



# Humilitas

Newsletter of Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church ~ December, 2021

check inside for  
christmas Mass Schedule

## A Holy Longing

As we enter into the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a moment in which we ready ourselves to commemorate that pivotal event in salvation history in which the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. It is the moment in which God sent his only begotten Son who, born of Blessed Mary ever virgin, became man.

Advent, coming to us from the Latin *adventus* (which itself is the Latin translation of the Greek word *parousia*) means coming or arrival. It is in this season that we await with holy longing this great solemnity of the Church. But Advent should not be the only time of year where we ready ourselves spiritually for the coming of our Lord. We who live now 2000 years after the birth of Christ are still waiting with holy longing for the Lord. We await his second coming, we await his coming into his glory and the resurrection of the dead, where we will be united with him forever. It is important that we not only keep the joy of Christmas with us year round, that joy of the incarnation, that momentous occasion in salvation history, but we also keep that holy longing alive in our heart. So as we prepare ourselves for this Christmas season, do not forget to keep that longing in your heart. Wait joyfully for the Lord. Carry on this season in your hearts year round. May almighty God keep you safe and may your hearts be lit ablaze in joyful hope of the resurrection and the Advent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Father Will Banowsky

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. -Matt. 28:18-20*



"I am baptizing you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.  
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."  
-from the Gospel, 3rd Sunday of Advent



# Advent

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## Smells . . .

In the Book of Exodus, the Lord provided instructions for building each stage of his place of worship “You shall make an altar on which to offer incense. . . . (Exodus 30:1). The incense altar was located in front of the curtain, leading to the Holy of Holies (*New Interpreters Study Bible*, p. 129).

As Moses supervised setting up the tabernacle, the leaders of Israel’s tribes were invited to bring offerings. On the first day, Nahshon, from the tribe of Judah and Aaron’s brother-in-law, according to Hebrew tradition, was first to offer his gifts, among them a golden dish full of incense (Numbers 7:14).

In Bible times, incense was made from the amber colored, gooey tree resin or pitch from the frankincense or myrrh tree. Like Kentucky Fried Chicken, incense was also a blend of secret herbs and spices (Exodus 30:34). It was holy and for temple rituals only. Anyone who misused temple incense for personal use was cut off from the community (Exodus 30: 32-33). Today it is similarly made from natural plant gums, honey, and ground herbs.

Thus, incense in the Mass has ancient roots from Jewish temple ritual. Documentation of incense use in the first few centuries of Christian rite does not exist so we don’t really know. In the Roman Rite, documentation exists of its use added to various parts of the Mass from approximately the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

We see and smell incense today at the following times: during the entrance procession, then at the beginning of Mass to incense the altar, the cross, and later the ambo before the Gospel reading. When the bread and chalice are brought to the altar, the priest incenses the offerings, the cross, the altar and the people (liturgyguy.com).

For us, as for the Israelites, smoke from incense is a metaphor for our prayers rising heavenward. It also points to Christ’s life and his priesthood, the sweet, perfect smell a symbol of His blameless life.

At St. Charles, Father Luschen said incense is used most often at the 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday Mass when it is a High Mass. It is also used at special feasts and funerals. During funeral Masses, at the final commendation, the priest may incense the coffin, “both as a sign of honor to the body of the deceased which became the temple of the Holy Spirit at Baptism and as a sign of the faithful’s prayers for the deceased rising to God” *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. Grains of incense are also placed in the Paschal candle for the Easter Vigil. When to include incense in the Mass is a local parish decision.

## . . . and Bells

Maybe this is unneeded information, as I am sure no one’s mind ever wanders during Mass these days. However, during medieval times, the Mass was celebrated in Latin, a language no one in Europe used in everyday life, the prayers were said softly, and churches were massive.

Picture a European cathedral on a Sunday morning, say, the Duomo (Cathedral) in Florence, Italy. Built over 140 years and consecrated in 1436, it could hold thousands of people, almost the entire town of Firenze. Even today, it ranks in lists of the largest churches in the world. The interior is a large open space. There are no pews.

\*Way back when, the faithful stood. Pews were a later “invention” adapted after the Protestant Reformation. Also, the pulpit was in the middle of the church, apart from the sanctuary. The laity wandered over to the pulpit for the homily. Add in kneeling and a pew would be an extravagant investment in finances and wood.

Might there have been a temptation for the standing faithful in the enormous building to mill about with fellow villagers? Did those who lived on isolated farms engage in a surreptitious conversation or two? Combined with all the above mentioned factors, there needed to be some sweet and unobtrusive way to signal the faithful to pay attention; something sacred was about to happen in the Mass.

Bells were the answer and like incense, they also have roots in Jewish ritual and tradition. “On the bottom hem (of the high priest’s robe) they made pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet, and woven linen; and they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates all the way around the hem of the robe” (Exodus 39:24-25). For the Jewish faithful, the bells brought their attention to the sacred time of reading the Torah.

Centuries later, the tradition of ringing bells has continued into the Mass today. At St. Charles, the bells reside on the steps left of the altar (as we face the altar). Kneeling, the altar server rings them once when the priest extends his hands over the host and chalice and asks God to accept the gifts. Next, the bells are rung three times when the priest elevates the host and then the wine. The bells tell us to focus, still our hearts and minds because a holy time approaches.

Monica Knudsen

\* [www.aleteia.org/2017/07/23/this-is-why-pews-were-invented](http://www.aleteia.org/2017/07/23/this-is-why-pews-were-invented)

## We Gather Together

Gather. Such a gentle word. Gather suggests “welcome” and “have a seat.” “Gather ‘round,” we say. Maybe that is why it is such a generous, welcoming word—because the invitation is to gather around each other, often literally in a circle where we see one another.

Gathering moves us from isolating routines and agendas established to accomplish our personal goals. In other words, those demanding to-do lists. We can be ruthless taskmasters with ourselves: creating to-do lists with the intent of keeping ourselves focused and the result is we keep ourselves focused—on ourselves. Gathering is, well, so not that.

Even for the side-dish chefs, pumpkin-pie bakers, and turkey-brining cooks with their grocery lists and oven scheduling, the routines are broken, replaced with traditions. Tradition, much like gathering, hinges on people besides ourselves.

We show a different face when gathered because we are seen in a different light. While a table (or several tables including the kiddie table) set with food and ringed with friends and family may be the centerpiece of occasions, it is the flame but not the light of gatherings. The golden moments are kitchen-cabinet conversations when grandma, two aunts, an uncle who’s not an uncle but someone’s best friend, and several children wind up leaning against the cabinet, visiting, snacking, and watching the host stir a pot of something that is only made on such occasions. Or it is men of all ages and interests standing around the truck in the drive, the grill in the back, or the TV with the game on in the den.

November and December are the season of gatherings; there are many who find this time of year painful due to illness, loss or fractured families. Yet, the gentle call to gather goes out to everyone. If not with family of origin, one can still accept and extend “welcome” and “have a seat.” Working need not exclude camaraderie; worshipping can include community, and our fancy phones, still work for calling and visiting.

Anyone can set the to-do list aside for Thanksgiving and Advent, which starts just three days after, to prioritize gathering together.

Kathy Judge



\* If you drive a Subaru in reverse, what are you?

u r a bus.

## Mamo Cookies

My mother, Evelyn Longen, had a reputation as a wonderful cookie baker. My sister and I have continued the tradition with her recipes, which our children call their grandmother's delicacies "Mamo cookies."

At Christmastime, she would bake at least a dozen kinds of cookies, a couple fruitcakes and during the years my North Carolina grandmother lived with us, they would together go to the grocery store, buy a coconut, hammer it open and bake from scratch, a three layer coconut cake—a Southern tradition.

Unfortunately, that recipe is lost to time but here is a favorite Christmas cookie recipe:

### No Name Cookie

(Bottom half)

1 stick butter  
1 yellow cake mix  
1 cup chopped nuts  
1 egg

Mix well, butter, cake mix, egg, then add nuts. Pack this tight in the bottom of a baking dish.

(Top half)

3 eggs  
8 ounce softened cream cheese  
1 lb. powdered confectioners sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Beat the eggs and add other ingredients. Beat until mixed and pour over the mixture. Bake at 350 degrees in a 9x14x2 or 8x11x2 pan. Cooking time will vary by pan size, about 45 minutes. It is best to keep a close eye on the baking cookies. Insert a toothpick into the cookie. If the top is golden brown, and the toothpick comes out clean, they are done. The top will be soft but will crisp up as they cool.

I made this for my family last year and our daughter asked why I had been hiding these. The answer was simple: I could never bake as many kinds of cookies and devote the time and love to it my mother did. Mom passed away in 2014. As she had a terrific sweet tooth, I picture her in heaven, surrounded by and enjoying all the "Mamo cookies" she likes. Hats off and love to you, Mom.

Monica Knudsen

\* what breed of roosters lay eggs?

Himalayan.

\* what's small, red and whispers?

A hoarse radish.



Sign seen at a Church:  
Extreme saving offered here.  
No coupon required.

## December Saints and Days

- 03 St. Francis Xavier; *Memorial*
- 04 [St. John Damascene]
- 05 **Second Sunday of Advent**
- 06 [St. Nicholas]
- 07 St. Ambrose; *Memorial*
- 08 **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Solemnity**
- 09 [St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin]
- 10 [Our Lady of Loreto]
- 11 [St. Damasus I]
- 12 **Third Sunday of Advent**
- 13 St. Lucy; *Memorial*
- 14 St. John of the Cross; *Memorial*
- 19 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- 21 [St. Peter Canisius]
- 23 [St. John of Kanty]
- 25 **The Nativity of the Lord; Solemnity, Holyday of Obligation**
- 26 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; Feast**
- 27 St. John; *Feast*
- 28 The Holy Innocents; *Feast*
- 29 [St. Thomas Becket]
- 31 [St. Sylvester I]

## Advent Prayer

Loving God, bring us into a greater fullness of your divine light through the prayer and preparation of Advent. Dispel the darkness for we who have forgotten we are created in the image and likeness of God. Ignite a warming flame for those of us cold and separated from the Divine in ourselves, in the other, and in the world. Reveal Christ to me in new faces and also standing right beside me in my difficult tasks. Amen

mkj

\* I accidentally took my cat's  
meds this morning.  
Don't ask meow.



## St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc



St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc was born in Vietnam in 1795. Born Trần An Dũng, he took the name Andrew at his Baptism. He was ordained a priest on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March in 1823. During persecution he changed his name to Lạc to avoid capture during the reign of Minh Mạng. He was executed by beheading on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 1839. He is a saint and martyr of the Catholic Church, and was beatified on November 24, 1900 by Pope Leo XIII and canonized on June 19, 1988 by Pope John Paul II. His feast day is November 24<sup>th</sup>, and his memorial celebrates all Vietnamese Martyrs of the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Vietnamese Martyrs refer to the 117 Vietnamese Martyrs canonized the same day as St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc. There have been between 130,000 and 300,000 Vietnamese martyrs who are all celebrated on November 24. These martyrs suffered persecution and death, and the torture suffered by them should not be forgotten as it has been deemed among the worst in the history of Christian martyrdom. One of the many tactics used as torture was to brand the face with "tả đạo" translating to "left (sinister) religion." It is important to remember all those who gave their life for our faith, and what they gave up for us.

John Cunningham



# St. Charles Borromeo—December 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

November 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Jan 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Confessions every  
Saturday at 3 pm  
Adoration every  
Wednesday  
at 11:00 am - 3:00 pm



**1**  
3:00 PM Clinic

6:15 PM RE  
Classes

**6:30 PM  
Reconciliation**

Adoration  
10:00am-5:00pm  
every Wednesday

**2**  
4:00 PM Newsletter  
Meeting - Kastner  
Room

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Youth Group  
in Youth Room

7:00 PM Grupo de  
Jovenes Adultos  
meeting in C

**3**  
12:00 PM WSC  
Day Bunco in C

5:30 PM Clases  
de Diabetes

7:00 PM RICA

7:00 PM Novena of Our Lady

**4**  
9:00 AM Clase  
PreBautismal en C

**Holiday  
\$\$ Collection  
for Gift Cards**

**5**  
9:15 AM  
Confirmation & RE  
10:00 AM Choir  
Practice

Building &  
Maintenance

Holiday \$\$ Collection  
for Gift Cards

WSC Christmas Party

**6**  
6:00 PM Social  
Ministry Board-  
Beckman Hall

St. Nicholas Day  
-School

**7**  
7:00 PM Journey  
of Faith

7:00 PM Talleres  
de Oración  
Mtg Room A/B

Clinic

**8**  
5:30 PM Stewardship  
Meeting Kastner  
Room

6:15 PM RE  
Classes

Immaculate  
Conception

**9**  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Youth Group  
in Youth Room

**Execution  
Bigler Souffer**

**10**  
5:30 PM Clases  
de Diabetes

7:00 PM RICA

**11**  
9:00 AM Clase  
PreBautismal en C

**11:00 PM  
Mañanitas followed  
by Midnight Mass**

7:00 PM (8:00 PM Wednesday) Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**12**  
9:15 AM  
Confirmation & RE  
10:00 AM Choir  
Practice

Cabalgata prior to  
1:00 PM Our Lady of  
Guadalupe (Dass)

3:00 PM WSC  
Meeting in C

Retirement for  
Religious & Priests'  
Medical Fund

**13**  
8:30 AM Our Lady of  
Guadalupe  
-School

10:30 AM Food  
Bank Delivery

**3:00 PM Clinic**  
**7:00 PM WSC**  
**Cookie Exchange**  
**-Beckman Hall**

**14**  
7:00 PM Journey  
of Faith

7:00 PM Baptismal  
Seminar EN in Mtg  
Room C

7:00 PM Talleres  
de Oración  
Mtg Room A/B

**15**  
3:00 PM Clinic

6:15 PM RE  
Classes

6:30 PM Catholic  
Social Justice  
Committee - KR

**16**  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Youth Group  
in Youth Room

**17**  
5:30 PM Clases  
de Diabetes

7:00 PM RICA

**18**  
11:00 AM  
Bautismos  
Español

6:00 PM Baptisms  
English

**Holiday Program  
goes out**

**19**  
10:00 AM Choir  
Practice

Altar Expense

**20**

**21**

7:00 PM Talleres  
de Oración  
Mtg Room A/B

**22**

**23**

**24**

**English Masses:**  
**4:30 PM**  
**9:00 PM**

**Bilingual Mass:**  
**6:30 PM**

**25**  
**Christmas**  
Mass: 10:00 AM

No Confessions  
or 5:00 PM Mass  
today

School Out St. Charles ~ No RE or Confirmation Classes

**26**  
Regular Mass  
Schedule except  
no 6:00 PM Mass

**27**  
No  
7:00 AM Mass today

**28**  
7:00 PM Journey  
of Faith

7:00 PM Talleres  
de Oración  
Mtg Room A/B

**29**

**30**

**31**

**New Years Eve**  
**Mass: 6:30 PM**

School Out St. Charles ~ No RE or Confirmation Classes



## Parish Life

### New Parishioners-October

David Arambula & Maria De Lara  
 Eduardo Cardona & Paulina Esparza  
 Jose & Karina Cruz  
 Ernesto Garcia & Lizby Pasillas  
 Alexis & Angelica Gomez  
 Eric Guerra Alba  
 Jose Guzman & Lucia Reyes  
 Yanelle Hernandez  
 Donald Holden & Anlot Besong  
 Josephine Lee  
 Christian & Yolanda Marquez  
 Jacob McIntyre  
 Jose Moran & Diana Muños  
 Edgar Ramirez & Lilia Castillo  
 Everardo Ramirez  
 Carlos Duran  
 Cesar & Airica Martinez

### Baptisms-October

Leilani Morales  
 Jason Alexander Gallegos  
 Michelle Martinez  
 Jacob Vincent Van Oordt  
 Alan Josue Gonzalez  
 Emiliano Jose Lopez  
 Daniel Alejandro Lopez  
 Logan Jesus Escobar Escalera  
 Esteban Nicolas Luevano



### Weddings-October

Jose Manuel Gramajo & Alexandra Hernandez  
 David Clear & Hannah Nightingale



### Anniversaries-December

Dec.		Anniv.
07 <sup>th</sup>	Miguel and Maria Ramirez	29 <sup>th</sup>
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jose and Maria Esparza	24 <sup>th</sup>
21 <sup>st</sup>	Luis and Marycruz Martinez	08 <sup>th</sup>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jose and Susana Contreras	29 <sup>th</sup>
28 <sup>th</sup>	Joe and Deana Ellis	25 <sup>th</sup>
	Raul and Maria Escalera	21 <sup>st</sup>
	Jesus and Albertina Sifuentes	26 <sup>th</sup>
29 <sup>th</sup>	Michael and Alice Wheeler	48 <sup>th</sup>



### Deaths-October

Jean Conway

\* I heard you can get lawyers at Ikea now.  
 They're very affordable, but you have to  
 build your own case.

## Humílitás

We, your newsletter team, submit this issue with humility and thanks to God: Fr. Will Banowsky,  
 Michael Carpenter, John Cunningham, Kathy Judge, Monica Knudsen, Margaret Phipps  
 print shop: Karen Flores, Jennifer Hernandez-Reyes

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