



All are Welcome

ST. MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 15, 2024

Early Publication Submission

THIRD 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

Joy-filled Giver of Life,
let the anticipation of your birth fill
us with overflowing joy May our
excitement and anticipation be a
sign to the world that you are
always near
Amen.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

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
DUE TODAY: December 15 - 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:

parish.office@stmaryslg.org

Web: stmaryslg.org

If it is a non-medical
emergency and you need to
reach a priest, call the parish
office, and follow the prompts.

ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL

408.354.3944

30 Lyndon Avenue
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Web: smsg.org

REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading:

The prophet Zephaniah speaks of a future joyful time of God's forgiveness and return to his people, Israel.

What excites you most as you think about the future?

Second Reading:

Paul encourages the Christians in Philippi to be a community that rejoices and finds peace with God.

What could you celebrate this Advent season with family or friends?

Gospel:

John the Baptist encouraged the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to live ethically in very practical ways. *How could this apply to your life this week?*

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TODAY'S READINGS

Zephaniah 3: 14-18a;

Psalm 15 12;

Philippians 4:4-7;

Luke 3:10-18

"Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again: rejoice!"

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the Latin word for "rejoice") this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior's birth and ultimately for His Second Coming.

Our First Reading, from Zephaniah, certainly gives us cause to rejoice. "Fear not... be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior." Even more cause for joy, this Savior delights in us — "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love, He will sing joyfully because of you." How can we not be moved by a God who pursues us, who comes to us as Savior, and who actually sings for joy over us!

Our Second Reading gives still more cause for joy as St. Paul reminds us, "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all." Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: "In everything, by prayer and petition, 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."

Paul's instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him along with our thanks. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us.

The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to live out this sense of thankfulness, making our lives a "Christmas gift" to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist's message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same." He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God's gifts to them!

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ's extravagant love. Let's avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let's look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him. When we get this "gift" right, all the other gifts and to-do's on our Christmas list will fall into their proper place.



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PARISH DIRECTORY

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Faith Formation x123

Confirmation x123

Baptism x110

OCIA / OCIC (Initiation) x123

Music Ministry x122

Marriage x139

Pastoral Care of the Sick x139

Funeral x137

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St. Mary Parish School 408.354.3944

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sun	12/15	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Zep 3:14-18a; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
Mon	12/16	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tues	12/17	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wed	12/18	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thu	12/19	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Fri	12/20	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Sat	12/21	St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sun	12/22	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	12/16	8:30 am	John Rocchio †
Tues	12/17	8:30 am	Olivia Gray †
Wed	12/18	8:30 am	Andrew Chang (birthday)
Thu	12/19	8:30 am	Antonio Cabral Bettencourt †
Fri	12/20	8:30 am	Ron and Joan Mackin (wedding anniversary)
Sat	12/21	8:30 am	Lenard Stuglik †
		5:00 pm	APJ Aranha, Magdalene Aranha & Carl Aranha †
Sun	12/22	9:00 am	Robert Hapgood Cowden †
		11:00 am	Sharlene Young (birthday)
		5:00 pm	Honora Hannan (healing)

HELPFUL YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

PLEASE CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR REGARDING YOUR INDIVIDUAL TAX CIRCUMSTANCES.

DEADLINE: Gifts must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, December 31st. Please plan accordingly.

STOCK GIFTS - Please plan in advance as stock donations can take many days to process. Please start your gift by filling out the online form on the Diocese's website. <https://www.dsj.org/ways-to-give/stock-transfers/>

IRAs - Please consult your IRA account representative with any specific questions on how to give a gift from your IRA account to St. Mary.

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!

60% limit on eligible cash contributions made by taxpayers who itemize deductions in 2024.



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.*

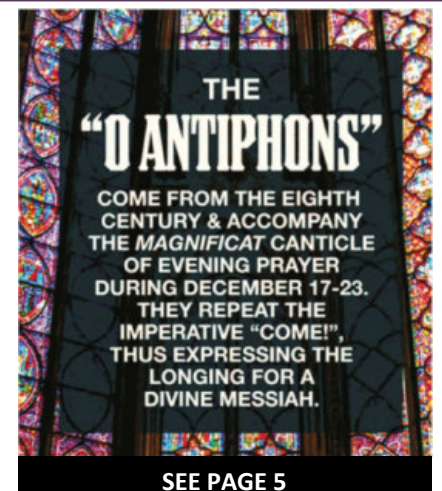
LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Give. Love. Act with justice. This, says John, is how to live out your repentance. As Christmas approaches, be "baptized" by these words of God's greatest prophet. Let them fill you with new life as you await the coming of Christ.

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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.



SEE PAGE 5

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:
Ken Ardent; Marietta Riney; Adam Thielmann; Michelle Antonowicz; Elisabeth Venesualea; Honora Hannan; Herb Robbins; Frank Nolan; Michelle Schwartz

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 to pray for them.

CHRISTMAS 2024



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Scan the QR Code or visit
<https://bit.ly/3ZfbXWe>

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY

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/3MLP0o2

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

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 Dec 1, 2024
Budget	\$ 345,000.00
Actual	\$ 301,026.00
Difference	- \$ 43,974.00

Stewardship of TALENT



DECEMBER 21 & 22

5:00pm Saturday: Cantor & Piano/Organ
 9:00am Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ
 11:00am Sunday: Cantor & Piano/Organ
 5:00pm Sunday: 5pm Sunday Ensemble

DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

(Traditional Carols are sung 30 minutes prior to each Mass)

4:00pm: Children's Choir
 6:00pm: Cantors & Piano/Organ
 10:00pm: Parish Adult Choir & Orchestra

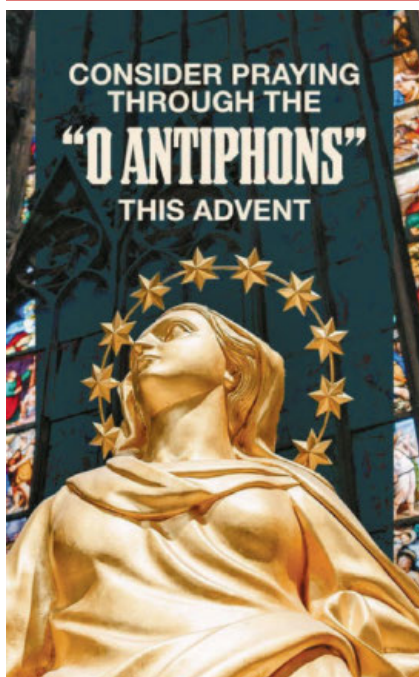
DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

(Traditional Carols are sung 30 minutes prior to each Mass)

9:00am: Cantor & Piano/Organ
 11:00am: Cantor & Piano/Organ



OUR CATHOLIC FAITH



The O Antiphons hold a significant place in the final week of Advent. These ancient prayers have their origins in the 8th century and are traditionally sung or recited during the Vespers service in the Liturgy of the Hours. Each antiphon addresses Christ with a different title, reflecting various aspects of His identity and mission.

These titles include “O Wisdom,” “O Leader of Israel,” “O Root of Jesse,” “O Key of David,” “O Radiant Dawn,” “O King of All,” and “O Emmanuel.” Each title reveals a unique characteristic of Christ and invites us to contemplate His role in our lives.

The O Antiphons serve as a powerful way to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. They invite us to reflect on the profound wisdom and leadership of Christ, the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel, and His role as the key to salvation. They also remind us of the hope and light that Christ brings into the world, as well as His ultimate reign as King.

By praying the O Antiphons, we can deepen our understanding of Christ and open ourselves to His transformative presence in our lives. So let us embark on this journey of prayer and reflection, as we prepare to welcome the birth of our Savior.

[December 17 – O Wisdom](#)

[December 18 – O Leader of Israel](#)

[December 19 – O Root of Jesse](#)

[December 20 – O Key of David](#)

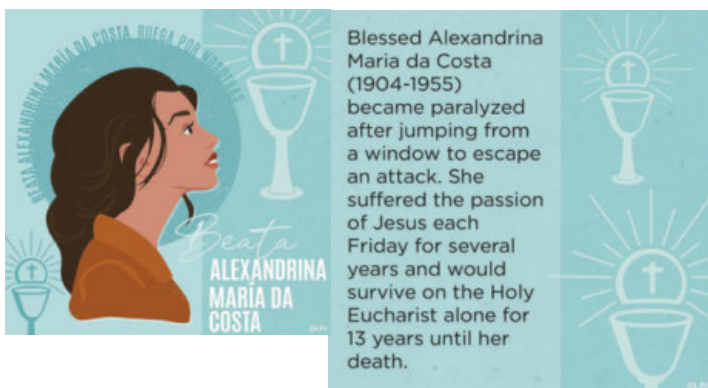
[December 21 – O Radiant Dawn](#)

[December 22 – O King of All](#)

[December 23 – O Emmanuel](#)

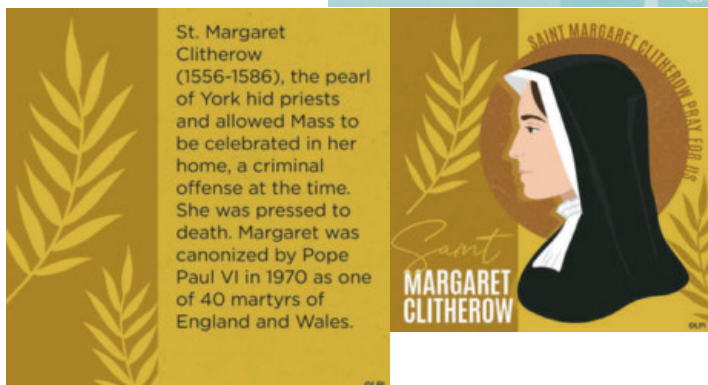
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NATIVITY SCENE PRAYER

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.



PRAYER WITH ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, help us to remember the least fortunate, and how caring for them shares in the caring of the beloved Christ-child. Bring Your generosity into our community. Amen.



Students helping sort through the donations for our Farmworkers Drive! We are so grateful to be able to give back to our community.



AROUND THE DIOCESE

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: ccscc.org/become-a-volunteer. More information, contact Lynda DeManti - ldemanti@ccscc.org 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.

Jan 12 Jubilee Year 2025 Diocesan Solemn Vespers - Sunday, Jan 12 at 5pm for the Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope at the CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. JOSEPH.



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 (1st – 5th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 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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