

IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
Melbourne
Beach, FL



Celebrate
with
gladness
the great
promises
of the
Advent
Season:
Hope,
Love and
Peace!
Wonder-
ful rea-
sons to
slow
down and
savor the
season of
our
Savior.

NURTURING AN ADVENT HEART

2021 SEASON

An Invitation to the Season

While God freely gives us Jesus, Emmanuel, God-With-Us, we must prepare a place...as the carol tells us, “let every heart prepare him room.” But just as there was no room for Mary & Joseph at the Inn, we often find the inn of our hearts crowded, burdened, and without breathing space. Especially as the days of Christmas draw near in a world still plagued with the physical, emotional, economic, and spiritual fallout from the global Covid pandemic, our hearts are damaged, bruised, and at times, curled up in a kind of fetal position simply to ensure our survival.

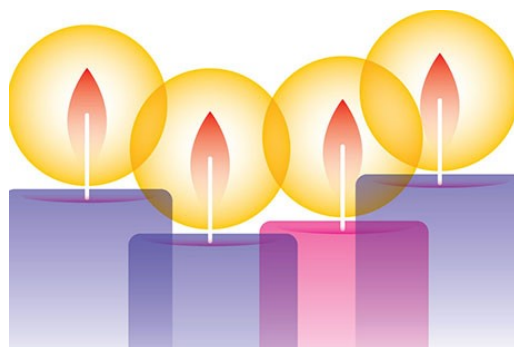
Ebenezer Scrooge’s young nephew Fred opined in the beloved Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*, “I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time...the only time when men and women seem by one consent to *open their shut-up hearts freely*, and to think of people...as if

they really were fellow-passengers.”

But in order for us to “open our shut up hearts” to Emmanuel, not only at Christmas, but every day of our faith journey, we must create *Advent Hearts*—hearts trusting enough to welcome waiting as a gift, not an enemy; hearts supple enough to be molded by God, and not our own desires; and large enough to reflect the outsized heart of God who lavishes abundance upon us!

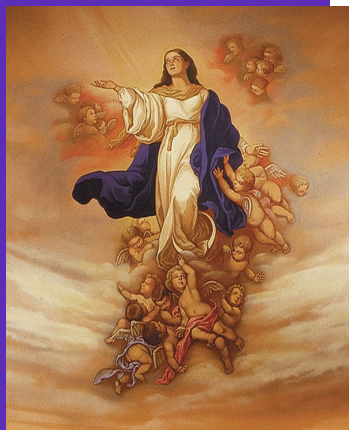
And when these Advent days have passed, may our celebration of the Christmas Season be joyful because our hearts were shaped and molded by our Advent journey together in this community of faith!

Fr. Ben Berinti, CPPS, Pastor



The Little Blue Book Available Nov. 20/21

Returning this year, 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! Limited copies available!



*The coming of
the Lord...always
something well
worth waiting
for! The spirit of
Advent sets the
tone for the rest
of the year!*



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Our Parish Patronal Feast Day & Holy Day of Obligation

**Vigil Mass December 7, 7:00pm
December 8, 10:00 am [note: no 8am Mass]**

CHRISTMAS THEATER RETURNS TO ICC!!

**"CHARLES DICKENS'
HOLIDAY MEMORIES"**
performed live by actors
**David McElroy
& Marylin McGinnis**



**Wednesday, December 8
Doors Open 6:30pm & Curtain Call 7:00pm**

The Parish Center will be transformed into a Holiday "English Tea Room" with light refreshments prior to and during the performance. **LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS AVAILABLE**...free tickets available on first come, first serve basis. Available at the Parish Office.



ADVENT TWILIGHT RETREAT

Friday, December 10 6:00-8:00pm in the Parish Center

6-6:30pm Light Meal/6:30-8:00pm Retreat w/ Fr. Ben

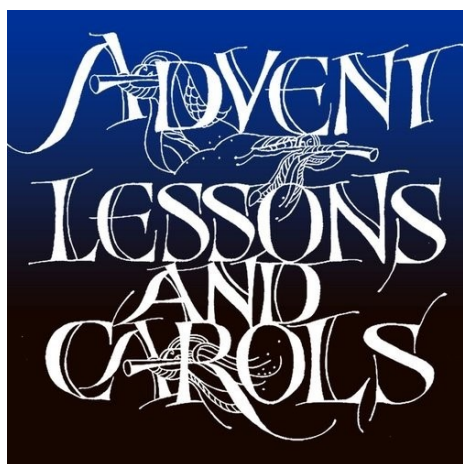
“LESSONS FROM THE GRINCH: How Not to Have This Christmas Stolen”

Using excerpts from Dr. Seuss’ “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” our twilight retreat will explore what it takes to keep Christmas from being “stolen!”



**3rd Annual Peli-Claus
Pantry Party
Sunday, December 12
following the 9:00am
Mass
Parish Center**

**Bring your filled Gro-
cery Bags [available Dec.
4 & 5] for our Christmas
Food Pantry Collection & en-
joy fellowship, a spiritual re-
flection by Fr. Ben & the an-
nual Drawing for Fr. Ben’s
new Peli-Claus creations!**



Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols Church

Monday December 13 7:00pm

A joyous festival of carols, both old and new, celebrating the beautiful season of Advent. Featuring the Word of God interlaced with hymns of the season, join together for a **Candlelight Service** to ponder the power of God’s Word calling us to prepare our hearts and lives for the presence of Emmanuel, God-With-Us!



**Religious Education's Annual Christmas Pageant
December 15 6:00pm Parish Center**

All parishioners are welcome to join in support of our religious education youth as they present their annual Christmas Pageant. See the joy of the Nativity through the eyes of our youth!



Help Transform the Church for the
Beauty of Christmas
following the 8:00am Mass on
Thursday, December 23

**ADVENT SEASON:
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE & RECONCILIATION**

Our parish will not celebrate a communal penance service in Advent, but will provide additional opportunities to share in the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation throughout the season.

**Additional Opportunities at ICC:
Thursdays Dec. 2/9/16 following the 8:00am Morning Mass**



SEASON OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD [Christmas Eve]

[Christmas Masses preceded by Carols ½ hour prior to start]

December 24 Vigil Mass 4:30pm

December 24 Christmas Candlelight Mass 9:00pm [Brass Quartet]

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD [Christmas Day]

December 25th Masses 9:00am [Trumpet] & 11:00am [Brass Quartet]

****Note: NO Regular 4:30pm Anticipated Mass on Dec. 25****

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

December 26 Sunday Morning Schedule 7:30/9:00/11:00am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

[New Year's Day] **Not a Holy Day of Obligation

January 1, 2022 Mass 9:00am

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 1, 4:30pm Regular Anticipated Mass

January 2 7:30/9:00/11:00am

"LET HEAVEN AND EARTH REJOICE!"