



ADVENT CONSPIRACY

MAKING
CHRISTMAS
MEANINGFUL
(AGAIN)



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Melbourne Beach, FL

A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY INVESTED IN
THE “ADVENT CONSPIRACY”!!

I have always been a big fan of Advent! Oh, don't get me wrong; one look around the parish house, and you will know immediately that I also love Christmas, even with its many secular trappings! The truth is, a richer more abundant celebration of Advent will lead to an even richer and more abundant celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. But to achieve that wonderful end does take some work and reorienting ourselves in the coming weeks.

Over a decade ago, a few pastors were lamenting how they'd come to the end of an Advent season exhausted and sensing they'd *missed it* – the awe-inducing, soul-satisfying mystery of the Incarnation. They experienced how many of their parishioners struggled to find the connection between the “Christmas to-do lists” and the power of Jesus' birth. The time of year when focusing on Christ should be the easiest was often the hardest. Somehow, this had become the new normal.

So, in 2006, three pastors, Chris Seay, Greg Holder, and Rick McKinley, decided to try something different. They called it *the Advent Conspiracy movement*, and came up with four tenets—Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All—to guide themselves, their families, and congregations through the Christmas season.

Advent Conspiracy is about the entire body of Christ at work in the world. As we worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all, something begins to happen that is greater than any single person, church, or denomination. As the Church, we are telling the story of Jesus to the watching world.

In truth, I have been practicing and promoting the “**Advent Conspiracy**” throughout my ministry, no matter where it happens to be taking place at the time. When I came across this “movement” a couple of months ago, it gave a name and focus to my own efforts. And this season, I invite all of you to join in the movement right here in Melbourne Beach, Florida!

This annual advent brochure is filled with many opportunities to practice the **Advent Conspiracy**—to live the season of Advent more deeply so that we might celebrate the Incarnation, the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ with even more joy, enthusiasm and commitment to its meaning for our world and for each of us.

I invite you to “conspire” with me, and I look forward to seeing many of you throughout these Advent weeks, as we commit ourselves to worshipping with more gusto, spending less and giving more—but most importantly—to widening the expanse of our love!

*Conspiring to live Advent more fully,
Fr. Ben, Pastor*

COMMUNAL ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Saturday, December 7

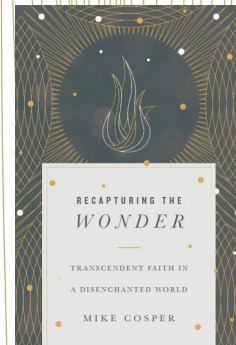
9:00 AM Mass

"Are there any sick among you?"

Letter of James



BROWN BAG BOOK CAFÉ



11:30 AM-12:30 PM

December 10

Recapturing the Wonder*

Mike Cosper

**A timely read for this Season!*

The Little Blue Book Available

Nov. 23/24

We wonderfully provide the annual "Little Blue Book" for our parishioners, as we prayerfully make our way to Christmas. As the publishers of this great resource remind us, these 6-minute daily reflections "can change your day...change your life!" Definitely...they will change your celebration of Christmas!



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Presented by Our ICC Religious Education Youth

Wednesday, December 18, 6:00 PM Parish Center

Accompanied by a Festive Potluck Dinner

All Parishioners Invited!

A GOAT FOR CHRISTMAS?

Thriving Alternatives for a Less
Commercial Christmas!

Please take home a copy of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Alternative Gift Catalog available in church & help our brothers and sisters gain the means, rights, and skills to live with dignity, and care for themselves and their families.

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries.



Sounds of the Season



ICC MUSIC MINISTRY IN CONCERT!

***Sunday, December 8, 1:30-4:00 PM**

WDMC Catholic Radio Presents:

7 Catholic Churches Christmas Concert

@ Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy

***Sunday, December 15, 2:00 PM**

with Advent Lutheran Music Ministry

@ ICC Church

OUR PARISH PATRONNESS FEAST DAY

December 9th*

8:00 AM Mass

**Not a Holyday of
Obligation*

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

*is transferred from Sunday, Dec. 8 to
Monday, Dec. 9 this year...*

**BUT WE'RE STILL CELEBRATING OUR
PATRONNESS!**

*Morning Mass followed by Continental
Breakfast in the Parish Center*



ADVENT ADULT "LIVING FAITH" FORMATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 10:00-10:50 AM

Parish Center

"The Advent Conspiracy":

Undermining "Christmas" In Order to

Celebrate the Nativity of the Lord

**Another Installment of Fr. Ben's "Spiritual
Toolbox" Series for Adults**



1st Annual Christmas "Peli-Claus" Pantry Party



Gather for a festive morning of food, drink & a short reflection by Fr. Ben, as we make final preparations for the Nativity of the Lord!

"Admission" to the 1st Annual Peli-Claus Pantry Party is a gift of food staples for our contributions to Daily Bread. Specially designed grocery bags provided. Also...specially created "Christmas Pelicans" by Fr. Ben will be given away as door prizes!

Sunday December 22, 10-10:50 AM
Parish Center

Advent Parish Mission December 14th-17th with Fr. Mike Joly **"An Advent/Christmas Spirituality All Year: My Will with God's"**



Preaching Masses December 14-15
Mission Experience-Three Nights 7-8:00 PM
Sunday-Tuesday, December 15, 16 & 17

Father Mike Joly is a Roman Catholic priest celebrating twenty-five years in the priesthood this year. He was born and raised in New England, one of a large family. Totally blind since age six, he nonetheless strives to use his talents and time to celebrate God's goodness in his own life. As a teen-ager the blind youth became interested in music when his peers would be involved in their sports.

"Music became my outlet for my soul's growth and self-expression. Yes, it actually provided me with a special threshold to the divine. It's amazing the dialogue that takes place within lyrics and melody and the God who expresses Himself through them while I reach out in the Holy Spirit."

Join our parish family and invite family and friends, co-workers and acquaintances to a spirit-filled, music-enhanced, experience of the Holy Spirit to make our Advent Season come alive in preparation of the Feast of the Nativity!