



Pastor Maxine's Weekly Message

November 27, 2021

Dear Sojourners,

Happy New Year! Sunday, November 28, begins a brand new year for the Church. It is the beginning of a 12-month journey that takes us through the life and teachings of Jesus – a journey that teaches us about the nature of the God we worship. There is a rhythm to this journey that we can best understand by looking at the year in its entirety with what each season teaches us:



- **Advent** – the first season of the year, is a time when we are invited to slow down in order to have a time of quiet – that we might reflect and come closer to understanding and to experiencing the gift of love that is Jesus. The color for the season is blue (although for many centuries it was purple – some felt that purple was too regal for this time of reflection).
- **Christmas** – the second season is also the shortest – a total of 12 days as the “The Twelve Days of Christmas” teaches us. It includes one of our 7 principal feast days – Christmas Day. The colors for Christmas are white and gold – the colors used for all principal feast days.
- **Epiphany** – this season follows the season of Christmas and can vary in length depending on the date of Easter. The readings during this season invite us to experience the childhood and maturation of Jesus as he accepts what he is called to do. It begins with his baptism, the temptations by the devil and his calling of the disciples. The color for this season is green.
- **Lent** – is a season of 40 days and is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Good Friday – both days in which we are invited to observe by fasting. The last week before Easter is Holy Week which is our invitation to be intentionally present as Jesus is arrested, tried and then crucified. The color for this time is mud colored – or actually no color. It was traditionally observed with purple colors but that was changed with the 1979 Prayer Book for the same reasons as for Advent – purple is a royal color which might carry the wrong connotation for Lent.
- **Easter** is a season of 50 days which begins on Easter Sunday and ends on the day of Pentecost (which is a principal feast day that is observed with red.) The colors for Easter Day are white and gold as are all principal feast days.
- **Pentecost** the season of Pentecost is the rest of the year and the color green is the color used. This is the season in which we hear the parables and teaching of Jesus.

I look forward to sharing this faith journey with you and we grow into our calling as Christians. [Click here for a chart of the Colors of the Church Year.](#)

Mark your calendar so that you can participate in those events that will go toward preparing you for a truly wondrous Christmas experience:



You can enjoy two truly fabulous Christmas Concerts in our own Sanctuary:

- **The Main Liners** are inviting us on **Sunday, December 5th** to join them for a wonderful medley of both sacred and secular music Christmas music that is guaranteed to put a smile on your face. There are two shows – 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM – and the shows are limited to 140 attendees. There is no fee – but to guarantee a seat, it is best to reserve a seat by going online to mainliners.org.
- The **Charlie Zahm Christmas Concert** is a wonderful experience of learning the history of some of the music and the joy that it has given us over the years. Charlie has been a friend of St. Paul's for many years and it is always a pleasure to welcome him "home." There is no fee for the concert but a freewill donation would be gladly accepted. This concert is on December 17th at 7:30 PM.

Living Well Through Advent - Saturdays, November 27th - December 18th at 10:30 AM via zoom. Miranda Hodgkins and Pastor Maxine will guide us through a time of reflection that will help us with a foundation for a deeper experience of Advent which will prepare us for and experience of Christmas and its true meaning. This year's theme is *"Practicing Patience with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind."* If you wish to participate, make sure we have your contact information by calling the office (610-363-2363).



Christmas Eve Celebrations

The **Tree Decorating** will begin at 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve (contingent on weather, it may have to be moved to an earlier date). Everyone is encouraged to bring "homemade ornaments" that are bird friendly. The decorating will be followed by a visit to our outdoor creche and a short eyewitness account of several eyewitnesses to the first Christmas in Bethlehem (a donkey, a cow, an angel, a shepherd, and a wise person.) We will

be singing carols before and after the firsthand accounts. Refreshments will be served at the outdoor altar.

Midnight Mass will begin at 10:00 PM and you may come in person or stream the service. This candlelight service will include music by our Adult Choir, the Bell Choir and a Brass Quintet. It is a beautiful experience.

I look forward to worshipping with you on this first Sunday of Advent and look forward to sharing breakfast with you at 9:00 AM. Dr. Patrick McCauley will be leading our Adult Forum as we grapple with our roles in this world so much in need of love and patience.

In God's Love,

Pastor Maxine