

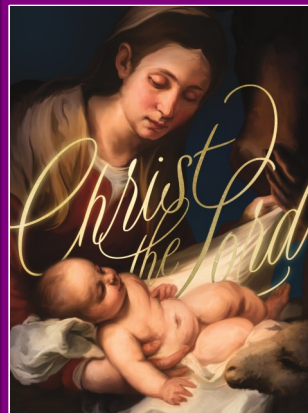
December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

Live-stream All Masses on the West Sac OLG YouTube Channel

SUNDAY	Dec 21	5:30 PM	Vigil	Francine Fua	(Healing)
	Dec 22	9 AM		Ranee Gunasekara	(Healing)
MONDAY	Dec 22	6:30 PM		All Parishioners	Christmas Novena
	Dec 23	8:30 AM			
TUESDAY	Dec 23	6:30 PM			Christmas Novena Mass
	Dec 24	8:30 AM			
WEDNESDAY	Dec 24	5 PM			Christmas Eve Family Mass (OLG School)
	Dec 24	12 AM			Christmas Midnight Mass (Carols 11:30 PM)
THURSDAY	Dec 25	9 AM			The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
	Dec 25	11 AM		Manuel Soliven	(Birthday)
FRIDAY	Dec 26	8:30 AM			Father Mathew's Intentions
	Dec 27	8:30 AM			Mass in Church



THE SIGN OF GOD

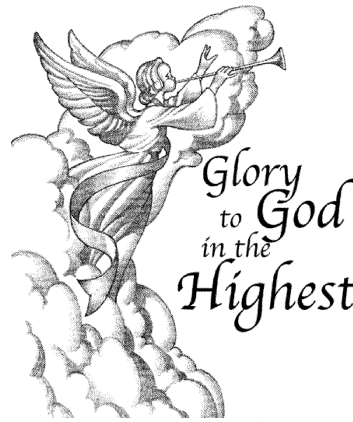
The Gospel from the Christmas Mass during the Night proclaims, "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you." This has me thinking about the importance of physical signs. Wedding rings are exchanged as a sign of commitment. Gifts are exchanged as a sign of love or friendship. In today's Gospel we have the signs of the manger and the swaddling clothes that are communicating to us that God has become flesh.

Signs are important for us.

The beautiful thing about the signs we have in the Catholic Church is that they go beyond mere symbols. Today we commemorate not just a sign of God's love in clothes and a structure, but we commemorate God literally taking on flesh to be a physical and effective sign of his love. Not just a sign in the sense of symbolic representation, but a sign that is so real and so effective that it literally becomes what it signifies.

We see this played out in every Mass. We start with the Liturgy of the Word where we read from Scripture. But that Word, throughout the course of the Mass, becomes so living, so real, so physical, so effective, that the Word of God literally becomes flesh for us on the altar. This is the very thing we celebrate this Christmas season. We can think back to all the great symbols that plunge us deeply into beautiful memories of family life, but let's set aside some special time today to focus on the fact that God transcends all earthly signs and literally becomes one of us. He wants to be one with you and with me. If there is nothing else we take out of our celebrations today, I think it would do us well to focus on that reality. God loves you enough that he was born in a manger to have a relationship with you and one day be with you forever in paradise. (Tommy Shultz)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children,

Behold I proclaim to you good news of great Joy" (Luke 2:10) were the words of the angels proclaiming the birth of Jesus to the Shepherds. These are not just words addressed to people a long time ago, but this is God's message to us today. Through every Christmas, every Easter, through the church and

every celebration of the sacraments, through the passing of every year, God is leading us to a life beyond the visible world. We are one year closer to that day.

Even though we had abandoned God, God has not abandoned us. God has been with us through the centuries and throughout our life. Let this Christmas celebration unite us a little more closely to Jesus and to our Blessed Mother. Let us be faithful to God, through the sacraments, our daily prayer and the daily reading of the Bible. Let us be faithful to Him who has been faithful to His promises and has never abandoned us. May Baby Jesus, His Mother and St. Joseph be the constant companions on our life's Journey. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year, a new year where we are with God and God with us.

With Much Love,

Fr. Mathew Rappu

Your Pastor



"Our faith is not a tranquilizer for people under stress; it is a love story for people in love." (Pope Francis)

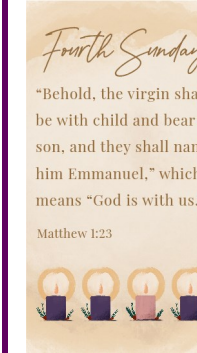
The Parish Office will be CLOSED on Wednesday, December 25, and Thursday, December 26, in observance of Christmas.

Father Mathew, Deacon Dave and Staff wish you God's rich blessings of love and joy now and in the new year.



A STEWARD MAKES GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE BY IMITATING JESUS.

SERVICE & PRAYER



Please help us reach our Weekly Budget Goal of \$4,271.00
Collection for Dec 01: \$3675.50
Dec 08: \$3605 Dec 15: \$3,047
Pray for the sick members in the Parish:
Shirley Chiang, Millie Centers, Stan Holland,
Michael Vilhauer, Pacing McFeely, Sonja Craighton

FORMATION

Children's Faith Formation (CFF) Classes resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 5:30 PM with a joint session at the church.

Adult Bible Study meet on Tuesdays, except the first of the month. Please contact Ana Ramirez-Palmer for information.

Baptism Class on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 7 PM. Please call the Parish Office (916) 371-4814 to sign up.



HOSPITALITY

THANK YOU to our ministers and volunteers of our faith community who have assisted in the preparation of the Advent Penance Service & priest dinner, Giving Tree, Christmas Novena & fellowship (Simbang Gabi), put up Christmas lights and tree, those who organized and volunteered for the children's pageant, decorated the church and school, individuals who served in our children's choir, and liturgical celebrations at Christmas.

May God bless you for offering your time, talent and treasure for the glory of God during Advent and Christmas season.

KID'S CORNER

