



First Sunday of Advent December 2, 2007

*“You . . . must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”*

— Matthew 24:44

Parish Office

Mon–Fri, 9–Noon, 1–4 p.m.
879-1120 Fax: 377-3587
Sylvia Bennett – Secretary
Jean O’Connell – Receptionist
Catherine Carrow – Bookkeeper

School Office

School days, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Ph: 377-6545 Fax: 377-8491
Gail Cirone - School Principal
Chris Siegfried - School Vice Principal
Connie Tomasello - Receptionist

Catechetical Ministry / Religious Ed K-12:

Office Hours - M-T-W, 9 to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
Ph: 377-2111 reled@sfcabrini.org

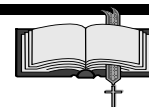
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Before the Second Vatican Council in the mid-1960s, Advent had a strong penitential tone, reminiscent of Lent. From as long ago as the fourth century, some Christians began a solemn fast on St. Martin’s Day, November 11. This “Saint Martin’s Lent” extended all the way to Christmas, and was widely followed in the dioceses of France and Germany, and in the Middle Ages in England. Fasting was required, and dancing and similar activities were banned for the duration. The fast had a social function, too, assuring that the winter food supplies would stretch into spring.

At the Second Vatican Council, some bishops argued that a revival of the long winter’s fast would give the Church a chance to establish the message and themes of the Incarnation long before the holiday hubbub took hold. This proposal didn’t pass, and Advent emerged as a four-week period of reflection, expectant waiting, and joyful preparation for the coming of the Lord. The season has two principal phases, with the first beginning this Sunday. The second phase commences on December 17, when the liturgy begins to unfold the story of the Savior’s coming. Interestingly, the Eastern Church maintains a strongly penitential note in Advent, which is called “Winter Lent,” “The Nativity Fast,” or “Christmas Lent,” and has laws forbidding people to absent themselves from liturgy from December 17 onward.

—Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

Readings for This Week



Mon: Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

Tues: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wed: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thurs: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Fri: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Sat: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Sun: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12



Mass Intentions - Dec. 1 to Dec. 9

SAT	8:30 a.m. Don Crooks † 5:00 p.m. Bill Sadler †
SUN	8:00 a.m. Rafael Salas † 9:30 a.m. People of the Parish 11:30 a.m. Angela Cosentino, Spec. Int.
MON	8:30 a.m. Gloria Piro †
TUE	8:30 a.m. Stacy Beddeson †
WED	8:30 a.m. Florence Oehme †
THUR	8:30 a.m. John Castagna †
FRI	8:30 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Kraljev, Spec. Int. 5:00 p.m. John Murray †
SAT	8:30 a.m. People of the Parish 5:00 p.m. Rita Roulin †
SUN	8:00 a.m. Kathy Dziuba Martin † 9:30 a.m. People of the Parish 11:30 a.m. Lupe Salazar †



Let Us Pray for our parishioners who are homebound, sick, recovering, or are confined to rest homes, that Jesus be their strength and comfort. This week we especially pray for **Barbara Ross, Dave Drotar, Vince Cusella, Angela Cosentino, James Fox, Bob Bombaci, Art Swain**. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. To place a name on this list (for 4 weeks), contact the Parish Office. You may also write the names in the Book of the Sick, next to Mary’s shrine.



Dec. 3 – Dec. 9 2007

The Rosary is recited daily following the 8:30 a.m. Mass and on Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm

- MON 7:00p Parish Mission - CH
- TUE 9:00a Perpetual Help Devotions - CH
- 10:45a Women's Bible Study - PC
- 1:05p SVdP Comm. Mtg. - PC
- 6:30p RCIA - PC
- 7:00p Parish Mission - CH
- WED 5:30p Rel. Ed. - PC
- 7:00p Advent Penance Service - CH
- THU 1:15p Legion of Mary - PC
- 7:00p Parish Mission - CH
- FRI 5:00p Bingo: Doors Open - EH/K
- 5:00p Rel. Ed. - PC
- SAT No Events Scheduled
- SUN 6:00p Indian Community - EH

Altar Society Dec. 7, 8

Dion Hales 559-0861
Janet Garcia 265-5032

MCO

The Mexican Catholic Organization wishes to invite everyone to a celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe / Juan Diego Mass on Saturday, Dec. 8th at 5pm. Manuel Ramero will be back to sing and a reception will follow in the Parish Center. The club will also be celebrating our quarterly Mass.

There will be an **Advent Penance Service** in the church on Wednesday, Dec. 5th starting at 7:00pm.

Retirement Fund for Religious

There will be a special collection next week to benefit the elderly religious. The average Catholic sister, brother, or order priest remains in active ministry until age 74. Today, 37,870 women and men religious are past age 70 and need our help with the current high cost of living and health care. To learn more, visit www.retiredreligious.org.



Special Collection

There will be a special collection **today** for SFC school.

COLLECTIONS REPORT - 11/25/07

Fiscal Year 7/1/07 — 6/30/08

	Last Week	Year-to-date
Offering	\$12,881	\$262,906

Thank you for using your envelopes. We require \$19,230 weekly in our collection plate to meet our budget. We were short last week by \$6349 God bless you for your generosity.

1st Sunday of Advent

Preparation for Christmas is an important theme for Advent, but more is involved. Advent gives us a vision of our lives as Christians and shows us the possibilities of life.

The vision of life that Advent gives us is twofold; it looks back to the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. In the interval between these two events we find meaning for our life as a Christian.

First we celebrate Christ-become-human. We view his life and experience his presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. But Jesus knew that the human heart could not live in isolation. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing. Together we find real meaning.

When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us.

When Christ comes again, his presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community.

This is the "greater significance" of Advent. In these few short weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time - from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ.

Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep.

PAGER PRAYER

"Pray without ceasing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

As part of our Pager Prayer Ministry, we ask our parishioners to connect with those in need of our prayers and let them know that, even with all the chaos in our daily lives, their friends and family are still thinking and praying for them on a daily basis. Call the corresponding pager number(s) below. You will hear three beeps, then press 1, then the # sign, then hang up. The pager will vibrate and display "New Prayer" to the individuals letting them know that someone, somewhere just thought about and prayed for them.

Alejandro Aguirre 231-2465

(Alejandro is 2 years old with Spinal Muscular Atrophy)

Vince Cusella 1-800-329-5893

This simple yet highly effective process not only reaches out to those in need but promotes both physical and spiritual healing!

There will be a 5:00 pm Vigil Mass on Friday, December 7th for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

This year, December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, falls on a Saturday. Is it still a holy day of obligation? What do you celebrate on Saturday night: Immaculate Conception or the Second Sunday of Advent? Can you satisfy the holy day obligation and the Sunday obligation in one Mass?

Answer: The obligation to attend Mass on December 8 remains even if it falls on a Saturday. Therefore, December 8, 2007 is still a holy day of obligation even though it falls on Saturday this year. In liturgical time-keeping, days tend to begin with sunset the day before and end at sunset the day of. Technically, they begin after Evening Prayer the night before and end with Evening Prayer the day of. Sundays and solemnities will include the Evening Prayer the night before as part of the solemnity.

- On the evening of Friday, December 7, 2007, one may celebrate an anticipated Mass for Immaculate Conception which would satisfy the obligation for Immaculate Conception.
- During the day on Saturday, December 8, 2007, the Masses would be for Immaculate Conception, and anyone participating in these Masses satisfies the obligation for Immaculate Conception.

The evening Mass on Saturday, December 8, 2007, is the anticipated Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent. This evening Mass satisfies the Sunday obligation or the Immaculate Conception obligation, but not both.

To satisfy both the holy day obligation and the Sunday Mass obligation, one must participate in two Masses; one between Friday evening and Saturday evening, and one between Saturday evening and Sunday evening, regardless of the readings or prayers used at either Mass. It's not the readings or prayers that fulfill the obligation but the time of day.

SCRIPTURE CLASS

Monday Evenings at 7:00pm.

All the newcomers are amazed at what they are learning and also how easy it is to follow. Please call Charlotte or Barry at 408-379-6518.



2007 Advent Series at Queen of Apostles

Father Jim Mifsud's 2007 Advent Series will be held at Queen of Apostles Church on Monday, December 3rd, Tuesday, December 4th, and Wednesday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. The topic for this series will be

"ADVENT — RENEWAL AND CHALLENGE".



The Annual Diocesan Layette Program is today at 2:00pm in Essig Hall.

Project Homeless Connect 5

Project Homeless Connect is an event to be held on Wednesday, December 5th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the San Jose Convention Center, 150 West San Carlos Street, San Jose. It will bring together an array of services in one location for the unhoused in our community. It is co-sponsored by the City of San Jose and Partners to Help the Homeless. Services to be offered include social services, medical and mental health services, housing assistance, financial services, Veteran's benefits, and others. About 500 people are helped at each PHC. A flyer is attached. Volunteers are needed to help. A training will be offered on Tuesday, December 4 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. For information and registration, call (408) 451-4001.

Stewardship

Our Liturgy Committee encourages parishioners to participate in welcoming our brothers and sisters as we gather for worship each Sunday. If you would like to greet people before Mass please call the Parish Office. Let us make this a time of welcome for the coming of our Lord.

The Giving Tree

This annual Toy Drive, sponsored by the Religious Education program here at SFC is for needy children and teens. Just take a tag off the tree (to the left of the altar, in front of the Marian Shrine) purchase a new toy or teen gift with the tag taped on top. All gifts will be distributed during the Advent Season. The last day to drop off a gift is December 23rd.



Intercessory Prayer Group

If you need prayer or know someone that would like prayer, please call Rebecca Valverde at 408-723-1030.

Adoration



There is an immediate need for Adorers on the following days and times:

2 on Monday at 9PM, 1 on Tuesday at 8PM and 9PM, 1 on Thursday at 8PM, 2 on Thursday at 10PM and 1 on Friday at 7PM. If you can fill any of these times, please call Charlotte 379-6518. We thank you and so does Jesus!

The soul's true life and repose are to abide in God.
- St. Albert the Great