



PARISH DIRECTORY

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PARISH CONVENTS

Mercy Sisters Convent.....	884-9292
Filippini Sisters Convent.....	886-4753

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New Discoveries Pre-School.....	885-0776

Mass Intentions for the Week

The First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2012

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Vigil of First Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM Joseph & Lenore Neri & Ralph Buontempo—Mem

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

The First Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM *Pro Populo*

9:00 AM Ruth & Donald Guilfoyle—Memorial

10:30 AM Armando & Katherine DeAngelis & Concetta & Antonio Tribelli—Memorial

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

7:30 AM Mass of Thanksgiving

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

7:30 AM Salvatore DiStefano—21st Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Advent Weekday

7:30 AM Neil O'Donnell—Memorial

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Advent Weekday/St. Nicholas, Bishop

7:30 AM Herbert Auld—Memorial

9:00 AM Beatrice Basler—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:30 AM Dorothy Bresnen—Memorial

Vigil of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM

5:00 PM Sister Wilma Miley, RSM—1st Anniversary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 AM Kate Bedard—3rd Anniversary

9:00 AM Joseph J. Cunningham—Memorial

Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM Dr. Anthony Broccoli—Memorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

7:30 AM Emily Devlin—54th Anniversary

9:00 AM Dr. James Hagerty—6th Anniversary

10:30 AM Augustine Manocchia, Sr.—7th Anniversary



Dear Parishioners:

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" as the song that typifies the Season of Advent calls forth. Yes, we begin this Sunday the time of preparation and prayer of the coming of Christ at Christmas. We begin the season by blessing the Advent Wreath and marking the First Sunday of Advent. The priests don violet vestments to remind us of the somberness of the season. The gospel reminds us this weekend to *"be vigilant at all times and pray."*

Advent is also a time to prepare for the second coming of the Lord. We say in the Creed, He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. This truth flows directly from Scripture which teaches clearly two things on which we must reflect.

First, He will come again in glory. Second we cannot know the day or the hour that he will return. In fact, though some signs will precede his coming, the emphasis of Scripture falls upon the suddenness of the event. Since this is to be the case we must live lives of readiness for that day. Advent is a time when we especially reflect of the necessity of our readiness.

In the midst of the frenzied season of shopping, card writing, baking, wrapping, decorating, and going to parties, it's important to remind ourselves why we do all this and more! Advent is a time for each of us to stop and listen to the voice of God in our lives. Perhaps we might consider beginning our

Advent Day by coming to Daily Mass during the week, turning off the radio and praying the Rosary on the way to work, or reading the scriptures of the season to begin our day. Take some time to prepare the way for Christ with prayer and devotion.

Here at OLM we will also celebrate the Season of Advent by helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Next weekend our OLM Youth Group will be collecting toiletries for McAuley House after all Masses. They also just recently raked the leaves at the homes of some our parish shut-ins. You can see them in action on our parish webpage (www.olmparish.org). So please consider helping them help the needy during this season.

The OLM Outreach Ministry is again placing an Advent Sharing Tree in the vestibule of Church. There is need of gift cards and money cards for the needy. You can also take an envelope and purchase a Christmas gift for an elderly resident at the Jeanne Jugan Residence.

Your great and generous response at Thanksgiving enabled us to prepare and distribute many baskets for the needy in our own area. Also because of your generous support of the Outreach Ministry we were able to send a check for \$1,000 to McAuley House to help them with their many services for the homeless. In their name, I thank you for your generous and faithful support of the needy and the poor.

Next Saturday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Mother Mary under this title is the patroness of our nation and so it is a holy day of obligation for Catholics. There are three Masses for the holy day including a Vigil Mass on Friday. Please join us as we honor our national patroness and our Mother, Mary.

I am very grateful for the many parishioners who were so generous and supportive in responding to the Annual Collection. It is a great start to helping us with capital improvement costs. One of them was the purchase of new hymnals for \$11,000. These hymnals which we begin using this weekend, provide updated translations of the revised Roman Missal as well as the scriptures. They also provide a wide variety of hymns and settings for our worship at Mass. They should last for over a decade like the old ones.

Also my thanks goes out to the members of our Confirmation Class for their coat drive before Thanksgiving. Hundreds of coats were donated and were given for those most in need of them. Thanks to all who donated them! With the cold weather now arrived, they are a blessing for many.

Have a great week. Celebrate the Advent Season! Stop, pray and listen for He is coming! God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey

THE CATECHISM CORNER

“O, my God, I am heartily sorry...” We all know the words that begin the Act of Contrition. They express the first desire in our hearts that brought us to Confession in the first place--sorrow. We are sorry for the sins we have committed because in and of themselves they are wrong. For this four-part series of **Catechism Corner**'s we're going to look at the Act of Contrition and uncover not only what it says about sin but more importantly what it says about God's mercy and forgiveness. We begin with contrition something necessary both for the sacrament and for our growth in holiness. "Among the penitent's acts contrition occupies first place. Contrition is 'sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together with the resolution not to sin again.'" Contrition is a necessary part of the Sacrament of Confession because if I am not sorry for what I have done, how can I be forgiven?? If I have every intention of leaving the confessional and returning to the sins of my past, what is the Sacrament for?? The best way that we show someone that we are sorry for what we have done to them is not mere words of apology or even things done to makeup for the injury, it is by not doing those actions again. True sorrow for sins is made manifest in not returning to that which caused the sorrow in the first place. Yet we all know that at times, our sorrow or contrition might not be complete. We are sorry for the sin but we also have a particular "liking" for it still. This is classically referred to as imperfect contrition or "attrition." "It is born of the consideration of sin's ugliness or the fear of eternal damnation and the other penalties threatening the sinner (contrition of fear). Such a stirring of conscience can initiate an interior process which, under the prompting of grace, will be brought to completion by sacramental absolution." The Sacrament of Confession reminds us that Christ always accepts what we offer Him, including our imperfect sorrow and even our sins themselves!! As we continue to benefit from the graces of Confession by frequenting the Sacrament, our contrition becomes more perfect and then it truly does come from our heart and is "heartily" in the fullest sense of any Act of Contrition. Before your next Confession, **check it out** in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1451.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

Weekly Collection

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18, 2012

Weekly.....\$13,657.71
Catholic Campaign for Human Development.....\$3,856.00

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25, 2012

Weekly.....\$13,671.71
Annual Collection (to date).....\$41,367.00

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 generosity!

Upcoming Second Collections

This Week.....Building & Grounds Collection
Next Week.....Retired Religious Fund

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

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH

Monday — 7:00 pm — Baptism Class
Tuesday — 7:00 pm — Legion of Mary
Thursday — 4:00 pm — Bereavement Group

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8th

A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

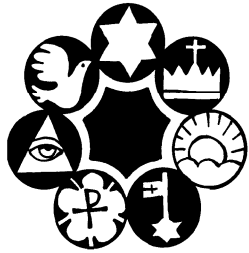


Mass Schedule

Friday—December 7
Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Saturday—December 8
Masses at
8:30am & 9:00am

The Liturgical Year



The liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and ends on the Saturday following the Solemnity of Christ the King.

It is divided into six seasons—Advent, Christmas season, Lent, Triduum, Easter season, and Ordinary Time.

The major seasons of Advent and Christmas focus on the mystery of the incarnation; that is, the entering into our world of the second person of the blessed trinity as the man, Jesus of Nazareth.

The major seasons of Lent, Triduum, and Easter focus on the paschal mystery; that is, the dying and rising of that same Jesus.

The entire rest of the year, the period of Ordinary Time, gives all of us an opportunity to focus on what those mysteries mean to us as individuals and as community.



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.

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of



light to turn “the wheel of the earth” back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth. By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and

used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath. The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, *Gaudete* Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; *Gaudete* Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord’s first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world.



Grade 9 Class —Mondays at 7:00pm
Grades 7 & 8 Classes —Tuesdays at 7:00pm
Grades 1-6—Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 4:00pm



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are you a Non-Catholic interested in becoming Catholic? Are you a Catholic who hasn't received all your Sacraments? Why not explore becoming a Catholic or becoming a fully initiated Catholic?

The Our Lady of Mercy Rite of Christian Initiation Program (RCIA) is looking for you. Contact Fr. Healey at 884-4968 for more information.



Santa's Village

Sunday, December 2, 2012

9:45AM to 12:30 PM at OLM School

\$10 per Family (Includes Photo with Santa & Crafts)
All Parishioners Welcome!! RSVP to Kimberly Izzi at:
kimberlyizzi@gmail.com We will be collecting new and gently used books to be distributed locally through "Books Are Wings" collection boxes located throughout village.

THE PAMPHLET RACK

Our pamphlet rack is an excellent resource for your Advent reading material. Stop by and see what's available!



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The schedule for the ongoing Bereavement Support Group meetings is the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Meetings are held in the sitting room of Mercy House, 57 Second Street.

THE ADVENT SHARING TREE.

The Advent Sharing Tree located in the front foyer of the church is available to those wishing to contribute to this year's Christmas Outreach Program. The regular Advent Sharing Tree envelopes are available to anyone wishing to make any monetary donation that will be applied to the food baskets as well as shopping gift cards. These envelopes can be returned to the rectory or simply dropped in the weekly collection basket at mass. **New this year** - There are colored envelopes on the tree which can be taken for anyone who wishes to purchase a particular gift item requested by individuals at the Jeanne Jugan Residence. These items should be wrapped and returned by Wednesday Dec. 19 to Mercy House. The information tag found in the envelope should be secured to the outside of the gift. Thank you for your gift of a "Sharing SPIRIT"



ADVENT TOILETRY DRIVE FOR MCAULEY HOUSE

After all weekend Masses December 8/9

Members of our OLM Youth Group are collecting toiletries for McAuley House next week at all Masses. All items will be packaged in Christmas bags and given to those most in need for the holidays. Needed items are: deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, razors, shaving cream, powder, combs/hair brushes, toothbrushes/toothpaste, soap/body wash, washcloths, and hand/body lotions.