



“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.”

LUKE 21:25



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Mass Intentions



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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 2, 2018

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

The Mass of Anticipation for 1st Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Dina Coelho—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

First Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

9:00 AM Theresa Kissane—Memorial

10:30AM Stanley Zienowicz—Memorial

5:00PM Fr. Joseph Cazenavette—1st Anniversary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

7:30AM Emily Devlin—61st Anniversary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Advent Weekday; St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Salvatore DiStefano—28th Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Advent Weekday

7:30AM Father Stanley T. Nakowicz—7th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Advent Weekday; St. Nicholas, Bishop

7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

9:00AM Suzanne O. Carciari—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Beatrice Alfano—Memorial

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:00PM Joseph J. Spicola, Jr. —Memorial

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30AM Hak-Jin Pyun—Memorial

12:00PM Robert Esposito—Memorial

The Mass of Anticipation for 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00PM Anthony Gelsomino, Sr.—15th Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

The Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Carolyn Perretta—1st Anniversary

9:00 AM Eileen Maguire—Birthday Remembrance

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

5:00PM Maureen Mary Durand—Birthday Remembrance





Dear Parishioners:

For us Catholics, the new Liturgical, or Church Year, commences this Sunday with the first Sunday of Advent. This is a time of anticipation and prayer for the coming of Christ. The

Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, born on Christmas Day who is the Light of the world. This time prepares us not only to welcome this great event, but to make Christ more fully alive in our own lives.

As Blessed John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: *“Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This ‘vigilance’ means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living ‘wait’. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today’s reading to the Romans: ‘Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed”* (Rm 13:11).

And so we begin the Season of Advent singing the traditional hymn of the season, O Come, O Come Emmanuel! We cry out for Christ to come into our cold and often cruel world and into our homes and hearts grown weary from toil, fear, grief, sickness, poverty or indifference.

During this First Week of

Advent we anticipate some great feasts of our faith. The Feasts of St. Francis Xavier, St. Nicholas and St. Ambrose are this week. Great saints for us to pray with during this Advent Season.

On Monday we honor St. Francis Xavier, the great Jesuit Missionary of the 16th Century who preached the Good News in the Far East. He brought Christ to places and people in India and Japan who did not know of Him. His Feast reminds us of our baptismal call *“to go and preach to all nations.”*

On this Thursday we mark the Feast of St. Nicholas with a special OLM School Mass at 9:00AM. All parishioners are most welcome to join us as we expect a visit from St. Nick himself! He is a great saint of joy and charity. His love of the poor and disadvantaged reminds us of our own commitment to love and serve to the neediest among us.

On Friday we celebrate the great Doctor of the Church, St. Ambrose. He is a particular favorite of mine having served nine years as Pastor of St. Ambrose Church in Albion. This great saint and churchman was the spiritual guide to St. Monica who also helped to convert St. Augustine. His example of leading the Church and teaching the faith reminds us of our call to teach the faith to those who do not fully know and love Christ and His Church.

Of course, this First Week of Advent ends with the great Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8th. It is a holy day of obligation for Catholics and there are three Masses. We turn to the Immaculate Mother of our

God and ask her to intercede for our nation. May she lay her mantle of peace and love upon us and bring us ever closer to Christ her son and our Savior.

Advent has begun and we need to be mindful of this important season. Our faith calls us to prayerfully celebrate Christ’s coming with joyful expectation and fruitful vigilance. As the world around us goes mad with the hustle and bustle of the secular season, let’s make some time for God this season with prayer, Mass and Confession.

Let’s celebrate the saints and ask for their help in renewing our friendship with Christ. Let’s slow down and reflect on the season of hope. Let’s remain vigilant for Christ’s coming into our lives and in our world. Let’s practice more patience, pray even more and be more generous and charitable toward others most especially the poor and needy.

In a homily on Advent, Pope Emeritus Benedict XV reminds us: *“Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, ‘the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob’, is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.”*

Happy Advent! Be well. Do good. God Bless. Go Pats!!!

Father Healey



What is the Meaning of Advent?

Last weekend we celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe. It marked the end of the liturgical year. We journeyed with Our Lord from his birth through his ministry, passion, death, resurrection, and into the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel to all the nations. Now we enter the season of Advent with all its many symbols and meanings.

I am sure that everywhere we go we see and hear Christmas greetings, themes and music. These are wonderful things but poorly timed (and we miss out on the many beautiful and meaningful Advent hymns such as Lo, How a Rose, Creator of the Stars of Night, etc.). Unfortunately the culture does not understand the importance of the season of Advent and so when Christmas arrives we do not experience it properly. Many people have said to me that they enjoy Thanksgiving more than Christmas. This tells me that there is something fundamentally wrong about how we go about preparing for Christmas today. Lex orandi, lex credendi; how we pray is what we believe; how we spend the month of December will affect how we celebrate Christmas day.

The essential meaning of the season may be encapsulated by the terms anticipation or waiting. We anticipate the coming of the Messiah, the Lord, the return of the King. The term “advent” means “coming” and involves four weeks of preparation. We await two comings of Christ: (1) His Second Coming when he will judge the living and the dead at the end of time, (2) and we relive the period before Christ coming in the flesh in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. Before Christ the world was in darkness, enslaved to the forces of sin and death.

The color of the season is purple like the season of Lent, albeit the purple of Advent is darker and has more of a blueish hue to it. St. John the Baptist gives us a reason for the color purple when he quotes Isaiah: “A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” Our paths are prepared and made straight by acts of repentance and conversion. Hence, similar to Lent, the season of Advent is meant to be a season of repentance and conversion to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Living in the northern hemisphere the days get shorter while the darkness gets longer. The Advent wreath helps us to symbolically experience the darkness of the world without Christ. As we light the individual candle with each passing Sunday the darkness retreats because the light of the world is coming.

Everyone, truly live the season of Advent and you will have the best Christmas. It will transform your Christmas from a season of stress, shopping, gift buying and consumerism, into a season of joy with the coming of Christ.

Weekly Collection

November 19, 2018

Weekly.....	\$12,178.00
EFT.....	\$2,225.00
	Total=\$14,403.00
Outreach.....	\$565.00
CCHD.....	\$2,881.50

November 25, 2018

Weekly.....	\$10,757.00
EFT.....	\$1,850.00
	Total=\$12,607.00
Outreach.....	\$4,294.00
Christmas Flowers (to date).....	\$1,660.00
Annual (to date).....	\$93,172.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



Second Collections
This Week: Building & Grounds Collection
Next Week: Retired Religious Fund



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of OLM Parishioners **Caroline M. Cressman, Ann Marie Hoxie** and **Suzanne O. Carcieri** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here last week.

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday Adoration
Friday, December 7, 2018
Exposition at 11:00AM
All-Day Adoration
Benediction of Blessed Sacrament
at 4:00PM



Upcoming Events:

- **Tuesday, December 4th:** Middle-School trip to "A Christmas Carol"
- **Wednesday, December 6th:** St. Nicholas Feast Day Mass at 9:00AM
- **Monday, December 10th:** Advent School Confessions at 1:00PM

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*The Solemnity
of the Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin
Mary*

A Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics

Schedule of Masses

Friday, December 7
Vigil Mass at 5:00PM

Saturday, December 8
Holy Day Masses
8:30AM & 12:00PM Noon



● **OLM Food Pantry** is always in great need of non-perishable food items. Please leave items in the Food Box in the vestibule.

● **Christmas Outreach:** We are in need of gift cards to Walmart and Stop & Shop for our outreach efforts for the holidays. Please deposit in collection basket in envelope marked "Outreach".

● **OLM Bereavement Group Meeting:** Thursday, December 20th at 4pm in Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loneliness are invited to join us for support, prayer and discussion.

● **For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

● **Sunday, December 2nd:** RE Classes All Grades meet this week

● **Sunday, December 9th:** AM RE Grades 1 & 2 only meet this week, no classes for Grades 3-5. PM RE Classes Grades 6-8 meet at 6pm to prepare for Advent Confessions

● **Monday, December 10th:** Special Advent RE Class for Grades 3-5

● **Sunday, December 16th:** All RE Classes AM & PM meet as usual time for Christmas Program

1st Sunday of Advent



Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the first day of the new liturgical year.

Advent, which always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, dates back to the fourth century.

It is a four-week period of devout and joyful preparation for the celebration of Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Early in Advent, the liturgy focuses our attention on the second coming. After December 16, it shifts our attention to the events surrounding the nativity.



First Sunday in Advent

This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

*Advent:
A Season
of Hope
and
Anticipation*



Advent Prayer for Anticipating Christmas

Beginning on St. Andrew the Apostle's feast day, November 30, the following beautiful prayer is traditionally recited fifteen times a day until Christmas. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the feast of Christmas and helps us prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming.

**Hail and blessed be the hour and moment
In which the Son of God was born
Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight,
in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.
In that hour vouchsafe, O my God,
to hear my prayer and grant my desires,
[here mention your request]
through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ,
and of His blessed Mother. Amen.**

Christmas Flowers Memorials



Christmas Flower donations/envelopes should be returned prior to Christmas. Please place the name of your beloved, living or deceased, relative or friend on the envelopes so they may be remembered in prayer. All donations help defray the cost of the beautiful flowers that decorate the Church at Christmas.

Thank You for your generous support.