

## December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 - First Sunday of Advent



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**Saturday, November 30**

9:00am † *Benny Falcon*  
4:30pm † *Jose Luis Solorzano*

**Sunday, December 1**

7:30am *Vicky Genoves (bday)*  
9:30am † *Benny Falcon*  
11:00am † *Philomena Vidalakis*  
12:30pm

**Monday, December 2**

9:00am † *Nicholas Manalang Jr.*

**Tuesday, December 3**

9:00am † *Ricardo & Dolores de la Cruz*

**Wednesday, December 4**

9:00am

**Thursday, December 5**

9:00am † *Angelita (Helen) Ocampo*

**Friday, December 6**

9:00am † *Crisanto O. de la Torre*

**Saturday, December 7**

9:00am † *JJ Murphy*  
4:30pm † *Kathy Murphy Keifner*

### 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.

### 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.

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

**November 18<sup>th</sup> - November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Tuesday's Spec coll. ....\$ 68.00  
Tues. On-line giving .....\$ 5.00  
Weekend Offering.....\$2,252.40  
Weekend On-line giving....\$ 295.00  
Human Develop.....\$ 766.00  
Human Develop. On-Line Giving....\$ 70.00

### From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Perhaps you 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 and its anxieties weigh 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

## PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

### THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Pastoral Council thanks you for your overwhelming support and participation in the "Parish Mass Survey" conducted in the last few weekends.

**The Parish Council recommends to the Pastor and the Parishioners the following Mass schedule: 8:00am (English); 10:00am (English) and 12noon (Spanish) effective from Sunday January 5, 2020.**

We are grateful to all of you who took time and invested yourselves in this stewardship of the Parish. Your efforts and your hearts say in so many words that you care and are invested in this Parish of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you.

Long live St. John the Evangelist Parish. God Bless!

### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Multi-Purpose Center of St. Vincent de Paul and the Riley Center are sponsoring a Christmas giving tree again this year, and are soliciting gifts for boys and girls, men and women in shelters operated by St Vincent DePaul. A "Giving Tree" will be set up in the back of the church on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please choose ornament tags from the tree to buy gifts. Return those wrapped presents with tags attached and place them under the tree at any of the Masses the following weekend, December 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

The Giving Tree is going up early this year as distribution of the gifts will be on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your generosity in lighting someone's season.

### Season of Advent

On Sunday, December 1, 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."