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The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

139 West 46th Street, New York, N. Y.
(Between Sixth and Seventh Avenues)

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AVE

A Monthly Bulletin of
The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin
New York City

Vol. I.

December, 1932

No. 9

Advent

THE dawn of a new Christian year is upon us. The horizon is bright with the first signs of the coming of the Sun of Righteousness. Who is watching for the wonderful sight, the first rays of His glory, which make even the snows of the mountains blush? Who shall be able to behold the King in His glory? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when He cometh shall find watching, and only the watchers shall not be ashamed. Lord, give us grace to watch every day for Thy coming.

★

THE period, of between three and four weeks from Advent Sunday (which is always the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Andrew) to Christmas Eve, is named by the Church the season of Advent. During it she desires that her children should practise fasting, works of penance, meditation and prayer in order to prepare themselves for celebrating worthily the coming of the Son of God in the flesh.

The precise time when the season of Advent began to be observed is doubtful, but the earliest trace on record of the observance of Advent is probably in a canon of a Council at Saragossa in A.D. 380, which forbade the faithful to absent themselves from

the Church services during the three weeks from December 17 to the Epiphany. In the fifth century the period from Martinmas (November 11) to Christmas Eve was kept as a time of fasting and penance similar to Lent. In the Sacramentary of Gregory the Great there are Masses for five Sundays in Advent, but about the ninth century these were reduced to four, and so they have remained ever since.

★

THE penitential character of Advent appears in the omission of the *Gloria in excelsis* at Mass and in the use of purple vestments and altar hangings. But, again and again, in the prayers, lessons and antiphons of both Mass and Office, there is a note of joyful expectation. The word "Advent" (from a Latin word, *adventus*) means the "coming" or "approach" of someone or something of importance. Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of our Lord into the world at Christmas and also of His second coming at the end of the world. The thought of these two comings of Christ—the first as the Saviour of the world in humility, poverty and meekness, the second in the full majesty of His office of Lord and Judge of the living and the dead—explains the double character of this holy season, at once joyful and penitential.

★

ON the third Sunday in Advent a particularly joyous note is struck. From the opening words of the Mass introit—*Gaudete in Domino*, "Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, rejoice . . . The Lord is at hand,"—the day has taken the name of Gaudete Sunday. Rose-coloured vestments are worn instead of violet. Flowers decorate the altar, and the organ peals. The deacon and sub-deacon wear the dalmatic and tunicle instead of folded chasubles. The whole of this Mass is filled with the

sentiments of joy with which the Church wishes our souls to be filled at the approach of the Saviour.

★

DEVOTION to the Virgin-Mother of our Blessed Lord naturally finds full expression during Advent. The feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Lady with its octave speaks of the glory of the mother of Him "who is to come." It is the patronal feast of the Church of Saint Mary-the-Virgin and is observed here with great splendour year after year. As we prepare to keep the feast again we are more than ever conscious of our needs as a parish. How many of you will join with us in keeping a novena of prayer for the parish from November 29 to December 7, inclusive? It would be ideal if many of you would make your confession before the vigil of St. Andrew and then make a daily communion during the novena. But, whether you are able to do that or not, won't you please say the novena prayers each day and then come to the corporate communion of the parish on the feast-day itself, Thursday, December 8?

★

ANOVENA comprises nine days of prayer and devotions. Its purpose is to seek God's blessing on those things which are asked according to His will. The first Novena was solemnly kept from the day on which our Lord ascended until the coming of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost. The same prayers will be said after Mass and Vespers each day. Those who cannot attend Mass daily during the Novena may say the prayers at a convenient time, so that each member of the parish will have a part in this corporate act of supplication for God's blessing on our parish.

To be said daily:

The Our Father. The Hail Mary.
Veni, Creator Spiritus. (Prayer Book, p. 541.)

- Nov. 29. For the Church. The Bishops. The Clergy. Candidates for Holy Orders. Vocations to the Priesthood.
- Nov. 30. Missions: Domestic and Foreign. That the parish apportionment may be met.
- Dec. 1. Parish Organizations. Increased income and endowment for the parish. More contributions.
- Dec. 2. The Religious Life. The Society of St. John the Evangelist. The Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity. Vocations to the Religious Life from this parish.
- Dec. 3. The Laity. All families. More Baptisms and Confirmations. The sick. Those who are away from the parish.
- Dec. 4. The children. The Church School.
- Dec. 5. The Sacramental Life. The daily Masses and Offices. More Confessions and Communions. Return of the lapsed.
- Dec. 6. All workers in the parish. The Choir. The Servers.
- Dec. 7. For a well-prepared keeping of the Feast. For many Confessions and Communions.

★

THE Patronal Festival, Thursday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- Dec. 7. End of the Novena. First Vespers and Benediction (Lady Chapel), 6 p.m.
- Dec. 8. Low Masses, 6, 7, 8 and 9:30 a.m.
High Mass, with Sermon, 11 a.m.
Preacher: The Reverend William W. Bellinger, D.D.,
Vicar of St. Agnes' Chapel, Trinity Parish, New York City.
Second Vespers and Benediction (Lady Chapel), 6 p.m.
Children's Bazaar (St. Joseph's Hall), 3 to 10 p.m.

- Dec. 9. Masses, 7, 8 and 9:30.
Children's Bazaar, 3 to 10 p.m.
Parish Social Hour, with moving pictures and lecture on India, by Mrs. John G. Winant, 8:15 p.m.
Benediction, 10 p.m.

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ADVENT, like Lent, is a traditional time for special preaching. On the four Sundays in Advent the Father Rector will preach both at High Mass and at Vespers. The Sunday evening course will be on "The Four Marks of the True Church."

- Nov. 27. A.M. *The Second Coming.*
P.M. *Unity.*
- Dec. 4. A.M. *The Holy Scriptures.*
P.M. *Holiness.*
- Dec. 11. A.M. *The Immaculate Conception.*
P.M. *Catholicity.*
- Dec. 18. A.M. *The Unknown Christ.*
P.M. *Apostolicity.*

★

OUR exuberance over the arrival of the first installment of the new organ last month has abated not a little since we have observed how slowly and deliberately organ-assemblers work. The cap which *we* tossed up in the air must have caught on top of one of the few pipes which have been erected—probably the 32-foot diapason—for we haven't seen it since. Be that as it is, the opening recital cannot be given until the organ is completed, and that certainly will not be on November 28 as we had hoped. Will it peal on Gaudete? If it doesn't, we shall not believe another word the liturgical editor says. Perhaps we shall not hear it be-

fore Christmas! Anyway, the Advent Monday evening recitals are cancelled for the present. Others will be announced later. Perhaps they will be the first of your New Year engagements.

★

HOLY Hour, Thursday, December 1, 8 to 9 p.m. Members of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, the Guild of All Souls, and the Living Rosary of Our Lady and St. Dominic are reminded that the Holy Hour is their monthly meeting time.

A business meeting of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament is called for December 1, at 9 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hall. All confreres are urged to be present.

★

THE Children's Bazaar will open in St. Joseph's Hall at 3 p.m. on the afternoon of the Patronal Festival, December 8th, and will continue until 9:30 p.m. on the following evening, Friday, December 9th.

The response to the children's appeal for things to sell at their bazaar has been so generous that they have high hopes of attaining the goal which they have set for themselves: an offering for missions from St. Mary's children so large that our Church School will be able to retain the diocesan banner for another year. The children heartily thank all those who have contributed to this first venture of theirs in the King's business.

Many attractive articles will be offered for sale at the bazaar, and we hope that many of our parishioners will do at least a part of their Christmas shopping there. Packages will be prepared for mailing free of charge. There will be a grab bag, and we shall be glad to have a large number of articles to put in it. If you have any clothes that are worn but still useful, please send them for the rummage table.

At 8:15 on the evening of Friday, December 9th, Mrs. John G. Winant of Concord, New Hampshire, will show some moving pictures which she took in India last year. The bazaar booths will be open before and after the lecture.

Refreshments will be on sale both days of the bazaar. Afternoon tea, 3 to 6 p.m.

Buy your Christmas gifts at the Children's Bazaar!

★

IF your taste in Christmas cards runs to Colonial folk week-
ending over log fires or dashing about in cutter sleighs you will find them in abundance in the Five-and-Ten or at any corner drug-store. But, if you are looking for Christmas cards that are religious and have some relation to the holy event which Christians commemorate on December 25, then go and see the collection which the Sisters of the Holy Nativity have on sale at the Mission House, 133 West 46th Street. They are mostly imported ones,—from England, France and Belgium.

★

WHAT we need, as ordinary men and women in the community, is such an adjustment of the individual program as will make place for solitude with God. Hence the importance of a retreat from time to time. We find, as life goes on, that the amount of time we spend alone with God and with our own soul, has not a little to do with our comfort, our strength and our fruitfulness.

None of us fully comprehend the real significance of that great word of exhortation uttered by the ancient singer: "Be still, then, and know that I am God." There is so much noise, confusion, agitation, fretting, anxiety, uncertainty, fear, doubt—we are so

overwhelmingly human—that God is often excluded from our thought, imagination and aspiration.

Come and spend a day of quiet and recollection with God in His Church. The little blue leaflet which goes out with this number of AVE will inform you of special times of retreat for women during the coming months. A day of Retreat for men will be held on February 22, 1933 (Washington's Birthday).

★

THE Advent day of retreat for women will be conducted by the Father Rector on Saturday, December 10, according to the following time-table:

Retreat Mass (High Altar), 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast, 10:15 a.m.

Meditations, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon, 1:30 p.m.

Meditations, 3 and 5 p.m.

Vespers and Benediction, 6 p.m.

The meals will be served in St. Joseph's Hall. Those expecting to attend the retreat and be present at either, or both, of the meals should notify Sister Mary Virginia of their intention not later than Thursday, December 8. Such notification should preferably be in writing and sent to the Mission House, 133 West 46th St.

★

MONDAY, December 19, is the thirty-fourth anniversary of the death of Thomas McKee Brown, founder and first rector of this parish. At 8 o'clock on that morning, a solemn Mass of requiem will be sung in the Chantry of Our Lady of Mercy, and Holy Communion will be given.

Succeeding generations of worshippers in this church can never express adequately all that they owe to Father Brown for his courage and devotion in founding St. Mary's. We hope there will be a large attendance at this requiem Mass on December 19 to pray for the happy repose of the soul of Father Brown, who, we may be sure is praying for all of us.

★

ALTHOUGH the complete schedule for the Christmas festival will not be announced until the appearance of the Christmas AVE, about December 15, we are ready to state that the custom of having a High Mass at midnight on Christmas Eve will be resumed in this parish this year. *Admission to the church at that time will be by ticket only.* Tickets will be ready for distribution on December 10, two weeks before Christmas. Each person desiring a ticket must make application to the Parish Secretary, 145 West 46th Street, either in person or by mail. Such regulations are necessitated by the location of the church in the mid-town section so much frequented by noisy holiday-makers. As Holy Communion will be distributed at the High Mass we must have some assurance that the congregation be composed of devout persons and not of sight-seers.

★

ST. MARY'S Dramatic Society this year presents a new Christmas mystery, *The Canticles of Mary*, a play based on the Gospel canticles of the *Benedictus*, *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*. The first performance will be given on Thursday, December 29; and the play will be repeated on Friday, January 6, the feast of the Epiphany.

GUILD of St. Catherine of Genoa for Nurses. Monthly meeting and tea in St. Joseph's Hall. Sunday, December 11, at 6 p.m.

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ST. MARY'S Guild. Monthly corporate Communion, Wednesday, December 14, at the 9:30 Mass. Business Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

★

THE Woman's Auxiliary. Monthly corporate Communion, Friday, December 16, at the 9:30 Mass. Business meeting, 10:30 a.m.

★

GUILD of Help. Monthly corporate Communion, Thursday, December 22, at the 9:30 Mass. Business meeting, 10:30 a.m.

★

WHAT is the Church of St. Mary the Virgin?
It is:

A dispensary of the Sacraments,
A storehouse of mercy,
A memorial to the dead,
A true Church for the living,
A House of Prayer for all people,
The House of God.

★

THE past year in England has been marked in many Catholic parishes by sermons and instructions on the "precepts of the Church." It would be well perhaps that they should be em-

phasized in American Catholic parishes also. All the ordinances of our Holy Religion are, of course, unspeakable privileges, but the Catholic must never forget that these privileges, just because they are so great, involve corresponding obligations. To be present at Mass on Sundays and other days of obligation; to observe the days of fasting and abstinence; to go to confession at least once a year; to make our Communion also regularly, and at least three times a year; to contribute regularly, and in accordance with our ability to the support of the Church; to observe the Church's marriage laws—these are privileges, but they are also duties, and we have no right to proclaim ourselves Catholics unless we are making an honest and sincere effort to observe them. Yet it is surprising how many persons will avail themselves of all sorts of imaginary excuses to justify (for example) staying away from Mass on Sunday. Neither our Lord nor His Church expects from us impossibilities. Any excuse which would release us from an important business engagement (on which much depended) or which would make it impossible for us to go to some entertainment to which we had eagerly looked forward is an adequate excuse for staying away from Mass on Sunday. Other excuses are not adequate and will not justify us as practicing Catholics or in the sight of God. We need the Mass each week, and God expects us to be there.

★

"IT is a strange thing how many there are who look forward to be with Jesus in another world, but never think of living in fellowship with Him here." *Father Benson of Cowley.*

★

ALTAR flowers for the month of December are given in memory of the following named persons:

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. John and Susanna Wills.

Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete). Sarah Jones.

Christmas Day. Thomas McKee Brown, Priest and Founder of the Parish.

Holy Innocents. Alice and Harriet Augusta Jones.

★

THE following contributions to AVE are gratefully acknowledged: Miss Helen M. Baker, \$1; Mrs. Charles Cammann, Jr., \$10; Mrs. Stuart Crockett, \$5; Miss Beazley, \$1; Mrs. William C. Dickey, \$1; Miss Maude Dellegar, \$2; Mrs. Lamont Dominick, \$2; Miss Florence Jones, \$5; Miss Mabel Long, \$2; Miss Cornelia Sorabji, \$5; Mr. Charles Gerfin, \$2; and Mrs. Theodore Vogelgesang, \$1.

AVE is published monthly (July, August and September excepted) and is sent *gratis* to communicants and supporters of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin.

It would be a great help if readers who value AVE would send an annual contribution towards the expense of its printing and circulation.

Inquiries concerning AVE should be sent to the Editor, The REVEREND FATHER DALE, S.S.J.E., 144 West 47th Street, New York.

To insure delivery of AVE, the Parish Secretary should be notified promptly of any permanent change of address.

KALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

1. Th. *Feria*. Holy Hour, 8 p.m.
2. F. *Feria*. Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart, 8. *Abstinence*.
3. Sa. St. Francis Xavier, C. (1552).
- ✕ 4. Su. ADVENT II. Com. of St. John of Damascus, C., D. (780).
5. M. *Feria*.
6. Tu. St. Nicholas, Bp. of Myra in Lycia, C. (325).
7. W. *Vigil*.
- ✕ 8. Th. CONCEPTION OF THE B. V. MARY. Patronal Festival. Additional Low Mass at 6 a.m. Solemn High Mass, 11. Opening of the Bazaar, 3 p.m.
9. F. In Octave. *Abstinence*.
10. Sa. In Octave. Advent Retreat for Women.
- ✕ 11. Su. ADVENT III, (Gaudete). Com. of Octave.
12. M. In Octave.
13. Tu. St. Lucy, V. M. at Syracuse (c. 304). Com. of Octave.
14. W. In Octave. Ember Day. *Abstinence*.
15. Th. Octave of the Conception of B.V. Mary.
16. F. Ember Day. *Abstinence*. *O Sapientia*.
17. Sa. Ember Day. *Abstinence*.
- ✕ 18. Su. ADVENT IV.
19. M. *Feria*. High Mass of Requiem for Thomas McKee Brown, priest, 8.
20. Tu. *Vigil*.
21. W. ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE.
22. Th. *Feria*.
23. F. *Feria*. *Abstinence*.
24. Sa. *Vigil*. Christmas Eve. *Abstinence*. Solemn High Mass, 12 midnight. Admission by ticket only.
- ✕ 25. Su. THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD. Christmas Day. Additional Low Mass, 6 a.m.
26. M. ST. STEPHEN, THE PROTOMARTYR. Com. of the Nativity.
27. Tu. ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST. Com. of the Nativity.
28. W. HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS. Com. of the Nativity and St. John.
29. Th. St. Thomas, Archbp. of Canterbury, M. (1170). Com. of the Nativity and St. John. First performance of the Christmas Play by St. Mary's Dramatic Society, 8:15 p.m.
30. F. In Octave of the Nativity. Com. of Octave of St. John.
31. Sa. St. Silvester, Bp. of Rome, C. (335). Com. of the Nativity and St. John.

Days indicated by ✕ are days of precept, with an obligation of attendance at Mass. Days on which votive and requiem Masses may be said are printed in italics.

Music List for December

DECEMBER 4.—SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

MASS, "Missa Misericordias Domini"	<i>Rheinberger</i>
Motet, "Deus noster refugium"*	<i>Bernier</i>
VESPERS:	
Magnificat in G	<i>Howells</i>
Ave verum*	<i>Dumont</i>
Tantum ergo	<i>Henschel</i>

DECEMBER 8.—CONCEPTION OF THE B.V. MARY.

MASS, "Missa in honorem Sanctæ Claræ Assisiensis"	<i>Refice</i>
Motet, "Beata es Virgo Maria"*	<i>Byrd</i>

DECEMBER 11.—THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

MASS in C	<i>Henschel</i>
Motet, "Tota pulchra es"*	<i>Dumont</i>
VESPERS:	
Magnificat in B flat	<i>Lemare</i>
O salutaris (No. 1)	<i>Elgar</i>
Tantum ergo (Six Motets, No. 2)	<i>Paladilhe</i>

DECEMBER 18.—FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

MASS, "Missa <i>Il bianco e dolce cigno</i> "	<i>Bernardi</i>
Motet, "Ave verum" (Six Motets, No. 5)	<i>Paladilhe</i>
VESPERS:	
Magnificat for four voices*	<i>Farrant</i>
O salutaris (Op. 17, No. 2)	<i>Kromolicki</i>
Tantum ergo (No. 3)	<i>Boëllmann</i>

DECEMBER 25.—FIRST MASS OF THE NATIVITY (MIDNIGHT).

MASS in C	<i>Schubert</i>
Carols	<i>Traditional English</i>

DECEMBER 25.—NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

MASS in D (The Imperial)	<i>Haydn</i>
Motet, "Christmas Hymn"*	<i>R. Vaughan Williams</i>
VESPERS:	
Magnificat in E	<i>Lemare</i>
O salutaris (Quatrième Messe solennelle)	<i>Cherubini</i>
Tantum ergo (No. 3)	<i>Schubert</i>

* First time.

Services

SUNDAYS

Low Mass	7 and 8 a.m.
Children's Mass, with hymns	9 a.m.
Low Mass	10 a.m.
Matins	10:30 a.m.
High Mass, with sermon	11 a.m.
Vespers and Benediction, with sermon	8 p.m.

WEEK DAYS

Mass, daily	7, 8 and 9:30 a.m.
Also on Holy Days of Obligation	6 a.m.
Children's Mass and Catechism, Saturdays	10:30 a.m.
Matins	9 a.m.
Vespers	6 p.m.

EVENING SERVICES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Parish Instruction (St. Joseph's Hall), Fridays	8:15 p.m.
Benediction, Fridays	9:30 p.m.
Holy Hour, Thursday, December 1	8 p.m.

*Other Services during the Week, and on Festivals,
as announced on the preceding Sunday.*

The Church is open daily from 6:30 a.m. till 9 p.m.

The Priests of the Church are always ready to answer questions or to give instruction in the Christian religion.

Adults or children can be prepared at any time for First Confession, Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Sacraments and Other Rites

CONFESSIONS.

Father Williams, S.S.J.E., Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.

Father Dale, S.S.J.E., Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.

Father Klein, S.S.J.E., Fridays, 7 to 8 p.m.

Father Peabody, Thursdays, 5 to 6 p.m., Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 8 to 9 p.m.

A Priest can always be seen daily at 7:30 a.m., upon application.

BAPTISMS.—Sundays at 3 p.m., by arrangement with the clergy.

Proper sponsors should be chosen, and the mother should be churched.

MARRIAGES are solemnized only after arrangement with the clergy and after three days' notice has been given. A certificate of Baptism should be produced by both parties. Those to be married should, if confirmed, receive Holy Communion. A nuptial Mass is suggested. It is against God's law to marry anyone divorced, as long as the other partner is living. Marriages are not solemnized during Lent, nor on Sundays or Christmas Day.

SICK CALLS, Holy Unction and Communion of the Sick, on application to the clergy; in person, by telephone, or by post.

BURIALS.—The clergy should always be consulted *before* any arrangements are made. The bodies of baptized persons may be brought to the Chantry of the Church at any time before the day of the funeral. It is the usual custom at St. Mary's to have the funeral service a requiem Mass.

MUSIC.—Arrangements for music at weddings or funerals should be made directly with Mr. Nold, the Director of Music.

Directory

CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, 139 West 46th St.

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MR. HOWARD I. DOHRMAN, *Parish Treasurer*

1 Madison Avenue, New York

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin is supported largely by voluntary offerings through the use of weekly envelopes. Persons desiring the Duplex Envelopes for the support of the Parish and Missions are requested to apply to one of the clergy after High Mass or Vespers on Sundays, or to communicate with the Parish Secretary, Rector's Office, 145 West 46th Street.