

December 13th Third Sunday of Advent

The Parish Financial Reports

The Parish Finance Council is pleased to present to you the '**Parish Finance Report**' for the 12-month period ended June 30, 2020. The Parish is grateful to God and for the incredible resilience and dedication of our parishioners, staff, and volunteers. Our Church finances and the Parish community remain strong. We thank you for your continued financial support and prayers.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 12

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

Sunday, December 13

8:00am *Godfrey de la Torre*
(*thksgng*)
10:00am † *Benny Falcon*
12:00pm † *Padre Mamerto Sigaran*

Monday, December 14

9:00am † *Albert & Michael Gragnani*

Tuesday, December 15

9:00am

Wednesday, December 16

9:00am † *Amado S. Pinlac Jr.*

Thursday, December 17

9:00am † *Jose Lazaro Zamora*

Friday, December 18

9:00am † *Rodrigo Tarantan*

Saturday, December 19

9:00am *St. John Parishioners*
4:30pm *St. John Volunteers*

Today's second collection is for the **2020 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal**.

Parish Assessment \$ 39,090.00
YTD we paid: \$ 22,599.50
Balance we owe: \$ 16,490.50

Kindly consider helping meet our goal. Thank you for your continued generous support.



From the Desk of the Pastor ...

On the 'Third Sunday of Advent', formerly known as Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, the entire liturgy is transfused with a spirit of joy and rejoicing in anticipation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. The Grace of God shines forth through John the Baptist and Mary, the mother of God.

The Spirit of the Lord God enabled the Prophet Isaiah to proclaim the 'good news' to the poor, healing to the brokenhearted, and liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners. Isaiah foresees the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God's saving work in the midst of his people and infuses in us a sense of joy.

St. John's Gospel presents the profound humility in John the Baptist. We see this in his resilient insistence that he, himself, is 'not the light'. He admitted. He did not deny the simple truth, that he is not the messiah. The utter calm true humility brings out the grace of God in him. He turns attention away from himself, and back to God's Will: that he is one who came 'to testify to the light'. John declares: I am 'the voice of the one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord, as Isaiah, the prophet said.'

Today's responsorial is not a psalm but a canticle – the **Magnificat**. St. Luke mastered the art of presenting Mary, the mother of God, (the best among the best) with awe and wonder. He finds Mary interfacing the promises of God found in the book of Genesis, the enigma in Job, prophecies of Samuel, Zephaniah and Isaiah sung in the Book of Psalms. The **Magnificat** tells us what is actually being realized, while 'salvation' unfolds right before our very eyes, in the healings of the blind, the lame, lepers and the deaf.

Rejoice then, for the Lord is near! He is close at hand.

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 and Wednesday 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](#).

John the Baptist...It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles. John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen. John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.

Season of Advent

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

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