

December 5th - Second Sunday of Advent



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 4

9:00am
4:30pm † *Librado & Isabel Valenzuela*

Sunday, December 5

8:00am *St. John Parishioners*
10:00am *Philomena Elsbernd (bdy)*
12:00pm

Monday, December 6

9:00am *YMI Brothers*

Tuesday, December 7

9:00am

Wednesday, December 8

9:00am *Immaculate Conception*

Thursday, December 9

9:00am

Friday, December 10

9:00am

Saturday, December 11

9:00am
4:30pm † *Rufino Labari*



Feast of the
**Immaculate
Conception**
DECEMBER 8th



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 22nd - November 29th, 2021

Weekend Offering.....\$ 3,134.00
Thanksgiving.....\$ 1,686.17
St. Patrick Seminary.....\$ 795.00

From the Desk of the Pastor

The passage chosen for the first reading today comes from the book of Baruch who anticipates the rebuilding of God's temple in Jerusalem. The temple was destroyed in 586 (2kgs 25:9). For Baruch, the temple is a sanctuary for those who seek refuge in God, a symbol of God's dwelling with his Glory among his people, and where people can experience God's Splendor and might. Therefore, rebuilding of the temple was important. It would facilitate the renewed formation of the People of God. The prophet imagines the restoration of divine presence as the process, which will ultimately restore the people of Israel.

However, there is much more to come, that which will surpass the splendor of the temple... He who fills the temple with His glory is about to come.....

St. Luke opens today's Gospel passage with a panoramic lens encompassing the whole Roman Empire, essentially the then known world.

Then he telescopes down to the region of Palestine before closing in on Jerusalem, and at last zooming on a single man, John the Baptist. St. Luke like a historian makes radical claims about the importance of the advent of Christ in the context of almost international events.

What mattered to St. Luke about the fifteenth year of Tiberius' reign was that a lone prophet lived in the wilderness of an out-of-the-way region of the world. What was he doing? Saying...

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

Prepare the way of the Lord, Make straight his paths.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

The winding roads shall be made straight, and rough ways made smooth

And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

The Church is open for Masses

Weekday masses at 9:00am Monday through Saturday

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm and Sunday Masses at 8am & 10am in English and 12 noon en español

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 7:30am to 1:00pm.

We pray the rosary at 9:30am in English and at 11:30am in Spanish. Come and join us in praying the rosary.

The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Wednesday December 8, 2021

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.

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.

History and Time of the Advent Wreath

The lighting of an Advent wreath is a custom that began in 16th-century Germany among Lutherans and Catholics. The original purpose of the wreath was to bring focus on Christmas rather than on Advent as a distinct season. In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24.

The symbolism of Advent Wreath Candles:

Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath. As a whole, these colored advent candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

As we advance through the season of Advent, each Sunday opens a new week of Advent: a new Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, represents the four weeks of Advent; each candle stands for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

Bethlehem Candle

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger.