

CHURCH OF  
THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



*December 15, 2024—Third Sunday of Advent*



**GAUDETE SUNDAY**

*THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

*The word “GAUDETE” is Latin for “REJOICE.” In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous JOY!*

**THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE  
MASS**

**Weekend Schedule**

**SATURDAY**

5:00pm Vigil

**SUNDAY**

7:30am; 9:30am; 11:30am

4:00pm Traditional Latin Mass

[www.facebook.com/ihmbelmont](http://www.facebook.com/ihmbelmont)

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**Weekday Schedule**

Monday-Saturday

8:15am

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Monday—Thursday**

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Friday, Saturday,  
Sunday**

CLOSED

1040 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Belmont, California 94002 / Phone: (650)593-6157 / website: [www.ihmbelmont.org](http://www.ihmbelmont.org)

*A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR*

Gaudete Sunday – The Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 2024

*Philippians 4:4-5 Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete.*

*Dominus enim prope est. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

*Zephaniah 3:14 Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart.*

*Luke 3:18 Exhorting them in many other ways, he (John the Baptist) preached good news to the people.*

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent are traditionally known in the sacred liturgy of the Roman Rite by the Latin first words of their Gregorian Chant Introits (Entrance Chants), which remain even in the liturgical reform as the official opening music for these days. In Advent it is Gaudete, whereas in Lent it is Laetare; both are exhortations to the people of God to rejoice in the Lord. In fact, during the many centuries when these ancient and venerable chants were used exclusively, the congregation would immediately know the occasion not only by the words, but also by the proper music. It told them that the holy season of Christmas preparation or Easter preparation was half over. There is still the custom in many parishes to switch from violet-colored vestments to rose colored ones, if these are available, but just for these two Sundays. Clearly, the theme in Advent is rejoicing in the grace won for us by our Divine Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Who wouldn't want to be reborn in Christ?

In these days of text-messaging you might try Philippians 4:4. Though a Christian is usually not exempt from suffering, there is always reason to be joyful in the Lord come what may. This joy is not superficial, but enters the depths of one's being in one's heart of hearts. Here, no matter what may be going on, the Lord comes to dwell. Thus, from the Christian perspective, sadness is to live in the state of mortal sin, alienated from God. Authentic Christian joy means to live in the state of sanctifying grace and to grow in that wonderful grace day by day. It is that joy that already gives us a taste of the joy of heaven in this world. That is what the Gospel is all about, meaning in the original Greek, Good News. Right before we receive Holy Communion the priest says: *"Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb."* Communion with our Lord is our greatest joy.

In preparation for a joyful Christmas Holy Communion, I encourage all to make a sincere and devout confession. What is Christmas if we are not reborn in the Lord? With this approach we receive the greatest Christmas gift of all.

Yours in the Lord,

Father Mark G. Mazza, Pastor



Welcome aboard Louie Mora!

We are very happy to announce that we now have a new sacristan at IHM. We offer him a warm and cordial welcome. We look forward to working with him.

Louie has generously volunteered to do the important ministry of facilitating our divine worship. We are fortunate to have him join us. We are grateful for his generous donation of time and talent for the greater honor and glory of God.

Fr. Mark G. Mazza

Parish Clergy and Office Staff  
(650) 593-6157

Mass Intentions  
December 15th – December 21st

**Rev. Mark G. Mazza**  
Pastor  
*frmmazza@gmail.com*

**Rev. Cameron R. Pollette**  
Parochial Vicar  
*Pollette.Cameron@sfarch.org*

**Rev. Mr. Leon P. Kortenkamp**  
Permanent Deacon  
*leonpk@comcast.net*

**Rev. Mr. Henry Jacquemet**  
Permanent Deacon(Retired)

**Ms. Jeanne Sentman**  
Parish Manager  
*jsentman@ihmbelmont.org*

**Mrs. Maritza Falla**  
Parish Admin Assistant  
*mfalla@ihmbelmont.org*

**Katerin Mendoza**  
*Receptionist Secretary*  
*kmendoza@ihmbelmont.org*

**Sunday, December 15**  
7:30AM            Intention of the Celebrant  
9:30AM            +Madona, Thomas, Don Oswald  
11:30AM           +Jennefer Fadelli  
4:00PM            For the People

**Monday, December 16**  
8:15AM            +Betty Martin

**Tuesday, December 17**  
8:15AM            + Betty Martin

**Wednesday, December 18**  
8:15AM            Intention of the Celebrant

**Thursday, December 19**  
8:15AM            Intention of the Celebrant

**Friday, December 20**  
8:15AM            Intention of the Celebrant

**Saturday, December 21**  
8:15AM            Intention of the Celebrant  
5:00PM            + Mark Dellinges

Faith Formation

**Mrs. Robyn Lang**  
Director of Religious Education  
*faith@ihmbelmont.org*  
(650) 593-6157 x1022

Parish School K-8th Grade

**Dr.Andrea Harville**  
School Principal  
*aharville@ihmschoolbelmont.org*  
(650) 593-4265  
**Preschool** (650) 593-2344

Celebrants			
Weekend of December 21st/December 22nd			
Saturday, December 21st	8:15am	Fr. Pollette	
	5:00pm	Fr. Mazza	
Sunday, December 22nd	7:30am	Fr. MacDonald	
	9:30am	Fr. Mazza	
	11:30am	Fr. Pollette	
	4:00pm	Fr. Pollette	

**Readings for Weekend of  
December 21st/December 22nd**

**Micah 5:1-4a • Restoration through the Messiah**

**Hebrews 10:5-10 • The second covenant**

**Luke 1:39-45 • The visit to Elizabeth**

December 8, 2024

Plate 1st Collection: \$ 4,076.00

Online: \$485.00

**Total: \$ 4,561.00**

2nd Collection Retirement Fund for Religious  
**\$2,010.00**

Thank you for your generosity.



Almsgiving is one of the three penitential practices of Advent, along with prayer and fasting.

*“God is a God of peace.  
He does not speak and does not operate except in peace, not in trouble and agitation.”*

It is in the quiet and stillness—through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—that Catholics will hear him speaking and respond.

—Fr. Jacques Philippe

SECOND COLLECTION

December 15th Maintenance

December 22nd Archdiocesan Annual Appeal



ANNUAL APPEAL  
2024



Recognizing God's gifts and  
giving back in gratitude.

Advent is a time to reflect on giving and stewardship, and donating to church can be a way to participate in this. Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas, and Christians use this time to reflect on what they value and to direct their resources towards what matters most. The nativity story is a story of generosity, with the wise men bearing gifts and Mary and Joseph opening their lives to a divine call.

Help us reach our goal before December 31st by donating by check, online, or by clicking the QR Code.

We can make it!

Thank you.

Parish Goal



98% (New)  
(\$61,929.00 Received)

SCAN HERE







The next Family Faith Formation gathering will be  
Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 10:45 am  
in the Parish Center.  
Families are invited and encouraged to attend the  
9:30 Mass prior to our gathering.  
All registered students, preschool through grade  
12, attend this session with at least one adult.

**The Discovery Room is open after all weekend Masses .**

Come on in and pick a book for your child to bring home and get to know more about Jesus! Come browse through the many books and DVD’s available for you to borrow and enjoy!



The Joy Candle  
Discover sources of happiness  
in your life.

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more.

The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men.

IHM—BLESSED BEYOND BEREAVEMENT

Beginning January 6, 2025 there is an opportunity for those who are grieving for love ones to meet in a safe and confidential environment and meet in a community with others who are also experiencing grief  
This is not grief counseling, but a simple place to listen and offer prayer and companionship.

FACILITATOR:

Terry Messinger  
650-576-5921

GOAL:

To walk alongside others, who are grieving and share together our experiences in a safe and confidential Environment.

MEETING NIGHT:

First Monday of each month in the Discovery Room in the vestibule of the church from 7:30PM to 8:00 or 8:30PM

ACTIVITIES; Listening, reading scriptures where appropriate, praying



Breaking Open the Word

The Catholic Way



*This week we hear John the Baptist give concrete examples of what it means to “prepare the way of the Lord.” He tells the crowds, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” Three hundred years later, St. Basil took John the Baptist (and Jesus) so seriously that he wrote “When someone steals another’s clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your*

*cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoarded up belongs to the poor.” Do we take these words so seriously? If not, why not?*

*John the Baptist directed his next two examples of preparing the way for Jesus to particular groups of “middle-men” in his society: the tax collectors and Roman soldiers. Some tax collectors were guilty of padding their wallets by collecting more than the Jewish peasants legally owed to their Roman rulers. Theirs was like white collar crime today—maybe not violent or vicious, but unjust and hurtful, especially to people poorer than them. John the Baptist also challenged the Roman soldiers to stop using their strength and position to extort money out of fear. The Jews had more than enough trials in life without being threatened and falsely accused by the police force of their time. Some parallels might be the racism experienced by people of color in America today (particularly at the hands of the police and criminal justice system), and the power that employers have over undocumented workers and those who don’t speak fluent English.*

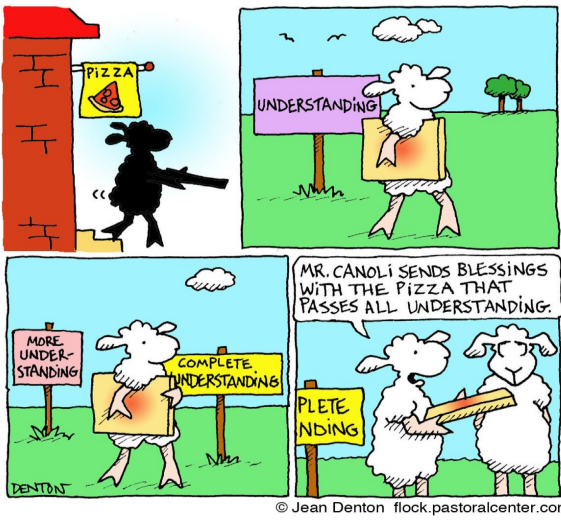
*For John, preparing the way for Jesus was about much more than going through a baptismal ritual. It required concrete changes in how people lived their day to-day lives. Perhaps we need to be reminded that when we approach any of the sacraments ourselves. Are we committing to live out what we say we believe?*

—Pastoral Center

# Advent Giving Tree 2024

Help us support women who are awaiting the birth of their unborn child and help us support moms after their baby arrives with the help of the Gabriel Project! (sfarch.org/gabrielproject)

**Donate here:**  
[sfarch.org/gabriel-project-advent-tree/](https://sfarch.org/gabriel-project-advent-tree/)



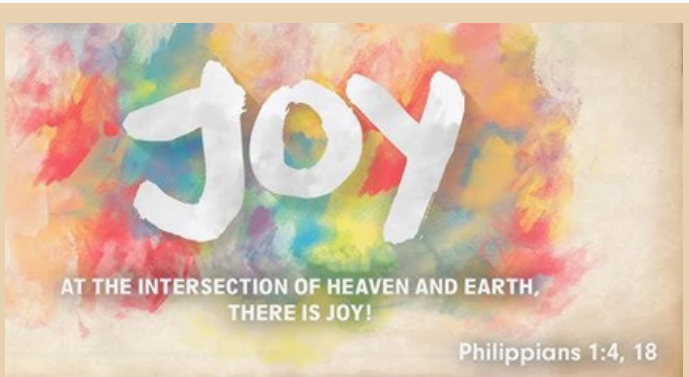
“With thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Sheepish Question:

Here in Advent, how can my attitude in prayer quell my anxieties and open me to God’s peace?



To all parishioners, please take home a 2025 calendar. Share with family and friends



**JOY** is essential to the spiritual life. Whatever we may think of or say about God, when we are not joyful, our thoughts and words cannot bear fruit.

Jesus reveals to us God’s love so that his joy may become ours and that our joy may become complete. Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing—sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death—can take that love away.

Joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God’s love for us. . . . Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.

It is a choice based on the knowledge that we belong to God and have found in God our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death, can take God away from us.

-Henry Nouwen



**PRAY THE ROSARY**  
Monday thru Saturday *after* the 8:15 Mass



**PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**  
Monday thru Saturday at 7:50am



**BAPTISM:**

Please call the Parish Office at (650)593-6157 to schedule an appointment or visit the parish web-site [ihmbelmont.org/baptism](http://ihmbelmont.org/baptism)

**MARRIAGE**

Arrangements must be made six months before the tentative date of the marriage by calling the Parish Office.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

Please contact the Parish Office at (650)593-6157 to speak with a priest.

**CONFESSION:**

Saturday 4:00 to 4:45 PM or by appointment





CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE 2024

PENANCE SERVICES

Wednesday, December 18th,

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Tuesday, December 24th Carols 4:30PM  
Mass 5:00PM

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Wednesday, December 25th 7:30AM, 9:30AM, 11:30  
4:00PM TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS (TLM)

VIGIL SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD  
Tuesday, December 31st 5:00PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
Wednesday, January 1st 9:00AM  
12:00PM Noon TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS (TLM)

