



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, Sunday December 1st, we begin the Season of Advent. It is also the beginning of a New Liturgical Year. The liturgical year is one of the ways the church remembers and celebrates the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Season of Advent sets us upon that path. The prayers and Scripture readings of Advent help us to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is celebrated and also for Christ's final coming at the end of time.

One outward sign of the Season of Advent is the Advent Wreath, a wreath with four candles symbolizing the four weeks of the Season of Advent. It represents our anticipation of the arrival of Jesus. Leading us up to the birth of Jesus, it commemorates newness. It celebrates eternal life, and also the death and resurrection of the promised Messiah.

The experience of the Advent Wreath is a beautiful way to give us the opportunity to pause and think about the birth of Jesus. Think about preparing an Advent Wreath in your own personal home. It is one way of making your anticipation of the Lord's Coming at Christmas a deeper spiritual experience for you and for everyone in your family.

With the rush of the season, it is important to find some time to slow down. Bringing your family together around an Advent wreath in your home can be a source of peace, grace, and blessings. It will give you the ability to give added attention to the upcoming Celebration of the Birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If you want to get the most out of the Christmas Season and fill up your soul with love for Christ, the best way to do that is to "let every heart prepare Him room" —and celebrating Advent is the Church's way to do it!

The Jesse Tree provides a great catechesis. It goes through the ancestry of Jesus and how all of his ancestors played a role in salvation history. The tree created can then be used as a holiday decoration.

A popular way to celebrate the Advent season is the Advent calendar. Counting down the days to Christmas helps to focus on waiting for the baby Jesus to be born. You can purchase one or make one as a fun craft time for kids.

And finally, small sacrifices for the Christ Child during Advent helps us prepare for Christmas. Just as the Magi labored through a long journey to worship and gave precious gifts to the Christ Child, so we can do the same; we can give the Baby Jesus our sacrifices during the Advent season.

During this Season of Advent pray: Maranatha Lord Jesus.... Come Lord Jesus Come!

-Fr. Raphael

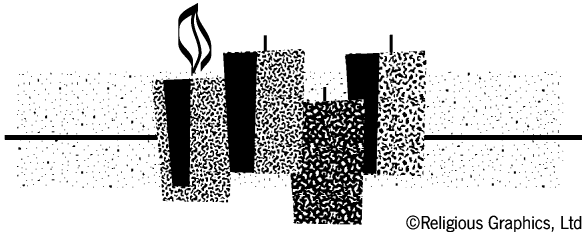


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The Second Sunday of Advent (December 8th)

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*



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**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
December 9th**

Our Holy Day of Obligation Masses honoring Mary will be celebrated on Monday, **December 9th at 8:15am (School Liturgy) and 6:00pm.** Join us!

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
CELEBRATION
December 12th**



The Hispanic Group invites the entire Parish community to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe!

Beginning at 5:00am, join us as we pray the Rosary, followed by Mañanitas (joyous Mexican Folk Music) at 5:30am. Then all are invited to Stack Center for Mexican hot chocolate and bread. At 8:15am we will celebrate Mass in English. At 7:00pm we will celebrate Mass in Spanish which will be followed by a reception in Stack Center.

Celebraciones En Honor a al Virgen de Guadalupe
Rosario a la 5:00 am. 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 en inglés y a la 7:00 pm en español. Seguido de una pequeña recepción en Stack Center.

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.



**CYO GIRLS BASKETBALL
REGISTRATION**



Girl's Basketball registration begins on **December 1st for OLG School Students and OLG Faith Formation Students** in grades 2nd-8th. On **December 15th, all other students residing in our parish boundaries may register.** Fee for the 2025 program year is \$195 + uniform fee. Space is limited! **Registration closes on January 12th.** To register, please visit: www.olgcvcyo.com. For more information, questions or if you would like to coach, please email: olgcycv@gmail.com. Go Lions!



**SVdP WARM COAT DRIVE
Until December 31st**

We are thankful for the generosity from the those who have given so far! St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting **coats** (men's, women's and children's - new and gently used), **blankets** and **socks**. You will find collection barrels at the Somerset and parking lot sides of the church along with one in the office. *May God bless you for your continued generosity.*

**ADOPT A FAMILY
THIS CHRISTMAS!**



St. Vincent de Paul is bringing Christmas to 12 families this year. Among these 12 families, there are about 40 children. We are asking for donations of Walmart gift cards. These gift cards can be turned in to the Parish Office or put in an envelope marked *St. Vincent de Paul* and dropped in the Sunday collection. **We would like to receive these gift cards by December 8th.** We also have families who have a difficult time doing their own shopping. For these families we would like to try something different. If you and your family, book club, small faith community or organization would like to adopt one of these families, please contact us at 510-581-2164. We will match you with a family and give you their wish list. **Gifts should be returned (unwrapped) by Monday December 9th.** If you have any questions, please contact Heidi at 510-581-2164 or email at svdp@olgcv.org. *Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas.*

FESCO ADOPT-A-FAMILY



Our Lady of Grace will be participating in the *FESCO Adopt-a-Family* event again this year. Please take an ornament from one of the trees located at the back of the church. When you take an ornament, be sure to write your name and phone number on one half—tear it off and place it in the basket. The portion you keep will list a first name, age and gift idea for a FESCO client. *Please return your wrapped gifts or gift cards to the Parish Office by Thursday, December 12th.* If you have any questions, please contact the OLG FESCO representative, Chris Ippolito at christineippolito@comcast.net.



ALTAR CANDLE MEMORIAL DONORS

We deeply thank the following donors who have given generously towards sponsoring our Altar Candle Memorial.

Given By:	In Memory of / In Honor of:
Amy Leeman Hernandez	Richard & Martha Leeman
Olga Johnson	Veronica Johnson Farias
Kaye McCann	John McCann
Maria Zambrano	Jose & Gloria Areas

WHAT HAVE YOU PLANNED FOR ADVENT?



Let us make the most of this Advent season by deepening our faith and drawing closer to God. Each Monday during the Advent season, we will share Advent videos from Fr. Mark Toups to help you experience an Advent filled with peace and a Christmas filled with joy. We have *Rejoice! An Advent Pilgrimage into the Heart of Scripture* journals available for purchase in the Parish Office. Drawing from the Sunday readings for Advent these journals lead you through daily meditations, prayer, and prompts to enrich your experience of this blessed time of preparation and anticipation. The cost of the journal is \$10 --give yourself the gift of prayer and learning to hear God's voice. Wishing you a blessed and reflective weeks leading up to Advent. *May the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts.*



**COFFEE AND DONUTS
December 8th**

Come join us! All are invited after the 9:00am Sunday Mass on **December 8th** in the Gathering Area for coffee, donuts and community. *We thank Our Lady of Grace School for this ministry of hospitality. See you there!*



**CHRISTMAS SHOW
NO TICKETS NEEDED!
The Devil Mountain
Barber Shop Chorus**

You are invited for an evening filled with Christmas music and delicious cookies! Join us on **December 15th** at 5:00pm in Stack Center. We will also have a *Cookie Exchange!* Bring a cookie, take a cookie! Bring some of your favorite cookies plus a second container to take cookies home in.

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 for the Month of OCTOBER:

Sunday Plate for the month:	\$ 40,573.00
Month Budgeted Goal:	\$ 44,522.00
Over/[Shortfall]	\$ [3,949.00]
Year-To-Date Over/[Shortfall]	\$ 2,942.00

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:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Esperanza Ortega Alarcón | Brian Linney |
| Susan Anderson | Louisa Hokanson |
| Lois Belmessieri | Maria Mella |
| Frank Broker | Cheryl Miraglia |
| Jeff Brown | Carmen Navarro |
| Jot Brown | Hector Paez |
| Brian Bucholtz | Diana Riley |
| Norma Dockter | Jill Stavosky |
| Maria C. Gallegos | Lisa Tortora |
| Joan Gabrielli | Peggy Winkenbach |
| Adie Gonzales | |

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

In Memorial

BARNABAS HOANG

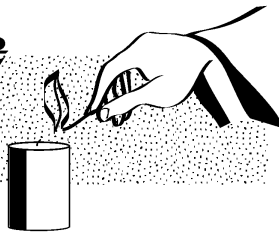
**VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
Next Weekend—December 7th & 8th
Aging Religious Need Your Help**

"Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement," says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, who is 80 years old. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend. Envelopes will be in the pews for your use. *May God bless you for your generosity.*

*we prepare
for the
LORD'S
coming*

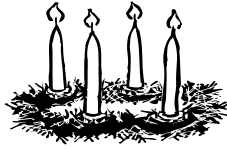


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**ADVENT RECONCILIATION
Ready the Way of the Lord**

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

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



**OLG SCHOOL'S
SEE'S CANDIES FUNDRAISER
Thru December 6th**

Proceeds will go to the PTG (Parent-Teacher Group) for field trips and school beautifications projects. Get your orders shipped directly to you. Free shipping on orders over \$70! Scan the QR code to place your order online.



**CYO ATHLETICS CRAB FEED
Save the Date!**

Mark your calendars! CYO's next Crab Feed is scheduled for **February 8th, 2025** in Stack Center. Join us for an exciting evening of delicious crab, Silent Auction and community. More details to come!

HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please have items for the Bulletin to the Parish Office no later than the deadlines shown below:

- December 15th Bulletin: **Due December 6th**
- December 22nd Bulletin: **Due December 11th**
- December 29th Bulletin: **Due December 16th**
- January 5th Bulletin: **Due December 19th**

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Let us follow the example of Jesus and from this moment renew the promise made to the Immaculata. Let us endeavor to live in such a way as to become every day, every moment increasingly the property of the Immaculata, let us fulfill, that is, the will of the Immaculata ever more perfectly."

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 1st:

First Sunday of Advent

Coffee & Donuts
After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area

1st Communion Class – Year 2
10:15am—Stack Center

Confirmation Class
11:15am—Stack Center

Tuesday, December 3rd:

Men's Cursillo Meeting
6:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Women's Faith Sharing
7:00pm—Stack Center

Men's Faith Share
7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Wednesday, December 4th:

OCIA
6:30pm—Stack Center, Room 7

Pre-Baptism Class
7:00pm—Stack Center, OLG Room

Thursday, December 5th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
6:00pm—Church

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
7:15pm—Parish Office

AA Serenity Group
7:30pm—Stack Center, Room 9

Friday, December 6th:

Exposition & Benediction
After the 8:15am Mass—Church

1st Friday Latin Mass
7:00pm—Church

Saturday, December 7th:

Adoration & Reconciliation
8:45am—Church

Militia Immaculata Meeting
10:00am—Stack Center, OLG Room

**FR. TOM CZECK'S PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND
Fall 2025**

Fr. Tom will be leading a pilgrimage to Poland from **September 13th-23rd**. For more details and to enroll, please scan the QR code.



Mass Intentions for the Week

SUNDAY, December 1st
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 7:30am Manuel Silva & Family – L
 9:00am OLG Community
 11:00am Henrietta G. Silva – D
 1:00pm Imelda Sanchez Mendoza & Ramiro Navarro Ramirez – D

MONDAY, December 2nd
 8:15am All Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, December 3rd
 St. Francis Xavier, Priest
 8:15am The Linney Family

WEDNESDAY, December 4th
 St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 8:15am Cory Nicasio – D

THURSDAY, December 5th
 8:15am Alejandro Porcuna Jr. – D

FRIDAY, December 6th
 St. Nicholas, Bishop
 8:15am Manuel & Dorothy Callier – D

SATURDAY, December 7th
 St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 8:15am Joe Silva – D
 5:00pm Dulcidia Chocha Chaviel – D

SUNDAY, December 8th
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 7:30am Sean Maher – D
 9:00am Mary Fatima Chocha – L
 11:00am Manuel R. Freitas – D
 1:00pm OLG Community

THIS WEEK--Continued

Sunday, December 8th:

Second Sunday of Advent

Coffee & Donuts
 After the 9:00am Mass—Gathering Area

Whole Family Class – Year 1
 10:15am—Stack Center

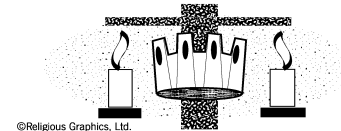
Whole Family Faith Class
 10:15am—Stack Center, Resource Room

Confirmation—Discipleship Conferences
 11:15am—Stack Center

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

December 2nd through December 8th

Monday: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10; Matthew 15:29-37
 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: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6



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. Our theme this year is *“Cultivating Peace in a Chaotic World...And Let It Begin With Me”*

Our meetings are held at the Transfiguration Church Hall.

Next Meeting: **December 5th**, 9:00am to 11:15am

Speaker: Kathleen O’Brien, Maryknoll

Topic: *“Faith in Action: Using Catholic Social Teachings as a Guide to Living Our Faith”*

For further information or if you would like to attend, please contact: Rose Anne Ryken at raryken39@gmail.com.

PAX CHRISTI QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Memory is the horizon of hope. Many times, in the darkness of wars and conflicts, the remembrance of even a small gesture of solidarity received can lead to courageous and even heroic decisions.”

–Pope Francis

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

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:

7 HILLS BARBER SHOP