

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Mt 24:44

Week at a Glance

Sunday

All Masses | Church Second Collection for SJND & RE Program

All Masses | Church Blessing of Advent Wreaths And Candles

> 7pm | Parish Hall Lifeteen

Monday

7pm | St. John Paul Room Advent Series: Topic 2

Tuesday

3:30pm | Church Companioned Prayer Teresa of Avila

7pm | Garden Room Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe (Nightly through Dec 11)

Wednesday

11am | Garden Room Women's Games

6pm | St. John Paul Room Edge

Thursday

7pm | St. John Paul Room Divine Mercy Cenacle Spanish

Friday

9am - 4pm Sat | Adoration Chapel Perpetual Adoration

Saturday

9:30 am | Gallagher Hall WINGS Brunch

10 am | Garden Room Family Fellowship Babysitting Ages 3-10 years

Sacraments

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm Sunday 7:30 am

> 9:00 am 11:30 am 6:00 pm

1st Sunday Spanish 1:30 pm

Daily Mass Times

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am Mon. - Sat. 8:15 am

Holy Day Mass Times

6:30 am 8:15 am 12:00 pm 7:00 pm

Reconciliation/Confession Saturday 3 - 4:30 pm or by appointment

All Other Sacraments
Please call the office for information.

Clergy

Fr. Renier Siva **Pastor**

Fr. Cleetus Karakkat **Parochial Vica**r

William Goeke Jim McFadden **Deacons**

Fr. Ignatius Haran
Pastor Emeritus

Parish Office

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am- 4:30 pm 307 Montrose Drive, Folsom Phone: 916-985-2065

Website:

FolsomCatholic.org

Social Media: @FolsomCatholic

Bulletin

FolsomCatholic.org/bulletin

Bulletin Date	Ad Due by 5 pm
December 8	November 25
December 15	December 4
December 22	December 10
December 29	December 16

Welcome to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

We are a community where we welcome all as members of the Body of Christ.

We are welcoming, faithful, passionate, joyful, authentic,
sacramental, loving and charitable.

Today's Readings

Is 2:1-5 / Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 / Rom 13:11-14 / Mt 24:37-44

"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 and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

- Mt 24:43-44

Gospel Meditation

"I'm never getting enough rest! How can I possibly be 'asleep'?" In a world of jam-packed schedules and high anxiety levels, physical rest may be hard to come by. Yet relentless pursuit of our to-do lists and social calendars may keep our minds off of the things that really matter. Jesus knows all too well a pattern of busy, harried ignorance. "In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage ... they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away ... two men will be out in the field ... two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left." When it comes to the spiritual life, we can be at work or at relaxation and still be spiritually asleep.

Each year, we are called back to remember the essential things. God comes to save His people. He becomes flesh to dwell among us. Supernatural light pierces the world's darkness and our own. Advent wakes us up. "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Every Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas, and we anticipate his second coming at the end of time.

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." There's another hour, too, both known and unknown. It's the present moment. Whether it's a lazy Saturday morning or a major business proposal, whether it's attending a kindergarten play or an elderly relative's bedside, at every moment the Lord wants to enter into our hearts. This Advent, let's pray for the grace to stay alert. Christ is coming soon.

Scripture Reflections

First Reading

In the 8th century B.C., the prophet Isaiah foresaw God's final judgment and the onset of peace among all nations. Do you think it is possible to establish peace among the nations without divine intervention?

Second Reading

Paul urges the believers in Rome to live a moral life in preparation for the end-times. What do you find challenging about Paul's instruction?

Gospel Reading

Jesus warns the disciples to be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man since it will occur at an unexpected time. How would you advise to "stay awake" for this event?



WINGS Christmas Brunch

December 7, Saturday 9:30 - 11:30 am, Gallagher Hall Tickets \$20 per person Contact: Sue Collins, 916-337-6237

Join other women from our parish for delicious food, a raffle, silent auction and our traditional singing of the "Twelve Days of Christmas." If you would like to host a Christmas themed table contact Sue. Guest speaker is Fr. Renier! Proceeds go to Pastoral Care & the Gabriel Project Ministries. Canned foods also collected for St. Vincent de Paul. Seating is assigned so get your tickets early! Tickets on sale in the Parish Office.

Need a Few Hours Without the Kids?

December 7, Saturday 10 - 2 pm, Garden Room Contact: Carol Stephenson, 916-952-6744 cjstephen12@yahoo.com

The Family Fellowship Ministry is offering free baby sitting for children ages 3 - 10 years old on December 7. A hot dog lunch will be provided along with a craft activity (ornament decorating). Please contact Carol if you would like to bring your children. Space is limited.

Annual Breakfast with St. Nick and Blood Drive

December 8, Sunday, 8-10:30 am
Parish Hall
Contact: Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

The Knights of Columbus will be holding the Annual Breakfast with St. Nick. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages and more will be served in the Parish Hall. There will be an opportunity to take pictures with St. Nicholas. A Blood Drive will also take place to help during the Christmas Season and those who attempt to donate will receive a free breakfast. Bring a coat to donate and receive a free picture with St Nick!

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Novena: Dec 3 - Dec 11, 7 pm, Garden Room Feast Day Mass & Procession: Dec 12, 6:30 pm Contact: Beatriz Le Cam, 916-765-3569

Join us for the Novena starting Dec 3. Then come and celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the 12th. Join us in a procession at 6:30 pm followed by Holy Mass and refreshments at Gallagher Hall, after the Mass. Everyone is welcomed!

Advent & Christmas Items

St. John's Gift Shop
Open Before & After weekend Masses
Contact: Connie Aley, 916-337-3607

Advent wreathes and candles will be blessed at all of this weekend 's Masses. If you need new candles, wreaths, and other Advent items, you can find them in our Gift Shop.

Christmas and other gift items will soon be available in the shop. All proceeds from sales help support the many St. John's ministries. Gift-able items include statues, ornaments, rosaries, medals, and Bibles. Come in and browse! If you don't see what you're looking for, just ask us.

Director of Faith Formation Needed

Contact: Fr. Renier Siva fr.renier@folsomcatholic.org

St. John the Baptist Parish is in need of a Director of Faith Formation. This is a paid, full time position. The required two forms (Job description and Diocese PreApplication Statement) are available through our website, folscomcatholic.org. There is a link (Job Opportunities) located at the bottom of our home page to access these forms. Forms are also available in the Parish Office. Please note, experience in lieu of a Master's Degree will be considered. Once filled out please send them along with a resume and a letter of interest to Fr. Renier Siva. Applications may also be dropped off at the Parish Office. All inquires may also be forwarded to Fr. Renier. If you know of someone, local to our area who maybe able to fill this position, please have them fill out an application.



Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 1st

7:30 am People of the Parish 9:00 am Ryan Pamatian 11:30 pm Maria Joseph My Lao+ 1:30 pm Maria Porres Altamirano+ 6:00 pm Ventura & Nannie Lustan+

Monday, December 2nd

6:30 am Jose Moncada+ 8:15 am Billy Halloran+

Tuesday, December 3rd

6:30 am Maria Porres Altamirano+ 8:15 am Christine Emerick

Wednesday, December 4th

6:30 am Maria Porres Altamirano+ 8:15 am Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Thursday, December 5th

6:30 am Alfred Gomez*t* 8:15 am Jennifer Pais*t*

Friday, December 6th

6:30 am Mike Diorio+ 8:15 am Ryan Pamatian

Saturday, December 7th

8:15 am Salvatore Mazzala+ 5:00 pm Thomas Baker+

Observances We Celebrate This Week

Tue: St. Francis Xavier
Wed: St. John Damascene
Fri: St. Nicholas
Sat: St. Ambrose

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9. It is not, however, a holy day of obligation.

December is dedicated to:

The Immaculate Conception

Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for December

The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Intercessory Prayers

Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul.

Alan Ramsay Annie Brozosky Aurora Bertulfo Bert Mateo Cher Juliet Christopher Cordova Denise Phfa Don Hendrickson Don Paul Howell Eric Coscolluela **Ernest Deus** Evalia Hipolito Gilbert Menoivil Gordon Ferriss Goria Menoivil Jared Ellerson Jessica Breazeale Joann Pasterski Joey Durse

Karen Beckman Karen Maez Liam Ocampo Lorraine Mayrand Mary Matranga Michael Debellis Natalie S. Marhauer Oliver Carreon Pat Koelfgen Paulita Narcisco Pierre Lavapie Rebecca Yap Rene Rodriguez Shirley Benecke Shirley Joseph Thoa Gilpin Tina Mills Vince Matranga

Judy Wilkins

Prayers for Our Troops

We pray for our military personnel abroad and at home, and for their families. John Massey Sgt. Alan Price

Prayers for the Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of all who have died, our family members, friends, and parishioners. May they rest in peace.

Ann Danielsen
Barbara Doherty
Colette Koch
Dennis Knight
Destiny Estrada
Doris Bourgeois
Doris McKeon
Frank Brugger
Isabel Viloria
John Drumm Sr.
John O'Malley
Lenon Padilla
Liberato Mariano Jr.
Maria Duenas
Mario Penman

Mary Brisbin Mary Grimes Mary Jo Morris MaryJo Cordona Callahan

Mike Diorio Raleigh Radin Romy Elvambuena Sanh Nguyen Sister Antinia Sr. Kathleen Kinane Stephen Rando Thelma Lyon Tom Baker

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests for the sick, military or recently deceased may be made by calling our Parish Office. For Mass intentions please visit the Parish office to reserve a particular Mass time.

Names on the sick, deceased and military list will appear for four months. Call to extend the time or remove.

The Adoration Chapel

Open to everyone 7 days a week Monday through Friday: 9:00 - 8:00 pm Saturday: 9:00 - 5:00 pm, Closed the 5th Saturday of the Month Sunday: 7:00 - 1:00 pm

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be recited daily at 3:00 pm.

Perpetual Adoration is held in the Adoration Chapel on the

1st Friday of the month after 8:15 am Mass through 4:00 pm on Saturday.

Eucharistic Adoration Ministry Hours of Need

For information please contact: James Banach 916-803-0821 or Veronica Thomas, thomas_vera@yahoo.com

Monday: 9 - 10:00 am 12 - 1:00 pm 4 - 5:00 pm 7 - 8:00 pm Tuesday: 4 - 5:00 pm 7 - 8:00 pm Wednesday: 11-12:00 pm 6 - 7:00 pm Thursday: 9 - 10:00 am 12 - 1:00 pm 5 - 6:00 pm Friday: 12 - 1:00 pm 1 - 2:00 pm 2 - 3:00 pm 6 - 7:00 pm 7 - 8:00 pm 1st Saturday: 12 - 1:00 pm 3 - 4:00 pm 2nd Saturday: 3 - 4:00 pm 4 - 5:00 pm 3rd Saturday: 2 - 3:00 pm 4th Saturday: 3 - 4:00 pm Sunday: 8 - 9:00 am 10 - 11:00 am

We need additional adorers for days and times listed above. Please prayerfully consider signing up for 1 hour a week with the Lord in the Adoration Chapel. You will never regret it!

Simbang Gabi

9-day Novena of Masses

December 15 - 23, 7:15 pm, Church Contact: Lourdes Lorenzo 916-984-4313

This tradition during Advent began in the Philippines to prepare oneself for the birth of Jesus Christ. As Filipinos migrated to the U.S. they brought this tradition with them. As a result, many U.S. Catholic Churches became propagated with its religious rituals. The Filipino parishioners wish to thank Father Renier for his pivotal role in making it possible for us to continue and preserve our Simbang Gabi tradition.

Please join us for the rosary and Mass this Advent season. Bishop Soto will celebrate Mass on December 17th. Food and festivities to follow each Mass at the Garden Room from December 15th - 22nd culminating with a grand "Fiesta" (party) on December 23rd at Gallagher Hall.

Your generous donations collected during each Mass will be directly contributed to our parish to offset the operational costs.

Advent Penance Service

December 11, Wednesday 6:30 pm, Church

Prayer Opportunities At St. John the Baptist

Companioned Prayer (Tue, 3:30 pm)
Daily Mass
Eucharistic Adoration
Morning Prayer (after 8:15 am Mass)
-Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet

Inspiration of the Week

Stay awake! With so many things competing for our attention and so many details to attend to, it is very easy to fall into a slumber. We can find ourselves simply going through the motions of life and losing a sense of purpose and direction. Busy with many things, we lose touch with the things of God, especially the gentle stirrings of His presence. Advent calls us to the challenge of living a wakeful life. Awake from the sleep that life's demands can put on us, and allow God's word to transform our hearts. Being ready for the coming of the Lord is life's priority for the Christian. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!





Advent 2019 Series

Let's Climb the Mountain

November 25 - December 16

Mondays, 7 pm

Gallagher Hall - St. John Paul II Room

Contact: Dcn Jim McFadden

macfam500@att.net

December 2 - Eden, the Mountain, and the One who Baptizes with Fire

We can't really grasp the significance of Jesus without first going through the cleansing bath of John the Baptist, who provides the lens to understand our Lord. That's why we need to go into a silent deserted place where diversions and attachments are set aside. That's why spiritually attuned people have an instinct for the desert, where they frequently come to the Quiet.

December 9 - Tell John What You See and Hear

December 16 - History is Going Somewhere, and it Rhymes.

Exploring the Saints at Companioned Prayer

December 3, Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00 pm, Church Chapel Contact: Bill Stobbe, 916- 505-3800

Beginning this Advent on Tuesday, Dec 3rd St John's Companioned Prayer ministry will be exploring some of our favorite saints as our spiritual companions. We hope you will come to our Tuesday meetings and be part of our discussion and prayer. Who were they, what were their challenges, what was it about their lives that has inspired others, and what do they offer us today?

Teresa of Avila –Dec 3, 10 & 17 Francis de Sales – Dec 31, Jan 7 & 14 Ignatius of Loyola – Jan 21 & 28, Feb 4 Thérèse of Lisieux – Feb 11, 18 & 25

At each meeting we will learn a little about who they were, and we may experience how their stories may call us deeper into prayer. We will have a short discussion followed by Companioned Prayer. We invite you to participate! No need to sign up in advance – just show up Tuesday afternoons at 3:30.

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." (Ps 122)

Splendors of Eastern Europe

With The Passion Play of Oberammergau 11 Days: August 7-17, 2020 Visiting: Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich \$4399 per person from San Francisco Hosted by Fr. Carlo Tejano & Fr. Renier Siva Contact: Fr. Renier fr.renier@folsomcatholic.org

Price for this pilgrimage includes roundtrip air from SF, first class/select hotels & guesthouses in Oberammergau, admission tickets for the Passion Play, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing, English-speaking guides & more! Space is limited -book now to avoid disappointment. This is your last chance to experience the world-famous Passion Play of Oberammergau until 2030!

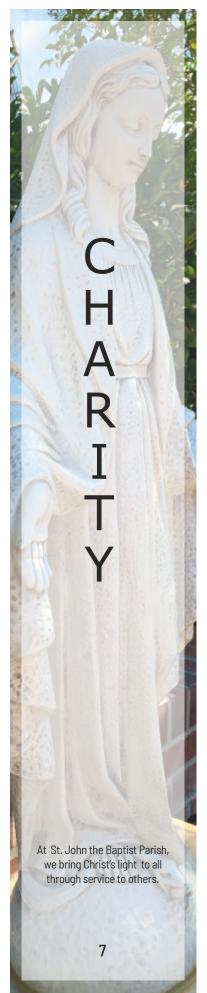
Wide-Open Eyes

When my first child was born, we had a nursery created for him that featured images from "The Beginner's Bible" painted on all the walls. Images of Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, Noah's Ark with lots of animals. and Jesus were displayed on all four walls. As our son got older, we would point to images on the wall as we read bedtime stories to him. Our son is now in his 20's so those days are far behind in our rearview mirror of life.

We prepared quite a lot for his birth. When our next two children were born, the preparation time had decreased significantly. Most parents know what I am talking about. The newness of your first-born brings with it so much emotion that you are compelled to spend countless hours preparing. When the next children are born, you are certainly excited, but you act differently and with a little more reserve.

For most readers, this is not your first Advent. It probably won't be your last. If you approach these December days simply as a way to prepare for Christmas, you may find yourself just doing the same old thing as last year. However, if you spend this time reflecting on the time when Jesus returns or when you shall see him face-to-face, you might be able to stir up some of that emotion of anticipation within you. Jesus is coming again. When people of all ages understand that reality, it can be a cause for large, wide-open eyes indeed

- Tracy Earl Welliver



Second Collection

Thank you for your contributions to the 2nd collection on Nov 17. Our parish took up the Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS). The guiding mission of the AMS is to provide the sacraments — and the re-affirming Word of Christ—to the men and women serving in our armed forces, patients in VA Medical Centers, civilians working for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations. The AMS receives no federal funding. Together we contributed \$2404.

This weekend our 2nd collection is for the Religious Education Program and our school St. John Notre Dame.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Dinner Collection

Contact: Helping Hands 916-985-4630

St. Vincent de Paul will again provide families with food for Christmas dinners. You can help support this program by donating frozen (whole) turkeys, hams, and the side dishes (stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, etc.). Please bring your donations to SVDP at Helping Hands on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, from 9 am - noon. Items may be brought to the Parish Office outside of the Helping Hands hours. Thank you!

SJND Scrip Gift Cards

Have you noticed the Giving Tree in the vestibule? Consider shopping for a child in need this holiday season with Scrip cards that support Catholic education at St. John Notre Dame School—choose from Target, Wal-Mart, Kohl's and many more.

Stewardship of Treasure the Lord Has Entrusted to Us

Weekly goal: \$25,529.00
Offering for Nov 16/17 is \$16,604
On-line donations are not included

St. Vincent de Paul "Giving Tree"

November 24 - December 16 Vestibule Contact: Mercy Knight 916-402-4104

Please purchase a gift listed on the ornaments hanging on the tree. Gifts will be given to the children of our community families in need. The red ornaments for girls up to age 13 and green ornaments for boys up to age 13. Gifts should not be wrapped and can be dropped off in the Christmas barrels in the vestibule. The final date to drop off gifts is December 16th. Thank you for your support and generosity. Blessings to you and your families.

Knights of Columbus Donation Programs

October 27 - January 5, 2020, Vestibule Contact: SK Percy Park, 916-983-3368 or GK Dick Phelan, 916-221-0596

Coats for Kids

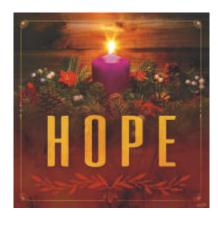
You can donate "new" or "gently used"-washed children's winter coats or winter accessories such as gloves, mittens, scarves, beanies, hats, heavy socks. Coats, jackets, winter accessories and sleeping bags for teen's and adults are also accepted.

Food for Families

Most requested food items are: canned meats such as tuna, chicken, turkey, ham, stew and chili, vegetables, beans, rice, healthy cereals, peanut butter, baby food & baby formula.

Drop Off Locations

A Cart and/ or Barrel in the Vestibule, Helping Hands - MWF, 9 am to Noon or Parish Office during business hours from 10 am - 2:00 pm, 916-985-2065.





Sharing the Gospel

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.



Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

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Dear God, help me to love you and to be ready for Jesus.





Welcoming Ministries

Communications Ministry

Loreen McMahon, 916-933-1330

Ministers of Hospitality

Shannon Bleeker, 916-200-8059

New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry

Lori Hopper, 916-337-0139

Ushers

Stanley Posis, 916-705-9192

Prayer Ministries

Companioned Prayer

Bill Stobbe, 916-505-3800

-Offered to Everyone, Tue, 3:30pm

Divine Mercy Devotion/Cenacle

Pat Koelfgen, 916-989-2915

-Chaplet/Rosary/Morning Prayer, Mon-Sat after 8:15 Mass, Divine Mercy Chapel

 $\textbf{-} \textbf{\textit{Divine Mercy Chaplet/Mass}, call\ for\ info}$

-Cenacle — Zoeanne Tafolla, 707-333-7359

-Cenacle-Spanish — Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

Eucharistic Adoration

Veronica Thomas, thomas_vera@yahoo.com -Adoration Chapel open Mon-Fri, 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 7am-1pm. **Perpetual Adoration**—1st Fri 9am through Sat 4pm.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Adult Scripture Study

Lee Weider, laweider631@gmail.com

Marriage Encounter

Dennis & Carrie Crawford, 530-878-3744 -Faith-based program & couples weekend for marriage enrichment.

Praise & Worship

Sheila Fitzpatrick, sheilafitz1@yahoo.com

Religious Education

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Debbie Duncan, 916-798-0201

-Information & instruction on becoming a Catholic

Theology on Tap

Aaron Santos, Parish Office, 916-985-2065

WINGS (Women in Growth Spiritually)

Sue Collins, 916-337-6237

Youth/Young Adults Ministries

Aaron Santos, asantos@folsomcatholic.com -Middle School/Edge, High School/Life Teen

Parish Committees/Councils

Finance Council

Elizabeth Beigh, 916-730-1291

Liturgy Committee

Barbara Bowden, 916-984-9476

Pastoral Council - Coming Soon.

Please send ministry updates and corrections to Loreen McMahon, mcmahon510@comcast.net.

Outreach/Charity Ministries

Bereavement Hospitality/Receptions

Nina Pucci, 916-947-6386

Catholics for Life

Kathy Baxter, 916-337-6824

Gabriel Project

Helen Boyd, 916-367-8071

-Aid pregnant mothers in need.

Grace Quilters Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

-Creating artistic lap quilts for infirmed, home bound members of our parish community.

Grupo Pastoral Hispano

Anna Haid, 916-956-1177

Knights of Columbus

Dick Phelan, 916-221-0596

Pastoral Care Ministry

Dan Dunne, 916-817-1675; Sunday

Candice Ralston, 916-806-8090; Tuesday

-Bring Eucharist to sick & homebound, T/Sun.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

Prison/Restorative Justice Ministry

-Folsom Prison - Fr. H. Gomez, 916-985-2561 $\times\,4206$

-CSP Sacramento - Dcn Bill Goeke, 916-733-0262

School Ministry (St. John Notre Dame)

Keith Martin, Principal, 916-985-4129

Senior Visitation

Charlene Agles, charleneagles@gmail.com -Visit homebound seniors in our community.

St. Vincent de Paul (Helping Hands)

John Knight, 916-985-4630

-Assistance to those in need in our community Helping Hands - open MWF, 9-12pm

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

Children's Liturgy during Mass

Parish Office, 916-985-2065

Extraord. Ministers of Holy Communion

Steve & Maryanne Ashley, 916-939-7025

Lectors

Barbara or Charlotte Ferreira, 209-480-1153

Liturgical Environment

Arlette Peterson, 916-983-1389

Music - See choir director after Mass.

Additional Ministries

Children's Babysitting at Mass

Georgia Oatmeyer, 916-201-3193

Family Fellowship

Carol Stephenson, 916-952-6744

Gift Shop

Connie Aley, 916-984-9284

Women's Game Day

Roberta Puzio, 916-933-2561

-Join us for bridge, rummy, etc. Weds. 11:00am.

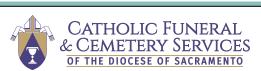


What's The Story Behind The Advent Wreath?

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation!

Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.



Your Catholic resource for Advance Planning & **End of life Services for Funeral, Cremation & Cemetery** needs within the Diocese of Sacramento.

916-452-4831

St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center FD2263 Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center FD2262







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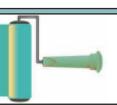
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