# **Mass Times**

Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM Sunday Mornings - 8:30 AM\* and 11:00 AM

Weekday Mass - Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday - 9:00 AM\*

\* Livestreaming is available for those who are sick or homebound (or have other extenuating circumstances)

# Our Lady of Guadalupe

"A parish with open arms and caring hearts"

# **Our Mission Statement**

"Our Lady of Guadalupe parish is a diverse, welcoming Catholic community rooted in West Seattle. Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather in prayer and live as disciples of Jesus Christ. United in our core value, we serve our community and care for all God's creation."

December 4, 2022—Second Sunday of Advent

### **OLG Parish**

7000 35th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98126 206-935-0358, parishoffice@olgseattle.org www.olgseattle.org

### Fr. Kevin Duggan

frkevin@olgseattle.org - X107

Helen Oesterle - Pastoral Associate heleno@olgseattle.org - X108

Michelle Scheving - Parish Administrator michelles@olgseattle.org - X101

Velma Jones - Office Coordinator velmaj@olgseattle.org - X114

Sister Mary Sullivan - PA for Pastoral Care srmary@olgseattle.org - X120

Molly Berger - PA for Children & Family Faith Formation mollyb@olgseattle.org - X113

Sarah Riggio - PA For Young Families & Middle School Youth

sarahr@olgseattle.org - X115

**Sal Pagan** - Facilities Supervisor salp@olgseattle.org - X112

Gail Neudorfer - Bookkeeper gailn@olgseattle.org - X118

Sandy Plummer - Safe Environment Coordinator/Bulletin Editor sandyp@olgseattle.org - X111

**Request Sacramental Records** sacramentalrecords@olgseattle.org

Ann Sager - Music sager206@msn.com

### **OLG School**

3401 SW Myrtle, Seattle, WA 98126 206-935-0651, info@guadalupe-school.org www.guadalupe-school.org

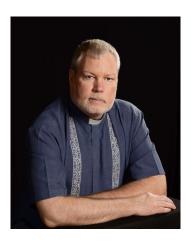
Anton Kramer - Principal akramer@guadalupe-school.org X102



Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose. As we wait for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. We thank you that you are both sovereign and gracious. Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world.

Amen. -Amanda Idleman

# A Letter From Fr. Kevin



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Two important liturgical celebrations honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary mark the coming week for us Catholics. First, on <u>Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup></u>, Catholics celebrate the <u>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u>. So important is this occasion that it ranks as a holy day of obligation, a day whose significance is on par with Sunday, the Day of the Lord. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is also the patronal feast day of the United States of America and represents an opportunity for us to pray together for our nation by seeking the help of our Blessed Mother as we celebrate her feast day. Masses will be celebrated here at Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at <u>9:00 a.m.</u>—an All School Mass—and at <u>7:00 p.m.</u>. Either of these celebrations will satisfy the obligation to participate in Mass for this solemnity.

Second, on **December 11**<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>, we will honor the liturgical feast of our parish's patron saint, <u>Our Lady of Guadalupe</u>, the Queen of the Americas. Her canonical (official) feast day is on <u>December 12<sup>th</sup></u> each year, but it is a long-standing custom here at OLG to also observe this important occasion on the Sunday nearest to December 12<sup>th</sup>. While we will celebrate Mass here on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. with the students and teachers at OLG School—a Mass to which all our parishioners are invited to come—there will also be an observance of our parish feast day on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>December 11<sup>th</sup></u>, at <u>our 11:00 a.m. Mass</u>. This Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent will include a lovely pageant wherein the student council members from OLG School will perform a dramatic retelling of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe's apparitions to Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, and of the imprinting of her image on the "tilma" (cloak) that Juan Diego wore.

I hope you will take the time and make the effort to join us for these two celebrations in which we honor the role that our Blessed Mother plays in God's plan of salvation in Christ. Our prayer attains strength and efficacy the more it is prayer in union with one another in Christ, and there is no one who draws us nearer to Christ than she who is our Blessed Mother.

A blessed Advent to all,

Fr. Kevin



**REST IN PEACE**...Please keep Daniel Nitkey, Mike Merlino and their families in your prayers, as they recently passed away. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

### We will hold these individuals in prayer for the month.

**Richard Aspiras** Richie Gillespie & Sharon Lyons-Huber **Rod Benedict Evonne Martinez** Family Xahil McDonald Steve Bucco Lisa Havens Mel Dennis Carla Heck Dennis Moran Henry Eiring Morgan Hegge George Niznansky Debi Erckman Tom Hutyler Jaxson Rivera Daniel Ocasio Gonzales Salinas Don Faulhaber **Dolores Immel** Haley Shelland Ann Figura Christine Iwanyk **Neil Flores** Cally Johnson Cindy Steele John Sullivan Mary Grubb Chris Johnson Al Tokarse

Upcoming Funerals

Daniel Nitkey - December 6th - 11:00 a.m.

# **Congratulations & God's Blessings**

To Maryn Frances, daughter of Stephanie and Shaun Grubert, and granddaughter of Rick and Molly Berger, who was baptized this past weekend. We welcome her and celebrate with her family at this joyous occasion.

# Welcome Visitors

We welcome you to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish! Wherever you may be in your spiritual journey, we hope you will feel at home as part of our parish family. You are invited to contact the parish office if you would like to register, or if you have any questions.

For more information about "Prayer and Liturgy" go to www.olgseattle.org and click on the "Grow In Faith" tab.



# Scripture Readings

December 4th - Second Sunday of Advent

Reading 1: Isaiah 11:1-10
Reading 2: Romans 15:4-9
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

December 8th - <u>The Immaculate Conception</u> of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reading 1: **Genesis** 3:9-15, 20
Reading 2: **Ephesians** 1:3-6, 11-12
Gospel: **Luke** 1:26-38

December 11th - <u>Third Sunday of Advent</u> of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reading 1: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Reading 2: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

# **Celebrating The Advent Season**

This season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Instead, our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Here are some ways to celebrate this season:

- \* Our <u>website</u> has a variety of resources, including blessings for Advent wreaths, Christmas trees, and creches. In addition, there are several video reflections to enrich your prayer life.
- \* Join us for our *Advent Communal Reconciliation Services* on **Saturday, Dec. 10**, 10:00 a.m. or **Wednesday, Dec. 14**, 7:00 p.m.
- \* Pick up one of the "Little Blue Advent Booklets" that provides daily reflections during the Advent and Christmas seasons based on the Scriptures. It is a great resource to enrich your prayer life during this holy season. If possible, a small donation of \$3 to help offset the cost would be greatly appreciated. Available in the church vestibule or parish office.

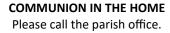
# Please Welcome Our New Parishioners

Huyen Nguyen and Family
Laura Shanks and Family
Vera Stirling and George Jurewicz
Andrea Zhanay and Family
James and Viki O'Connor
John and Anne Baisch
Gloria Duenas
Jim O'Connor



# Sacraments

**ANNOINTING OF THE SICK** Please call the parish office.



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays - 4:15 PM to 5:00 PM (or by appointment through the Parish Office)

# John Was On Fire!

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 11:1-10 The rule of Emmanuel
- ► Romans 15:4-9 Prayer of encouragement
- ► Matthew 3:1-12 John the Baptist

-000

After hearing the beautiful images of the lion and the lamb, the cow and the bear, and the child and the snake living together in peace in the first reading today, the Gospel passage about John the Baptist may seem jarring, or even off-putting. Then again, the words and actions of John the Baptist, whenever he shows up in the Gospels, are always strong, direct, and challenging. Sometimes people don't want to hear his directness—or his challenges.

John was on fire with the urgency that we turn our lives around. He was asking folks to repent of whatever in their lives was keeping them from living in God's way of justice and peace. He gladly baptized those who acknowledged their sins, but he had little patience for false repentance, especially coming from religious leaders like the Pharisees and Sadducees. It didn't matter to him who someone was, what family they came from, or what their religious background was—he wanted to see the fruits of their repentance.

John was a New Testament version of the Old Testament prophets: fiery, passionate characters who unsettled the rich and powerful but offered hope and consolation to those willing to be honest about their shortcomings.

As we prepare ourselves for Christmas, John is a valuable guide. His ur-



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"He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted."

# Sheepish Question:

How can I enhance my feelings of compassion with a deeper sense of justice?

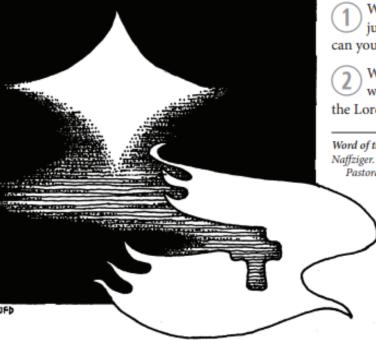
gency to evaluate how we live in this world and how we need to change is hard to ignore. We have work to do before Christmas that doesn't involve planning the perfect party or finding the perfect gift. Our work now is to acknowledge what we need to change, ask forgiveness, and get back to doing God's work.

# **Questions of the Week**

Who in your life is on fire for justice and repentance? What can you learn from them?

What can you do this coming week to "prepare the way of the Lord"?

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# **Support Our Ministries**

# Are You Interested In Being A Eucharistic Minister?

Ordinary ministers of communion are the bishop, priest and deacon. However, due to the pastoral needs of providing communion to all the faithful, the Church authorizes lay ministers to distribute communion at Mass and to persons who are sick and/or homebound. Eucharistic Ministers must also be fully initiated into the Church, having celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. In addition, beginning in January we will return to offering communion by the cup, so we need more EM's to serve at Mass. Training will be offered in the coming weeks. Please contact Helen Oesterle, heleno@olgseattle.org for more information.

# **Home Ministries**

Have you ever wanted to serve the homebound in our community? If you feel called by the Holy Spirit, we have a place for you as a Eucharistic Minister! For more information, please email <a href="mailto:srmary@olgseattle.org">srmary@olgseattle.org</a>

# **Funeral Reception Committee**

The Funeral Reception Committee consists of a wonderful group of people who help families during a very difficult time. Right now we are in need of several volunteers who would like to help with co-coordinating the reception and with laundering table cloths. We always receive so much more than we give, as the families are so grateful for this ministry. Please call or email Sandy Plummer at 206-935–0358/sandyp@olgseattle.org for more information.



## **Christmas Flower Donations**

It is that time of year to begin planning for our Christmas celebrations. The Arts and Environment Committee is hard at work creating another wonderful place for worship and prayer and your

donations can help with this effort. Envelopes are in the pews. You can also **DONATE** at our parish website. Donations in honor or in memory of a loved one are also possible. Thank you for your generosity!

# Family Faith Formation



# Standing With Others Sharing Our Gifts

Our theme for Family Faith Sunday today is **Standing with Others: Sharing** 

Our Gifts: We are all blessed with gifts of talent and treasure. How do we share those with others? How does this help both the receiver and the giver? How do we express gratitude for what we have and what we receive? How do we welcome the gift of Jesus into our hearts and homes this Advent? Meet in the Walmesley Center at 9:30 a.m. and follow with the Mass at 11:00 a.m.

# Calling All Children

Join us in our Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Mass. Practice and costume



fittings will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. **Wednesday, December 21,** in the church. Contact Molly Berger mollyb@olgseatle.org for questions.



# ■ Read & Share Ideas

For building your children's and your own faith on the Family Sharing page!

https://bit.ly/OLGFamilies

# The Lord's Lions

We are ready to start the Sunday morning Pre-School group in January during the 11:00 a.m. Mass. All we need are children! This is geared to 3 through 5-year-olds (kindergarteners attend at 9:30 a.m.). 3 through 5 year olds (kindergarteners attend at 9:30 a.m.). Please let us know of your interest at <a href="https://bit.ly/fffpreschool">https://bit.ly/fffpreschool</a>.

# Reflecting On The Word

Check our **Reflecting on the Word as a Family** each week on our <u>webpage</u>. Hard copies are in the Family Center in the vestibule.

# **Family Center**

We are excited to bring back the Family Center in the vestibule of the church. You will find Mass bags for young children with activities for Mass. Children's books, articles for parents, "Reflecting on the Word as a Family" handouts, a place for children to share their "Pew Art" and more! Be sure to check it out! Taking time to reflect on the Sunday readings as a family is a way to bring the Liturgy into our daily lives. Click on the <a href="Child and Family Faith Formation Link">Child and Family Faith Formation Link</a> under Faith Formation on our website.

# **Upcoming Events**





# **Christmas Adopt A Family**

St. Vincent de Paul is sponsoring another Christmas Adopt A Family program this year and is actively seeking

individuals, families and businesses who would be interested in participating. Participants will be assigned a family or senior in our community in need of some special love and help this season, and would be asked to purchase and wrap gifts to be delivered during the week before Christmas. For more info, call/text Wendi Cook at 770-490-8260 or reach her by email at wendicook@bellsouth.net

# OLG Parish Feast Day Celebration is Next Weekend!

Join us for our weekend Masses as we celebrate our Parish Feast Day. During the 11:00 a.m. Mass, the Guadalupe story will be dramatically retold by our OLG School Student Council. This is followed by a fiesta hosted by the Multicultural Committee, the Knights of Columbus, and the Santa Teresita Community. Bring your family, friends and neighbors as we celebrate our parish community!!!



# Starry Crowns Christmas Concert

Friday, December 9th 7:00 p.m. in the Church Will also be livestreamed.

# West Seattle's FULL SERVICE LUMBER YARD AlkiLumber.com | 206-932-7700

# OLG School Glassybaby Auction Fundraiser

To support and commemorate OLG School's 2023 aprés-themed Auction, Seattle-based glassybaby created a limited number of votive-holders, splashers, and drinkers on sale now: Not only does purchasing a glassybaby help support OLG School, but they also make great gifts! glassybabys are \$100 each and available to order and/or pick up at the school office! You can also order here: https://guadalupe-school.ejoinme.org/glassybaby2023

# Introducing the Blue & White Club?

The Blue & White Club recognizes parishioners who donate cash to the Auction. Community and parishioner donations will be recognized in the Auction catalog as being made on behalf of a loved one who's passed, an OLG alumni, or the donor will simply be recognized as a patron of Our Lady of Guadalupe School. To donate, visit: <a href="https://guadalupe-school.ejoinme.org/bwclub2023">https://guadalupe-school.ejoinme.org/bwclub2023</a>

# **OLG Young Families**

Do you have a child (or children) under the age of 5? Are you interested in connecting with and building community with the other young families here at OLG? You are specially invited to come to Mass on **Sunday, December 11**<sup>th</sup> for our celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. You are also invited to come to the fiesta following Mass in the Walmesley Center. There will be tables set up with activities for little ones and an opportunity for you to connect with other young families. Questions can be directed to sarahr@olgseattle.org.

# **Adult Confirmation Preparation Program**

This program begins on **Tuesday**, **January 3**<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-7:45 p.m. by Zoom with one Saturday morning retreat. The Confirmation celebration will take place on **Sunday**, **February 12**<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The sacrament of Confirmation completes our Catholic initiation and makes it possible for us to participate as godparents, sponsors, and other liturgical roles in our Church. Contact Helen, heleno@olgseattle.org , 206-935-0358

# Other News To Share

# **Being Green For Christmas**

In the coming weeks, we will be presented with many opportunities to buy gifts, decorations, food, and other items to help celebrate the season. As stewards of God's creation, it is important for us to be thoughtful about what we buy. Suggestions include buying only "green" decorations (no plastic!), buy food that is locally and/or organically grown, buy experiences instead of things as gifts, donate to organizations that care for the environment in honor of a loved one, and look for fair-trade gifts which support communities in need. You can also check out the <a href="Care for Creation Ministry's Advent Calendar">Care for Creation Ministry's Advent Calendar</a> for more ideas on how to celebrate the season!

# **Update On The Synod**

Pope Francis has extended the Synod on Synodality through 2024. His decision reflects his desire that the church discern the theme of synodality over a longer period. Also for the synod to be thought of as a process where (only by the grace of the Holy Spirit) the People of God walk together toward the Lord's will for His Church. Certainly, the prayerful dialogue of the diocesan phase has created some energy, excitement, and shared vision of a Church that journeys together. The Continental Stage is next and there will be a new opportunity to participate in listening sessions with the Archdiocese, reflecting upon the "Continental Working Document". CLICK HERE to learn more.



# One Parish, One Prisoner Next Steps

Based on your community feedback and stories, OLG showed strong support to participate in the One Parish One Prisoner

(OPOP). Next steps include pairing OLG with our new incarcerated friend, confirming the OLG core team of 7-10 parishioners who receive training tailored to grow a mutual relationship, and paying tuition costs for OPOP training and support. Thank you for your support! You can get involved now by praying. To learn more, contact Martin and Terre at: mandt.mart87@gmail.com or visit

https://undergroundministries.org/opop.



Is holiday shopping in your future? If using Amazon to fulfill your wish lists don't forget to support OLG by shopping

Amazon Smile. Shop at <a href="mailto:smile.amazon.com">smile.</a> Shop at <a href="mailto:smile.amazon.com">smile.amazon.com</a> and they'll donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization.

# Cougar Flag Flying!

You might have noticed a Cougar flag flying on the OLG School flagpole. WSU came out on top at last year's Huskies vs. Cougars Spring Auction showdown, which meant the highest point in Seattle was flying Crimson and Gray for last weekend's Apple Cup. Congratulations Huskies! This year at the OLG School's auction in March, we will again be auctioning the honor of raising either the WSU or UW flag at OLG. Who will come out on top? Will Purple and Gold be flying above OLG this time next year?

# Buy Raffle Tickets To Support Vacation Bible Camp

Raffle tickets are now on sale after our weekend Masses for the next three weeks to raise funds supporting Vacation Bible Camp. We have a variety of theme baskets filled with all kinds of goodies, which will be on display in the back of church. You can buy raffle tickets for specific baskets at \$5 per ticket. The drawing will take place at our Feast Day Fiesta on **December 11** and winners will be notified.



# Thank You To The 178 Families Who Have Responded To The 2023 Stewardship of Treasure! Won't You Join Them?

Our parish Stewardship of Treasure renewal is ending and we are very grateful to the many parishioners who have returned a Pledge Commitment Card. Your generosity supports the mission and the many ministries of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We have not yet reached our goal of commitment cards returned. If you haven't yet responded, please do so now. Your pledge makes it possible for the parish to budget accurately for the upcoming year. You may return your pledge card in the mail, at mass in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office. If you prefer, you can make your pledge online at <a href="https://olgseattle.org/stewardship-pledge">https://olgseattle.org/stewardship-pledge</a>. If you are unable to give, please pledge to pray for the success of our campaign. Just write "PRAYER" on your pledge card and turn it in.

Next week, Fr. Kevin will be mailing a follow up letter to those who have not yet responded. Help us save a stamp by responding now.



# CELEBRATING THE SEASONS OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

PARISH FEAST DAY WEEKEND December 10-11 at all Masses. Fiesta will take place after the 11:00 Mass with homemade carnitas, tamales, sweet bread, Mexican hot chocolate.

**SIMBANG GABI MASS & DINNER Friday, December 16, 5:30 pm**. Join us as we celebrate a devotional nine-day novena of Masses (December 16-24), practiced by Roman Catholics in the Philippines in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary in anticipation of the birth of her Son, Jesus.

# ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Saturday, December 10 10:00 AM Wednesday, December 14 7:00 PM

# CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Mass with Gospel Pageant 4:00 PM
Traditional Mass (also livestream) 9:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY** 

Traditional Mass 10:00 AM

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Vigil Mass, December 31 5:30 PM Sunday, January 1 10:00 AM



You will find more ideas including a variety of Advent calendars, blessings for Advent wreaths, nativity scenes and Christmas trees, and a variety of other resources to help you and your family celebrate these holy seasons at our parish website: <a href="https://www.olgseattle.org">www.olgseattle.org</a>



# The Filipino community of OLG Parish invites everyone to come, celebrate, and experience

# Simbang Gabi



Simbang Gabi coordinators all over Western Washington parishes are commissioned by Archbishop Sartain last year.

Friday, December
16
5:30 PM
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
CHURCH

Simbáng Gabi (literally, Night Mass) is a devotional nine-day novena of Masses (December 16-24), practiced by Roman Catholics in the Philippines in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary in anticipation of the birth of her Son, Jesus. Simbang Gabi traces its roots in 1587, when Fray Diego Soria, prior of the convent of San Agustin Acolman in Mexico, asked the Pope for permission to hold "Posadas" (a nine-day commemoration of Mary and Joseph's search for an inn) outdoors because the church was not large enough to accommodate the many faithful wishing to attend. Though his request was granted, it was not until the 17th century that the nine-day religious celebration was introduced to the Philippines by missionaries, and became a Filipino spiritual tradition held as early as 3 am, as a practical compromise for farmers who started their day before sunrise to avoid the heat in the fields. The parol, a star-shaped lantern displayed on windows of homes in the Philippines in December, has served as the guiding light and sign for Mary and Joseph and more importantly, Jesus, that the home is ready to receive them.

Vatican II encouraged the Catholic Church in the Philippines to continue the tradition and uphold its significant role in the life of the people. Filipino immigrants brought Simbang Gabi to the United States and found it to be an effective way to stay connected to their faith. Evening or morning masses are organized in each parish. In Seattle, Archbishop Etienne blessed the colorful *parols as* reminders of the light of Jesus Christ.

Everybody is invited to a traditional salu-salo (Filipino reception) at The Walmesley Center after Mass.



(Families with Children 5 years of age and younger)



It's Fiesta Time!

Come join us at the 11am Mass on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and the OLG Feast Day Celebration following in the Walmesely Center

During our Fiesta, we will have tables with activities for little ones, and opportunities for families with young connect with one another.

Questions can be directed to: <u>sarahr@olgseattle.org</u>

<u>sarahr@olgseattle.org</u>



# OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST DAY A Parish Celebration

Join us as we celebrate our Parish Feast Day on the weekend of December 10-11

# **FEAST DAY MASSES**

Saturday, December 10, 5:30 pm Sunday, December 11, 8:30 am & 11:00 am At the 11:00 Mass, OLG Student Council will portray the Guadalupe Story.

# **FIESTA**

After 11:00 Mass-Walmesley Center

Join us for food, fellowship and fun. In addition, items leftover from our Holiday Gift Fair will be on sale and the drawing for the Family Faith Formation Baskets will take place, with proceeds supporting parish ministries!

Sponsored by the OLG Multicultural Committee, Knights of Columbus & the Santa Teresita Community



# COMEBACKTOTHELORD

# HOW CATHOLICS CELEBRATE GOD'S MERCY & RECONCILIATION

The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of the Advent and Lenten seasons. It has long been a tradition in the church to confess one's sins before celebrating the great feast of Christmas and the Lenten season. Certainly, God knows when we are sorry for our sins. And since God's only relationship with us is one of unconditional love, whenever we turn to God with a sincere sorrow for sin and a desire to make a new beginning, God is there to meet us with forgiveness. As human beings, however, we may need a more concrete way of experiencing God's love for us. As Catholics, we believe that God has given us the sacraments as a way of showing that we are receiving the gift of his love in very real and down-to-earth ways, enabling our Church to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in our present time.

There are other ways that we celebrate God's forgiving power at work in our lives. Each Mass begins with a "Penitential Rite" where we pray for God's mercy and then are assured that God's mercy and forgiveness are present to us. *The Mass itself is a Sacrament which conveys God's forgiveness.* 

But there are times in our lives, when we may freely and deliberately choose to separate ourselves from God's love by committing an act that is seriously evil. In such a case, a more personal reconciliation with the Church is **strongly encouraged**. Moreover, whenever we commit such a sin, we will likely feel the need to confess it and won't feel completely comfortable until we do. The church asks that we make an individual confession of our sins to a priest (representing the Holy Spirit present in the community of the church) in case of serious sin. Through prayer, holy conversation, and Scripture, we can gain insight about what we have done and what we need to change in our lives. **And when we do confess, we often feel a tremendous sense of relief and joy—just like the many people in the Gospel stories who experienced forgiveness through Jesus!** 

Individual confession and celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation can also be of great value even when we have not committed a serious sin. It is a way of taking an honest look at our own lives and "taking inventory" of our relationship with God. "Naming" the tendencies or habits that cause us to drift from that relationship may be the beginning of a process of our re-centering our thoughts and actions on God. You can schedule a time to meet safely with Fr. Kevin by contacting the Parish Office, 206-935-0358, or by email: <a href="mailto:frkevin@olgseattle.org">frkevin@olgseattle.org</a>

frkevin@olgseattle.org FOR OUR ADVENT COMMUNAL ECONCILIATION SERVICES

Saturday, December 10, 10:00 am & Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 pm

"Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always." -Pope Francis



### YEAR END GIVING TIPS

The end of December is also the end of the tax year. Here are some tips for year-end giving.

- Be sure to fulfill your 2022 Annual Stewardship Pledge or make an additional donation.
  - <u>Donate Online</u> or go to our website and select the Donate button
  - Text **206-745-4559** and put \$\$ amount in message line response will provide link to finalize gift.
  - Mail or drop of at parish office.
- IRA If you are 70 ½ or older, there are potential tax benefits when you transfer funds from your IRA directly to the parish. Contact your IRA plan administrator.
- Donate stock donating to a non-profit can save you from paying capital gains tax of the appreciated value if you've held the stock for at least year. Call 206-382-4845 for further instructions/details on donating stock.

To be counted as a tax deduction for 2022 your gift must be either received or postmarked by December 31st. If the parish receives it after January 1st, the IRS says it is a 2023 tax deductible gift.

A huge thank you for your generosity to Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2022

# Our Lady Of Guadalupe School Breath of Life: Creating God's Kingdom Together

### All School Mass - Please join us!

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec 8th 9:00 a.m.
- OLG Feast Day Dec 12th 9:00 a.m. Led by our Student Council in a Guadalupe Pageant. Please join the school community to celebrate OLG Feast Day.

**Advent Preparations** - During the season of Advent, our school prepares for Christ's birth as a community each week. Schoolwide prayer services each week and Family Group activities are led by 8th grade class. And our annual food/dollar drive continues to collect supplies to benefit St Vincent de Paul - *special thanks to our Student Council*.

Online applications are now open for the 2023-24 school year!: <a href="https://www.guadalupe-school.org/admissions/">https://www.guadalupe-school.org/admissions/</a>

# **OLG Leadership**

**Parish Finance Council** - The Finance Council is a consultative body that provides advice concerning the stewardship of fiscal resources. Current members are: *Maryann Crissey—Chair, Colleen Hardy, Dan Merlino, Mario Santos and Clem Zipp* 

**Parish Pastoral Council** - The Pastoral Council is a consultative body that provides advice concerning pastoral issues including long-term planning, mission effectiveness, and creating a more united church.

Current members are: Andrew Chin—Chair, Solita Argana, Mike Galang, Velma Jones, Nicole Monroe, Matt Prociv and Cindy Tewes

**School Commission** - The School Commission is a consultative body that assists leadership in the areas of long term planning, policy development, finances, facilities and resource development.

Current members are: Jason Howell—Chair, Cayley Crotty, Darrell Thomas, Seth Doyle, Mario Santos, and Justin Umagat

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish & School acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.







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