

## December 3, 2023

# First Sunday of Advent

#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

| SATURDAY        | Dec 2 | 8:30 AM<br>5:30 PM Vigil      | Emigio Flores + Rafael Flores, Sr. Betty Ong Alikutty Sebastian Bryce Marta Ranee Gunasekara | +<br>+<br>+<br>(Birthday)<br>(Birthday) |
|-----------------|-------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| SUNDAY          | Dec 3 | 9:00 AM<br>11:00 AM           | All Parishioners Pat Belding Elsie Frugoli Marianne Talani Robles James Lewis Robert King    | +<br>+<br>6+<br>+                       |
| MONDAY          | Dec 4 | 8:30 AM                       | Sonja Craighton<br>Michael Vilhauer  | (Healing)<br>(Healing)                  |
| TUESDAY         | Dec 5 | 8:30 AM<br>7:00 PM            | Ranee Gunasekara (Special Intentions)<br>Advent Penance Service                              |   |
| WEDNESDAY Dec 6 |       | 8:30 AM                       | Donna Sablan   | +                                       |
|                 |       | 6:00 PM                       | Linda Stewart + Our Mother of Perpetual Hel  | -                                       |
| THURSDAY        | Dec 7 | 8:30 AM                       | Father's Intentions  |   |
| FRIDAY          | Dec 8 | 7:00 AM<br>8:30 AM<br>7:00 PM | Immaculate Conception<br>OLG School Mass<br>Romerico Fajota                                  | (Solemnity)                             |

## be vigilant at all times

WATCH OUT - In Advent, we celebrate our hope that the Lord might come more fully into our lives. The first reading from Isaiah voices the hope of sinners for a redeemer. Unlike Isaiah, we know that God has come to bring us back, when the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to save us. Our faith in Jesus leads us to a new way of looking at the world. We can see what God is doing as well as remembering what God has done.

Like the gatekeepers in Jesus' Gospel parable, we need to keep our eyes open for him. When we only look out for ourselves, we may miss the signs of God's presence around us. Instead of looking at the difficulties of life as obstacles, we can watch for them as opportunities to stretch our faith, to rely on God, or to show God's love to a friend.

The Corinthians were also watching for the Lord to come. They were thinking of Jesus as coming in glory. Though we don't see the full glory of the Lord, part of that glory is his presence in the sacraments. In them we celebrate not just the coming of the Lord, but his working in the world. He shares his life with us in baptism, gives us his Spirit in confirmation and himself in the Eucharist, heals us in reconciliation and the anointing of the sick, and calls us to make him present to others in holy orders and matrimony. You could almost say his second coming is taking place now. Watch for it. -Tom Schmidt

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE on Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00 PM. Whether you've gone to confession recently, or haven't for many years, this is a great chance to Prepare for the Lord. Visiting priests will be on-site to hear your confession. Open your heart to conversion. Be patients. Be open to receive the Lord's great mercy.



CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES - One of the best things about celebrating a Catholic Christmas are the final days leading up to Christmas Eve. There are several long-standing Catholic cultural traditions that take us through these final days of Advent, heightened with anticipation in so soon welcoming the birth of the King of Kings. The Las Posadas ("The Inns") celebrated in Latin American countries, and Simbáng Gabi ("Night Mass") in the Philippines are just two examples of nine-day celebrations beginning on December 15 and continuing until December 23. All are welcome to join these traditions, even offer Masses of thanksgiving, or for a loved one, living/decease. Father Mathew, visiting priests and Bishop Jaime Soto will rotate celebrating the Novena Masses. Offering envelopes are in the Church, and can be dropped int he Sunday collection basket. A potluck fellowship occurs every night, after Mass.

9 Day Christmas Novena Mass Schedule: December 15, and 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22, at 6:30 PM. December 16 and 23, at 5:30 PM (Saturday Vigil.)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - What is Children's Liturgy? It is the *liturgy of the word* for children (ages 3-7) which covers the Sunday Gospel and Readings at a level for children to understand and enjoy. During Advent, at the Sunday Masses, before the "liturgy of the word", a Catechist will escort the little children from the Church to the Rectory for a short lesson, then all will return after the homily. Call the Parish Office at (916) 371-4814 for information or to volunteer as a Catechist for Children's Liturgy Ministry.

**GIVING TREE -** Mom's ministry are proud to introduce the GIVING TREE located at the back of the Church. Give the gift of joy to a less fortunate individual It's a simple process:

- 1. pick a tag off the tree
- 2. buy the item on the tag
- 3. return the unwrapped item & tag by placing back under the tree, or drop off at the Parish Office during office hours

Thank you for giving generously and for bringing joy to others during these holidays.



#### **SERVICE**



Weekly Budget Goal: \$4,271.00 Collection November 12: \$3,888.00

This Sunday, the 2nd Collection is for the Maintenance fund. Next upgrade will be for the Church carpet.

Remember Our Lady of Grace Church when shopping online at **smile.amazon.com** 

Thank you for your loving support!

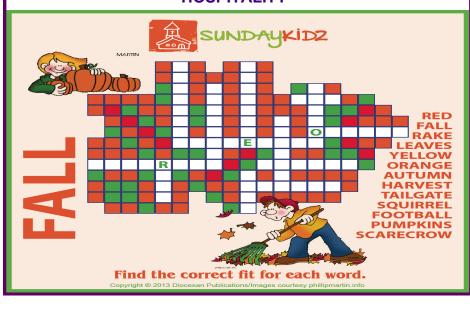
#### PRAYER

Tuesday, December 5: Advent Penance Service at 7:00 PM. Friday, December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation. Mass Times: 7:00 AM; 8:30 AM OLG School Mass; and 7:00 PM.

#### **FORMATION**

MARY'S SINFULNESS AND SIMPLICITY - It has been my mission lately to live as simply as possible. One of my mottos has become: "Make Due". One of my models for living simply is the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose Immaculate Conception we celebrate on December 8. I can't imagine she desired more earthly things, and I can imagine her being thankful for everything she did have, no matter how small. Her pure soul proclaimed the greatness of the Lord and her simple spirit lacked for nothing. In the Gospel, Mary's response to the Angel Gabriel was "I am the handmaid of the Lord." Simple handmaids. The second part of her response was, "May it be done unto me according to your word." On this special Solemnity, may we not only recognize Mary in her sinlessness, but in her simplicity as well. Sin complicates and multiplies confusion. It fosters negativity and division. But Mary did not suffer those side effects within her being. She desired one thing, to do the will of God. As we seek to live less sinfully and more simply, may this be our desire as well. By Tami Urcia

#### HOSPITALITY





PASTORAL & FORMATION SUPPORT - Call the Parish Office: (916) 371-4814 for spiritual formation assistance.

Communion for the Homebound or Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick - Call the Parish Office to schedule a visit. One need not be in immediate danger of death to request support.

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVDP) -

If anyone in our Parish or greater community needs assistance, or if anyone would like to volunteer their time to work with our Parish SVDP program please call: (916) 371-5264.

#### Life Long Catholic Faith Formation

<u>Baptism</u> - Mandatory class for parents and godparents is scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the rectory. Baptisms will be scheduled for the First Saturday at 11:30 am after completion of the class and all required paperwork. Please call the Parish Office to register for the class or to schedule the Baptism.

Adult Bible Study - Tuesdays at 7pm in the Parish Center.

Children's Religious Education/Catholic Faith Formation (CFF) T K4 - 8th - Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Includes preparation in the 2nd grade to receive First Eucharist; and preparation in the 7th grade for Confirmation. Both sacraments require 2-year attendance in CFF. Classes for high school students available. Adult and Youth Catechists and Office Help needed. Call the Director of Religious Education: (916) 371-4814 for enrollment questions or to volunteer in our CFF program.

<u>Marriage Preparation</u> - Engaged couples should contact the Parish Office to begin preparation nine (9) months prior to the intended wedding date.

<u>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)</u> - Thursdays 6pm-8:30pm in the Parish Center. All are welcome, baptized and un-baptized Christians seeking to complete their initiation into the Faith.

Graced Youth Ministry - Alternating Sundays at 4pm in the Parish Center.

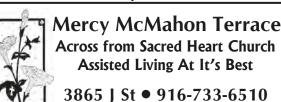
<u>Parish Council</u>: Chair: Michael Babowal; Members: Sonja Craighton, Keith Doyle, Mike Fritz, Cara Giordano, Helen Kanowsky, Joe Matella, Courtney Schrag, and Casey Valine Email: parishcouncil@westsacolg.org

<u>Finance Council:</u> Chair: Kenneth Barrow; Members: Maggie Carson, Anthony Tassone, and Harry Valencia. Call the Parish Office: (916) 371-4814 for questions.

| - Welcome to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church!  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| New to the parish? Like to register?<br>Please fill in & tear this off & drop in the offertory basket. |  |  |  |  |
| Name:  |  |  |  |  |
| Phone:   |  |  |  |  |







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Meets 2nd Wednesdays at 7pm in the Convent Building, Our Lady of Grace School.

For membership information contact Byron Paige, Membership Chairman: (916) 995-4570



Pregnant? Need a place to stay?
Call our helpline: 800-723-8331
or 916-395-9370
to speak with one of our counselors
https://help.goodcounselhomes.org

THE ST. 1949 + WEST SACRAMENTO

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Deacon David Campbell
davidcampbell@westsacolg.org
Dena Serrano, Director of Religious Education
formation@westsacolg.org

## Mass Schedule

Weekdays (except Thursday): 8:30am Saturday Vigil: 5:30 pm Sunday: 9am and 11am First Saturday (Immaculate Heart of Mary): 8:30am

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration: 7 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:45 to 5:15 or by appointment

<u>Mission Statement</u> - We are a welcoming Eucharistic Community nourished by the Word of God, committed to extend Christ's unconditional love to ALL.

### Our Lady of Grace School

Transitional Kindergarten through 8th Grade Casey Valine, Principal 1990 Linden Road, West Sacramento, California 95691 Office: (916) 371-9416 ◆ Email: office@olgwestsac.com