



Can you believe it, the First Sunday of Advent is already here. But what is Advent? Where did Advent originate? What is the purpose of this short Season? Let's explore this for a more meaningful Advent.

No one knows when Advent began but we can find in the writings of St. Gregory of Tours in the late 400's the mention of a preparation period for Christmas. In time, the four weeks preceding Christmas became a fasting and preparation period to ready the Roman Catholic Church for the celebration of Christmas.

There are many rich traditions of the four weeks of Advent. All are meant to help us slow down and reflect upon our Faith, Hope and Love in a world that has many distractions. Hopefully it helps us to be able to see Christ as the center of Christmas. He is our Gift that has been born for us, the Savior of the World. No doubt the most common Advent tradition that most of us are familiar is the Advent Wreath. We will be using one here at OLG during the Season. But what do the four candles signify?

The Advent wreath we will use in the Church has a circular base of green fern with three purple candles and one pink candle. You can also create one in your own home. It could be as simple as four candles or votive lights. Each candle represents something that we are encouraged to reflect on.

First Sunday of Advent Week 1: *This is our candle of Hope.* We remember that we are God's People. As we find in Isaiah 9, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those in the land of deep darkness... For us a child is born...he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Second Sunday of Advent Week 2: *This is our Candle of Waiting or Prophecy.* As we find in Isaiah 40, as God's people, we hear the voice of the Lord crying out in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight his paths. The Lord will be made known to all People.

Third Sunday of Advent Week 3 (Pink): *This is our Candle of Joy, Peace.* As we find in Matthew 2, When they saw the star, they were filled with great joy. When they entered the house, they bowed down and worshiped.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Week 4: *This is our Candle of Love or Adoration.* As we find in John 3, For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only son, that whoever believes in him will never perish but have eternal life.

Try to enter this Season individually and as a family. Prayerfully try to make Christ the Center of your Christmas. I also suggest that each household also make use of a Christmas Crib. A suggestion is to place it under your Christmas tree. There are many other ways to display it and to make it prominent in your celebration of Christmas.

-Fr. Ray

Gospel For The Second Sunday of Advent (December 4th)

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: *A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.* John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**FESCO AND CASTRO VALLEY OUTREACH
Christmas Giving Trees**

Our Lady of Grace is helping Castro Valley families with our Giving Trees. Each family member has an ornament on our Giving Trees which you will find in Church, in the School and Parish Offices. Please take an ornament and return the gifts with the ornament, box and receipt, **unwrapped** to the Parish Office by Thursday, **December 15th**, in order for our students and Parent Group members to catalog and wrap. We are also helping FESCO keep their programs running. They are asking for monetary donations. FESCO Donation envelopes are available on the Giving Trees. Please return the envelopes to the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!



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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We invite you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special flower envelopes or by submitting the name to the Parish Office. A list of names will be available after Christmas. Thank you for considering this thoughtful and helpful way to remember those you love.



**CHRISTMAS STORY
PERFORMANCE &
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**



On Saturday, **December 3rd**, all parishioners are welcome to stay after the 5:00pm Mass to see our school children perform their School Christmas Program at 6:00pm. All are welcome afterwards at 7:00pm to come to the Stack Center courtyard for the lighting of our huge Christmas tree, followed by cookies and hot chocolate.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**



Our Holy Day of Obligation Masses honoring Mary will be celebrated on Thursday, **December 8th at 8:15am, 9:30am (School Liturgy) and 7:00pm**. There will be no Adoration and Reconciliation but we invite you to come on December 10th at 9:00am.

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PARISH APPEAL**

It's not too late to give! Thank you for your generous support last weekend for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. **Your donation goes to support those on the margins who live in poverty by funding non-profit organizations in our local community.** Please make your checks payable to "Catholic Charities" and put "CCHD" on the memo line. Envelopes are in the pews for your use. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.CCHDEastBay.org



**HELPING THOSE IN NEED THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON**

St. Vincent de Paul

Do you or someone you know need assistance this holiday season? The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at OLG can help you with food for the holidays or other resources. Please call us at 510-581-2164 and leave a message. We will get back to you. All names are kept confidential. If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry – please call the same number and someone will get back to you.

Warm Coat Drive

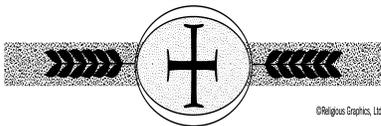


We are thankful for the generosity from those who have given so far. St. Vincent de Paul is collecting **new and gently used coats, sleeping bags and blankets**. Our main need is men's coats in larger sizes; but we will accept women's and children's sizes too. Collection barrels are located at the Somerset entrance of the church and in the Parish Office. Please do not leave other articles of clothing at this time. Items will be accepted **until December 31st**. Thank you for your generosity!



ICF CHRISTMAS CANNOLI SALE

The ICF is selling kits of 4 cannoli shells, cannoli filling in a disposable pastry bag, mini chocolate chips and powdered sugar. Cost is \$20 for 4. **Pre-order your kits by December 8th and you may pick-up your order on December 22nd from 5:00-7:30pm in Stack Center.** The filling must be refrigerated and ideally consumed within 4 days. To place an order, please call Lisa at 510-861-9835. Grazie!



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION
December 9th-12th

The Hispanic Group invites the entire Parish community to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe with a Triduum of Rosaries and Masses.

December 9th, 10th and 11th
 Triduum of Rosaries at 7:00pm

Diciembre 9, 10 y 11
 Triduo de Rosarios a las 7:00pm

December 12th

Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Join us as we begin with Mañanitas (joyous Mexican Folk Music) from 5:30-7:00am. Immediately following, Mexican hot chocolate and bread will be served in Stack Center. At 8:15am we will celebrate Mass with the School. At 7:00pm we will celebrate Mass in Spanish.

Diciembre 12

Celebraciones En Honor a al Virgen de Guadalupe

Mañanitas a la 5:30 am en la Iglesia. Se servirá inmediatamente después chocolate y pan mexicano en el Stack Center. Misas a la 8:15 am con la escuela y a la 7:00 pm en español.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
December 10th

The Knights of Columbus invites all to another Family Movie Night featuring *"The Polar Express"* on Saturday, **December 10th** at 6:00pm in Stack Center. Admission is free!

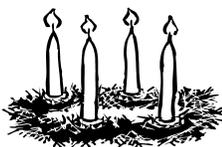
Delicious hamburgers and hotdogs will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit Our Lady of Grace Church. See you there!



ADVENT RECONCILIATION
Ready the Way of the Lord

Reconciliation during Advent will follow our regular Reconciliation schedule with Adoration:

Thursdays: 6:00-7:00pm
Saturdays: 8:45-10:00am



SUNDAY COLLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give 10% of your income to the Church and charity, for example, God will help you live on the rest.

Offerings of for the Month of OCTOBER:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 42,685.00
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 45,780.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [3,095.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [29,139.00]

May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

Raul Cepeda
 Peggy Deadder
 Martha Duarte
 Jim Gonzales
 Elena Harder
 Emile Lassalle
 Grace Letteer
 Brian Linney
 Sheryl Michaud
 Saied Moradi

Cec Penland
 Diana Riley
 Angela Schaaphok
 Alyssia Tortora
 James Van Wert
 Concepcion Velasco
 Mary Lou Vincent
 Arthur Williams
 Peggy Winkenbach

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

In Memorial

ALBERTO HURTADO GARCIA
FR. BRUCE LAMB, OFM CONV.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE
VICTIMS OF THE UKRANIAN INVASION
VICTIMS OF COVID-19

FUNERAL MASS FOR ROSINA LASSALLE



Long time parishioner and member of the 1st Friday Club, Rosina Lassalle, has passed away on October 23rd at the age of 90. Her life will be celebrated on **November 28th** at Holy Sepulchre in Hayward. Viewing is from 10:30-12:30pm, followed by Mass at 1:00pm. Please visit <https://www.cfcsoakland.org/obituary/rosina-lassalle/> to view Rosina's obituary.

prepare yourself
for the coming
of the LORD

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**PLEASE BE GENTLE WITH THE
SOMERSET GATE**

Recently, our Somerset Gate has been found to be tampered with. By bumping the gate, it effects the opening and closing process. *We kindly ask all to be patient as the gate is opening for you to enter or exit the property.* Thank you!

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

Candles for our candle stand are available for purchase. The candles will burn for 5 days and *are only intended for use in the church.* Please do not remove the glass globes from the stand. The cost per candle is \$5.00. You may put your payment in the pouch, located at the candle stand.



**DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH
AMAZON SMILE & SUPPORT
OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH!**

If you shop at Amazon.com, please consider going to smile.amazon.com and choose *Our Lady of Grace Church* to receive 0.5% of all qualifying purchases you make when shopping through smile.amazon.com. Buy your gifts & household items here. Products and prices are the same, and OLG Church will receive a donation each time you make a purchase.



ROSARY BEFORE MASS

Come join in prayer of the Rosary 30 minutes before each of the weekend liturgies. Pray for our Parish. All are welcome!

EXECUTION ALERTS

The following execution is scheduled to take place in **November:**

November 29th Kevin Johnson Missouri

We ask your prayers for this person for the victims of his crimes, and for their families.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 27th:

First Sunday of Advent

Masses

7:30am, 9:00am (Livestream), 11:00am —Church

Spanish Mass

1:00pm—Church

Tuesday, November 29th:

Women’s Advent Study

7:00pm—Stack Center

Men’s Faith Share

7:00pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Thursday, December 1st:

St, Vincent de Paul Meeting

7:00pm—Parish Office, Upper Room

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm—Augustine Center

Friday, December 2nd:

1st Friday Latin Mass

7:00pm—Church

Saturday, December 3rd:

Adoration & Reconciliation

8:45-10:00am—Church

Militia Immaculata Meeting

10:00am—Stack Center, OLG Room

Vigil Mass w/ Student Choir

5:00pm—Church

School Christmas Program

6:00pm—Church

Tree Lighting Ceremony

7:00pm—Stack Center Courtyard

Sunday, December 4th:

Second Sunday of Advent

Masses

7:30am, 9:00am (Livestream), 11:00am —Church

1st Communion Class

10:15am—Stack Center

Rite of Acceptance-RCIA

11:00am Mass—Church

Confirmation Class

12:15pm—Stack Center

Spanish Mass

1:00pm—Church

Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, November 27th

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 7:30am Doris Santana – D
- 9:00am Jeanne Ilag-Hughes – D
- 11:00am OLG Community
- 1:00pm Franciscan Friars

MONDAY, November 28th

- 8:15am Ernie Selmeczeki – D

TUESDAY, November 29th

- 8:15am Larry & Adriana Perino – L

WEDNESDAY, November 30th

St. Andrew, Apostle

- 8:15am Martha Duarte – L

THURSDAY, December 1st

- 8:15am All Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, December 2nd

- 8:15am Alice Goncalves – L

SATURDAY, December 3rd

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

- 8:15am Judy Franco – D
- 5:00pm Alice Goncalves – L

SUNDAY, December 4th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

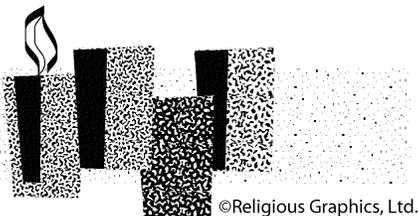
- 7:30am Franciscan Friars
- 9:00am OLG Community
- 11:00am Robert Hess – D
- 1:00pm Maria de Guadalupe Beruben – D
Benjamin Dicus – D

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“As we seek the truth together, with respect for the conscience of others, we will be able to go forward along the paths of freedom which lead to peace, in accordance with the will of God.”

–Pope John Paul II, January 1971

To join our work with Pax Christi, please contact the Parish Office at 510-537-0806.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

November 28th through December 4th

- Monday: Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22
- Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21,24-27
- Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
- Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26;
Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8
- Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9;
Matthew 3:1-12

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ADORATION & RECONCILIATION

Join us on Thursdays, 6:00-7:00pm for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation and on Saturdays, immediately following the 8:15am Mass, concluding at 10:00am.

WINGS - WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT

WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, Catechesis, life sharing and community. Meetings are held at the Transfiguration Church Hall and will be following Covid-19 safety protocols: social distancing and wearing masks.

Next Meeting: **December 1st**

9:00am to 11:30am

Speaker: Fr. Mark Wiesner

Topic: *“Mercy Alive”*

For further information or if you would like to attend, please contact: Carolyn Willkie at willkiecarolyn@gmail.com or 510-410-7223.

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our advertisers who make our weekly bulletin possible and so generously support our Parish. We are grateful to them!

This week we extend our gratitude to:

B.A. MORRISON