

November 29th First Sunday of Advent

Church is open for Indoor Mass

The Church is open for two Public Masses. The masses will be at: **10am in English and 12 noon in Spanish.**

Iglesia está abierta para misa

La Iglesia esta abierta para misa a las 10:00am en ingles y a las 12:00pm en español.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, November 28

9:00am *St. John Volunteers*
4:30pm † *Valentino Alfonso*

Sunday, November 29

8:00am
10:00am † *Nerio Hernandez*
12:00pm

Monday, November 30

9:00am † *Andres Serafica*

Tuesday, December 1

9:00am *Vicky Genoves (bday)*

Wednesday, December 2

9:00am *Gloria Pedro (thnksgvmg)*

Thursday, December 3

9:00am † *Jojo Hoganas*

Friday, December 4

9:00am † *Crisanto O. de la Torre*

Saturday, December 5

9:00am † *Angelita Ocampo*
4:30pm

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's Second Collection is for the **Reserve Fund** of St. John the Evangelist. This account was established to help fund the on-going major maintenance and needs of the Parish of St. John. Thank you for your continued generous support.

Christmas Flower Donations

We welcome donations for the poinsettias that will be purchased for the Church for the Christmas season. We suggest a \$10.00 donation. These donations may be made in memory of a loved one or as a petition for a special prayer request. The names and petitions will be included on a scroll and placed at the foot of the altar throughout the Christmas Season. Envelopes for flower donations are available in your envelope packet or on the tables located in the back of the church.



From the Desk of the Pastor

You will remember the parable of the foolish virgins, who not only came unprepared but also "began to nod, and then fell asleep. Unprepared and not ready for the bridegrooms' coming, they were shut out of the wedding banquet (Mt. 25:4). Two weeks ago, St. Paul in the second reading warned us of the day of the Lord "is coming like a thief in the night" (1 Thess 5:2), therefore let us not be asleep like the rest, but awake and sober.

The theme is renewed today: 'Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come.

It appears that Jesus considers "sleep" as a risk we take in life, because sleep disconnects us from reality. In sleep conscious awareness of the external environment disappears as we plunge into a world of fantasy or sub-consciousness or even unconsciousness. In this state of condition, we are more often than not, vulnerable to rude shocks from the real world: whether they be the "thief in the night", the 'appointed time' etc. or the 'long delayed bridegroom'.

While it is an undeniable axiom that we need to get a good night's sleep, lack of good sleep can also make drowsiness notoriously hard to resist for a longer period of time in order to make up what was lost. Having experienced 'sleep', we know that 'sleep' steals over us without our consent. We know how we oscillate from drowsiness to wakefulness. We 'fall asleep', suggesting that sleep is the path of the least resistance; it is a state into which we naturally drift, unless we take special precautions.

Therefore Jesus exhorts us to be vigilant. Christ implies that this world weighs against our soul much as the state of sleep weighs against our consciousness and state of reality.

How do we stay awake then? Be watchful? Remain alert? And not lose hope! How do we fight the sedative effects of our busyness and the fast pace of life and our worldly preoccupations, distress, failures, pain?

Our forefathers, ancestors and the early Church show us how profitable it can be if we adhere to pious, devotional and charitable practices of fast, corporal and spiritual works of Mercy. When we pray we maintain ourselves into wakefulness. Jesus is asking us: Are you awake? May the Lord find us so, at this coming.

Mass Intentions Book 2021

The Mass Intentions Book for the New Year 2021 is now open.

You are invited to come to the Parish office beginning this Monday with your request for Mass intentions. Please bring a written list with all the names, mass dates and times that you would like to request along with the stipend. The process is on a "first come, first serve basis".

The Archdiocese of San Francisco has traditionally regulated Mass stipends for announced and unannounced mass intentions. The suggested donation for an announced mass is \$10.00; for an unannounced intention it is \$5.00.

Mass intentions are published in the Parish bulletin with the deadline for printing on Monday afternoon. The Parish Office is open Monday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Season of Advent

On Sunday, November 29, we enter into the Advent Season, it begins the Church's liturgical year. Advent encompasses four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

Advent is a time of expectation and hope. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life.

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 we find in Christ.

During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle."

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle."

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle."

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle."