




All are Welcome

ST. MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 10, 2023

Early Publication Submission

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PEACE

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight his paths."
- Mark 1:3*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



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Mass Live Streamed

**Sunday 9:00am and Daily
Masses are Live Streamed
on our website**

stmaryslg.org/live-stream-mass

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass

5:00 pm - In Person

Sunday Masses:

9:00am

Live-Stream & In Person

11:00am & 5:00pm - In Person

Mon - Sat: 8:30am

Rosary - 8:00am

Live-Stream & In Person

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm
(Office Conference Room)

ADORATION

Mondays - 9:00-10:00am

LIVE STREAMED

Thursdays - 7:00 pm

stmaryslg.org/live-stream-mass

SUNDAY DONATIONS

are best made online

stmaryslg.org/donate

Envelopes can be mailed in
or dropped off at the
Parish Office

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

December 12 - 7:00pm in Church

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:00pm followed by reception

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7:00pm

RECONCILIATION (Individual Confession)

Saturdays Dec. 16 & 23 at 3:30-4:00pm.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vigil: Saturday, Dec. 23 - 5:00pm & Sunday, Dec. 24 - 9:00am & 11:00am

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, Dec. 24: 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 10:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY -

Monday, Dec. 25: 9:00am and 11:00am.

(No Mass at 8:30am and 5:00pm)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Monday, Jan. 1, 2023 8:30am.

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.)

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE & CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Deadline: December 11 - See Page 4

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

The prophet Isaiah offers comfort and hope to the Israelites who were captive in Babylon in proclaiming that the glory of the Lord is returning to Israel. *Do you have family or friends who could use words of encouragement from you?*

Second Reading:

Peter speaks of being at peace while we wait for the promise of new heavens and a new earth when Christ returns. *What gives you peace of mind these days?*

Gospel:

Fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah, John the Baptist proclaimed the arrival of Jesus, "one mightier than I...(who) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." *Where do you sense the Holy Spirit present in your life?*

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11;

Psalms 85;

2 Peter 3:8-14;

Mark 1:1-8

©LPi

REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

Today's readings on this Second Sunday of Advent can be summed up as equal parts comfort and warning for the Christian steward. We serve a merciful and patient God — in His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us.

The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, Whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

Our First Reading from Isaiah is filled with messages and images of the Father's tender love for us. "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end." In other words, Israel's time of exile and captivity is over and freedom is coming. Our freedom from the captivity of sin has come as well, through the saving power of Jesus.

In this passage we also read this description of the Father. "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care." What tender love He has for us. And it is out of this love that we are told to "prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!"

St. Peter reiterates the loving kindness of the Father in our Second Reading today. He says that God "is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Yet, in the same passage we receive this warning: "The Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar... and the earth and everything on it will be found out."

How are we to assimilate these two truths — the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion" and that we should be "eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace." Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent "reset" — to return to (or intensify) living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us.

Our Gospel passage from Mark takes up the cry of Isaiah from the First Reading, this time through the prophet John the Baptist. John instructs us just as Isaiah did to "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." In practical terms, this means that we Christian stewards must make good use of the gift of time we have been given this Advent season. Let's be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading of the Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service.

In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.

ADVENT
A Season of Preparation

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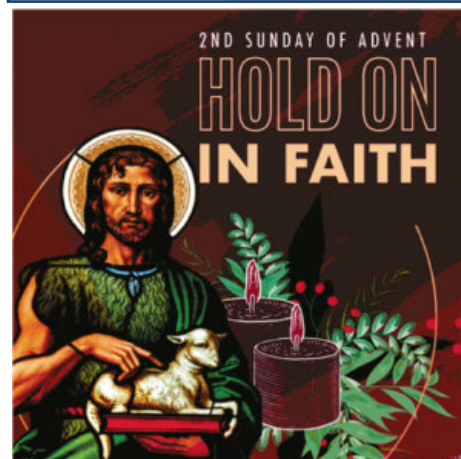
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If it is an **EMERGENCY** and you need to reach a priest call **669-219-9465**.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Page 3

Sun	12/10	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Mon	12/11	St. Damasus I, Pope Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tue	12/12	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wed	12/13	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
Thu	12/14	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13b; Mt 11:11-15
Fri	12/15	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Sat	12/16	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun	12/17	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; (Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	12/11	8:30 am	Peter Kraljev †
Tue	12/12	8:30 am	Margaret Donohue †
Wed	12/13	8:30 am	Moses Pirotta †
Thu	12/14	8:30 am	Manny Nunes †
Fri	12/15	8:30 am	Carolyn Poage †
Sat	12/16	8:30 am	Carole Duzmal †
		5:00 pm	Marie Antonowicz †
Sun	12/17	9:00 am	David Dinno †
		11:00 am	Sylvester and Louise Erba †
		5:00 pm	Donna Hainey †

HELPFUL YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

DEADLINE: Gifts must be postmarked **on or before Saturday, December 30th**. Please plan accordingly.

STOCK GIFTS - Please start your gift by filling out the online form on the Diocese's website. <https://www.dsj.org/ways-to-give/stock-transfers/>

Please note: We ask that you do not use information you may have on file as the Diocese has transitioned to a new broker and previous information you may have will not work.

IRAs—It is not too late to take advantage of a special law that allows those who are 72 or older (73 if you reach age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022) to donate directly from your IRA while avoiding all income tax on the distribution.

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS (RMDs) - There's nothing worse than paying taxes on income you don't need! Under current tax laws you can contribute up to \$100,000 from your retirement account tax free.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM - Check with your employer for Matching Gifts program and give your gift through them for greater tax benefits and impact for your dollars!



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*My Jesus, I believe you
are really here in
the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you more than anything
in the world, and I hunger
to receive you.
But since I cannot receive
Communion at this time,
Feed my soul spiritually.
I unite myself to you now,
as I do when I actually receive
You in Holy Communion. Amen.*

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Christ is making a journey into each of our hearts this Advent. Clear away whatever blocks his way. Make straight the path. Invite him in.

©LPi

POPE FRANCIS' UNIVERSAL PRAYER INTENTION: DECEMBER

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT 2

Dear Lord,
Open our eyes to the people
You have specifically placed in our
path so that we can speak healing
and comfort to them.
Help us to prepare for the coming
of Your kingdom, together. Amen.



FAITH IN ACTION

Stewardship of PRAYER

Please pray with us for our parishioners, family and friends.

For those who are sick and who have asked for our prayers:
Bill Flora; Bruce Welch; George Bommarito; Janie Meacham; Vic LoBue, Jr.; Valerie Bruno; Julio Emberto; Carol Rakich; Cheston Ow; Gloria Scully; Jack D'Oliveiro

For those who have recently died:

Mario Belotti; Thomas Louis Murphy; George Reyes; Ernesto Fernandez; William & Hollis Buchanan; Paul Yap

Members of our parish family who are in the military, hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins and all who have no one to pray for them.

MASS INTENTIONS: A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO REMEMBER SOMEONE

You can offer a Mass for a special intention or for the repose of the soul of a deceased person. Remember that there is no better gift than the gift of God's love and compassion as celebrated in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

www.stmarvslg.org/mass-intention-request

2023 Christmas Giving Tree

St. Mary Parish will be collecting \$25 gift cards on behalf of the following organizations

Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice & Empowerment: Provides educational programs, college scholarships, immigration legal services, housing and rental assistance for families and individuals in San Jose. **\$25 gift cards from Target**

Center for Farmworker Families: Supports the financial and nutritional well-being and independence of binational farm-workers and their families. **\$25 gift cards from Target**

Front Door Communities: Provides meals, clothing and other essential items to our unhoused neighbors in San Jose. **\$25 gift cards from Safeway or Target**

St. Julie Billiart Parish's Emergency Food Pantry: Provides food and basic necessities to over 1,400 clients monthly in San Jose. **\$25 gift cards from Safeway**

THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE COLLECTION WILL CONTINUE UNTIL DEC. 11.

Gift cards can be placed in the Giving Tree Donation drop boxes in the vestibule, the collection baskets or brought to the parish office. Make an online gift at bit.ly/46vXFID

Stewardship of TREASURE

Managing God's Gift To Us

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT OF TREASURE!

Our Goal for December is \$85,000.00

Your weekly offerings enable us to meet our monthly obligations and continue to support the many parish programs at St. Mary. Thank you for your faithful support.

To make an online gift:

stmarvslg.org/online-giving

Please consider setting up a recurring or one-time gift Online. Instructions can be found at

stmarvslg.org/getting-started-with-online-giving

SUNDAY OFFERING AND ONLINE GIVING

Due to the early submission of this bulletin, the plate collection report for the weekend of November 26 is not available.

2ND OFFERING - DECEMBER 9 & 10 RETIRED RELIGIOUS FUND

This annual collection benefits approximately 24,000 elderly religious sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the United States that has an unfunded past service liability.

To Make a Gift Online, please visit :

giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/stmarvslg

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

Contributions toward the purchase of flowers for the celebration of our Lord's birth are greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one, Christmas Flower Offering envelopes are available at the doors of the church and can be placed in the offertory baskets at Mass or dropped off at the Parish Office.

Christmas Flower Offering



Contributions can also be made online at our website - <https://bit.ly/3MLP0o2>.

The names of all those to be remembered will be published in the Christmas bulletin. **Please return the envelopes by December 11.** Thank you for your help in making our sanctuary even more beautiful this Christmas.



OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

MEETING CHRIST: EXPLORING THE LITURGY SERIES INVITATION TO COMMUNION & A PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

After the Sign of Peace, the priest then shows us the Body of Christ and invites us to come to the table echoing the words of John the Baptist, "Behold the Lamb of God...." We respond, "Lord, I am not worthy...", as the Centurion did when he asked Jesus to cure his servant

(Matthew 8:8). None of us, on our own, are worthy to embrace the fullness of Christ. It is only through the love and mercy of God bestowed upon us that we become worthy to receive. The members of the assembly now approach the altar in procession. Communion. As God fed our ancestors in the desert on their pilgrimage, so God gives us food for our journey.

We approach the minister who gives us the Eucharist with the words "The Body of Christ," and we respond, "Amen." During this procession we usually sing a hymn which unites our voices, minds and thoughts, even as the Body and Blood of Christ unites us into one Body. Then we pray silently in our hearts, thanking and praising God. The priest unites our prayers in the Prayer After Communion, to which we respond, "Amen."

A Prayer before Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
as I come to this feast of faith,
strengthen my faith in your presence.

As I receive your Body and Blood,
unite me more fully to you
and with all who share at this table.

In this holy moment,
I bring before you
my needs, my sufferings, my regrets;
my hopes and my thanksgiving.

As I walk towards the altar,
I bring with me those I love
and those I find it difficult to love.

As I join in this holy banquet,
I pray for all families and all nations,
that peace and unity may flow from here
to touch every corner of the world. Amen.

- Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy - St. James Cathedral, Seattle. Used with permission.

Next week: Communion From the Cup

SAINT OF THE WEEK: V. FULTON JOHN SHEEN

Fulton John Sheen was born in El Paso, Illinois, on May 8, 1895. As a child, Sheen was known for his intelligence and his love of learning. He was also an active member of his church and embraced his faith at a young age.

In 1913, Sheen enrolled at St. Viator College in Bourbonnais, Illinois, where he studied philosophy and theology. He was ordained a priest in 1919 and began his ministry in Peoria, Illinois. Sheen quickly gained a reputation as an eloquent speaker and an effective evangelist. He easily connected with those he served, and people were drawn to his charisma.

From 1927 until 1950, Sheen served as a professor of theology and philosophy at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He also became a popular Catholic radio personality, hosting a weekly program called "The Catholic Hour." Sheen used his platform to promote Catholic teachings, defend the faith, and encourage others on their faith journey.

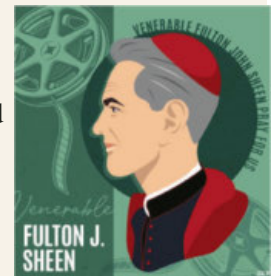
He continued to use the media to spread his message and, in 1951 he expanded into the world of television with a TV show he hosted called "Life is Worth Living." The show was a hit and helped to make Sheen a household name. It ran until 1957 making him one of the first televangelists. He also authored more than 70 books. His most famous work is "Life of Christ," a bestselling book that has been translated into multiple languages.

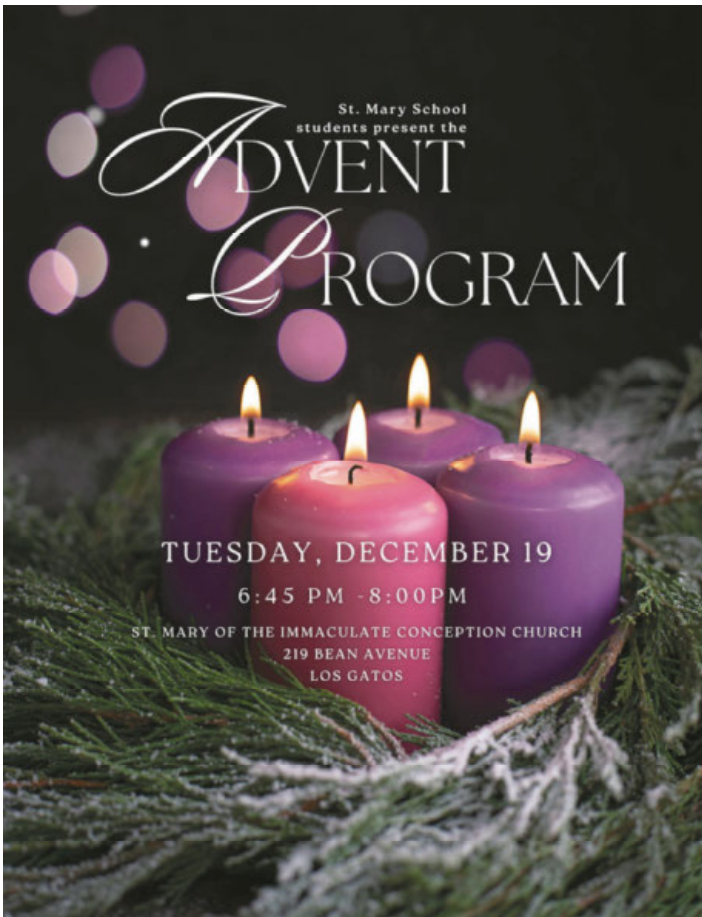
In 1966, Sheen was appointed bishop of Rochester, New York and, in 1969 he was made the archbishop of the titular see of Newport, Wales. During his time as a bishop, he hosted "The Fulton Sheen Program," was featured on the cover of Time Magazine, and won two Emmy Awards for Most Outstanding Television Personality.

Bishop Sheen died in 1979 at the age of 84 after enduring some years of health issues and surgeries. He passed while in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

In 2012, Bishop Sheen's cause for sainthood was opened by the Catholic Church. In 2019, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to Sheen's intercession and he was declared Venerable.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen's life and work continue to inspire people around the world. His emphasis on the power of the media to spread the Gospel and his unwavering commitment to Catholicism have made him a beloved figure in the Church. In addition to his media work and writing, Sheen was known for his humility and his devotion to prayer. He once said, "The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host."





AROUND THE DIOCESE

SAVE THE DATE: REVS VS SEMS

On Sunday, **January 21, 2024** let's cheer on our favorite priests and seminarians with Vocations first fun event of the year. ***The Revs vs Sems Basketball Challenge!*** Doors open 5pm | 6pm Tip-off at St. Francis High School. Tickets are \$10 general. There will be a grand raffle at the game. 1st place winner will get \$1,000 gift card, 2nd place winner will get an airpod and the 3rd place winner will get a \$100 gift card. Check dsj.org/basketball soon for the selling tickets. ***All proceeds from the game benefit DSJ's Seminarian Formation.***

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC SCOUTS: BSA, GIRL SCOUTS & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS!

Did you know that Catholic Scouting has Catholic Emblems, Activity Patches, and fun events that all follow the curriculum of the Catholic Church? It's not too late to get started on a Catholic Emblem due by 2/1/24 so that you can receive your medal from Bishop Cantu at our Recognition Ceremony in March. Checkout all the programs at dsj.org/evangelization/vya/catholic-scouting/



PRAYER FOR PEACE MASS & ROSARY AT SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF PEACE: December 22 join together and Pray for Peace at 5:15pm Mass at Our Lady of Peace Parish. A rosary and procession to Our Lady of Peace Shrine will be held after Mass.

Podcast for the Grieving

SOLACE: Soul + Grief WEEKLY PODCAST

This WEEKLY podcast sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries serving the San José area offers grief support and grief journeying with spirituality. The journey through grief can often feel like a lonely one. Whether you're longing for spiritual direction, struggling with surrender, or simply seeking a comforting voice, this PODCAST offers a beacon of hope.

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