Naquin family, Doris Arceneaux, S. N. & family, Sue., J.J., Matt.,*

6:00 P.M. -Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: *Parishioners of St. Ann Ramos & Coralie Hornsby, Jimmie & Virgie Prosperie, Henry Klingman, Michael, Ruby & Merlin Bascle, L.E. & Gussie Fletcher, Wayne Lirette, Melvin & Mae Lirette, Raleigh & Dolores Lirette, Connie & Judy Ellender, Danny Danos, Eula & Gustave Pellegrin & family, Mildred & Clifton Dupre & family, Gina B. Pellegrin, Linda Whipple Schouest, Waldron, Arthur, & Modess Lapeyrouse, Gustave, Doris, Elmer & Earl Bergeron, Louis & Eula Mae Hebert, Eric, Erous, Omer, & Clarise Eschete, Wilson & Julien Sevin, Diana Bourg, Norris Bourg, Dylan Rousseau, Rose Authement, Ezoline R. Bourg, John Arceneaux, Doris Arceneaux, S. N. & family, Sue., J.J., Matt.,*

Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:
Parishioners of St. Ann, Jerry Bascle, Rhea P. Voisin, Eddie Voisin Jr, Eula Mae, Paul & Roland Rodrigue, Cindy R. Broussard, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin, Shara Ramsier, Edna, Macon & Roland Bascle, Remy & Bessie Reulet, Mark & Billie Pellegrin, EJ & Ryan Usie', Ard family, Betty Bascle, Linda Whipple Schouest, Waldron Lapeyrouse, Dolores Viteaux, R.J Domangue, Betty Jean Domangue, Theresa Portier, Geraldine Donaldson, Kevin Scott, Lucius Thibodaux Sr., Clarence & Ella Scott, R.J. Domangue Jr., Dorina Dupuis, Ezoline R. Bourg, Carol Hebert, Henry Klingman, Bert & Norma Rhodes, Vivian & Bob Finklea, Dr. Dean Ellithrope, Linda Whipple Schouest, Donald LeBoeuf, Waldreon Lapeyrouse, Katie Pellegrin Lambert, Al Boudreaux, Ezoline R. Bourg, Geraldine Dupre, John Arceneaux, Doris Arceneaux, S. N. & family, Sue., J.J., Matt.,

8:00 A.M. – Wednesday , December 26

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Keri Lynn Niette

8:00 A.M. - Thursday, December 27

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Keri Lynn Niette

8:00 A.M. - Friday, December 28

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Keri Lynn Niette

4:00P.M. - Saturday, December 29

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: *Parishioners of St. Ann, Wilbert & Elise Hebert Linda Ann Hebert, Salome H. Matherne, Matthew S. Matherne, Peter W. Hebert, Samuel Dominic Hebert, Michael Lee McGee, Wayne G. Cancienne, Jacob LeCompte Sr., Kenneth, Paul & Josie Domangue, Ramona & Alton Malcolm, Larry & Troy Foret, Carla Lyons, Nikie Hebert, Nicole Staffley, Johnny Adam Switch, Celeste, May, Rosevelt LeCompte Jr., & Sr., Paul Chauvin, Mercedeze & Lloyd Duplantis, Miriam, C.J. & Lanny Naquin, Russell Portier Sr., Raymond McGhee, Katie Savoie, Holy Souls, Special Intention, Wilbert Dupre Sr., Jerry & Mathew Arceneaux, Charley Redmond, Albert Pinell Sr., Roy Boquet, Jane Champagne, Wills & Eula Mae Boquet. Kenneth J. Breaux, Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Eldred & Maybelle Ellender, Dolores Viteaux, Loyd Savin, Ezoline R. Bourg, James Antill, Caro & Boquet family, Keri L. Niette*

8:00A.M. - Sunday, December 30

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: *Parishioners of St. Ann, Sterling Sr. & Mary Ellen Authement, Sterling Authement Jr., Mark & Randy Naquin, Leona & Eugene Theriot Sr., Philip Theriot, David Percel, Earline Jackson, Eugene Theriot Jr., Francis & Iris Theriot, Becky Gautreaux, Patricia Grabert, Israel & May Authement, Chris Boudreaux, Dorothy & Dean Bascle, David & Iris Bascle, Tel Meeker, Larry Falgout, Norman Falgout Jr., Eunice & Norman Falgout Sr., James Bergeron, Lawrence & Eula Mazerac, Cindy R. Broussard, Rita & Gilbert Bergeron family, Sue Bueche, Kymber Pellegrin, Michael Falgout, Chris Authement, Judith & Donald Lirette Jr., Mary Eve & Vayne*

Bascle, Lionel Bascle family, Arthe' Breaux family, Arthur Lee Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Irby Petit, Aubrey Lee Boquet, Butch Pettit, David Massey, Annie Ellender, Clyde Pitre, Clyde & Elizabeth Lirette, Andrew & Edna Pitre, David Naquin, Curtis Lirette, Marie Gaston, Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr., Ann Hebert, Veronica Trahan, Terry Lirette, Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery, Vin & Joyce LeBlanc & family, Katie Pellegrin Lambert, Ezoline R. Bourg, Hazel Champagne Lee

10:00A.M. - Sunday, December 30

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Joyce, Deborah, Celina & Herbert Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont, Henry Klingman, Al Boudreaux, Katie Pellegrin Lambert, Diana Bourg, Norris Bourg, Ezoline R. Bourg, Geraldine Dupre

 **MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018** 

The Sanctuary Light burns this week in memory of *Shara Ramsier* requested by Lioness Club.

The altar bread is in memory of the *Neva Morris family* requested by the Dot Rogers family.

The altar wine is in memory of *Diana & Norris Bourg* requested by Paula Bourg & family.

Three altar candles burn in memory of *Gussie & L.E. Fletcher & Michael, Ruby & Merlin Bascle* requested by Dickie & Sharon Bascle.

The missals are in memory of *Edna, Macon, & Roland Bascle, Remy & Bessie Reulet, Mark & Billy Pellegrin.*

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 15 & 16, 2018: Envelopes: \$3319.00 +Loose: \$1098.00 + \$ 388.97 (Online)

As is the custom, all collections taken on Christmas Eve/Day will go to the good works of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities funds the St. Lucy Day Care Center, Parish Social Ministry, Assisi Bridge House, Literacy program, and several food banks within the diocese. They reach out and address the needs of the poorest & most vulnerable in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. St. Ann's quota is \$6,350.00

Thank you for your generosity and support!

SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD:

There will be a Vigil Mass on Monday, December 31, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, January 1, 2019 the Mass will be at 8:00 a.m.

It is a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Ministers of the Eucharist		Commentator / Lectors
<u>December 24 & 25</u>		
Monday	Kathie B., Steve R.,	Anna B. / Randolph
4:00 P.M.	Suzanne R., Patsy E	
6:00 P.M.	Alton N., Debbie L.,	Ariel T. / Connie N.
10:00 P.M.	Monique B., Carol B.	
Tuesday		
9:00A.M	Leroy T.,	Hayes B. / Nick

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS:

Christmas Trees in memory of :

Wayne Lirette, Melvin & Mae Lirette, Raleigh & Dolores Pellegrin, Jeedson & Connie Ellender, Danny & Brenda Danos, Dorothy & Noel J. Spicuzza Sr. & Jr.,

Tree Lights in memory of all living & deceased members of the Thomassie family.

Poinsettia Memorials:

~*~Horace & Camille Boquet & sons requested by the family ~*~

~*~Hubert Belanger requested by Randy & Lisa Bourg~*~

~*~Ivy Usie, Carbert Picou, Loretta, Briana & Aubrey Picou requested by Vickie & Bryce Picou~*~

~*~Cynthia Charpentier & Robert E. Stutts Jr. requested by the Stutts family~*~

~*~Ezoline Bourg and deceased members of the Ladies Altar Society~*~

~*~Kurtz, LeBoeuf, Cadiere, & Thibodaux families requested by Jack, Kayla & family~*~

~*~Charlie Redmond requested by the family~*~

~*~Henry & Egnolia Neil & Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin requested by the family~*~

~*~Macon & Edna Bascle, Bessie & Remy Reulet requested by the family~*~

~*~Lloyd Savin requested by Joyce Savin.~*~ Janet Toups~*~

~*~Walter & Agnes Dupre, Kamryn Authement, Bertha Lyons, Evest & Emily Authement, Norman & Barbara Dupre, Patty Breaux, Nell & Gerald Ledet, requested by Mable Falgout~*~

~*~Erous, Eric, Omer & Clarise Eschete & Wilson & Julien Sevin requested by Lois Eschete~*~

~*~Leboeuf & Brunet families, Kenneth & Pearl Hebert~*~

~*~Geraldine Dupre requested by Ivy~*~Wayne Lirette requested by Mike & Kris~*~

~*~Lyle LeCompte & family~*~ Diana & Norris Bourg requested by the family~*~

~*~Jerry Tolleson~*~Vivian & Bob Finklea, Norman & Bert Rhodes~*~

~*~Allen, Clarice & John Bascle, Clara & Lawless Barrios, Merlin & Gordon Seuzeneau, Ray & Jackie Chaisson requested by the family~*~

~*~Michael, Merlin & Ruby Bascle, Gussie & L.E. Fletcher & Dr. Dean Ellithrope~*~

~*~Tiffany Pellegrin, Ginette & Dennis Neal~*~

~*~Nolan, Adeline & Glen Falgout requested by Ethel Fremin~*~

~*~Bobby & Clarice LeBlanc, Alvin & Thelma Ledet, Melvin, Wade & Dennis Ledet, Faye & Thomas Rogers, Lee Lapeyrouse Sr., Cy Ledet, Roy Hunter, Jody Schouest, Shara Ramsier, requested by Stacey & Kerry Lapeyrouse, Louis, Tyler & Heidi Ledet~*~

~*~Linda Whipple Schouest & Celeste Schouest, Fortuna & Odette Schouest, Lynn & Audrey Whipple requested by Numa & Melissa Schouest~*~

~*~ONeal & Valerie Bascle, Cyril & Mae boquet, Leslie & Carley Walker, Beverly Theriot requested by Leward & Peggy Boquet~*~

~*~Jan, Maria, & Edward Chwalek requested by Walter~*~

~*~Geraldine Donaldson requested by Randy Donaldson & family~*~

~*~Matherne, Hebert, & Rhodes families~*~

~*~Daigle & Cenac families requested by Christi Cenac~*~

~*~Robert & Eula Russo requested by the family~*~

~*~Hubert & Audrey Bascle, Clark & Linda Bascle, Horace & Yinny Bascle, John & Elry LeBoeuf, Tommy & Janel Fleming. Blanchard & Plaisance family requested by Allen & Anne Plaisance~*~

~*~Deceased & Living members of the Lapeyrouse & LeBoeuf families~*~

~*~Donald & Earline Stringer, Percy & Laurella LeCompte requested by M/M Aswell LeCompte~*~

~*~Raymond & Rea Viguerie, Evelyn & Rob Norman~*~

CHURCH CLEANING: December 30– Leslie B., Tim & Mona M., Darlene L., Kellie B.

MASSES	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	COMMENTATOR/ LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
<u>December 29 & 30</u>				
SATURDAY 4:00P.M.	Marianne, Brian June, Yvonne	Connie, Randolph	Tyler, Grace	Steve H., Jan
SUNDAY 8:00A.M.	Christine, Patsy Jesse, Dana	Nick, Hayes	Lee, Volunteer	Jesse, Paula, Peggy
10:00A.M.	David, Melissa, Mindy, Cindy D.	Anna, Lisa	Henry, Kailey, Hailey, Brianna	Lanny, Volunteer
This schedule only serves as a reminder. Please pick up a complete schedule in the back of church. Thank you for serving St. Ann Parish.				

