



*“Blessed are you
among women.”*

LUKE 1:42



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Mass Intentions
 for the Week

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 DECEMBER 19, 2021**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

The Mass of Anticipation for Fourth Sunday of Advent
 4:00PM Michael Alix—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial
 9:00AM John Furtado, Sr. & Susan Furtado—Memorial
 10:30AM Janet M. Fayle—13th Anniversary
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Deceased Members of the Buoro Family—Mem.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Late Advent Weekday; St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Dec'd of the Loeffler & Miller Families—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Michael Monteleone—Birthday Remembrance

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

Advent Weekday: St. John of Kanty, Priest

7:30AM Jeannine Light—11th Anniversary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM Pat Franzone—19th Anniversary

Vigil of Christmas

4:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

The Mass of Christmas Night

12:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

The Masses of Christmas Day

7:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
 10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

The Feast of the Holy Family

7:30 AM Teresa Romano—Memorial
 9:00AM Gene & Mary Verri—Memorial
 10:30AM Barbara V. Primeau—Month's Mind
 5:00PM Dolores Oberg—Birthday Remembrance





Dear Parishioners:

We enter into this final week of Advent and anticipate the great feast of Christmas next Saturday. The world tells us we must rush to get ready and finish up all the chores, shopping, cards, and cooking not yet done!

In the world around us, people are frantic trying to ensure a perfect celebration of Christmas. Traffic is heavier, lines are longer, and patience runs short! All of this is a missed opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

As Pope Francis teaches: *"The Christian knows that Christmas is a decisive event, an eternal fire that God has kindled in the world, and must not be confused with transient things. We mustn't reduce it to a merely sentimental or consumerist festival."*

I encourage you to take some time this week to prepare for the authentic celebration of Christmas. And while we might have to wrap gifts, write cards, bake cookies, clean the house, run errands, and visit friends to make merry, let's not get caught up in the mad rush before Christmas. Instead, schedule some time this week for silence and prayer, come to Church and sit before the Lord and contemplate the meaning of Christmas.

The great Catholic Author, G. K. Chesterton once wrote: *"The great majority of people will go on observing forms that cannot be explained; they will keep Christmas Day with Christmas gifts and Christmas benedictions; they will continue to do it, and someday suddenly wake up and discover why."*

Many voices in our contemporary culture suggest that the true meaning of Christmas is being kind to each other, being with our families, or some different warm, sentimental feeling. A kind of Christmas without a real Christ!

On the contrary, the real purpose of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It's true meaning is that God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son. God humbled Himself to share our human condition even unto death and to save us from sin and death.

There is no better way to celebrate and rejoice at the birth of the Savior than at Holy Mass on Christmas. We have one Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm. Then, of course, Midnight Mass is at Midnight and is preceded by a concert of Christmas music at 11:30pm. On Christmas Day, there are three Masses: 7:30am, 9:00am, and 10:30am. There is no 4:00pm Mass on Saturday, Christmas Day!

When we receive Holy Communion, we welcome Christ into our world—just as Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men did so long ago. The same joy and hope that warmed that simple stable in Bethlehem centuries ago should illuminate our hearts every time we welcome Christ here and now in Holy Communion.

For every Mass is Calvary. But every reception of the Holy Communion is, in a sense, Bethlehem: the "house of bread," the place where God enters into our lives, our history, our hearts, and our bodies. So when we step forward to receive

Holy Communion, we should cherish the moment and truly realize what we receive. As God first visited the world and dwelled among us as a tiny infant, so He comes to us now, in a fragile and humble piece of bread.

You will be able to worthily prepare to receive this great gift as there are two hours of Confession with four priests available Monday from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. Cleanse your soul of sin and selfishness to truly adore the Christ Child. Put Confession on your Christmas list!

Last Wednesday, Sr. Lourdes returned home to the Philippines. She is there for a month attending the General Chapter Meeting of her community, the Franciscan Apostolic Sisters. It is an important meeting in which the community elects a superior. Please keep her, and her community, in your prayers as they gather together. We will miss Sr. Lourdes this Christmas, but Sisters Emma and Soledad are with us to celebrate with their usual joyous faith!

Let's not forget the reason for the season, Jesus Christ! So stop this week to welcome the Savior. Be more prayerful, patient, joyful, charitable, faithful and hopeful! Be well. Stay safe. Do good.

God Bless. Go Pats! O Come, let us adore Him! We wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas!

Collection results are unavailable due to the holiday print deadline.



4th Sunday of Advent



On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy focuses on the Blessed Virgin Mary whose story distills the essence of the season as no other figure can.

Her “yes” to God made Christ’s first coming as we know it possible while her unquestioning faith and trust furnish us with a model to follow as we prepare for his second coming at the end of time.



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.

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

We Wish A Merry Christmas to All OLM Parishioners



The Parish Office is closed for Christmas from Friday, December 24 until Tuesday, December 27

WANT TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS?

FEED THE HUNGRY, CLOTHE THE NAKED, FORGIVE THE GUILTY, WELCOME THE STRANGER AND THE UNWANTED CHILD, CARE FOR THE ILL, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, AND GO TO MASS.





Religious Education NEWS

RE Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 19:

5:00PM Mass & Class: First Communion and Grade 1

Sunday, January 2, 2022:

5:00PM Mass & Class Grades 3,4,5,6 and 7

Sunday, January 9:

5:00PM Mass & Class: Confirmation 2022

Sunday, January 16:

5:00PM Mass and NO CLASS (MLK weekend)

Sunday, January 23:

5:00PM Mass & Class: First Communion and Grade 1

Sunday, January 30:

5:00PM Mass and Class: Grades 3,4,5,6 and 7

Both Parents & Students must attend Mass & Class.



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Calendar of Events

• **Tuesday, December 21:** OLM School Mass at 8:15am

• **Wednesday, December 22:** Half-Day of School & Christmas Break begins

• **Monday, January 3, 2022:** School resumes

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• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated **NON-EXPIRED AND non-perishable food items only and paper goods** in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. **Please do not leave medical supplies.** Thank you for your support!

• **OLM Bereavement Group:** Next Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 4:00PM in Mercy House.** All those who are grieving are invited to join with us.

• For information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or email at outreach@olmparish.org



Henry Hugh Harrington,
and his parents, Travis and Andrea.

Brandon John Catanzaro,
and his parents, Steven and Erika.

“Dear brothers and sisters: these children have been reborn through Baptism, and are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. Through Confirmation they will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and, approaching the altar of the Lord, they will share at the table of Sacrifice, and will call upon God as Father in the midst of the Church.” — The Rite of Baptism



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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Confessions 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
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THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS NIGHT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Night Mass at Midnight (livestream)
Christmas Concert with Choir & Orchestra
begins at 11:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Masses at
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM
No 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Masses at
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

Mass at 8:30 AM
**Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year*

Happy and Holy Christmas!

THE VERY REVEREND BERNARD A. HEALEY, PASTOR,
THE REVEREND DANIEL M. MAHONEY, ASSISTANT PASTOR, THE RELIGIOUS, STAFF,
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