



St. Joseph Freinademetz Church

Parish Bulletin and Newsletter



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December 2025

Year A

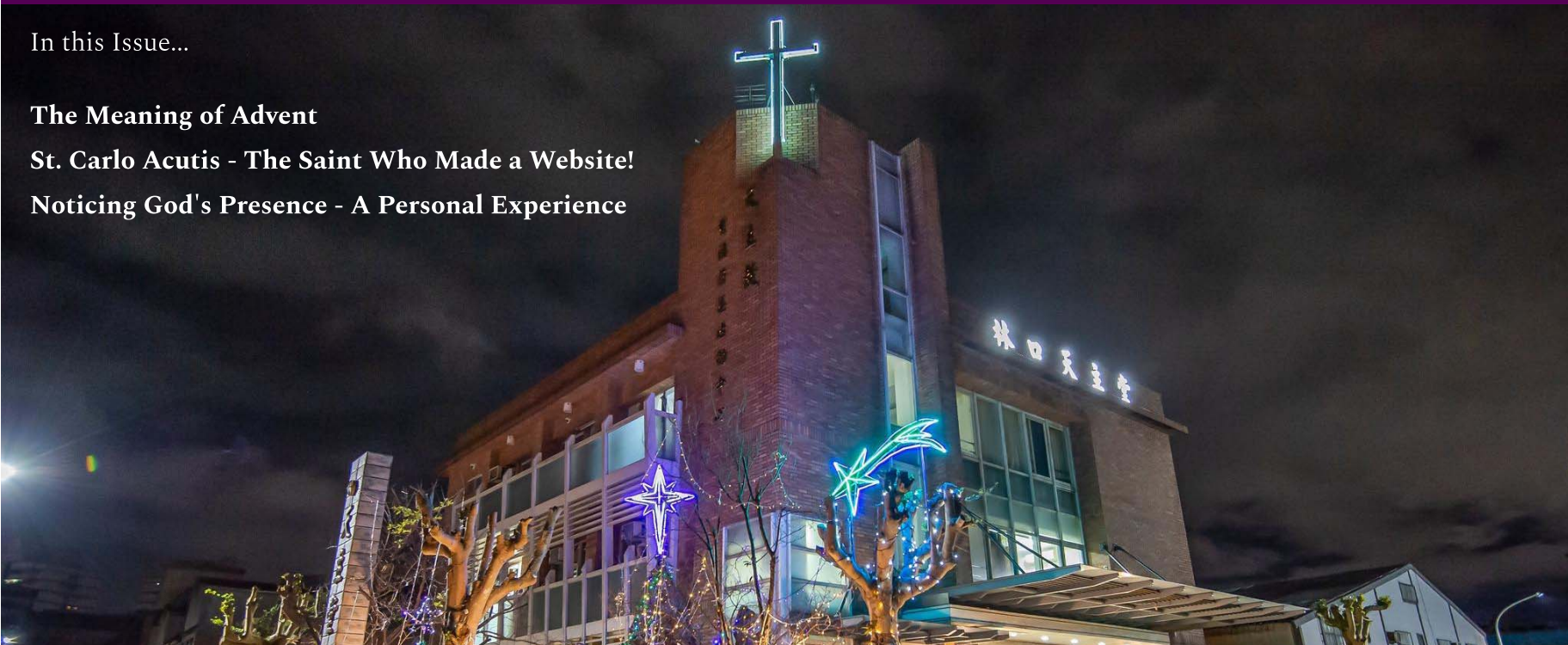
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The Meaning of Advent

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Pope Leo XIV Monthly Prayer Intention

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



Important Feast Days

December 8, Monday

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:30 PM (Chinese)

December 24, Wednesday

Christmas Eve
8:30 PM (Chinese/English)

December 25, Thursday

Christmas
9:00 AM (Chinese)

December 28, Sunday

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
11:00 AM (English)



Parish Events

2025 Advent Retreat



Date: Dec. 14, 2025 (Sunday)

Time: 13:30 - 16:30 (Retreat)

16:30 - 17:00 (Confession)

Led by: Fr. Justin SVD

Venue: Linkou Catholic Church 1/F

Register here



The retreat will be held in **English** and is **free of charge**.

The theme of this year's retreat is:

"The word became Flesh, and lived among us, and we have seen his glory."

John 1:14

Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration

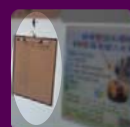


Start: Dec. 5, 2025 (Friday) 8:00 PM

End: Dec. 6, 2025 (Saturday) 8:00 AM

Venue: Linkou Catholic Church 1/F

Register at sign-up form
next to Church Entrance



The Church will be open for Eucharistic Adoration for 12 hours from Friday evening to Saturday morning. Even if you have not registered, feel free to drop by at any time during this period to spend some time in silence with the Blessed Sacrament.

Advent

Waiting for Christ's Coming

*"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us".*
- Matthew 1:23

In today's fast-paced world, waiting can be one of the hardest things to do. Extensive use of apps and the Internet has led to the desire for instant gratification and speedy results. And yet, so many moments in life - discovering a vocation, getting married, having a child, healing from illness - cannot be rushed and require us to wait.

"Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". It is associated with the four weeks of waiting and preparation for Christmas. This year, Advent starts on November 30 (Sunday) and ends on December 24 (Wednesday) as the Mass of the Nativity of our Lord begins.

In this season of waiting, how can we wait well for Christ's coming at Christmas, in our own hearts and once again in glory at the end of the age? Here are some ideas to consider:



Read, meditate, contemplate and pray on the Bible readings. Invite the Word of God into our lives and notice God's presence more readily in our daily activities.



Celebrate the Feast Days and Solemnities during Advent, which include:

- St. Francis Xavier (Dec. 3)
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12)
- The Holy Family (Dec. 28)



Spend time in silence and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. There will be an all-night 12-hour Eucharistic Adoration from Dec. 5 (Fri) 8:00 p.m. to Dec. 6 (Sat) 8:00 a.m. at the 1st floor chapel of our parish. Come, sit still and be refreshed in the presence of Christ.



Take the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our parish is holding an Advent Retreat in English on Dec. 14 (Sun), from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., followed by Confession. Join and experience God's mercy, forgiveness and healing.



Light an Advent Wreath. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are aglow. As we get closer to Christmas, each candle brings a little more light to the darkness and the days grow a little brighter. We are reminded that we are anticipating the coming of Jesus, the true light of the world.

There are many opportunities to pause, reflect and direct our hearts and minds to what's truly meaningful and essential in this busy season. Why not give ourselves the gift of precious time to spend with our Lord this Advent? May our waiting not be filled with anxiety or stress, but rather peace and joy, because we already know how the story ends.

St. Carlo Acutis

The Saint Who Made a Website



*"All people are born as originals, but many die as photocopies."
- St Carlo Acutis"*

When we think of saints, we may think of impossible ideals. Spiritual superheroes who accomplished great deeds and endured much suffering for the love of God. So it was with some surprise when I learned of the canonization of St. Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint. His claim to fame? He made a website.

Obviously, that's a massive understatement. But as I learned more about him, what struck me the most was how ordinary he was. He was born to a middle class family, enjoyed video games and surfing the Web, and did well at school. The most unusual thing about him is his devotion to the Church at such a young age.



He became a catechist at the age of 14, and spent hours in Eucharistic adoration when others his age would rather be anywhere else. He famously called the Eucharist his "highway to heaven".

He was very kind to others, lending an ear to the troubles of his classmates and helping the poor whenever he could. And he had a desire to spread the faith to anyone who would receive it. That was what inspired him to create a website documenting Eucharistic miracles, in the hopes that historical evidence presented on such a far-reaching platform could draw more people to the Church.

It's embarrassing for me to admit this, but my first reaction was: That's it? He was kind to everyone, spent a lot of time at Church and then made a website?

He didn't fight in epic battles like St. Joan of Arc. He didn't found a renowned religious order like St. Ignatius of Loyola. He didn't travel to distant lands to spread the faith like St. Joseph Freinademetz.

But he still was canonized as a saint, and so soon after his death! (He passed away in 2006 from leukemia, not too long after his website launched.) Was this simply a ploy by the Church to pander to the youth?

At this point, it became clear that I had a very **wrong** definition of what it means to be a saint. Saints are not superheroes. They're not impossible ideals. They are simply good people who had faith in God. While the most memorable saints certainly performed extraordinary acts of faith, a large number of them lived remarkably "unremarkable" lives. Like St. Therese of Lisieux, who spent most of her short life cloistered away in a convent. Or St. Alphonsius Rodriguez, who was a humble doorman at a Jesuit college for more than 40 years.

They remind us that a holy life is not outwardly impressive. It is lived through simple acts of love that often go unnoticed. And just because they are simple, it doesn't mean that they are easy. But they are within reach.

The canonization of St. Carlo Acutis is **an invitation to all of us to aspire to be saints**. And to regard the Internet, this wonderful and terrible invention that we too often take for granted, as a sacred gift from God to be used for the good of His Will. St. Carlo Acutis, pray for us!

Visit Carlo's website at miracolieuucaristici.org



Corner for You



Noticing God's Presence: A Personal Experience



"Let us bear this in mind: God is hidden in our life, he is always there – he is concealed in the commonest and most ordinary situations in our life."

Pope Francis (Angelus on November 27 2022)

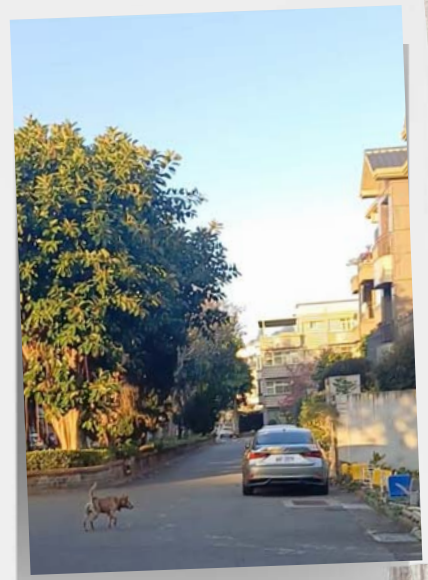
It was a sunny afternoon when we set out for a hike up a mountain road on the outskirts of Linkou. Cars and motorbikes zipped by next to us, and we walked single file as close to the side of the mountain for safety, hoping we could make it back before it turned dark.

At some point, a stray dog with a jaunty air trotted out from the side of the road and walked alongside us. We thought it had merely come to check us out and would soon go its way, but to our surprise, it kept pace with us the whole way up the mountain. It could've easily outrun us, but it stopped and slowed down from time to time, turning back as if to make sure we were still following behind. We joked that it had decided to join our little "pack" for protection. Little did we know that it was the other way round.

As we passed by a stretch of road next to dense undergrowth, we were greeted by an angry pack of feral dogs who charged and snarled at us from behind a flimsy wired fence. Our furry companion seemed to have expected this and coolly led us past the dogs without batting an eye. His composure calmed us down and reassured us that we would make it safely through. I willed myself not to run as I saw flashes of fur and teeth out of the corner of my eye. Once we had put a safe distance between us and the pack, our son turned around to see that some of the dogs had actually run out onto the road behind us.

Our guardian dog completely lost interest in us after that. It stopped turning around to check on us, and after we got back to town, it parted ways with us as mysteriously as it had come.

We were all shaken by the experience but fully convinced of God's presence in that chance encounter. How wise and wonderful are His ways!



If you'd like to contribute
an article, feel free to email
us at english@lkcc.tw!

Include "Parish Bulletin"
in the subject header.