



A REFLECTION FROM FR. VINCENT PINEDA, PASTOR

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" - Matthew 11:3

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Family,

Today is Gaudete Sunday – from the Latin *'Gaudete,'* meaning "rejoice!" We light the rose-colored candle on our Advent wreath, and the Church invites us to joy even as we continue waiting. Yet today's Gospel shows us that even the greatest prophet experienced doubt.

John the Baptist, now imprisoned, sends his disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" This is the same John who proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God, who saw the Spirit descend on him like a dove. Yet now, in prison's darkness, doubt creeps in.

Jesus doesn't rebuke John for his doubt. Instead, he points to the evidence: "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." These signs fulfill Isaiah's prophecies about the Messiah. God's kingdom is breaking into the world, just not perhaps in the way John expected.

John anticipated a Messiah who would bring dramatic judgment – winnowing fork in hand, burning chaff with unquenchable fire. Instead, Jesus brings healing, liberation, and good news to the poor. The kingdom comes not through violent overthrow but through transforming love.

Jesus then speaks about John with profound respect: "Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." John stands at the threshold between old and new covenants, pointing toward what he himself couldn't fully enter.

This Gospel offers comfort to all who experience doubt. Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it's often faith seeking deeper understanding. Even John, that towering figure of faithfulness, had questions. What matters is bringing our doubts to Jesus rather than letting them drive us away.

The Gospel also reminds us that God often works differently than we expect. We might pray for dramatic interventions, but God chooses gentle transformation. We might want immediate justice, but God practices patient mercy. Learning to recognize God's kingdom in its actual manifestations rather than our imagined ones is part of spiritual maturity.

This week, as we rejoice in this midpoint of Advent, consider: Where do you experience doubt about God's presence or promises? How is God working in ways you didn't expect? Where do you see signs of God's kingdom – blind seeing, lame walking, good news for the poor – in your community?

Advent Blessings, *Fr. Vincent*

☞ OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, **9:00 AM — 4:00 PM**
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UPCOMING PRESIDER SCHEDULE AND FEATURE ARTICLE

December 20-21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

(Presiders Subject to Change)

SATURDAY VIGIL

4:00PM

Msgr. Michael Mitchell

5:30PM

Fr. Phong Nguyen

SUNDAY

8:00 AM

Fr. Vincent Pineda

8:15AM(Villages)

Fr. Eddie Obero

10:00AM

Fr. Vincent Pineda with Dcn Joe

12:00PM

Fr. Eddie Obero with Dcn Sunny

2:00PM (Spanish)

Rudy Ruiz

4:00PM

Fr. Phong Nguyen

6:00PM

TBD



Third Sunday of Advent – Rejoice! The Lord Is Near

Today we celebrate the *Third Sunday of Advent*, traditionally called **Gaudete Sunday** — a day filled with joy and anticipation. We light the rose candle as a reminder that the coming of Jesus is near, and our hearts are called to rejoice!

The readings this weekend overflow with hope. The Prophet Isaiah proclaims good news to the poor and joy for those who long for God’s promise to be fulfilled. St. Paul encourages us to “rejoice always,” to pray, and to give thanks — because God is faithful and is working wonders even when we cannot see them fully. And in the Gospel, we are reminded once again that God’s greatest miracles often begin quietly, humbly, and sometimes with great uncertainty.

This joy-filled Sunday also invites us to enter into the story of **Mary and Joseph** — two young people who were asked to trust God in an extraordinary way. Mary was likely just a teenager when the angel appeared to her with a message that changed not only her life, but the entire world. Joseph too was challenged: to protect, provide, and believe even when the circumstances seemed confusing and frightening.

Imagine the questions they must have carried in their hearts:

“Am I strong enough for this?”

“Why me?”

“What will people think?”

“How do we move forward from here?”

Their “yes” was not spoken without fear or doubt — but with incredible faith. Their courage reminds us that God often calls us when we feel least ready. And He does not choose us because we are perfect, but because He knows what we can become with His grace.

As we draw closer to Christmas, we are invited to share in **their excitement, their waiting, and their trust**. Like Mary and Joseph, we may face challenges — family struggles, grief, uncertainty, or stress — but we are not alone. God walks with us, preparing a place of joy and peace in our hearts.

So this week, let us open our lives to God with renewed hope. Let us rejoice — not because everything is easy, but because **Emmanuel** — *God-with-us* — is coming. His presence brings light to darkness, peace to worry, and joy that the world cannot take away.

May our hearts echo Mary’s faith and Joseph’s courage as we prepare the way for Christ:

Come, Lord Jesus... we are ready to rejoice in Your love.



FAITH FORMATION DATES TO REMEMBER:

J.O.Y.

January 15 Session

First Communion Second Year Preparation
(8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM)

January 4 Session

Adult Confirmation

(5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the parish office)

December 21 Session

January 18 Session

OCIA (ADULTS)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

December 14 Session

December 21 Session

OCIA (CHILDREN/YOUTH)

(Sessions begin at the 10 AM Mass)

December 14 Session

January 11 Session



Children's Liturgy of the Word

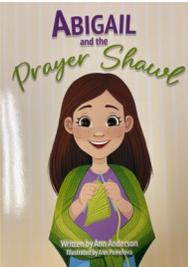
(8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:00 PM Masses)

December 14 and December 21



The **Knights of Columbus** is a brotherhood of Catholic men committed to faith, charity, and service. If you've ever felt called to make a difference in our parish and community, now is the perfect time to join us. Learn more after Mass this

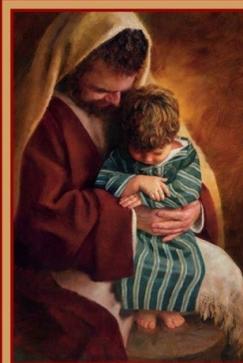
weekend by visiting our table outside the chapel near the Sandersfeld gathering space. Or you can visit our website kofc.org



What a great Gift! Did You Know?

Our very own St. Francis of Assisi Prayer Shawl Ministry — and one of our parishioners — is featured in a new children's book!

Abigail and the Prayer Shawl is a heartwarming story that shares the kindness, comfort, and faith behind prayer shawls. It's perfect for children and adults alike. I truly love this book and highly recommend it. Available on Amazon and in various bookstores.



**Joseph
Jesus'
Father
on
Earth**

Matthew 13:55

**Joseph: A
Father
Chosen by
God**

We often think of Mary and baby Jesus at Christmas, but Joseph is a true hero in the story too. God

chose him to be the loving father who would protect and care for Jesus.

Even though Joseph was young and unsure of what the future held, he trusted God. He supported Mary, kept the Holy Family safe, and taught Jesus how to work, pray, and love others. Joseph shows us that being a good father and a good person means doing what is right — even when it's tough.

As Christmas gets closer, let us follow Joseph's example:

- Trust God's plan
- Help and protect others
- Show love through our actions

St. Joseph, pray for us!



**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!**

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 15, 2025

Ariel Lissa (Bday)
 Ange and Berthe Acinou+
 Julio Sr. and Trinidad Moral+
 Fred Asebes+
 Claudio S De Guzman+ (Death Anniv)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Evelyn Gaviola (Birthday)
 Susan (Healing)
 David A. Sanville+
 Alayzia Faith Rubang (Bday)
 Bernadette Raphael+

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Sylvia Alvarez (Birthday)
 Gregoria Martin+ (death anniversary)
 Olympia Dato+
 Jack Kennedy+ (Bday)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (7PM)

Floriano Donato Salano (Bday)
 Merlo Monserate Natividad+
 Margaret Reding+
 Emma San Antonio+

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Maria Dung Nguyen+
 Filomena and Consolacion Concepcion+
 Medardo Sebastian+
 Felicisimo B. Salano+

Friday, December 19, 2025

Elsa Songcayawon+
 Marielle De Los Reyes (Birthday)
 Annie Esguerra (Bday)
 Al Pacheco+
 AnnMarie Reyes and Raphael Zarraga (SI)

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Walter Hasselmann+
 Maria Luz Bautista+
 Rodricks/Dsouza Family (Thanksgiving/Gratitude)
 Phat Hung (Bday)

Saturday/Sunday, December 20-21, 2025

4:00PM Vigil

Christine Marcial (Bday)
 Ted Mendoza Lu (Bday)
 Fr. Rey Sarmiento+
 Yvonne Jacobson+

5:30PM Vietnamese Vigil

Maria Tran Thi Tranh+
 Theresa Thuong Thuong Nguyen (Bday)
 Leo Hồ Quý Chương+

Sunday 8AM Chapel

Glenda Jimenez (Healing)
 Donna Vinoli+
 Cheryl Ramirez Guerrero+

8:15AM Villages

Guise Lan Vu+
 Jeff Schlagete+
 Lois Devincenzi+

Maria Cecilia Gracioso+

10AM Chapel

Dinh-Mai Family+
 John Bui+

Giancarlo Bello+
 Gregg Kellogg+

Marlon Sarabosing+ (Death Anniv)

12PM Chapel

Manuel Araujo+
 Eva Lansang+

Trinity Marie L. Cruz Hernandez

Maria Ester Legaspi+
 Anna Roa+

2PM Spanish

Victor Alonzo+
 Anna Alonzo+

4PM Vietnamese Mass

Anton Vu Tuyen+
 Vincente Vu Bao+

6PM Chapel

David A. Sanville+
 Merlo Monserate Natividad+
 Madeline Oei (SI)
 Dominador and Leonora DeJesus+

WEEKLY OFFERTORY TOTALS

COLLECTION TOTALS

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2025

Masses	\$	13,724.02
Online	\$	5,488.00
Mail	\$	400.00
Our Lady of Perpetual Help		
	\$	72.00
Grand Total	\$	19,684.02

Second Collection \$ 5,780.00

(Thanksgiving Collection)

Thank you in advance for your continual generosity and financial contributions to the needs of our parish!

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE NOTICE

Please be advised that the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Office will be closed from **Thursday, December 24, 2025, through Sunday, January 4, 2026**. We will resume normal office hours on **Monday, January 5, 2026**.

We kindly ask that you plan any parish visits or administrative needs accordingly.
 Thank you for your understanding

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ◆ **Daily Rosary and Prayer**
8:00AM, Chapel
- ◆ **Adoration**, First Friday of month, 9:30AM-5:00PM, Chapel
- ◆ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** hosted by Legion of Mary, Wednesdays, Chapel, Rosary & Novena, 6:30PM, Mass, 7:00PM.
- ◆ **Spanish Community Prayer and Rosary**, Wednesdays, 4:30PM, Chapel Tabernacle
- ◆ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** Thursdays, 3:00-5:00PM, Fireside Room
- ◆ **Praise and Thanksgiving Ministry** Thursdays, 5:30PM, Chapel Tabernacle

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

**Crisis Mental Health Services
988**

Suicide Hotlines

Santa Clara County 855-278-4204

Text Line: 741741

(Text "BAY" for Crisis Support in Bay Area)

California Youth Crisis

800-843-5200

Santa Clara County Emergency

Psychiatric Service (EPS)

485-885-6100

NAMI Warm Line

(open Mon-Fri, 10AM-6PM)

408-453-0400



The Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an

instrument of Your peace;

where there is hatred,

let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to

be consoled as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are

pardoned, and it is in dying that we

are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

We Also Pray For...

- Those battling cancer — may God grant them endurance, healing, and compassionate hands to care for them.
- Those who have no one to pray for them — we lift them up with love, trusting that God knows each of their names and needs.
- Those beginning new journeys — may the Holy Spirit guide their steps, bless their decisions, and lead them toward grace-filled paths.



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Christmas Giving Tree will be returning during Advent. You can participate by selecting an ornament from the tree, purchasing the desired gift, and placing the gift under the tree or **bringing it to the parish office by December 15**. We are partnering with Our Lady of Refuge and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes to bring joy to families in our community this Christmas Season. Thank you for sharing with those in need, at Christmas and

**SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE
PASSAGES**

TODAY'S READINGS
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading I:

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Reading II:

James 5:7-10

Gospel:

Matthew 11:2-11

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading I:

Isaiah 7:10-14

Reading II:

Romans 1:1-7

Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-24

**PARDON OUR
PROGRESS
EXCITING CHANGES
IN THE WORKS**

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Memorial Garden Families,
We kindly ask that you **refrain from bringing new flowers or plants until the completion of the ongoing construction.** This will help us maintain safety and preserve the dignity of the space throughout the improvements.
Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and continued care for our Memorial Garden.
Memorial Garden



Schedule of Masses

- Auxiliary Bishop Andy Ligot Monday 15 Dec | 7:00 PM
Fr. Robain Lamba Tuesday 16 Dec | 7:00 PM
Msgr. Gene O'Donnell Wednesday 17 Dec | 7:00 PM
Fr. John Phong Thursday 18 Dec | 7:00 PM
Fr. Tito Cartagenas Friday 19 Dec | 7:00 PM
Fr. Eddie Obero Saturday 20 Dec | 7:00 PM
Fr. Art Yabes Sunday 21 Dec | 6:00 PM
Fr. Ritche Bueza Monday 22 Dec | 7:00 PM
Fr. Vincent Pineda Tuesday 23 Dec | 7:00 PM

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

ADVENT 2025 SCHEDULE



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 8:30AM, 5:00PM (VIETNAMESE)



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 7:00PM



SIMBANG GABI NOVENA MASSES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 TO SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 7:00PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6:00PM

MONDAY & TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22-23, 7:00PM



CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00PM, 5:00PM (VILLAGES), 6:00PM (VIETNAMESE)



CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

12:00 MIDNIGHT, 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 2:00PM (SPANISH)

4:00PM (VIETNAMESE)



NEW YEAR'S EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 5:00PM



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2026

8:30AM, 12:00PM, 5:00PM (VIETNAMESE)