

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT**  
Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

**MONDAY 12/10**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Luke 5:17-26

**TUESDAY 12/11**

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Matthew 18:12-14

**WEDNESDAY 12/12**

Zec 2:14-17 + Rom 8:28-30  
Luke 2:15-19

**THURSDAY 12/13**

Isaiah 41:13-20  
Matthew 11:11-15

**FRIDAY 12/14**

Isaiah 48:17-19  
Matthew 11:16-19

**SATURDAY 12/15**

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11  
Matthew 17:10-13

**Solemnities, Feasts, & Memorials of the Week**

Tuesday, Damasus I; Wednesday, Our Lady of Guadalupe; Thursday, Lucy; Friday, John of the Cross

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

For congregations of religious women confronting the dual challenges of caring for frail, elder members and trying to manage outdated congregational properties, there are no easy answers. The financial complexities of addressing property-related issues are intertwined with the emotional strain of an uncertain future. These are struggles religious sisters throughout the United States face each day as they try to function under the burden of unsecured retirement funds. The annual Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious taken up by all the Catholic parishes at this time of the year helps to ease the burdens of the sisters and help carry the load. Next Sunday we will join with the whole church in making our sacrificial offering in support of the sisters who supported us for so long and continue to support us. The Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up this weekend after Holy Communion at all the masses.

**CHILDREN! TELL YOUR PARENTS!**

All children of the parish are asked to tell your parents NOT to spit chewing gum on the steps of the church, the floor, the ground or anywhere else on church property. It's hard to get it up and people step on it and it makes a mess. Tell them to spit their chewing gum into the trash containers in the restrooms. And parents, tell your children not to toss their cigarette butts onto parish property. Use an ashtray. Okay? I mean, SOMEBODY has to go around and pick them all up and I'll bet you can guess who that is. Tell them it's a *mortal sin*. It worked when we were kids.

**WEEKDAY MASS**

Weekday mass is celebrated in the Mammoth rectory on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday mornings at 7 o'clock. Thursday morning there is a service of the Word with Holy Communion conducted by our lay ministry team beginning at 7:00 AM.

Walk right in and come up the stairs. Stay after for coffee and fellowship.

**PRAYERS**

Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreir, Julie Rogers, Josefina Flores, Jim Rothe, Glenn Inouye, Peter Mariniello, Consuelo Mendoza Aéyon, Brian Venneman, Gary Boyd, the Blackburn Family, and Lori Obersheven.



# THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC

*You must open the interior eyes of your soul on this light, on this heaven within you, a vast horizon stretching far beyond the realm of human activity, an unexplored country to the majority of human beings.*  
-Saint Vincent Ferrer

**December 9, 2012**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

*Mi alma engrandece al Señor, y mi espíritu se regocija en Dios mi Salvador. Porque ha mirado la humilde condición de esta sierva; pues he aquí, desde ahora en adelante todas las generaciones me tendrán por bienaventurada. Porque grandes cosas me ha hecho el Poderoso; y santo es su nombre.*

Lucas 1:46-49

Este el miércoles  
12 de diciembre  
es el Fiesta de

## Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Las Mañanitas 4:00 AM

La Misa 6:00 AM



**SAINT JOSEPH PARISH  
OF MONO COUNTY**  
P.O. Box 372,  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
760-934-6276

**SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church –  
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM  
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM  
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM

Lee Vining:

Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -  
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM

Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -  
Sunday Mass 12:00 Noon

[www.mammothcatholicchurch.org](http://www.mammothcatholicchurch.org)  
email: [info@mammothcatholicchurch.org](mailto:info@mammothcatholicchurch.org)

Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

**FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1–9**

*Look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you.*

One great burden carried by many Catholic parents and grandparents is that their children or their grandchildren no longer go to church. Having been brought up in the pre-reform church, their responsibilities to God and the Catholic Church as parents were carefully defined: they had to make sure their kids went to church or risk losing them to perdition. Or, as one irate mother put it to a pastor who had accepted her son's decision not to continue with confirmation classes, "Because of you my son

is going to hell!"

While not denying that possibility, it is important to remember a tradition of good news and joyful hope dating back at least to the 7th century B.C. and the prophet Baruch. As secretary to the prophet Jeremiah, Baruch faced the same impossible situation of alienation from God with no means of reestablishing the relationship. He reiterated to his people a fundamental tenant of belief that religion, which demands a certain degree of commitment and participation from its members, often overlooks: that our faith is not in our abilities to maintain connection with God, but in God's ability to maintain connection with us.

When, in the minds of the devout of his time, all hope of salvation for their children was lost, Baruch envisioned a miraculous return. God, ever faithful, would watch over their children and bring them back.

**SECOND READING:  
Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11**

## Las Mañanitas

El alba, las flores, "Las Mañanitas" marcan el amanecer de la nueva humanidad que hoy celebramos. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe anuncia a los pueblos de América la promesa de una nueva vida. a entrar en armonía con toda la creación. El sol, la luna y las estrellas sirven de marco a su imagen de madre expectante que lleva en su seno al Hijo de Dios, quien satisface todo deseo espiritual. "La Magnífica" trasluce el gozo que llena nuestros corazones. Celebramos con procesiones, danzas "matachines"), mariachis y trajes típicos de varias regiones de México.



*I am sure of this much: that he who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus.*

Saint Paul stressed the importance of establishing a positive direction and maintaining it. "I do not consider what lies behind," he wrote later on in Philippians 3:13–14, "but strain forward to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal, which is the prize of God's heavenly call in Jesus Christ."

This is the standard deal of seeing the glass half empty or half full. We can see what's going wrong, or we can see what's going right. We can believe that our failures will somehow nullify God's promise to us, or we can hold onto our faith that, no matter what, God will bring the good work begun in us and in our children, to completion.

That being said, people who are parents will still ask the common question: How do I get my kids to come back to church? First, it is important to acknowledge that people stop going to church for a reason: it's boring, it's meaningless, it's hypocritical, or a hurt—real or imagined—was inflicted. And to those who stop going, the reasons are valid and acceptable. But then we, as faithful Catholics, must understand our mission: We are witnesses to God's faithfulness, not our own. We need to focus our attention on God's ability and willingness to bring back the children, not on the children's unwillingness to continue with the church. The power of conversion lies not in fearful dread of human sinfulness, but in joyful hope and confidence in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:1–6**

*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 the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

The way back to Jerusalem from Babylon seemed impossible. There were enormous obstacles. The Babylonian empire was history's greatest. The Jews had no hope of rescue. Who would be strong enough to get the job done? And besides, a conquering nation would simply inherit the slave population—the Jews—and continue exploiting them for their labor. And based on the covenant, the Jews couldn't do what they had to do to get God's attention and work a deal for deliverance.

Perhaps the best expression of Judah's impossible situation was the image of the physical journey from Babylon to Jerusalem. There were huge mountain ranges and enormous valleys, and the roads winding through them were often washed out and impassable. To this hopeless image the prophet Isaiah addressed himself in 40:3–5, referenced in today's gospel. Could Judah overcome the obstacles standing between them and a return to Jerusalem? Actually, no. But God could—and did! Read all about it in the Book of Ezra.

Advent, therefore, is the time when we turn our focus back to God's abiding will to save us and his almighty power to accomplish all that he has begun in us and in our children, despite all evidence to the contrary. When things seem darkest, as they do in this seasonal approach to winter, and hope fades, the light of God's love and forgiveness shines for us, even in the darkness of sin and death.

