December 8, 2024

Early Publication Submission

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 

### **OUR MISSION**

We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ that gathers together to celebrate the mysteries of God's love. We support and strengthen one another in our commitment to the Catholic faith. We serve those in need and share with all the Good News of God's unconditional love.



### A PRAYER FOR THE Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you came among us
with the irresistible power of a baby,
requiring both our hands and
captivating our whole hearts.
Help us to cast aside the sin
and brokenness that we cling to
so we might be ready to hold you
when you come again
Amen.

### PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE December 11 - 7:00pm in Church

#### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Sunday, Dec. 8, 2:00pm followed by reception

Parish Reconciliation Service: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7:00pm

**RECONCILIATION** (Individual Confession) Saturdays, Dec. 1, 7, 14 & 21 at 3:30-4:00pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE - Tuesday, Dec. 24: 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 10:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY - Wednesday, Dec. 25: 9:00am and 11:00am.

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

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH -** Vigil, Saturday, Dec. 28: 5:00pm; Sunday, Dec. 29: 9:00am, 11:00am and 5:00pm

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Holy day of Obligation)** New YEAR'S DAY: Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 8:30am and 7:00pm. (No Vigil Mass on New Year's Eve)

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD -** Vigil, Saturday, Jan. 4: 5:00pm; Sunday, Jan 5: 9:00am, 11:00am and 5:00pm

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD -** Vigil, Saturday, Jan. 11: 5:00pm; Sunday, Jan 12: 9:00am, 11:00am and 5:00pm

ORDINARY TIME BEGINS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13.

## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE & CHRISTMAS FLOWERS See Page 4



#### MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday Vigil**: Saturday 5:00pm

**Sunday**: 9:00am, 11:00am & 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am and Daily Masses are **Live Streamed** on our website stmaryslg.org/live-stream-mass

### **DAILY MASS**

Mon - Sat: 8:30am Rosary - 8:00am Live-Stream & in church

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30pm - 4:30pm (in church)

#### **ADORATION**

Mondays - 9:00-10:00am Thursdays - 7:00-8:00pm

#### **PARISH OFFICE**

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm 408-354-3726

Email:

<u>parish.office.@stmaryslg.org</u> Web: stmaryslg.org

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

### ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL

408.354.3944 30 Lyndon Avenue Los Gatos, CA 95030 Web: smslg.org

# REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading:

The prophet Baruch offers the Israelites in Babylonian exile a vision of hope in which their broken relationship with God will be fully restored. Is there a broken relationship you could help heal this Advent season?

TODAY'S READINGS
Baruch5: 1-9;
Psalm 126;
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11;
Luke 3:1-6

#### **Second Reading:**

Paul prays with joy over the partnership he experiences with the believers in Phillipi. *What relationships in your life bring you joy?* 

#### Gospel:

Luke is careful to place the activities of John the Baptist in their proper historical and political context, showing how God acts in human history. Can you think of a time in your personal history when you felt God present?

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge during this brief but important season of the liturgical year. Recall from last week that the purpose of this season is reflection on and preparation for the two "comings" of Christ – His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has already triumphed over sin and death and that we, His faithful disciples, will live in the light of His glory one day. "Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God... For God has commanded that every loft mountain be made low... that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God... for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company."

Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

In the Second Reading, a letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, Paul gives us a pep talk as we make our stewardship journey, and we modern-day disciples can take heart in his words. He tells us, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Paul reminds us of two important realities that should greatly encourage us. First, that the stewardship way of life is very much a journey. We don't have to have every aspect of our life perfectly nailed down; we are all "works in progress" called simply to take one step at a time closer to Christ. Second, it is God who started this good work in us — on the day of our Baptism — He cares deeply about this journey of ours and He will give us all the grace and strength we need to stay faithful to Him and continue growing in love and imitation of Christ.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God's love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ's coming among us. We are told the precise time, place, and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior. Through John, we are told how to celebrate to the fullest this first "coming" on the feast of Christmas and how to prepare for the second coming — through repentance.

Let's turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ this Advent. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about —moving closer ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

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### PARISH DIRECTORY

**Parish Office** 408.354.3726

Fr. Angelo David, *Pastor* angelo.david@dsj.org

x139

x110

x137

Michael Lomas, Pastoral Associate & Director of Faith Formation

mlomas@stmaryslg.org x123

Percival Perlas, Music Director

pperlas@stmaryslg.org x122

Vanesa Lleverino, *Admin Assistant* vlleverino@stmaryslg.org

aran Aaria Business Managar

Sharon Aeria, Business Manager saeria@stmaryslg.org

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St. Mary Parish 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

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK						
Sun	12/8	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6				
Mon	12/9	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38				
Tues	12/10	Our Lady of Loreto Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14				
Wed	12/11	St. Damasus I, Pope Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30				
Thu	12/12	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18b-19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47				
Fri	12/13	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19				
Sat	12/14	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13				
Sun	12/15	3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT Zep 3:14-18a; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18				

Mass Intentions					
Mon	12/9	8:30 am	Dominic Montagna †		
Tues	12/10	8:30 am	Nikhil John (birthday)		
Wed	12/11	8:30 am	The Thielmann Family (healing)		
Thu	12/12	8:30 am	Samar Ahwal Chavez †		
Fri	12/13	8:30 am	Andy Nagorski †		
Sat	12/14	8:30 am	Stanislaus Pereira, May Pereira & Ben Pereira †		
Sat		5:00 pm	Leo Sequiera, Esthaline Sequiera & James Sequiera †		
	12/15	9:00 am	Joan Stuglik †		
Sun		11:00 am	George Shannon †		
		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) 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

John the Baptist was appointed to prepare the way for the Lord. This Advent, follow his example and prepare the way for the Lord. Invite the Lord to make straight the roads in your life that wind, and to smooth all that is rough in your heart.

### Pope Francis' Universal Prayer Intention: December

For pilgrims of hope: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



DECEMBER 12 FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS

## 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: Marietta Riney; Adam Thielmann; Michelle Antonowicz; Elisabeth Venesualea; Honora Hannan; Herb Robbins; Frank Nolan; Michelle Schwartz; George Bommarito

For those who have recently died:

Michael Wheeler; Gerlinde Krick; Patrick Mahoney; Harold George Peth

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

## Stewardship of TALENT

#### **DECEMBER 14 & 15**

5PM Saturday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 9AM Sunday: Parish Adult Choir 11AM Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ 5PM Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ



### **2024 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 Safeway or Target

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

Front Door Communities: Provides meals, clothing and other essential items to our unhoused neighbors in San Jose.

\$25 gift cards from 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

Heritage Home: Helps pregnant women and new mothers overcome homelessness and other hardships by providing a safe place to live, meals and counseling. \$25 gift cards from Safeway or Target

## THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE COLLECTION WILL CONTINUE UNTIL DEC. 15.

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 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.org/">bit.ly/3MLP0o2</a>

## 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.

#### OFFERINGS AND ONLINE GIVING

	Jul. 1 to Nov 17, 2024
Budget	\$ 329,000.00
Actual	\$ 277,890.00
Difference	- \$ 51,110.00

#### 2nd Offering - December 7 & 8 RETIRED RELIGIOUS

Each year, hundreds of US religious communities receive financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Communities can use this funding for immediate retirement expenses or invest it for future needs.

There are 20,571 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2023, the average annual cost for their care was roughly \$59,700 per person; skilled nursing care averaged \$90,700 per person.

Support from the Retirement Fund for Religious helps religious communities care for senior members while allowing them to continue important ministries to the People of God.

For more information <u>retiredreligious.org</u>. To make an online gift visit <u>stmaryslg.org/online-giving</u>

### 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.



Contributions can also be made online at our website - <a href="https://bit.ly/3MLP002">https://bit.ly/3MLP002</a>.

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**

## Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe presents the Catholic Faith in a way that was immediately understood and accepted by the native Mexican Indians. It is impossible to describe fully the rich symbolism contained on the Tilma of Juan Diego because every detail of color and of form carries a theological message.

Our Lady's halr, parted in the middle and hanging loosely, indicates she is a virgin maiden.

Scientific analysis has shown reflections of people in the Virgin's eyes, just as any human eye would reflect. There are 13 total figures (including Juan Diego and Bishop Zumárraga) that form two scenes in both eyes.

One can see a cross in the center of the medallion that she carries on the upper part of her dress. This manifests her consecration to her Son Jesus, whose cross reminds us of both His total sacrifice for love and the moment when he gives us Mary as our Mother.

The symbol of the Cross was seen on the sails of the Spaniards' ships.

The Virgin's identity as a woman of heaven and earth is affirmed by her garments' colors and decorations her reddish tunic is the color, symbolic of earth, while the star-speckled green-blue mantle symbolizes the heavens. The mantle's color indicates her royalty, since only the Aztec emperors could wear cloaks of that color, The Virgin, Queen of heaven and earth, points us toward the truth that God is love and mankind is the recipient of His love.

The 8-petaled flowers symbolize the day of new creation. The 'blossom' is in the form of a hill, and the stem is presented as a river. The 'hill-water' represented the concept of civilization. The 'hill' represents the highest point of encounter between God and man. Viewed upside down, the flower/stem takes the form of a heart – source of life, which belongs to and has its origin in God.

Our Lady's appearance is mestiza, both Aztec and Spanish, showing the two cultures coming together at this point in history.



Our Lady stands on the moon. The crescent moon symbolized the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent moon god. She has clearly crushed and defeated him. The Virgin's shoe, which appears over the moon, has no color, but is simply the raw tilma. This is inexplicable.

An angel with eagle's wings supports the Mother of God. The eagle was the "bird of the sun." Here the angel is the messenger of the Virgin. The angel wears both a tunic of the same color and a brooch like hers. The angel holds her mantle in one hand and the robe with the other, signifying the Son she bears is from both heaven and earth.

The stars on her mantle signify she comes from heaven - the Queen of Heaven. The constellations are in the exact position as appeared before dawn on the morning of December 12, 1531.

Her hands are joined in prayer and, therefore, she is not God but clearly there is one greater than she, and she points her finger to the cross on her brooch.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe depicts a dark ribbon above her womb, indicating that she is a woman anticipating the birth of God's only Son. The Spanish expression is encinta, "adorned with ribbon."

In the center of her tunic, overlying her womb, is a four petal jasmine flower which is the sign of the Divine and the center of the cosmic order to the Aztec. The Virgin's Baby, Jesus, is Divine and the true center of the universe.

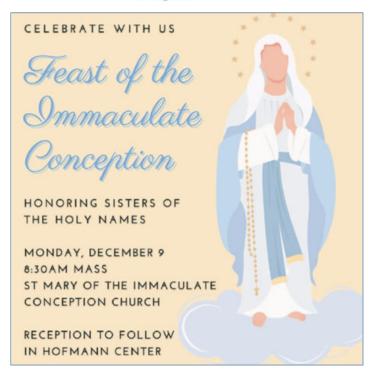
The 4-petaled flowers with leaves on her tunic symbolize to the Aztecs that the fifth-age, the Age of Peace, has begun.

The Virgin of Guadalupe is shown among the clouds, representing her divine origin.

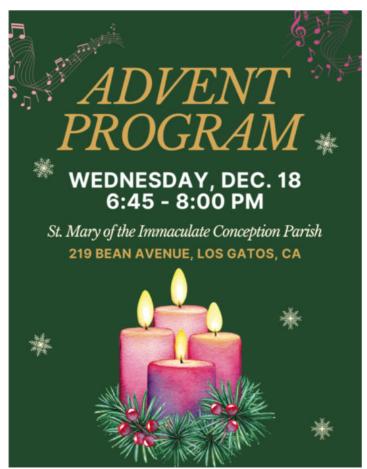
Our Lady stands in front of the sun. The sun symbolized the greatest Aztec god - Huitzilopochtli. She announces the God who is greater than their sun god.



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE







## **AROUND THE DIOCESE**

GATE OF HEAVEN MONTHLY MEMORIAL MASS. December 14, 2024, 11AM to 12pm, Gate of Heaven Cemetery - 22555 Cristo Rey Dr, Los Altos, CA 94024.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help distribute food to families in need. Shifts are only 3.5 hours, and you can make a real difference! Sign up today: <a href="mailto:ccscc.org/become-a-volunteer">ccscc.org/become-a-volunteer</a>. More information, contact Lynda DeManti - <a href="mailto:ldemanti@ccscc.org">ldemanti@ccscc.org</a> or call 408-839-3163

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope," and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

The 2025 Jubilee will officially open on December 24, 2024, at 7 pm with a Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square. The rite of the Opening of the Holy Door will follow.



DIOCESAN SIMBANG GABI MASS KICKOFF - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 @ 7:00 PM AT ST. JULIE BILLIART PARISH. The mass will be presided by Bishop Oscar Cantú. There will be Blessing of Parols (lantern) and a reception following the Mass. The Simbang Gabi Kick-off Mass is hosted by The Diocesan Council of Filipino Catholics (DCFC).

Simbang Gabi is a devotional, nine-day series of Masses attended by Filipino Catholics as a spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ on Christmas.

The Spanish missionaries brought the practice to deepen the faith of the people of the Philippines. The Simbang Gabi, a novena of Mass, first introduced in Mexico, was known as Misa de Gallo. The Masses were celebrated as early as 4:00 a.m. to allow farmers to participate in the liturgy before they went to the fields. Simbang Gabi is a long Catholic tradition among many Filipinos not only in the Philippines but all over the world.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MASS - FEBRUARY 15, 2025 @ 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Couples celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and greater) this year are invited to attend the celebration Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph in downtown San Jose. Register at dsj.org/evangelization/family-life/events-and-community/wedding-anniversary/

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