

Honoring Our Franciscan Tradition



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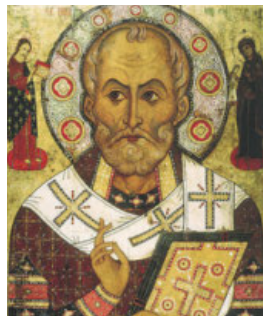
December 03, 2023 - The First Sunday of Advent



The Candle of **HOPE**



Dec 4 -
St. John Damascene,
Priest & Doctor of the Church



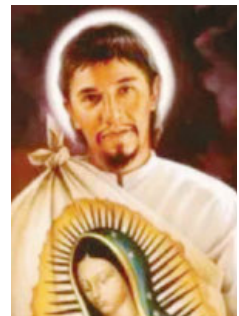
Dec 6 -
St. Nicholas, Bishop



Dec 7 -
St. Ambrose,
Bishop & Doctor of the
Church



Dec 8 -
The Immaculate
Conception of the
Virgin Mary



Dec. 9 -
St. Juan Diego

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ADVENT

The Church ushers in a new liturgical year this weekend, the **First Sunday of Advent**. Advent is about waiting...waiting for the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, and waiting also for his Second Coming at the end of time. But the waiting is not passive. We stand watch so as not to be caught asleep. We wait in hope, knowing that there is more than the darkness, that even as we wait for Jesus, we know that He is with us.

The Season of Advent brings with it a different look. Liturgically, we make room for watchful anticipation... the lighting of the Advent candles... an empty creche... praying for God's mercy in the Confiteor... putting away the Gloria to await its return at the first Mass of Christmas....



"Honoring the Virgen de Guadalupe"

Join us on
Sunday, December 10, 2023
after the 7:30AM Mass,
at approximately 8:30 AM

As we celebrate the Patroness
of the Americas -

Our Lady of Guadalupe

We will have Mexican food
and pastries with coffee and
Mexican Chocolate...
and serenade her with
"Las Mañanitas"

All are Welcome!



LITURGICAL PRACTICES UPDATE

with Fr. Alexander A. Estrella

Journey with us in the
practice of liturgy.
OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE
INTERESTED.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023
9am-12:00pm in the church!



Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into
my soul. Since I cannot at this
moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my
heart. I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite myself wholly
to You. Never permit me to be
separated from You. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX



*St. Francis prayed this prayer before
the crucifix in the little church of San
Damiano in 1205/1206 in the early
days of his conversion.*



Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of
my heart and give me true
faith, certain hope, and
perfect charity, sense and
knowledge, **L**ord, that
I may carry out Your holy
and true command.

Weekly Readings

Readings for the week of December 3:

Sun: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/
1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
Mon: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tue: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
Wed: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
Thu: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/
Mk 1:1-8

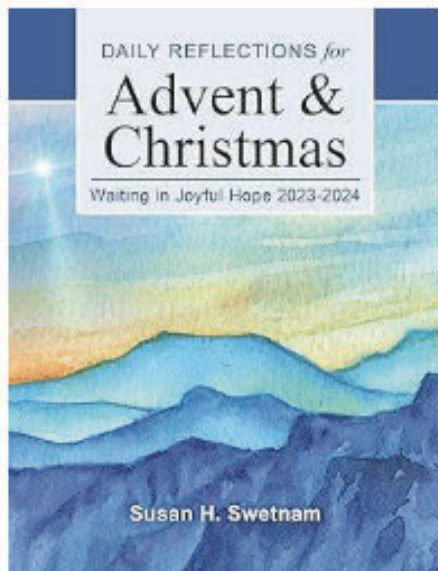
DO YOU LIKE TO SING?



Come join the choir as we prepare for Advent and Christmas!

Commitment is a rehearsal on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm and rehearsal one hour before 5:15pm or 9:30am Mass.

Contact John Iosefa at johni@stfrancisparish.com for more details, and come talk to us after Mass.



Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas

Waiting for Joyful Hope, with reflections for the days of the Advent and Christmas seasons, is available after all the Masses beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, December 02/03, for a \$1 donation (\$2.99 on Amazon).

As we have done in years past, we provide links to some sources if you wish to purchase a booklet on your own:

- **Waiting in Joyful Hope 2022-2023**

<https://www.amazon.com/Waiting-Joyful-Hope-Reflections-Christmas/dp/0814667023>

- **Little Blue Book for Advent & Christmas Seasons**

<https://littlebooks.org/collections/advent-books/products/advent-2023>

Parish Youth Christmas Choir



The St. Francis Parish Youth choir is looking for kids and teens in grades 2-12 who love to sing. We will begin practicing for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday December 10th and 17th from 8:45 – 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Center Chapel.

For more information please contact Janet Stites at janetstites@earthlink.net



A Holy Day of Obligation

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION **Friday, December 8 at 12:10pm and 6:30pm.**

Mass will be livestreamed at 12:10 - <https://bit.ly/37XEfK3>.

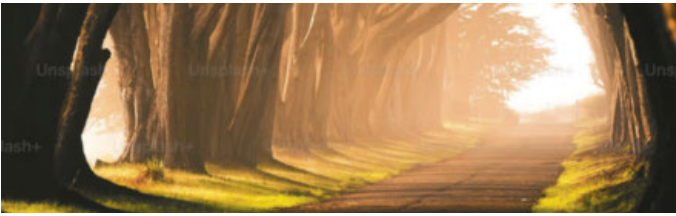
Please join us in celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Dec. 8 in the church. This feast is a reminder that we can say "Yes" as Mary did, because "nothing is impossible for God."



Tis the Season for See's Candies

School volunteers will be at the doors of the church:

**December 9th and 10th and
December 16th and 17th
at all Masses!**



ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

What is worth striving for? What makes life worth living?

VALUES: A SPIRITUAL COMPASS FOR OUR JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT

As we emerge from the shadow of COVID, we may want to reconsider what truly matters in our lives. Values form the foundation of our life choices and our sense of who we are in relation to ourselves, others and the world. They motivate us to live authentic lives by guiding our daily actions. Pour yourself a cup of coffee/tea, and join us for a lively, interactive session as we take the Rokeach Values Survey, the most researched values assessment published. Get to know your fellow parishioners as we discover how our values impact our lives mentally, emotionally and behaviorally and how they guide us in making moral choices.

**Saturday December 2
Brunsmann Hall
9:30 to 11**

Plus Food, Glorious Food!

Early Bulletin Deadlines!

Content for the bulletin for
DEC 10 (2nd Sunday of Advent) is due Dec 2.

Content for the bulletin for
Dec 17 (3rd Sunday of Advent) is due Dec 7.

Content for the bulletin for
**Dec 24 (4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve)
is due Dec 13.**

Content for the bulletin for
Dec 31, 2023 (Sunday) is due Dec 20.



Photo courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

PATHWAYS FOR JUSTICE

Session 6 Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Among the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching, the Call to Family, Community, and Participation tells us that the human person is both sacred and social. Human beings are fulfilled in community and in family. We realize our dignity

and rights in relationship with others. How we organize our society in economics, in politics, in law, and in policy, directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.

St. Francis Pathways for Justice ministry will highlight community participation at our sixth quarterly program on Catholic Social Teaching in Action. You are invited to join the discussion **Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 7:00-8:30 pm in Brunsmann Hall or on Zoom.** Our speakers will help us to become more informed voters ahead of 2024 elections and to explore other ways of responding to this call to fulfill human dignity through participation in community. We will have representatives from the following groups:

- California Catholic Conference (Miriam Sammartino)
- City of Sacramento's Community Engagement Team (Ben Worrall)
- Sacramento League of Women Voters (Claudia Signore)

Please let us know if you can join us in person or on Zoom by emailing pathwaysforjustice@stfrancisparish.com. You can also view previous sessions in the quarterly series at <https://bit.ly/3SS8NX4>

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The First Sunday of Advent



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
December 2-3, 2023



We adore you Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your churches in the world,
And we bless you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world. Amen.

Gathering:

Maranatha, Lord Messiah

Kathy Powell

VERSES

1. Gra - cious God of Wis - dom, who hears your peo - ple's cry,
2. Might - y Voice of Si - nai, whom Mos - es heard in awe,
1. teach us ways of pru - dence, O Breath of God Most High.____
2. Ad - o - nai, now lead us with ho - ly arm and law.____

REFRAIN

Ma-ra - na - tha, Lord Mes - si - ah, long a - wait - ed from a - far. Come and
make your home a - mong us. Let us see your birth - ing star.

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Confiteor: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Kyrie:

Mass of Creation

Curtis Stephan

Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

Music © 1984, 1985, 2010 Curtis Stephan. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706617. All rights reserved.

Psalm: Psalm 80: "Lord, Make Us Turn to You..."

Marty Haugen

Lord, make us turn to you, show us your face, and we shall be saved.

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Gospel Acclamation:

Marty Haugen

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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The First Sunday of Advent

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

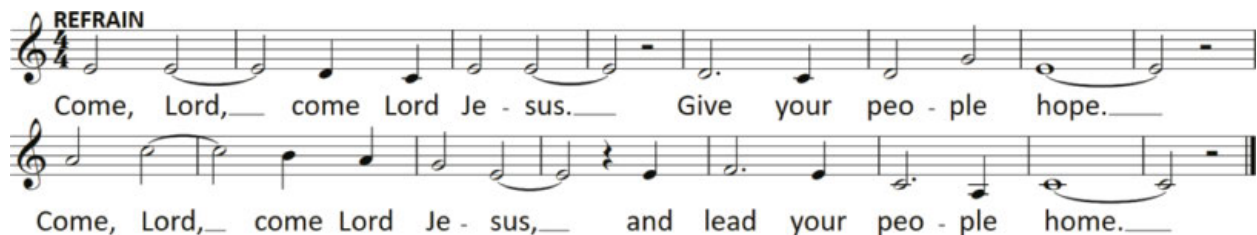
AMEN+

Preparation of Gifts:

Maranatha I

G Westphal

REFRAIN



Come, Lord, — come Lord Je - sus. — Give your peo - ple hope. —
Come, Lord, — come Lord Je - sus, — and lead your peo - ple home. —

O Lord of light, fill the night. Many have lost their way.
O Rising Dawn, shine upon, darkness shall be no more. **(Refrain)**

O King of Kings, love you bring. The world is made anew.
O Prince of Peace, make us free, justice for human-kind. **(Refrain)**

O Comforter, rescue us. Destroy our sinfulness.
O Counselor, mighty Lord, teach us what we must know. **(Refrain)**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, promised so long ago.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God with us at last. **(Refrain)**

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Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Mass of Creation

Marty Haugen

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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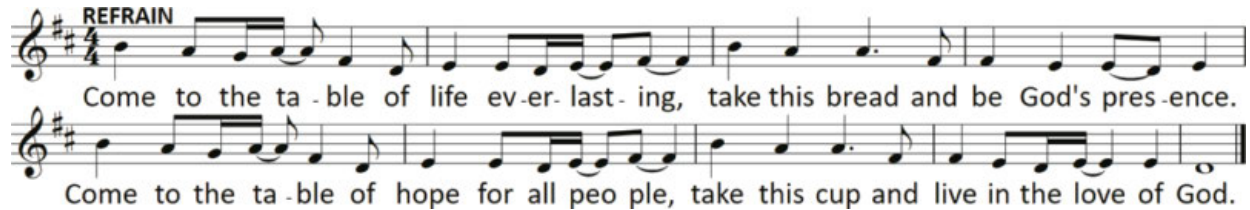
The First Sunday of Advent

Communion:

Come to the Table

Tony Alonso

REFRAIN



Come to the ta - ble of life ev - er - last - ing, take this bread and be God's pres - ence.
Come to the ta - ble of hope for all peo ple, take this cup and live in the love of God.

Gift of love and peace, present in this feast:
we wait for you, the child of our dreams, come fill our hearts with joy! **(Refrain)**

Come, Emmanuel, feed our hungry hearts
with bread of new life, and wine of new peace, nourish us with love. **(Refrain)**

God among us here, you call us ever near,
to share in your feast of love and peace, your gift to all the earth. **(Refrain)**

Our souls in stillness wait the coming of your Son
whose body and blood we share in your love. Come, Lord Jesus, come! **(Refrain)**

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Sending Forth:

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Marty Haugen

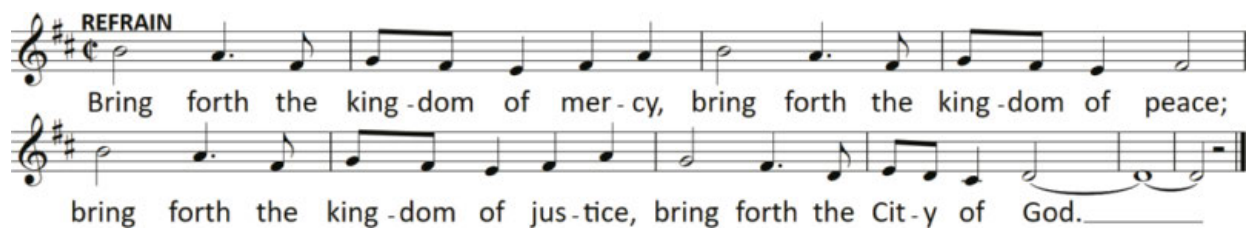
Cantor/Choir: You are salt for the earth, O people:

All: Salt for the kingdom of God!

Cantor/Choir: Share the flavor of life, O people:

All: Life in the kingdom of God! (Refrain)

REFRAIN



Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the king - dom of peace;
bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice, bring forth the Cit - y of God.

Cantor/Choir: You are a light on the hill, O people:

All: Light for the city of God!

Cantor/Choir: Shine so holy and bright, O people:

All: Shine for the kingdom of God! (Refrain)

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An Advent Prayer

Loving God, help us to wait
with patience and anticipation,
to not be caught up in
the rush of the season,
but resting in your
ever-present love.
Amen.

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