

# St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

### PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

St. John the Evangelist Parish is a welcoming and responsive faith community, nourished by the Word of God and the Eucharistic Table. We are open and trusting in the love of Jesus Christ to advance the power of the Holy Spirit, within the Parish and beyond, by living the Gospel.

### PARISH INFORMATION

#### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

5751 Locust Avenue  
Carmichael CA 95608-1320  
Parish Office: (916) 483-8454  
Web: [www.sjecarmichael.org](http://www.sjecarmichael.org)  
Email: [office@sjecarmichael.org](mailto:office@sjecarmichael.org)



--PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN--

**CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION**  
SATURDAYS from 3:45 PM to 4:45 PM

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES

#### SUNDAY MASS:

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5 PM

SUNDAY: 8 AM, 10 AM & 5 PM

#### DAILY MASS:

6:30 AM & 8:30 AM (MON-FRI)

8:30 AM (SATURDAY)

#### HOLY DAYS:

6:30 AM & 8:30 AM; 7:00 PM

#### HEALING MASS:

1:30 PM - 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH



**SUNDAY MASS LIVE-STREAMED THROUGH FACEBOOK @ 10 AM**



### PARISH CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor  
Parochial Vicar  
Pastor Emeritus  
Mercy San Juan Hospital Chaplain  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon Emeritus  
SJE Business Manager  
SJE Parish Secretary  
Religious Education Coordinator  
Director of Music & Liturgy  
SJE Pastoral Council Chairperson  
SJE Finance Council Chairperson

Fr. Bernardin Mugabo  
Fr. Bit-Shing Abraham Chiu  
Fr. Thomas Bland  
Fr. Alban Uba  
Keith Johnson  
Jack Wilson  
Larry Niekamp  
Linda Gospodnetich  
Bernadette Hicks  
Joanne Giffard  
William Becker  
Tom Ennis  
Mary Ellen Meier

### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL

[WWW.STJOHNEV.COM](http://WWW.STJOHNEV.COM)

5701 Locust Avenue  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
Phone: (916) 481-8845  
Fax: (916) 481-1319  
Email: [office@stjohnnev.com](mailto:office@stjohnnev.com)  
Principal: Christie Horton



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (916) 483-2161**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (916) 483-4628**

Registration/Change of Address: Allow at least 3 months to receive envelopes or for any changes.

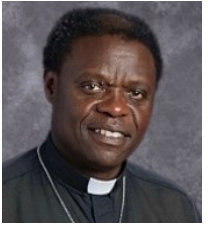
☐ I want to register in the parish. ☐ I have changed my address; my envelope # is \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## PASTOR'S PAGE



**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD:** Dear Parishioners, time goes way too fast. It seems like we had just started Advent, but now we are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent also called ***"Gaudete Sunday"***. Today, we wear the rose color, a color of joy because our redemption is very close. December 24<sup>th</sup> at midnight, our Savior will be born in Bethlehem of Judea from the Blessed Virgin Mary. Advent time is a time preparing us for His coming. The question for all of us is how do we prepare ourselves for welcoming Jesus?

When we expect somebody special to visit our family, we do all we can to prepare the room where he/she will stay. We clean the house, wash the sheets, prepare the bed, decorate the room or the entire house, and, of course, we prepare a good meal so that our guest may be happy during his/her stay with us. Dear Parishioners, Jesus is our God and our Savior; He is a very special guest with a very special preparation. I like to see lights decorated on houses, shining during the nights. Some people do a very good job and the television does show them sometimes. There are people driving in the night only to see how the houses are lit up and decorated. They are lights of joy and they look so beautiful. I thank so much those who took on their time and talent to decorate the Church, putting up the Christmas trees, putting on the purple banners, hanging lights on the Rectory and our Christmas tree with decorations in the Rectory as well...I am very happy with how our Church looks. Some people told me that our Church looks so beautiful. I feel very happy about that. Let us continue to make our Parish suitable for Jesus, our Savior and our God.

I remember in my old home country of Rwanda when the government hired a Chinese company to build a road from Kigali to Ruhengeri. They used powerful machines and dynamite to destroy rocks and move the soil; building bridges, etc. The prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist said: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley, then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." (Is 40: 3-4)

John the Baptist, the precursor of Jesus Christ, who was conceived from elderly parents and lived up to his mission, said the same thing: "Repent for the Kingdom of God is close at hand." (Matthew 3:2).

Dear Parishioners, Christmas wouldn't be complete if we were not prepared to receive Jesus. Thank God we don't need the man-made machines to eradicate our sins, to cover holes; we need the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where God's mercy washes away the sins of the repentant sinner. Our **Penance Service** is scheduled on **December 21** at **7:00** pm. "No, I tell you, unless you repent, you, too, will all perish." There is/has been a movement trying to take Christ out of the feast of Christmas. These evil movements should not be supported by a good Christian Catholic. Wish each other **"MERRY CHRISTMAS"** not happy holidays. And if there is any card on which is written happy holidays, don't buy it. **Jesus is the reason for this special feast. "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!!"**

God bless, Father Bernardin MUGABO



## "PRESENT, LORD" BY DEACON JACK WILSON



I served at the funeral Mass for Richard Schultz last week on Wednesday just four days into the Advent season. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas.

Richard Schultz served our country with honor, so, towards the end of Mass, Sergeant Miguel Sabral came forward to call out the names of all those present who had served our country. One by one, when called, they stood up and responded "present". Finally, Miguel called out Richard Schultz but there was no answer.

The Sergeant stood, listening patiently, waiting for a response from our brother. The Sergeant called out again, in a louder voice "Richard Schultz". The silence was profound. The Sergeant waited at his post but no answer would be heard.

The Sergeant looked around as if to see if Richard was coming. The silence is all he found. He looked a second and a third time. The silence was so deep and powerful, moving our hearts.

What was supposed to happen is the tune "Day is Done, Taps", would be played as a response indicating our brother is present but he can no longer respond. We did not have a bugle player at Mass so an electronic device was substituted. A technical glitch (frequent in all electronic devices now, I think) delayed playing the music.

This is the Advent Season, so look at this scene through an Advent lens, a lens of Christ's second coming. In the silence, after calling out "Richard Schultz", Christ is standing next to the Sergeant. We cannot see Christ but He is there. Jesus is also calling out Richard's name and waiting for a response. Richard, in his life, has always been faithful, has always responded to Jesus' call, but today, there is no response. Jesus waits patiently. His patience with His adopted children is beyond our imagination. Jesus calls a second time. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will not leave His post until He finds our brother. Our Lord looks around to see if Richard is coming but does not see him coming to His call. There is the casket before our Lord, however. The casket obscures our vision, but it is transparent to the divine eyes of our Lord. The answer is there; God has called our brother, Richard, to another post. There is no need for the Good Shepherd to go looking further. Our Lord hears the mournful notes of "Day is Done", yet, in His Divine Heart, there is peace knowing that Richard is not lost. Jesus will call out "Richard Schultz" on the last day and hear: **"Present, Lord"**.

## FR. BERNARDIN'S HOMILY (DECEMBER 12, 2021)

### REJOICE!!: (3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

Today's liturgy invites us to rejoice.

This joy is not the serious business of Heaven, but the serious business of believers on earth. Yet, in a world plagued by war and mass starvation, inflation and unemployment, sicknesses such as Cancer, Aids, Common cold, COVID-19... how are we to be happy on this earth?

**A. The prophet Zephaniah had little reason to rejoice.** He dwelt in one of the darkest periods in Jewish history. The little nation of Judah was surrounded by feuding superpowers. Assyrians, Medes and Babylonians were locked in a deadly struggle for control of the Middle-East. Old pagan rites flourished even in the Holy City of Jerusalem. The prophet's harsh words promise only doom and destruction – until he breaks into the song of hope we have just heard at the very end of his book. ***"Sing Joyfully, O Israel!...The Lord is in your midst. The Lord has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies."***

**B. Paul has little reason to rejoice.** As he pens the first reading, he writes to the Church at Philippi from prison. His personal future is, at best, uncertain. Already he had learned that preaching the Gospel involves much tribulation. Martyr's death awaits him sooner or later. Yet the whole letter exudes joy. Joy that transcends world events or personal trials, joy that, in the world's eyes, makes no sense at all. This is the joy today's liturgy invites us to share and celebrate. **Christian joy doesn't mean absence of pain, but the presence of God.** To get the full value of a joy, you have to have someone to divide it with. Thanks be to God, we share it as a community. We share peace, love, song of joy, and hope. We celebrate our own power to bring joy where sorrow dwells, and we are ready to enter together into the serious business of joy that lasts not for a season or for a lifetime, but forever. A woman who is having a baby suffers, but she has joy and hope because she is going to have a child.

**C. What shall we do?** They asked John the Baptist. This is a question for all of the time, for all generations. John the Baptist had a message for all classes. The sinners who came to John discovered a new energy in their lives and a willingness to do something about improving. The proper celebration of Advent calls for a return to the way of the Lord, through a searching confession. John's message of life was **a mixture of fear and hope**. Fear that a dire sentence would fall unless people amended their ways. Hope because something could be done about conversion. **It is never too late even for those known as great sinners**, such as tax collectors and soldiers. **Tax collectors** were people who collected the taxes Rome had imposed on their fellow Jews. The system of collection opened the door to many abuses. The tax collector earned his own living by adding a sizable sum. People had to pay whatever was demanded. The Roman taxes were a hated burden for Jews. **Soldiers** were the Roman troops who were sent to keep peace in this distant province. They oppressed the poor and used their power to take advantage of all the people.

• **John's message is simple:** share what you have with those who need it. Whatever your job, do it well. Be just. John was preparing the people for the coming Messiah. You, too, repent to receive the Son of God who is coming. The Baptist's words are still very much to the point for all of us. We are all to a greater or lesser degree tax collectors and sinners. They had the honesty to admit it and asked John what they should do in order to be ready to welcome the Messiah, Christ.

• **What should I do if I mean to welcome Christ sincerely at Christmas ?**

• **Am I charitable to my fellow men?** One day, I received 3 children in our school who brought me a small amount of money saying "we know that in USA we are fortunate; we did a collection to help some children in your country". I was surprised and overwhelmed by this kindness from young children. They have no job; maybe their parents gave them money to buy candy, but they spared it for the poor.

• **I who earn money, am I charitable?**

• **If I am an employer, am I paying a just wage to those who are producing my wealth for me?**

• **If I am an employee, am I doing an honest day's work for the pay I am getting?**

• **Is your price just the price?**

Our world today is full of so many injustices and, sad to say, that Christians do nothing to prevent this state of affairs, but instead are even worse offenders than those who have not yet heard of Christ. Be an example to lead others to do likewise. Doing so; you will avoid **Christ's winnowing-fan** that will put you among the chaff which is destined for the unquenchable fire.

## LITURGY (INTERCESSORY PRAYERS) FOR DECEMBER 12, 2021

**O God, You command us to prepare the way for Christ the Lord. Give us, we pray, the confidence and humility to approach You with humble hearts and grant us these prayers we now offer.**

For the Church: that we may experience joy through recognizing God with us each day and be instruments in helping others become aware of God's work in their lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For the grace to accompany one another: that God will free us from judging others and help us to see each person as a sister or brother with fears and wounds like ourselves. Let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For conversion of heart: that the fire of the Spirit will cleanse us of greed, selfishness, narrowness of mind, and hardness of heart so that we may be people of the light. Let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For all who are experiencing drought: that God will send gentle rains and snow to refresh the earth and to refill reservoirs. Let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For all who feel overwhelmed by life: that God's message of "have no fear" may renew their hearts and fill their spirits with hope. Let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For all who are sick and suffering, lonely and despairing: That even in these difficult times, they might know the comfort of God and be confident in God's presence. Let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For all our deceased Parishioners, relatives, and friends, that our merciful God may give them eternal rest. Let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For these intentions, the intentions shared by this community during the week that we bring to the Altar, and for the intentions of all those whom we promised to pray. Let us pray to the Lord.

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

**Lord God, draw to us this Advent season. Help us to see that You are close to us, and to live with peace that only You can bring. We make all of these prayers in Your name. Amen.**

### SJE WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Week of:	<u>Actual</u> <u>(Week):</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>(Week):</u>	<u>Surplus/</u> <u>(Deficit):</u>
December 5, 2021	\$10,174	\$10,365	(\$191)

*Thank you for your continuing support of St. John's Parish!!*

### PARISHONER UPDATE INFORMATION

We  love  
having you as part of our flock



Keep in touch  
with us via  
email & text

- Choose to get updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime, no spam we promise

PLEASE VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE  
[sjecarmichael.org](http://sjecarmichael.org)  
OR USE OUR EMAIL

[office@  
sjecarmichael.org](mailto:office@sjecarmichael.org)

To update your  
address, phone  
number and  
email address

### WEEKLY ADORATION

Glorification  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



**Fr. Bernardin invites you to spend an hour/  
some time with Jesus on Wednesdays  
& Fridays from 9 am to 5 pm.**

**Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary are  
prayed beginning at 4:10 pm.**

**Benediction at 5:00 pm. God bless.**

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Please Note: BAPTISMS ARE SCHEDULED  
MONTHLY.**

For more information and instructions, please visit  
our website, [www.sjecarmichael.org](http://www.sjecarmichael.org) to download and  
complete our Baptismal Registration Form or contact  
Deacon Jack or Deacon Keith through our

"[baptisms@sjecarmichael.org](mailto:baptisms@sjecarmichael.org)" email address  
for Baptism and Baptism Class Schedules.





## PARISH NEWS

### SJE CHOIR REHEARSAL

Calling all SJE Choir Members, past, present, and potential, to attend our next rehearsal on:

**Wednesday, December 15, at 7pm**

We are continuing preparations for Christmas Choir Masses.

For questions, please email **Bill Becker** at [music@sjecarmichael.org](mailto:music@sjecarmichael.org)  
**Let's sing!!!**



### CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

As we prepare for Christmas, **St. JOHN'S ALTAR SOCIETY** is asking for donations of poinsettias and other seasonal flowering plants to honor deceased loved ones. These plants will be used to decorate and adorn the Altar areas during the Christmas season.

Plants can be left in the Church or Chapel Narthexes starting **Saturday, December 18th** and continuing until **noon on December 23rd**.

We also have included in the Offertory Envelope Packets this year an envelope for "Christmas Flowers" monetary donations.

Thank you so very much to all who have already contributed; we so appreciate your generosity.

Thank you in advance for helping to make our Christmas Season Mass celebrations more beautiful!



### A GLIMPSE OF SPIRITUALITY BY FR. ABRAHAM

In God, there is only love; in love, there is only grace; and in grace, there is eternal life.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is assigned by God the mission of God, i.e. being the mother of God. Therefore, her whole person has been living in God's grace when she was conceived in her mother's womb. That is the project of God's salvation.

When the angel conveyed the mission of God to Mary, Gabriel said: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

The passive verb of "full of grace" (kecharitōmenē) is not meant as "being full." "Being full" is still a quantitative calculation. The literal translation of the Greek verb "kecharitōmenē" should be "to be favored," or simply said, "to be graced." In other words, Mary lives in the grace of God and is not at all related to sin.

Before the creation of the world, the second person of the Holy Trinity is to incarnate as a human as to reveal God's love to people. Mary is already saved in anticipation even though Jesus has not been born and resurrected from the dead. In short, God's grace has no time and space limitations. In the perfect grace of God, Mary is created and called to be the mother of God. The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, actually, is not for her but for the incarnation of Jesus Christ. What we see from the Immaculate Conception is that Mary lives for Jesus all her life.

As her children, we are called to follow our heavenly mother's good example as to live for God all our lives.

**Fr. Abraham Chiu**



### REGISTERED AT ST. JOHN'S PARISH???

Please help us account and update your information along with all of our members of this great faith community!!

We are blessed to have over 2,500 Parish Families and Individuals registered at St. John the Evangelist Parish. With that, we have discovered that some of our Parishioners' contact phone numbers, addresses and emails have been changed over the years and are no longer valid.

To update or register your current information with our Parish, please complete the "**Registration/Change of Address**" strip located on the lower portion of the front page of our Bulletin and drop in the Mass collection baskets or Offertory Boxes, or call us at **(916) 483-8454**, stop by our office, drop the form in the mail or send an email to us at [office@sjecarmichael.org](mailto:office@sjecarmichael.org).

We want to make sure you know we are here for you and that we are able to get ahold of you in times of need.

Thank you again for all you do for us at SJE Parish and God bless!

### ST. JOHN'S GIFT SHOP NEWS...



**SJE CHURCH GIFT SHOP is OPEN**

**AFTER 5PM VIGIL, 8AM AND 10AM MASSES**

**THE 2022 ST. JOSEPH MISSAL HAS ARRIVED.**

**ADVENT CANDLES, NATIVITY SETS AND HOLIDAY GIFT ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!**

### WIT AND WISDOM

It's been said that every pastor ought to have six weeks of vacation each year, because if he is a real good shepherd, he deserves it; and if he is not a very good shepherd, his congregation deserves it.

### SJE PRAYER LIST

**Please Pray for our sick and their caregivers:** Andrea Armstrong, Catherine Bellavance, Bob Bodem, Nancy Born, Robert Burns, **Chuck Carly**, Geoff Carter, Alicia Cortez, Corrine Davidson, Russ Davis, John DePiazza, Rick DiRegolo, Melissa Duran, Brenda Elazier, Kate Ellis, Karen Emmons, Madeline Endres, Debbie Erichs, Teri Erickson, Velia Escalante, James Espinoza, Juanita Estrellas, Martin Fiorino, Anthony Gabriele, Frank Gianattasio, Ella Gomes, Jimi Grant, Steve Guerrero, Donna Harris, Tom Harvey, Gabe Howser, Mary Jeffries, Eduardo Jimenez, Yelena Kanavalchuk, Tom Karras, Dalice Lee, Ray Lloyd, Pat Lobrovich, Karen Lydon, Mary Mandara, Angelica & Cheryl Martin, Jennifer Martin, Arielle McLeskey, Pat Minnard, Manuel Molina, Marie Murillo, Michael Niekamp, Tony Nolasco, Baby Dylan Ochoa, Gilles Ouellet, Mary Pai, Lynn Parry, Julie Paul, Mike Peterson, Alex Quiroz, Max Rankin, Jeff Reynolds, Aida Saca, Ruth Salazar, Monique Sandoval, Rena Scherman, Robert Scholtes, Kim Schultz, Christopher Scott, Paul Scurti, Aurora Simental, Lili Simic, Carol Smith, Joan Smith, Shirley Stone, Hank Thompson, Kim Van Blaricom, Deanna Vest, Bob Walker, Katie Walker, Theresa West, Amanda Young and all those with COVID-19.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

December 12, 2021

### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/CCD/CFE

Grades: Kindergarten through Junior High

Phone: 916-483-4628 Email: [ccd@sjecarmichael.org](mailto:ccd@sjecarmichael.org)

Prior to Christmas, there are three days in December marked in our Parish calendars which should hold a special place in the hearts of all of us who hold a special devotion to **OUR LADY**. It all begins with **December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, the day on which the Angel Gabriel saluted Mary as being "full of grace" during the Annunciation. The Most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the moment of her own conception by a singular grace and privilege of the Almighty God and by the virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, preserved immune from all stains of original sin. On December 19, our CCD eighth grade class will actually be presenting a Nativity Play for all our students, which opens with a scene depicting the Annunciation.

Later on **December 10**, we honor **Our Lady of Loreto**, and on this day we honor the Virgin Mary and the Holy House of Nazareth in which she was born and where the Annunciation occurred. Tradition holds that angels miraculously transported this holy House of Nazareth from the Holy Land to Tersato, Dalmatia in 1291, and then in 1294, to Recanti, Italy, and finally to Loreto, Italy, where it has been for many centuries. This shrine is the first international shrine dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and miracles have been attributed to it wherever the Holy House has been moved. Pope John XXIII in 1962 before the Second Vatican Council, and Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 both made pilgrimages to this site. St. Francis de Sales, St. Charles Borromeo, and St. Louis de Montfort likewise made pilgrimages to the Holy House of Loreto. In light of the legend of this angelic flying house, flight aviators, builders, and construction workers consider the Blessed Virgin Mary to be their patron.

The Americas are under the special patronage of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, and many people feel that the New World was won and was conquered by Our Lady. The shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe over the period of December 11 to December 12 is the most visited pilgrimage destination in the world. We honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe** this year on Sunday, **December 12**, and this title of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is associated with a series of five apparitions which occurred in Mexico in December. It has been recorded that the first of these apparitions began on the Saturday morning of December 9, 1531, to Juan Diego, a Mexican peasant, who was walking to Mass. At the Hill of Tepeyac, which later became part of the Villa de Guadalupe, songs of birds grew louder and louder and a lady dressed like an Aztec princess with high cheekbones and her hands clasped in prayer spoke to Juan Diego in his native Aztec language. She identified herself as the Virgin Mary, the mother of a very true deity, and she requested that Juan Diego implement having a church erected at this site in her honor. Consequently, Juan Diego visited the Archbishop of Mexico City relating Our Lady's request, but the Archbishop did not believe him. On this same day, Juan received a second apparition of Our Lady on the same hill, and she insisted that he continue to talk to the Archbishop about this matter. On the following day, December 10, Diego again spoke to the archbishop, who told Diego to return to the hill and ask the woman for a miraculous sign to prove her identity. Now when Diego returned to Tepeyac, there was a third apparition, and Our Lady consented to provide Juan with a sign the very next day. Unfortunately, Juan had to attend to his sick uncle, Juan Bernardino, who had become ill on that Monday, December 11. When his uncle's health deteriorated that night, early the next morning, Juan Diego left to request that a Catholic priest hear his uncle's Confession before he died. Being ashamed of failing to meet with Our Lady on Monday as agreed upon, Juan chose another route to Tepeyac Hill, but Our Lady intercepted him and asked where he was going. During this fourth apparition, Our Lady told Juan to gather some of the flowers on the hill. Likewise, she asked him to place these roses, which should not have been flowering in the cold winter weather, in his cloak or tilma, and to take them to the Archbishop. When Juan arrived to talk to the Archbishop, everyone in his room knelt in amazement when Juan opened his cloak and the roses fell, revealing on the fabric of the cloak the image of our Lady of Guadalupe. At the same time Our Lady also appeared to Juan's uncle who was dying. As soon as Juan's uncle saw the Blessed Virgin, he felt well again, and she told him that she wanted to be called Santa Maria de Guadalupe.

Originally on December 26, 1531, a procession was formed to transfer the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Juan's tilma back to Tepeyac Hill, where it was installed in a hastily built church. A more elaborate church where the image of Our Lady was venerated was built on this hill in the 1700's, and later a basilica was constructed to house Our Lady's image and to be the center of devotion to Our Lady. Thus, it was that the humblest of the indigenous people of Mexico, Juan Diego, a peasant farmer, was chosen by Our Lady to carry on a mission on her behalf. During Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on May 6, 1990, Pope John Paul II beatified Blessed Juan Diego.

Truly, as we approach Christmas, we should especially honor Our Lady on December 8, December 10, and December 12. It is Our Lady, who by her Divine Motherhood and her sorrows on Calvary, helps us in giving to all people the graces merited by her Son. St. Bernard said, "It is the will of God that we should have all things through Mary." In Heaven, Mary was crowned Queen

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 13-18, 2021

**Monday:** *St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

**6:30 am** Sam DeCarlo †

**8:30 am** Johathan MLQ Molaer (I)

**Tuesday:** *St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

**6:30 am** Mary Gibbs †

**8:30 am** Mary Mentel (I)

**Wednesday:**

**6:30 am** Sam DeCarlo †

**8:30 am** Will Cooney †

**Thursday:**

**6:30 am** Rebecca Smith †

**8:30 am** Steve (I) and Denise (I) Kramer (50 Yr. Wedding Anniversary)

**Friday:** *Late Advent Weekday*

**6:30 am** Natalie Vu (I)

**8:30 am** Bishop William G. Curlin †

**Saturday:** *Late Advent Weekday - BLESSED VIRGIN MARY*

**8:30 am** Cecilia Lan †

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

## MASK UPDATE - DIOCESE

### For Parishes in Sacramento - USE OF MASKS:

1. **Face coverings shall be worn, regardless of vaccination status, over the mouth and nose, in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and workplaces. The exceptions are:**

- a. Persons who are working alone in a closed office or room;
- b. Persons who are actively eating and/or drinking;
- c. Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing face masks pursuant to other CDPH guidance.

## THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

All Parishes throughout the Diocese are asked to participate in **Special (Second) Collections** throughout the year.

**December 11/12, 2021 - RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CON'T)

because she was the mother of Jesus, mother of all the saints, and mother of our Church.

**OUR PRAYER:** O GOD, YOU HAVE GIVEN US THE MOTHER OF YOUR SON TO BE OUR MOTHER AND QUEEN. THROUGH HER INTERCESSION, GRANT THAT WE MAY ATTAIN THE GLORY DESTINED FOR YOUR CHILDREN IN YOUR HEAVENLY KINGDOM. AMEN.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Joanne Giffard, Religious Education Coordinator

[ccd@sjecarmichael.org](mailto:ccd@sjecarmichael.org)

[jkoockgiffard@aol.com](mailto:jkoockgiffard@aol.com)



## NEARBY PARISHES' ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

*At Bulletin press time, only one nearby Parish has an up-coming Advent Penance Service:*

**OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION - Monday, December 20**  
**5057 Cottage Way 6:30 pm Penance Service**  
**Carmichael, CA 95608**

## JOKE OF THE WEEK

A man is on trial for armed robbery.  
 The jury comes back with the verdict.  
 The foreman stands, clears his throat and announces, "Not guilty."  
 The defendant leaps to his feet. "Awesome!" he shouts.  
 "Does that mean I get to keep the money?"

## SJE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### CHRISTMAS SEASON 2021

#### Confessions

Advent Penance Service  
 Tuesday, December 21  
 7:00 PM

#### Christmas Masses

Friday, December 24  
 Christmas Eve  
 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 25  
 Christmas Day  
 8:00 & 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM

Sunday, December 26  
 Sat Vigil 5:00 PM  
 8:00 & 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM

#### New Year's Masses

**Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**  
 Friday, December 31  
 Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Saturday, January 1, 2022  
 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Sunday, January 2  
 Sat Vigil 5:00 PM  
 8:00 & 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM

## MONTHLY HEALING MASS

### ST. JOHN'S HEALING MASS

Our Monthly "Healing Mass" is celebrated **NEXT SUNDAY, December 19th** at **1:30 pm** in our **Church**  
 Confessions from **12:30 pm** to 1:25 pm



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



*Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference thanks you for your continued support, which allows us to help the poor and needy in our neighborhood*

*Included in your November/December envelope packet is an envelope for St. Vincent de Paul. Please take a moment to make a donation; all donations are appreciated. Envelopes may be placed in the collection basket at weekend Masses. Thank you!!*

SVdP's food closet is open on **Wednesdays** from **8 am to 10 am** if you find yourself in need of food. Everyone is welcome and meat, fresh veggies, and fruits are in abundance!

*The **KIDS CAN CAMPAIGN**, which is a program where cans of food are collected at local schools, was very successful this year and, at this time, the **FOOD CLOSET** is at capacity. Your support is so appreciated and never taken for granted.*

**ST. JOHN'S PARISHIONERS ARE THE BEST!!**

**YOU make a difference! God bless you! Wear a Mask! Stay safe!**

## END-OF-CALENDAR-YEAR GIVING

Many individuals will make charitable contributions late in the calendar year to take advantage of tax benefits. In order to do so, checks must be dated and envelopes post-marked on or before December 31, 2021.

If you are in a position to make end-of-year contributions, please consider our Parish, **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**, as a beneficiary of your support.



Please contact SJE Parish Office (916) 483-8454 for more information.

## SIGN OF THE TIMES...



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