

FRIDAY'S OPENING TALK

7:00-8:00 PM

- **Slide 1** Burning Advent Candle
- **SLIDE 2** Good Evening
 - Welcoming comments
 - Introduce myself
- **SLIDE 3 Video of Song Oh Come Oh come Emanuel**
 - Of King and Country
 - A little different
 - A little edgy
- **SLIDE 4 PRAYER Sanctuary**
- **SLIDE 5** Agenda (see Slide)
 - A few Instructions
 - There are packets and materials ON TABLE. Please don't open these until instructed to do so.
 - Send me an email and I will send you a link to all of the notes for all three nights.
 - brian@brokendoorministries.com
- **SLIDE 6** Every December we encounter the story of Christ's birth. We read it in scripture, we sing about it and we see it in Christmas cards, paintings and stained-glass windows. Indeed, the shocking mystery of

Christmas might be overlooked. A young virgin gives birth to the Son of God. The bread come down from Heaven by the power of the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. The word of God was made flesh.

- **STAY ON SLIDE** Has the reality, of what happened in the hill country of Judah, in the small town of Bethlehem, over 2,000 years ago, somehow been diminished by time?
- **SLIDE 7** In Mark's Gospel he invites us to *"Come away to a quiet place and rest awhile."*
 - **STAY ON SLIDE** I do hope this retreat will be an oasis from the secular holiday focus. I hope our time together during this retreat will help you discover Christmas in a deeper and life changing way.
- **SLIDE 8** Advent is a sacred season of preparation, it is a time to open our hearts in totality to the joy, love and mercy of our Messiah. It is a time to give ourselves over in trust and abandonment to the Child-King, in order that the Risen Lord may enter fully into eternal communion with us.

- **STAY ON SLIDE** The word Advent comes from the Latin word adventus, which in turn is a translation of the Greek word, parousia. Both words indicate a coming or an arrival.
- **STAY ON SLIDE** Advent focuses simultaneously on the first and second comings of Christ, and on his presence with us now, especially in the blessed sacrament of the **Eucharist**.
- **STAY ON SLIDE** The Parousia—sometimes called the second coming of Christ—will be realized fully at the end of time, but has already been initiated by Christ’s Incarnation
- **STAY ON SLIDE** Some Christians fixate upon the return of Christ to the point that little else matters. We should should—especially during Advent—gaze upon and receive the **Eucharist**, focusing on the reality that Christ is **physically present to us now**.
- **SLIDE 9** During this retreat we will place a renewed focus not only on receiving the Eucharist, but also on what it means **to become Eucharist**.
 - **STAY ON SLIDE** *“By gazing on the risen Christ,”* wrote Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, in Eschatology,

his book on death and eternal life, *“Christianity knew that a most significant coming had already taken place. It no longer proclaimed a pure theology of hope, living from mere expectation of the future, but pointed to a ‘**now**’ in which the promise had already become **present**.”*

- **STAY ON SLIDE** Advent is a time to reflect on Jesus Christ: past, present and future. Jesus transcends time.
- **SLIDE 10** In **the past**, he became man by entering time and history in the most stunning and unexpected way: in the darkness of a cave.
- **SLIDE 11** Looking towards **the future**, while nearing the end of his earthly ministry and facing death, Jesus exhorted his disciples, *“Be watchful! Be alert!”* Thus, he emphasized that the second coming would also be unexpected and sudden. Last week on the first Sunday of Advent, we heard these words proclaimed in Matthew’s Gospel: *“**Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake.**”*

- **SLIDE 12** We cannot overlook the present. Jesus is with us now. He is physically present with us in humility, hidden under the form of bread and wine.
- **SLIDE 13** Mary's responded to the angel with this fiat: ***"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."***
 - **STAY ON SLIDE** During this retreat, God might possibly invite you to make your own fiat with the same sincerity, intensity and fidelity as did the sweet and holy Virgin Mary. If He does, I hope you will shout out the words of Andrew from John's Gospel, "WE HAVE FOUND THE MESSIAH."
- **SLIDE 14 Blessed, Broken and Scared** ...probably seems like an odd title for an Advent Retreat.
 - Between Now and Sunday morning I hope you will discover that it not that odd at all.
- **SLIDE 15** Address my Illness and my brokenness
 - **Amazing Grace**: How Sweet the sound ..saved a wretch like me
 - I once was **lost**...am found
 - Was **blind** ...now see
 - I will discuss being lost a little later this morning.

- As for being blind, in June 2014 I went blind I later diagnosed with an MS like rare neurological disease called MOG.
- Sometimes as a result of my disease, especially as I get tired, my arms flail. If they do, shout AMEN!
- **SLIDE 16** My Hope is that you leave here:
 - More honest with yourself
 - More transparent and sincere with others
 - Learn that Christian Community is essential
 - Learn what it means to BECOME EUCHARIST
 - Come to a deeper understanding that the Christ who was born in Mary wants to be born in us too.
- **SLIDE 17** Advent is a time to reflect on God. St. Augustine tells us that in order to know God, we must know ourselves. I hope we can close out the noise of the world and do some serious reflection while we are together.
 - **Bullet** What did God reveal to me about me?
 - **Bullet** What did God reveal to me about him?
- **SLIDE 18** My home Parish is Immaculate Conception in Hendersonville NC

- Recently adopted a new Parish Mission
- **Not** a Mission Statement
- We are a Joyful Catholic Community, Disciples of Christ, moved by love to seek the lost and broken and bring them home.
- Just who are those lost and broken people?
- Is it possible that we...you and me are those lost and broken people?
- **SLIDE 19** GK Chesterton to London Daily News 1905
 - G. K. Chesterton, responded to an article in the *London Daily News* on the subject, “What’s wrong with the world?”

Dear London Daily News,

I am.

Sincerely Yours,

G. K. Chesterton

- **SLIDE 20** Pope Francis
 - We are a field Hospital for the lost and broken
- **SLIDE 21** Little Johnny Cookie story
- **SLIDE 22** Drawing from the Book of Genesis I call this the Adam and Eve Syndrome
 - Most of us have recurring sin in our life

- All of us have some form of brokenness.
- **NO SLIDE** During Advent we receive our two birth narratives from the Gospels of **Matthew** and **Luke**. This Advent season our Sunday reading will come from Matthew. This weekend, I want to reflect on both.
- **NO SLIDE** Both birth narratives although different in their approach, point out that the world was groaning in its brokenness and recurring sin.
- **SLIDE 23** Luke begins his Gospel like a good Shakespearean play with a couple of minor characters. Zechariah and Elizabeth. Zechariah a priest and Elizabeth comes from a priestly family.
 - Barrenness was considered shameful in Judaism.
Luke 1:7
 - There is a tension between their holiness and their childlessness.
- **SLIDE 24** **Matthew** starts his Gospel with a long boring genealogy of broken people. And prior to the mention of Joseph the father of Jesus there is almost a 500-year period of captivity.
- **NO SLIDE** Now I want to turn your attention to the captivity in your own life. I'll come back to this genealogy in a few minutes.

- **SLIDE 25 A moment of honesty**
 - How many of you are willing to admit like I am that you have recurring sin in your life? Going to confession is like a broken record.
 - We have suffered with these sins for a long time.
- **NO SLIDE** The Jewish people had also suffered and waited a long time for a messiah just like Zechariah and Elizabeth had suffered and waited a long time for a child
- **NO SLIDE** Think about those things in your life that you been suffering with and waiting a long time to be set free from.
- **SLIDE 26** Perhaps you have begun to **doubt** your ability to break free from the broken areas and recurring sin in your life.
- **SLIDE 27** Zechariah had doubt too.
 - This is why Luke ties the two stories that involve the angel **Gabriel** together.
 - Luke 1:13-14 *“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayers have been heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.”*

- **Here comes the doubt.** Then Zechariah said to the angel, *“How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”* Luke 1:19-20
- And the angel said to him in reply, *“I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.”*
- *“I am Gabriel.”* Doesn’t that seem like a strange answer to the question, *“How shall I know this?”* But not to the ears of a first century Jew. After all, it was **Gabriel who appeared to Daniel** and gave him a promise in a prayer.
- In Daniel 9:24 we read, *“Then transgression will stop, and sin will end, guilt will be expiated, Everlasting justice will be introduced, vision and prophecy ratified, and a holy of holies will be anointed.”*
- **NO SLIDE** We have all just raised our hands and admitted that we have patterns of recurring sin and

brokenness in our lives. I think we would all like to break these chains that bind us.

- **SLIDE 28** C.S. Lewis book THE GREAT DIVORCE
 - Lizard story
- **SLIDE 29** When the man finally gave consent to the angel to kill the Lizard it became a White Stallion and He rode it into Heaven Sins can become like best friends
 - In order to get into Heaven are you willing to get rid of the Lizard on your shoulder
 - To do so requires HONESTY, SINCERITY and TRANSPARANCY
 - Admitting our brokenness may in fact be the Stallion we ride into Heaven....
 - WE NEED JESUS!

Brokenness exercise (purple paper)

“A long time passed, during which the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their bondage and cried out, and from their bondage their cry for help went up to God.” Exodus 2:23

- **SLIDE 30** Side One:
 - Inability to forgive the past, Grief, Loneliness, health issues, marital or family strife, financial struggles

- **SLIDE 31** Side Two:
 - What is your recurring sin
 - Not some sin from your past but something today that continues to recur in your life and clouds your relationship with God

- **SLIDE 32** Let's go back to Matthews long genealogy to see what we can learn from it. Genesis began with a recap of the historical events before man came to be. Matthew begins his Gospel in a similar fashion. Both were signaling a time of new beginning.
 - God fulfills his promise to Abraham through Jesus “a blessing to all people.”
 - Matthew brings attention to the **worldwide mission** promised to Abraham and ends his Gospel with the great commission to take the news of Jesus to the ends of the earth.
 - The genealogy includes David. It recalls the glory days of the Kingdom. But we also remember David's brokenness
 - David's great dynasty had come to a halt in 586 B.C.
 - The Babylonian exile, appeared to end of the Davidic kingdom.
 - Have we felt exiled from God through the wounds and brokenness in our life?
 - But Matthew eventually tells us about Joseph who although from the line of David was not of kingly status

- He was poor and suffering under the Romans. He was a humble carpenter.
- The genealogy reaches its peak in the birth of Jesus. The one who saves all from their exile.
- Matthew wanted us to see that God calls “the oddest people” to carry out his will. Including you and me.
- **SLIDE 33** GPS story **SLIDE 34** Make U Turn
 - **SLIDE 35** Recalculating route Story
 - Eighth grade seminary visits
 - Senior year seminary
 - Chose sex over his call
 - Married my girlfriend
 - God confronted my heart on the silent retreat
 - Blessed even though I said no to him
 - He is still calling
 - Have you ever said no to the Lord? Have you doubted him? Zechariah did.
- **SLIDE 36** The birth of John the Baptist is the first time we read about Zechariah cooperating with the Lord’s plan for salvation.
 - After nine months of being mute, he obeys the angels command: ***“He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,” and all were amazed.***

and his mouth is opened. Amazing things can happen in our life if we cooperate with God.

- **SLIDE 37** Are there areas in our lives right now that we need a second chance to more fully cooperate with God? Do you need a 2nd chance? Do you need a route correction?
 - Route correction
 - 4thdayletters
 - Broken Door Ministry
 - The book THE BROKEN DOOR (Joseph will be here tomorrow evening)
- **SLIDES 38 Parable of the Broken Door**
- **SLIDE 39 Back Door**
- **SLIDE 40 Rocking Chairs**
- **SLIDE 41 View**
- **SLIDE 42**
 - Please bring your Purple Paper back with you on Saturday and Sunday
- **SLIDE 43**
 - Snacks and a social afterwards
 - Breakfast is at 8am on Saturday and Sunday
 - Talks begin both days at 9am

- Reconciliation at 3PM
- Mass at 5PM
- **SLIDE 44** I am available if anyone wants to talk
- **SLIDE 45** THANKS

8:00PM