

December 6th Second Sunday of Advent



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 5

9:00am † *Angelita Ocampo*
4:30pm *St. John Volunteers*

Sunday, December 6

8:00am † *Librado & Isabel Valenzuela*
10:00am † *Dona Elsbernd*
12:00pm

Monday, December 7

9:00am

Tuesday, December 8

9:00am † *Eduardo Genoves*

Wednesday, December 9

9:00am

Thursday, December 10

9:00am

Friday, December 11

9:00am *Lori Sacramento (bdy)*

Saturday, December 12

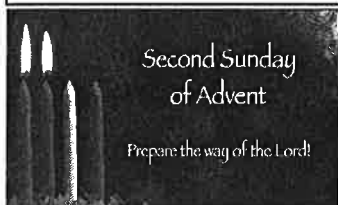
9:00am *Virgin of Guadalupe*
4:30pm † *Amado S. Pinlac Jr.*

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

Prophet Isaiah is instructed to comfort Jerusalem. He foretold the coming of God's redemption to the ancient Israelites and its manifestation in terms of an imminent end to the exile. He proclaimed the advancement of redemption in terms of 'comfort' and 'consolation' as a direct response to their prayer in last Sunday's readings. He preached that the Hope of Israel was being fulfilled right before their eyes. God's salvation is dramatic, imminent and even happening right here and now!

The impact of the message is perhaps best explained (in terms of) when someone comes to tell prisoners (not knowing how) that their sentence has been commuted, and they are free to go home. God's reign is about to establish itself.

To that end, the metaphorical usage is captivating. "Every valley shall be filled in, and every mountain and hill shall be made low". The reading ends with a familiar and tender image of a shepherd caring for the lamb in his arms.

This Sunday presents John the Baptist. His message becomes the link between the expectations of Christmas, celebration of the birth of Jesus in the flesh, and the anticipation of the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism in the Church, where we find new members of the Church also in the flesh.

The juxtaposition of John's Baptism "with water" and Jesus' Baptism "with the Holy Spirit" brings the Gospel proclamation to a close for his weekend.

Something spectacular has begun to take place and more is yet to come.

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.

St. John the Evangelist Church is Open for personal Prayer on weekends

Our Church is "open on Sundays", for private and personal prayer from 8am to 1pm. In compliance with the City and County of San Francisco 'Covid-19' safety protocols the Parish will not celebrate indoor Masses in the Church until further notice. The Parish will continue to post the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on weekends on the Parish website. It is our hope that we shall soon be able to return to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with our regular schedule of Masses.

The Archdiocese of San Francisco has [Safety Protocols for Re-opening for Public Masses](#).

While proclaiming the coming Christ is a thing of joy, John's words are also harsh, reminding us to repent and prepare. People were threatened by them two thousand years ago, and some still are today. As individuals we must make ourselves ready for the coming Christ to reside in us. This may mean repenting for sins, seeking the sacrament of penance. Perhaps it means carving out more times and places for Christ to be born in our hearts or taking on another spiritual practice. Maybe it means simply doing what the psalm asked and using our eyes and ears and mind and heart to seek Christ.

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 **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."