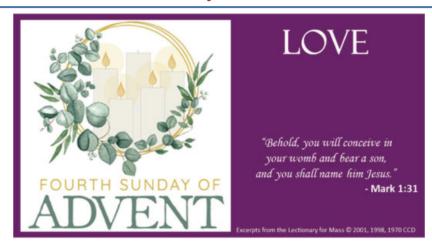


# All are St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception elcome

**December 24, 2023** 

Early Publication Submission

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 



#### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

#### 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. No Adoration at 9am.)

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Sunday, Dec. 31- Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Monday, Jan. 1, 2023 8:30am. (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.)



THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED TILL JANUARY 1, 2023. WE WILL RETURN ON JANUARY 2, 2024.

For medical emergencies requiring the services of a priest, please call 669-219-9465.



O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father.

- Pope St. John XXIII

May the Child of Bethlehem give you peace at Christmas and throughout the New Year. -- Fr. Greg and Staff



## **Keep Up-To-Date**

through our eNewsletter. Sign-up or view recent eNewsletters at:

stmaryslg.org/enewsletter



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

# QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

### **First Reading:**

We hear how God established his covenantal promise with King David to raise up a son after him and ensure that David's house and kingdom will stand firm forever. What promises have you kept with family or friends?

TODAY'S READINGS 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

#### **Second Reading:**

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God. As Advent draws to a close, for what can you praise God?

#### Gospel:

Today's Gospel reading is the annunciation to Mary of the upcoming birth of Jesus. Mary's unconditional acceptance offers us a model to follow. *How open are you to God's work in your life?* 

**©LPi** 

## REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

As any harried parent or excited child can tell you, there is just one day left until the celebration of Christmas begins. As Christian stewards let's live this last day of Advent well.

Our First Reading, from 2 Samuel, features King David, who has resolved to do God a favor by building Him a house in which to dwell. But God reminds David Who is truly in charge. "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went and I have destroyed your enemies before you."

What is true of David's position before God is true for all of us. Our God is mighty, all-powerful and Love itself. The only proper response is to worship Him and live our lives as a grateful gift for all His goodness to us.

How can we possibly live up to this task? Only by relying on God, as St. Paul tells us in the Second Reading, from his letter to the Romans. Paul instructs us to go to "him who can strengthen you... Jesus Christ."

The truth is, once we recognize that all we have is gift from God, the next step is to acknowledge that we need God's strength and wisdom to guide us in the best use of those gifts for the building of His Kingdom. Hopefully, we are making time during Advent to go to God in prayer and through the sacraments to obtain the strength we need to live as His disciples and the guidance to know we are indeed following His will with the gifts He has entrusted to us.

In fact, our aim should be to make the words of our Blessed Mother our own. We read in today's Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of her "fiat," her "yes" to God's plan. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward.

After Mary's fiat, we read, "Then the angel departed from her." Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God's plan for her! Yet, she followed God's will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She trusted in her Heavenly Father to guide her at each step, and He did. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example as disciples today.

This Christmas, let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. It is the work of a lifetime. But He will give us all the help and strength we need to do it.



## PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office	408.354.3726
Fr. Gregory Kimm, Pastor gkimm@stmaryslg.org	x139
Fr. Seth Kupo, <i>Parochial V</i> skupo@stmaryslg.org	icar x138
Michael Lomas, Pastoral A Director of Faith Formatio mlomas@stmaryslg.org	
Percival Perlas, <i>Music Dire</i> pperlas@stmaryslg.org	
Vanesa Lleverino, Admin A vlleverino@stmaryslg.org	Assistant x110
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Music Ministry	x122
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Funerals	x137

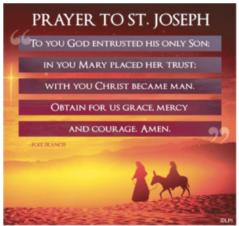
If it is an **EMERGENCY** and you need to reach a priest call **669-219-9465**.

**St. Mary School** 408.354.3944 30 Lyndon Avenue Los Gatos, CA 95030 smslg.org

Monica Hernandez, *Principal* mhernandez@stmaryslg.org

Ceci Salgado, Office Manager csalgado@stmaryslg.org x118





## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12/24 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Sun Lk 1:26-38

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 12/24 Sun Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

12/25 Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Mon Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98: 1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 11;1-18

ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR 12/26 Tues Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17; Mt 10:17-22

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST Wed 12/27 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS Thu 12/28 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr Fri 12/29 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

12/30 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40 Sat

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH; NEW

YEAR'S EVE 12/31

Sun Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40 *or* Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

Mass Intentions			
Mon 12/25 Christmas Day		9:00 am	Steven Wilson †
		11:00 am	St. Mary Parishioners
Tues	12/26	8:30 am	Peter Kraljev †
Wed	12/27	8:30 am	Donald Vitelli †
Thu	12/28	8:30 am	Reverend Fr. Gerald Pedrera (birthday)
Fri	12/29	8:30 am	Joan Stuglik †
Sat	12/30	8:30 am	Florence Bennett †
		5:00 pm	Joseph Mardesich Jr †
Sun	12/31	9:00 am	Wanda Catalana †
		11:00 am	Peter Chi Nguyen †
		5:00 pm	Giorgi/Brenner/Palmisano Families (special intention)

### NATIVITY SCENE PRAYER

God, bless all who gaze upon this nativity scene.

As we look at this Holy Family, let us pray for all families - those we know, and those we do not; those who live on the other side of the world, and those who live on the other side of the street.

Let us recognize and rejoice in the great diversity of the one family of God as we reflect on and give thanks for those diverse gifts present in our own family.

We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





## 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

God's plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say "Yes, Lord" - and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours. **©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 4

Dear Lord, Visit our homes! Visit our families! Bring your goodness and light to every broken heart we've met on this journey of life. Your presence brings healing and rebirth. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

# **FAITH IN ACTION**



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

For those who have recently died:

Arnold Bruni; Linda Graham; Janice Gallagher; 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.stmaryslg.org/mass-intention-request

# SAINT OF THE WEEK – EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH BL. MARIA FRANZISKA SCHERVIER



Maria Franziska Schervier was born on January 3, 1819, in Aachen, Germany. Her father was a successful businessman, and her mother was a devout Catholic who instilled in her a strong love of the Lord.

As a young woman, Schervier felt called to serve God. Due to the death of her mother and two sisters of tuberculosis, though, her father

objected to her desire to become a nun. He was devastated by the deaths and was determined to keep Schervier away from poverty and disease. Out of respect for the trauma her family endured and for her father's sake, Schervier, put aside her own desires. After her father's death, when she was 25, Schervier joined the Third Order of St. Francis. After she took her vows, Schervier worked as a seamstress and as a nurse. In her spare time, she opened up her personal home in Aachen to provide care for the poor and the sick. She soon became known for her compassion and dedication to those in need, and in 1851, she and four other women founded the Congregation of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph of the Perpetual Adoration, also known as the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen.

One of the most significant moments in Schervier's life came in 1863, when she and her sisters were called to care for the victims of a cholera epidemic in Aachen.

Schervier died on December 14, 1876, at the age of 57. Her legacy lived on through the congregation she founded as it continued to grow throughout Europe and the Americas. In 1974, Schervier was beatified by Pope Paul VI and named Blessed. Today, the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen continue to serve the poor and the sick in many countries around the world.

# 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: stmaryslg.org/online-giving

Please consider setting up a recurring or one-time gift Online. Instructions can be found at stmaryslg.org/getting-started-with-online-giving

### **OFFERINGS AND ONLINE GIVING**

	Jul. 1 to Dec. 3, 2023
Budget	\$ 341,334.00
Actual	\$ 305,682.00
Difference	\$ 35,652.00

## 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. <a href="https://www.dsj.org/wavs-to-give/stock-transfers/">https://www.dsj.org/wavs-to-give/stock-transfers/</a>

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) Thora's pathing worse then paying taxes on income you

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!



# CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING DEDICATIONS







# Donations for the beautiful Christmas decorations in the church were lovingly made in memory of or in honor of the names listed below:

David & Clare Dinno †
Joe & Angie Filiponi †
Frank & Amalia Filice †
Willow Gray Patel †
The Glidden Family †
The Smiley Family †
Robert Derham †
Jean Chialastri †
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Donna Hainey †

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Benjamin and Irene
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Charles Lozowicki †
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Jesus Hernandez †
Ana Hernandez †
Louis Bruno †
Marijoe LoBue †
James Lum †
Nancy Ottoboni †

Pierina Ottoboni †
Bart Ottoboni †
Rose Gros de Mange †
E. Richard Gros de Mange †
Dinh Vi Nguyen †
Dinh Le Nguyen †
Dinh Rom Nguyen †
Thi Luu Nguyen †
Jack Panighetti †
Anh Ngo †
Dinh Huynh †
Luciano Iacomini †



# **OUR CATHOLIC FAITH**

# MEETING CHRIST: EXPLORING THE LITURGY SERIES AFTER COMMUNION

Following Communion, we pray quietly or sing a hymn of praise. This time is for us to reflect on what has happened at Mass: something both awesome and familiar. A mystery we cannot fathom has come very near to us; in the Eucharist, we touch and receive something as familiar as bread and wine, something as mysterious as God.

The Eucharist is many things: daily bread, food for the journey, pledge of eternal life, the Body and Blood of Christ. The Eucharist is the meeting-place of earth and heaven, the Incarnation present, here and now. "The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours" (Pope Francis, Laudato Si, 236).

And there is more. The Eucharist calls us to live according to Christ's law of love, and thus the Eucharist calls us not only to be transformed but to be agents of transformation in the world. The recent Popes have all put great emphasis on this aspect of Eucharist. "We cannot delude ourselves," said St. John Paul II in announcing the Year of the Eucharist in 2004: "by our mutual love and, in particular, by our concern for those in need we will be recognized as true followers of Christ. This will be the criterion by which the authenticity of our Eucharistic celebrations is judged" (Mane Nobiscum Domine, 24). Pope Benedict XVI echoed these words: "A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented" (Deus Caritas Est, 14). There are no two ways about it: the Eucharist commits us to the poor.

Long ago, St. Paul wrote to the Christian community at Corinth, where class divisions were evident even in the way they celebrated the Eucharist. "When you meet in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's supper, for in eating, each one goes ahead with his own supper, and one goes hungry while another gets drunk.... What can I say to you? In this matter I do not praise you" (1 Corinthians 11:18-22).

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

Next week: The Eucharist and Transformation



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Sunday, January 28 10:00am-11:00am 30 Lyndon Avenue, Los Gatos smslg.org





7th Grade volunteers (from left): Patrick, Diego, Culley, and Kingston helped unload a truck and distribute dry goods, food and clothing to needy Farm Worker families on Saturday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at St. John the Baptist in King City.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

# 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.

Subscribe on Google Podcasts, Apple, Amazon Music, Spotify.

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### THE REVS VS SEMS BASKETBALL CHALLENGE

On Sunday, January 21, 2024 let's cheer on our favorite priests and seminarians with Vocations first fun event of the year. Doors open 5pm | 6pm Tip-off at St. Francis High School. Tickets are \$10 admission. There will be a grand raffle at the game. 1st place winner will get \$1000 gift card, 2nd place winner will get an airpod and the 3rd place winner will get a \$100 gift card. All proceeds from the game benefit DSJ's Seminarian Formation.

Volunteer opportunities are also available at the game. Visit dsj.org/basketball to sign up.

# **SAVE THE DATE**

2024 Walk for Life West Coast

Diocesan Morning Mass with Bishop

Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 8:00AM St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish

Visit link to view participating parishes:

www.dsj.org/walk4life24

# CALLING ALL CATHOLIC SCOUTS: BSA, GIRL SCOUTS & AMERICAN HERLIAGE CIPLS! Did not be a second of the second of the

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/yya/catholic-scouting/

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CCA Medicare Excel (HMO) Santa Clara County and CCA Medicare Excel (HMO) San Joaquin County are health plans with a Medicare contract. Enrollment depends on contract renewal. This information is not a complete description of benefits.

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