



YOU ALSO MUST BE PREPARED.

MATTHEW 24:44

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rev. Msgr. Paul Dotson, Pastor

Rev. Charles Balamaze, Associate Pastor | Rev. Msgr. Peter O'Reilly, In Residence
Deacon Don Burt | Deacon Jim Egnatuk | Deacon Dale Sheckler

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	4:00 PM (Sunday Liturgy)
Sunday	7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 5:00 PM

DAILY MASSES

Monday - Saturday	8:10 AM
Tuesday & Thursday	12:00 PM

ADORATION CHAPEL

Sunday	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Monday & Friday	7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Saturday	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Monday-Friday	7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Saturday & Sunday	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

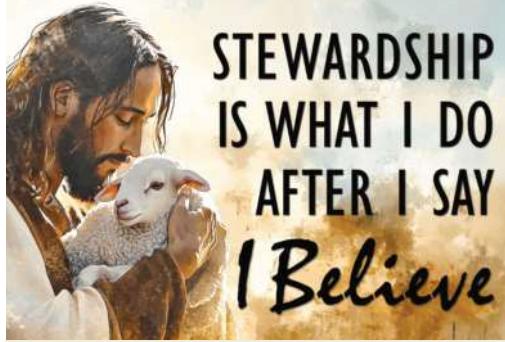
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
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TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Pastoral Center	310-540-0329
Office for Worship	310-316-0090
Office of Religious Education	310-316-4460
O.C.I.A. for Adults	310-316-0961
St. Lawrence Martyr School	310-316-3049
Youth Ministry/Confirmation	310-316-0466
Funerals	424-458-7861
St. Lawrence Martyr Gift Shop	424-385-0546

To become a member of our community of faith
please stop by or call the Pastoral Center at
310-540-0329 | <https://www.stlm.org/im-new>



GIVING TO ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR IS EASY WITH ELEXIO

Forgot your envelope? Are you visiting us today and want to make a ONE TIME GIFT? Want to give to a special collection? Follow these easy and secure steps to Text-to-Give:

- Text **GIVE** to **424-414-STLM**.
- Follow the text instructions to complete your donation.
- Save the number as a contact in your phone to make future giving faster and easier.

You may also give by scanning this QR Code with the camera app on your cellphone or visit STLM.ORG/GIVING



We thank you for your generosity and support of our St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Community.

PASTORAL CENTER HOURS NOVEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 8

Sun	11/30	08:00 am - 01:00 pm
Mon	12/1	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Tue	12/2	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Wed	12/3	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Thu	12/4	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Fri	12/5	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm
Sat	12/6	Closed
Sun	12/7	08:00 am - 01:00 pm
Mon	12/8	08:30 am - 12:30 pm 01:30 pm - 04:00 pm

PRAYER FOR EVERYDAY

Bless God's Holy Name!

Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord. Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent. Inspire us with new visions. Be with us as we climb closer to You. Amen. ©LPI

Fair Trade LA

This Sunday, November 30 | 8 am - 1 pm | Parish Hall

Celebrate the season with purpose! Join us for our Fair Trade LA Sale. Discover a wonderful selection of handcrafted and ethically sourced items that make a difference. Every purchase supports fair wages, safe working conditions, and sustainable livelihoods for artisans and farmers around the world. Shop with heart—and share the spirit of justice and generosity this Christmas season!

Women's Cornerstone Monthly Rosary

December 1, 7:00 pm | In the Church

The Women's Cornerstone Ministry invites you to a peaceful evening of prayer as they pray the Rosary. Come experience the grace and comfort of this beautiful devotion to Our Blessed Mother. All are welcome!

Immaculate Conception

December 8 | Masses 6:15 am, 8:10 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

A Holy Day of Obligation, this feast honors Mary, whom God, in His grace, preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. Proclaimed as a dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1854, it highlights Mary's unique role in God's plan of salvation and invites us to reflect on His mercy at work in our own lives.

2026 Calendars Now Available

Looking ahead to the new year? 2026 Calendars are now available in the Pastoral Center. A \$3 donation is appreciated.

Plan Your Giving: Invest in St. Lawrence Martyr's Future

As the year ends, plan your year-end gift to support St. Lawrence Martyr Parish and our "Looking to the Future" Capital Campaign. Your contribution will fund essential repairs, security upgrades, and modernized spaces—ensuring our parish thrives for generations. Learn more at stlm.org/campaign



Monthly Stewardship Report

Thank you for generously supporting the Catholic community at St. Lawrence Martyr and beyond. In the spirit of stewardship and transparency, we'll share a monthly summary of our income and expenses. May God bless you for your generosity and faithful support.

Category	October 2025	YTD (Jul-Sep)
Operating Income	148,301	595,731
Operating Expenses*	227,913	779,040
Net Income (Loss)	-79,612	-183,309

*Completed Projects: Lower field pipe replacement & removal of fallen tree.



Prepare. Build. Watch.

©LPI

GOSPEL MEDITATION by FR. JOHN MUIR

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing — someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos will come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief — not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he. ©LPI

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Mini Reflection: Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And His Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth. "But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Watershed Moments

In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman . ©LPI

ON THE DEATH OF A LOVED-ONE

Families experiencing the loss of a loved one may call 424-458-7861 at any time to begin funeral arrangements at St. Lawrence Martyr. This dedicated line is checked three times a day, and a minister will return your call within 24 hours.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading: The prophet Isaiah envisioned a future with no more wars and nations united in belief and worship of Israel's God. What does a world totally at peace look like?

2nd Reading: Paul encouraged the Romans to live with a sense of urgency in anticipation of their own salvation. What motivates you to live a moral life?

Gospel: Jesus taught his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, so you must always be prepared. How do you plan to use the season of Advent this year to welcome Jesus into your life? ©LPI

LIVE THE LITURGY

"You do not know on which day your Lord will come," Jesus says. He is reminding us that we do not know the mind of God. But we do know the heart of God, and we know that it is filled with mercy for those who heed the warning: Stay awake! ©LPI

ONE HEART ADVENT REFLECTION

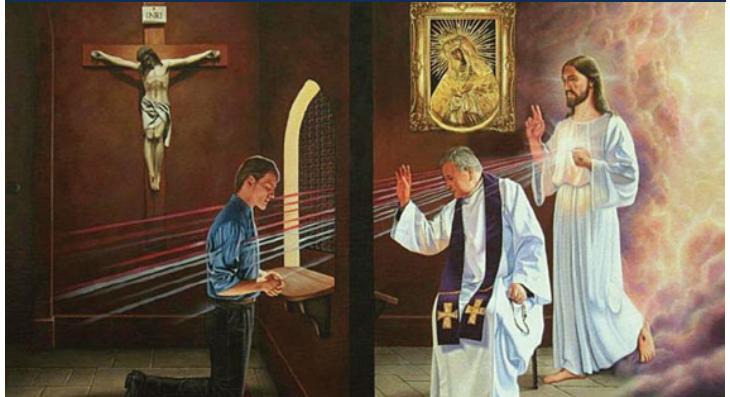
*"O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord!" (Is 2:5)*

As we enter this sacred season of Advent, the Church invites us once again to turn our hearts toward the true Light—Christ Himself. In a world that often rushes ahead into the noise and busyness of the holidays, it is easy to lose sight of what this season is truly about. Advent is a time not for hurry, but for holy waiting—a time to prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus, who comes to us first in the humility of the manger and one day will return in glory.



Let us choose to "walk in the light of the Lord" by allowing His presence to guide our thoughts, our actions, and our priorities in these coming weeks. May the light of Christ shine in our homes, our families, and within our hearts, dispelling the darkness of fear, distraction, and worry. And each day, even if only for a few quiet moments, let us pause to reflect on that radiant light—the light of the Lord that leads us ever closer to peace, hope, and joy.

See You in the *Eucharist*



SEVEN BIBLE VERSES EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD KNOW

NUMBER FOUR: JOHN 20:23-32-10

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' And when he had said this he breathed on them and said to them 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Two sacraments are being established by our Lord: 1) Breathing and giving the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, constituting them as the priests of the New Covenant: Holy Orders and 2) the faculty to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation: to decide whether to forgive or retain sins of other believers. This presupposes that a believer would go to an Apostle and confess his/her sins, and with the power that is given to them through the Holy Spirit, through Jesus himself, to forgive sins. the Old Covenant, to whom did one go to receive forgiveness of sins? The King? A prophet? A sage? The sinner bring the appropriate animal commensurate with one's income level and the gravity of the sin committed, and then the priest would take the animal offering and sacrifice it, and then one's sin is forgiven. It was the priest in the Old Covenant who administered the forgiveness of sins. In the new Covenant, it is the Apostles and their successors who administer the forgiveness of sins. This is the priestly prerogative and responsibility of the Apostles and their successors. (Source: Dr. John Bergsma, St. Paul Center)

NUMBER ONE: 1 Timothy 3:14-15 (see 11/9/2025 Bulletin)

NUMBER TWO: 2 Thessalonians 2:15 (see 11/16/2025)

NUMBER THREE: 2 Peter 1:20-21 (see 11/23/2025 Bulletin)

Les Rangel-Santos
Director of Worship: Liturgy & Music
les.rangelsantos@stlm.org

SLM GIFT SHOP & CHRISTMAS STORE

Sun | 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
 Tue, Thu, Fri | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Mon, Wed, Sat | Closed

GIFT SHOP CHRISTMAS STORE



Find something special for everyone on your list! We carry ornaments, Nativity sets, crosses, candles, and other faith-filled gifts that share the joy of the season.

NO DONUTS THIS WEEK

Join us **Next Sunday**, December for Coffee & Donuts hosted by
Friends of the Choir

Freewill offerings always greatly appreciated and support our Donut Ministry.

VOTIVE CANDLES

Candles are available at the Pastoral Center or in the Gift Shop. Candles are \$5.00 ea. and stay lit for five days.

BAPTISM MINISTRY

Each baby baptized at SLM receives a a blanket crocheted by our Knitting Ministry.

If you want to support this ministry, you may drop off a monetary donation at the Pastoral Center. Please indicate **Baptism Ministry**.

Interested in volunteering?
 Looking for support?



SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Wed, Dec 3, 10:00 am | Pastoral Center
 Small Community of Faith who love reading & discussing books.
 310-415-0876

CATECHISM & COFFEE

Thu, Dec 4, 9:00 am | Parish Hall
 Discussion of the Catechism of the Catholic Church guided by Fr. Charles.
 310-540-0329

MICHELANGELO MINISTRY

Mon, Dec 8, 10:00 am | Parish Hall
 Explore the artist within you & be part of a community who love the creative process.
 310-540-0329 x 540

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Mon, Dec 8 , 6:00 pm | Pastoral Center
 Young Adult fellowship and formation guided by Fr. Charles.
 310-540-0329

LGBT+ (ONE HEART) MINISTRY

Tue, Dec 9, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center
 Ministry open to members of the LGBT+ Community, family, friends & allies.
 Don.Burt@stlm.org

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT

Sat, Dec 13 | All Groups, Call for location
 Small groups discuss topics through the lens of faith and provide support for each other.
 310-722-0176

SOUTH BAY STRUMMERS

Sat, Dec 13, 9:00 am| Parish Hall
 Ukulele Group - everyone's welcome! Just bring your smile and love of music!
 SouthBayStrummers@yahoo.com

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Sun, Dec 14, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center
 Group meeting for those mourning the loss of a loved one.
 310-540-0329 x 540

SINGALONG JAM NIGHTS

Mon, Dec 15, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall
 Bring instruments and/or the desire to sing along to well-loved songs in a group setting.
 RauLisaV@gmail.com

ONE IN CHRIST MINISTRY

Thu, Dec 18, 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center
 A ministry for racial healing and cultural celebration. Come pray with us.
 310-540-0329 x 276

ST. KATERI CIRCLE

Fri, Dec 19, 6:00 pm | Call for location
 A Native American prayer group devoted to St. Kateri Tekakwitha.
 310-901-2432

WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Sun, Dec 21, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center
 A group of women supporting each other through life's many transitions.
 310-540-0329 x 540

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY ROSARY

Mon, Dec 22, 7:00 pm | In the Church
 Dedicated to bringing the message of life to the parish & the world.
 310-678-2583 | DaleScheckler@gmail.com

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT

Sun, Dec 28, 10:30 am | Pastoral Center
 Gathering of people who are directly or indirectly affected by care giving of others.
 310-540-0329 x 540

F.A.I.T.H. MINISTRY

Thu, Jan 15, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall
 Supports the victims of human trafficking in the South Bay and Los Angeles County.
 310-540-0329 x 380

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT

Wed, Jan 28, 7:00 pm | Parish Hall
 Family Support Group for those with loved ones suffering from mental illness.
 310-792-0244

PADDLE N PRAISE

Sat, Mar 14, 9:00 am| Lower Courts
 All adults 18 and over invited to fun, faith and fellowship through Pickleball.
 424-408-9738

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Stephen Ministry Message Line

Christian friend to listen, pray and support you in difficult times.
 (Confidential) 310-540-0329 x540

Saturday Street Ministry

Provide food & clothing to homeless in LA.
 310-540-0329 x276

Open Arms Ministry

Friendly visits to home bound parishioners.
 310-540-0329 x 540

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

All are welcome to join this Small Community of Faith. Our new book is **Imagine You Walked with Jesus: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplative Prayer** by Jerry Windley-Daoust. Call for more information, or just show up.

1st and 3rd Wed of each month | 10:00am | Pastoral Center
Jeanine Gallagher | 310-415-0876



Join us for a cup of coffee as we chat about our Faith and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. A round table discussion guided by Fr. Charles where we discuss various topics of interest. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 9 am in the Parish Hall. Questions/topics may be sent in advance to catechism.coffee@gmail.com.

LET'S GROW TOGETHER IN OUR FAITH

MICHELANGELO MINISTRY

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time" - Thomas Merton
We invite you to explore the artist within you, to learn to hear the Holy Spirit guiding you towards your creativity. Don't be shy! This is a ministry where the slogan "No experience necessary" holds true and is a socially supportive and safe space to explore, create, and grow. We will learn and laugh and be joyful together through art. And if you just want to show up and paint rocks, this is the place for you! Rocks and paint will always be on hand.

2nd & 4th Monday each month | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon | Parish Hall - upstairs

Young Adult Ministry

Women and men, ages 18 to 30s, all from diverse cultural, vocational, social, and political backgrounds. We come together for spiritual, educational, and social activities and programs. We support each other as we discover new roles in life, family, work, society, and the Catholic Church. Join our family for fellowship and fun.

Father Charles Balamaze | 310-540-0329



THE LGBT+ (ONE HEART) MINISTRY

"One Heart" is the LGBT ministry at Saint Lawrence Martyr Church. We are dedicated to the loving acceptance and integration of all persons into our faith community by listening to, understanding, and supporting one another as followers of Jesus.

2nd Tuesday of each month | 7:00 pm | Pastoral Center
Deacon Don | don.burt@stlm.org

Christian Family Movement

Strengthening Families, Building Communities

The Christian Family Movement (CFM) are small groups that meet monthly to discuss topics through the lens of faith, provide support for each other, and practice putting our faith in action. CFM members share life, faith, and best practices. They build friendships that are welcoming and that inspire an active faith. CFM creates a family of families within our parish. We have three CFM groups at SLM, each meets once a month.

For meeting times and locations, call 310-722-0176.

SLM SCHOOL SCRIP

Tue & Thu | 8:00 AM - 2:45 PM
310-316-3049

Available from the Parish Office
outside of regular Scrip office hours.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Shawls and blankets available to give to anyone who needs an uplift. The shawls and blankets are free of charge and available in the Pastoral Center.

F.A.I.T.H. MINISTRY

The F.A.I.T.H. (Freedom & Intervention for the Trafficking of Humans) Ministry supports the victims of human trafficking in the South Bay and in Los Angeles County.

We are collecting toiletry items for victims of human trafficking. The items can be dropped off at the Pastoral Center during normal business hours.

faith.ministry@stlm.org
310-540-0329 x 380

FOOD PANTRY

Saturday | 8 AM - 10 AM
1st Sunday | 8 AM - 11 AM
We prepare bags of groceries for individual families and sack lunches given to the homeless. For a list of preferred donations please visit www.stlm.org/giving-back.

Monetary donations may be given online through Elexio Giving, mailed or dropped in the Pastoral Center mail slot. Please indicate Food Pantry.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity as we continue to serve those in need.

310-540-0329 x 276

 **flocknote**

Keep in touch with us
via email & text
Text **STLM** to **84576**

SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN: FACTS ABOUT COMMUNITY GROOMING

There is a third type of grooming: community grooming. In community grooming, a predator creates a controlled environment, projecting an image of a responsible, caring adult. They mimic the behavior of good people around them, to get closer to children and then select a victim. Adults often have trouble seeing potentially troubling behavior, because they have been groomed to see the predator as an upstanding person.

For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “The Grooming Process” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Many inner-city families are looking at sparse or no Christmas celebrations due to severe poverty. Let's adopt these families so they may enjoy a proper Christmas celebration. The Adopt-A-Family program matches you with a family in need.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 8TH
Deacon Dale | dalesheckler@gmail.com



Tuesday, December 16 | 10 am - 4 pm
Schedule your appointment today!

Shake Up Your Holiday Tradition

Give Blood



American
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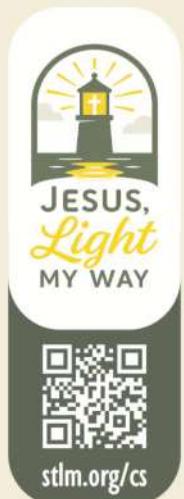
ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CHURCH
Women's Cornerstone Retreat
February 6-7, 2026

*Step away from the noise, and let the
Light of Christ renew your spirit.*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Begins Friday, Feb 6, 5 pm - 10 pm
Starts with dinner thru the evening

Return Saturday, Feb 7, 8 am - 7:30 pm
(breakfast, lunch, and dinner)



ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR

Simbang Gabi

Parol Painting Event

Dec 13th | 5 pm | Parish Hall

Mass & Reception

Dec 18th | 7 pm



ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CHURCH
Women's Cornerstone Retreat
February 6-7, 2026

*Step away from the noise, and let the
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Return Saturday, Feb 7, 8 am - 7:30 pm
(breakfast, lunch, and dinner)



MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT

FEB 27-28, 2026



2026 Catholic Calendar

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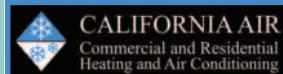
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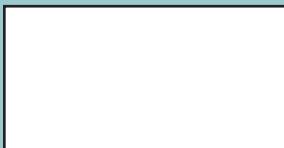
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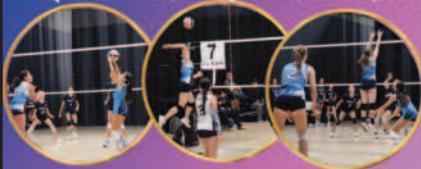
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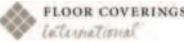


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The image features the State Farm logo at the top, followed by a portrait of Suzy Zimmerman, an agent. Text on the right side includes her name, title, license number, and a Facebook icon. Below the photo is her business card information.

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Advent Evening of Reflection
with Fr. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J.
Dec 3, 2025 | 7 pm | In the Church

Holy Hour with Evening Prayer
Dec 4, 2025 | 7 pm | In the Church



Christmas Tree Lighting
& Ministry Appreciation
Dec 5, 2025 | 6 pm | Parish Courtyard

Vigil Mass with Anointing
Dec 6, 2025 | 4 pm | In the Church

