

2 December 2018 - First Sunday of Advent

THE FIRST SUNDAY
IN ADVENT

HOPE

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 1

9:00am *Vicky Genoves*
4:30pm † *Panchita Rivas*

Sunday, December 2

7:30am † *Jesus Navarro*
9:30am † *Guido & Marie Guinasso & family*
11:00am † *Maurice Brennan*
12:30pm † *Luzmila Escoto*

Monday, December 3

9:00am *Henry & Teresa Thrán & Michael Gragnani* †

Tuesday, December 4

9:00am † *Diane Jean Shasky & family*

Wednesday, December 5

9:00am † *Angelita Ocampo*

Thursday, December 6

9:00am *St. John's Parishioners*

Friday, December 7

9:00am † *Librado, Isabel & Herberto Valenzuela*

Saturday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
~ Holy Day of Obligation ~

9:00am † *Eduardo Genoves*
4:30pm † *Rufino Labari*



SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for the **Reserve Fund**.

Thank you for your continued generous support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

Nov 13th - Nov 18th, 2018

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Tuesday's Spec coll. | \$ 148.00 |
| Tues. On-line giving | \$ 10.00 |
| Weekend Offering | \$ 2,680.00 |
| Weekend On-line giving. \$ | 275.00 |
| Thanksgiving..... | \$ 2,219.00 |
| Thnksngng On-line giving. \$ | 70.00 |

From the Desk of the Pastor

We human beings cannot live without hope: without something to live for, without something to look forward to. To be without hope, to have nothing to live for, is to surrender to death in despair. We may find all sorts of things to live for and we can hope for almost anything: some measure of success or security or realization of some modest dream or ambitions. However, the scripture readings chosen for the Advent season guide us with a moral compass in order that we examine, discern and learn what to really hope for.

The Readings chosen for the Advent season teach us to have courage to hope for big things: that

- the desert would be turned into fertile land;
- their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again;
- Their hurts, betrayals, infidelities, disappointments, failures, and divisions would be healed
- He comes to reclaim the people he has made his own.
- the blind would see; the deaf would hear; the lame would walk; the lepers will be cleansed, the dead would be raised;
- the evil spirits cast out and
- sins forgiven
- all people on earth would have Messianic splendor:
 - * tranquil lives: in harmony with God, with nature and with one another
 - * sufficiency of food: the earth will bring forth abundance, with an
 - * end to suffering, pain and misery, and be united in the blessing of everlasting Peace.

Today we introduce the Advent Wreath in our liturgies. This is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in our homes. The blessing of an Advent wreath take place on the First Sunday of Advent immediately following the Prayers of the faithful.

Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time.

We are on the 'cusp' of God's salvation, so be alert and watchful in prayer, while on the threshold into the kingdom of God.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Saturday, December 8, 2018

It is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be only one morning Mass celebrated at 9:00 am. We invite you to try and come for this special Mass. The afternoon 4:30pm Mass will be the Mass in anticipation of the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

ADVENT RETREAT

Christmas begins with Christ. This Advent Season, as we gather to wait for Jesus, may the light of His presence bring Joy to our hearts. To make this advent season more meaningful, come for the 9:00 am Mass followed by a Christmas Advent Reflection on Saturday, Dec 15th @ the St Anne's Hall at 10:00 am. Give yourself the gift of some quiet time before the holiday shopping chaos.

SIMBANG GABI NOVENA MASS

The Filipino Pastoral Council (FPC) welcomes you to the Simbang Gabi, a devotional nine-day series of Masses to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and with her help, prepare more intensely for the celebration of Christmas. The masses will be held daily from December 16th - 24th. The FPC invites you to consider sponsoring any of the Simbang Gabi novena days. The nine day Simbang Gabi novena Mass Schedule is given below:

Sunday Dec 16th at 7:30 am Mass
Monday Dec 17th - Saturday Dec 22nd at 9:00 am Mass
Sunday Dec 23rd at 7:30 am Mass
Monday Dec 24th at 9:00 an Mass

After the novena, there will be a fellowship gathering for delicious pancit, lumpia and other delicacies.

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.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

St. Vincent de Paul conference will present a Christmas giving tree, 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 8. Please choose ornament tags from the tree to buy gifts. Return those wrapped presents with tags attached and place under the tree at any Mass the following weekend, December 15-16. Thank you for your generosity in lighting someone's season.