

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

HOPE AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

ADVENT SEASON MASSES & PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

- **First Sunday of Advent:** November 29/30
- **Second Sunday of Advent:** December 6/7. There will be **Christmas Around the World** nativity scene displays and yummy treats in the St. Joseph Room after all Masses.
- **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** December 8. *This is a holy day of obligation.* Mass times: 8:00 AM and 5:30 PM.
- **Third Sunday of Advent:** December 13/14. *Bring the Baby Jesus from your home Nativity set for a blessing at the end of Mass.*
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent:** December 20/21

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION:

- Saturday, December 13, 9:00-11:00 AM—Individual Confessions with multiple priests.
- Thursday, December 18, 6:30-8:00 PM—Individual Confessions with multiple priests.
- Confessions are available every Saturday at 9:00 AM and Tuesdays at 4:30 PM.

PARISH WIDE ADVENT STUDY

Happiness! – a video series on Formed based on the book *The Four Levels of Happiness* by Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., PhD. More details on the back side.

ITEMS FOR ADVENT

- November 22/23: Advent candle sets (\$5) and wreaths (\$12) are available for purchase in the Gathering Space. Advent activity booklets for elementary and middle school available and devotionals for adults and teens at the church.
- November 29/30: Advent family take-home kits available.
- Poinsettia (\$15) sales supporting Youth and Young Adult Mission Trips will be available November 29/30 and December 6/7 (*while supplies last*).

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASSES

- **Christmas Eve Masses:** Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 PM (livestreamed), 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM*
- **Christmas Day Masses:** Thursday, December 25 at 9:00 and 11:00 AM*
- **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph:** December 27/28 – *Weekend Mass schedule*
- **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:** December 31/January 1. *This is a holy day of obligation.* Mass times: 5:30 PM and 9:00 AM
- **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord:** January 3/4 – *Weekend Mass schedule*
- **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:** January 10/11 – *Weekend Mass schedule*

* On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the church will open 30 minutes before Mass begins. The back row of the main section will be reserved for those with limited mobility, and their families, who need Communion brought to them in the pew.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

“HAPPINESS IS THE ONE THING YOU CAN CHOOSE FOR ITSELF.”

-ARISTOTLE

We invite you to gather with your parish community, small group, or family to experience *Happiness: The Series* together. Watching and discussing each episode offers a powerful opportunity to grow in faith, deepen your understanding of life's ultimate purpose, and strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship as you explore what it truly means to live a happy and fulfilling life in Christ. Visit www.stmarys-wbl.org for more links, the study guide, and the timeline for the study (Advent – Baptism of the Lord).

HAPPINESS THE SERIES:

This 7-episode video series is designed to answer the most fundamental questions affecting our lives — our happiness, purpose, dignity, and sense of destiny:

1. What is happiness — and how can we be optimally happy?
2. What makes life worth living — and even optimally worth living?
3. Do we have a transcendent eternal soul through which God calls us to himself?
4. Why does God allow suffering — and how can we suffer well?



Join your fellow parishioners and small groups to watch this video series and discuss how to examine happiness to pursue everlasting happiness.

HOW TO USE FORMED



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FOR CHILDREN (GRADES PRE-K – 3)



This 3-episode video series on Formed teaches about happiness.

Now more than ever, children need love and guidance to help them navigate a world that confuses right and wrong and denies them a true moral compass. Using hilarious sketches, memorable songs, and heart-warming stories they teach children about authentic happiness, the real meaning of love, and the value of all human life. All based on the pro-life teachings of Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.



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