

Second Sunday of Advent
Segundo Domingo de Adviento



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

CLERGY

REV. JORGE HERRERA, PASTOR

CHURCH OFFICE

MONDAY: CLOSED
TUESDAY - FRIDAY: 8AM TO 4PM
SATURDAY: 9AM TO 5PM
SUNDAY: CLOSED

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY: 4PM
CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

WED - FRI
DAILY NOON MASSES

TUESDAY: 12:30PM - 10PM
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT BY
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FRIDAY: 6:30PM
GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

SATURDAY: 4PM OR BY APPOINTMENT:
RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: MASS 5PM (ENGLISH)

SUNDAY: MASS
9AM (ENGLISH), 11:30AM (BILINGUAL),
5PM (ESPAÑOL)

MASS Intentions

Saturday, December 6

- ♦ 5pm: Mary Ellen Kostzin †, Jim Horm † and Roger Christensen †

Sunday, December 7

- ♦ 9am: Jack Nealon † and Roger Christensen †
- ♦ 11:30am: Jimmy Hagan †
- ♦ 5pm: Por los feligreses vivos y difuntos de San Francisco de Asís

Tues, Dec. 9 - Friday Dec. 12 at Noon

Tues: NO MASS / NO MISA

- ♦ Wed: Denise Herrera †
- ♦ Thurs: Living & Deceased Mem. of the St. Francis Comm
- ♦ Fri: Living & Deceased Mem. of the St. Francis Comm

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be this weekend
(Dec. 6-7) after each Mass**

**La UNCIÓN DE LOS ENFERMOS será para este fin
de semana (Dic. 6-7) después de cada Misa**

THE OFFERINGS FOR THE WEEKEND OF

Nov. 23, 2025

Mass Offerings	\$ 3,032
Online Giving Offerings	\$ 9,968
TOTAL	<u>\$ 13,000</u>

2026 Diocesan Conference

You are invited to attend the **Annual Diocesan Conference, January 9–10, 2026, at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks.**

Please pick up a brochure for the event in the church gathering space, scan the QR code, or visit the diocese's website at

www.catholicreno.org, where you'll find speaker bios, session details, the weekend schedule, and registration information. These documents may also be downloaded directly and printed. Please visit your parish office or contact the Faith Formation office at **775-326-9439** for further assistance.



Conferencia Diocesana Anual 2026

Todos están cordialmente invitados a asistir a la **Conferencia Diocesana Anual, del 9 al 10 de enero del 2026, en el Nugget Casino Resort de Sparks.** Los folletos están disponibles en el espacio de reuniones de la parroquia, escanee el código QR o visite el sitio web de la diócesis en www.catholicreno.org, donde encontrará las biografías de los oradores, detalles de las sesiones, el programa del fin de semana e información para la inscripción. Estos documentos también se pueden descargar e imprimir directamente. Para más información, visite su oficina parroquial o comuníquese con la oficina de Formación en la Fe al **775-326-9434.**



St. Francis Christmas Mass Hours

Christmas Eve

December 24th - 3:00pm Children's Mass - English


5:00pm Bilingual

10:00pm English

Christmas Day

December 25th - 9am English

11:30am Bilingual



Reconciliation Service
December 18th 5:30pm
(Bilingual)

Servicio de Reconciliación
18 de Diciembre 5:30pm
(Bilingüe)

CLASE DE BAUTISMO

*Miércoles, Dic. 10
6 - 8PM*

*Por favor NO NIÑOS
y PUNTUALES!*

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL 2025

Pledged: \$123,433
Received: \$122,388
Participation: 21.18 %
GOAL: \$124,877

As we near the end of this year's CSA campaign, we give thanks for the support to date from 105 of our 557 registered parishioners. We invite those who have not yet participated to help us reflect the loving spirit of our Parish Community by supporting our broader Catholic family.

To Donate:



Or Online
Sftahoe.org/give

Donations by Cash or Check
are welcome in the front office.

*You are being enriched in every way for all generosity,
Which through us produces thanksgiving to God.
2 Corinthians 9:11*

CAMPAÑA DE SERVICIOS CATÓLICOS 2025

Donaciones: \$123,433
Recaudado: \$122,388
Participación: 21.18%
Meta: \$124,877

Al acercarnos al final de la campaña de la CSA de este año, agradecemos el apoyo recibido hasta la fecha de 105 de nuestros 557 feligreses registrados. Invitamos a quienes aún no han participado a que nos ayuden a reflejar el espíritu de amor de nuestra comunidad parroquial apoyando a nuestra gran familia católica.

Para Donar:



O en línea
Sftahoe.org/give

Donaciones en efectivo o cheque
Son bienvenidos en la recepción.

*Ustedes están siendo enriquecidos en todo sentido por toda generosidad,
lo cual, a través de nosotros, produce acción de gracias a Dios.
2 Corintios 9:11*



St. Clare's PTA Bake Sale

**Saturday Dec. 6 After 5pm Mass
Sunday Dec. 7 After Morning Masses**

Pies, Cakes, Cookies, and Much More!

All proceeds benefit St. Clare's school events.

Cash, check, or Venmo accepted.

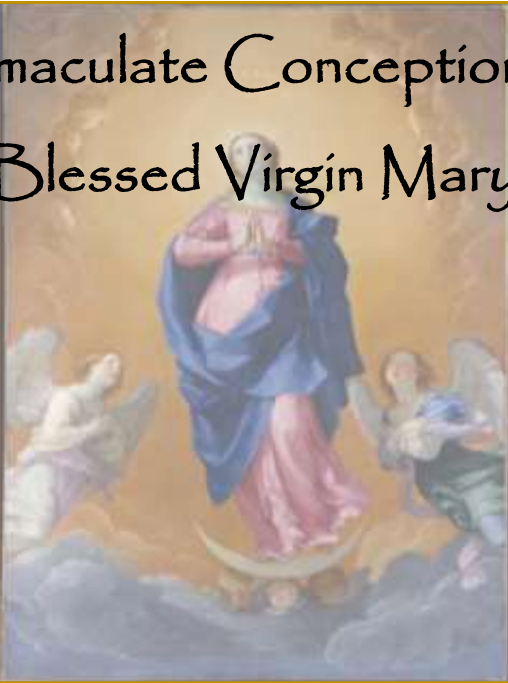
Thank you for your support!

The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day

of

Obligation



December 8th


12noon Mass and

5:30pm Bilingual Mass

You are invited to join conversations with Pamela Thomas
on Mary in Art

Our Lady of Guadalupe
(Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 5pm)

in
Large Conference Room



Our Lady of Sorrows

Please join us in celebrating the Feast of Our
Lady of Guadalupe observed on Friday,
December 12th with 5:00pm Bilingual Mass.

Les invitamos a unirse a nosotros en
la celebración de la Fiesta de Nuestra
Señora de Guadalupe, que se celebra el
Viernes 12 de Diciembre , con Misa bilingüe
a las 5:00 de la tarde.



The Women's Ministry thanks each of you who is participating in this year's Angel Tree.

Please return the gifts unwrapped with the tag attached to the parish office by **December 12**.

If you have purchased a gift card, please mark the dollar amount on the card.

Your generosity will bring joy to each recipient during this season of Hope and Love.



Project Dresser Update - 12/04/2025

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the parishioners who have supported Project Dresser over the years. In January, we will be celebrating the 29th year of this ministry which was started in January 1997. Without the continued support of the St. Francis family, we would not have been able to help countless mothers and their families, especially since this ministry is not on the church budget and relies solely on parishioner donations.

We started with the intention of helping unwed single teens which we did for many years until Casa de Vida no longer housed these girls. We then turned to Real Choices, City of Refuge and Deeper Still/HOPE ministries all located in Reno, Gardnerville and Fernley and more recently, helped a mother who just gave birth this week in Truckee. All cases are vetted before the need is met and we help only organizations that support life.

As we look forward to the celebration of the Birth of Christ, may we remember the Child born in poverty in a stable and the hardships the parents faced and keep that picture in our minds as we continue to help babies and families in need this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

May the Lord continue to bless St. Francis of Assisi parish and all who have contributed to making this ministry so successful. **Merry Christmas!**



Thank you. Denise Azzara, founder and coordinator



**HELP SUPPORT TEENS IN
FOSTER CARE!**

GIFT CARD DRIVE

Although most people generously donate toys for young children in foster care, teens are often forgotten during the holidays – that's why we need the community's help!

How You Can Help:

- Buy gift cards from suggested locations
Denominations of \$10-\$50
- Drop off gift cards by **December 15th**
- Encourage others to participate!

SUGGESTED GIFT CARDS:

**TARGET – WALMART – AMAZON – BEAUTY STORES
– RESTAURANTS – ACTIVITIES – MOVIE THEATERS**

DROP OFF AT:

Incline High School (Front Office)

Azzara's Italian Restaurant

(20% off your dinner when you donate)

CONTACT DANE GITCHELL FOR INFORMATION

AND DONATIONS

(775-560-5390 or danesg09@icloud.com)





*If you would like to adopt a family for the holidays
please contact Lorena at. Lorena@sftahoe.org*



2025 Tahoe Truckee Toys for Tots Campaign

***Our need is greater this year . . . please give as much as you're able
to make this holiday season bright for our children!
Your donations of new toys or dollars stay local,
from Truckee to Incline and all around the Lake***

Drop off new, unwrapped toys (now through 12/17/25): Look for Toys for Tots collection boxes at dozens of local businesses and organizations.

Order and deliver toys direct from Amazon: Use our registry for easy gifting!

[Click here for our Amazon wishlist](#)

Give online: [Click here for Venmo, PayPal, or credit card donations](#)

Contribute a check: Send checks payable to Marine Foundation, Toys for Tots, Tahoe-Truckee c/o Lorena Aguilar Herrera, 701 Mt. Rose Highway, Incline Village, NV 89451.

Sign up to receive toys: Boys & Girls Club (8125 Steelhead Ave., Kings Beach); Sierra Community House (265 Bear St., Kings Beach); and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church (701 Mt Rose Hwy, Incline Village), 9-5.

Toy-Raising Parties coming soon! Please contact us now if you can host one.

Thank you!

Lorena Aguilar Herrera, Assistant Local Coordinator

530.412.3683

Lorenaatahoe14@gmail.com

Building Our Future Together

(BOFT)

As you may know, our parish's Design Committee has been meeting with architects for about six months now to develop plans for a potential multipurpose building, which would provide much-needed space for faith formation, large gatherings, and St. Clares Catholic Montessori School during the day.

The committee met again with the architects just before Thanksgiving. The building plan is slowly taking shape, as we trim here and adjust there. Our goal is to meet our parish's needs for now and the future, while at the same time keeping the proposed building modest and striving for the best use of space possible. We are hoping to pin down the proposed design in the next couple of months.

The feasibility study is still tentatively set to begin in mid-February, where our entire parish community will be invited to share their input and feedback. But launching the study will depend on completion of the conceptual drawings so that we have something to show you. Please feel free to reach out to project coordinator Debbie Larson at LarsonDebbie@hotmail.com

if you have any questions or to ensure we have your contact information to invite you to participate in the study.

St Francis of Assisi

OVERNIGHT YOUTH GROUP RETREAT

DEC 2025 **SAT. 27
AND
SUN. 28**

**FROM
10AM
TO
12:30 NOON**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR
SLEEPING BAGS AND
PILLOWS.
FOOD WILL BE
PROVIDED**

* for more information please see Eugene
after mass with a sign-up sheet

Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance at Sunday Mass

Celebration of the Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance

This Sunday at 9 a.m. Mass, our parish community will gather to celebrate both the Rite of Welcoming and the Rite of Acceptance. These important ceremonies mark a significant step for those participating in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), as we officially welcome catechumens and candidates into our Church family. Through these rites, we acknowledge their commitment and offer our ongoing support as they continue their journey of faith.

Introduction of OCIA Catechumens

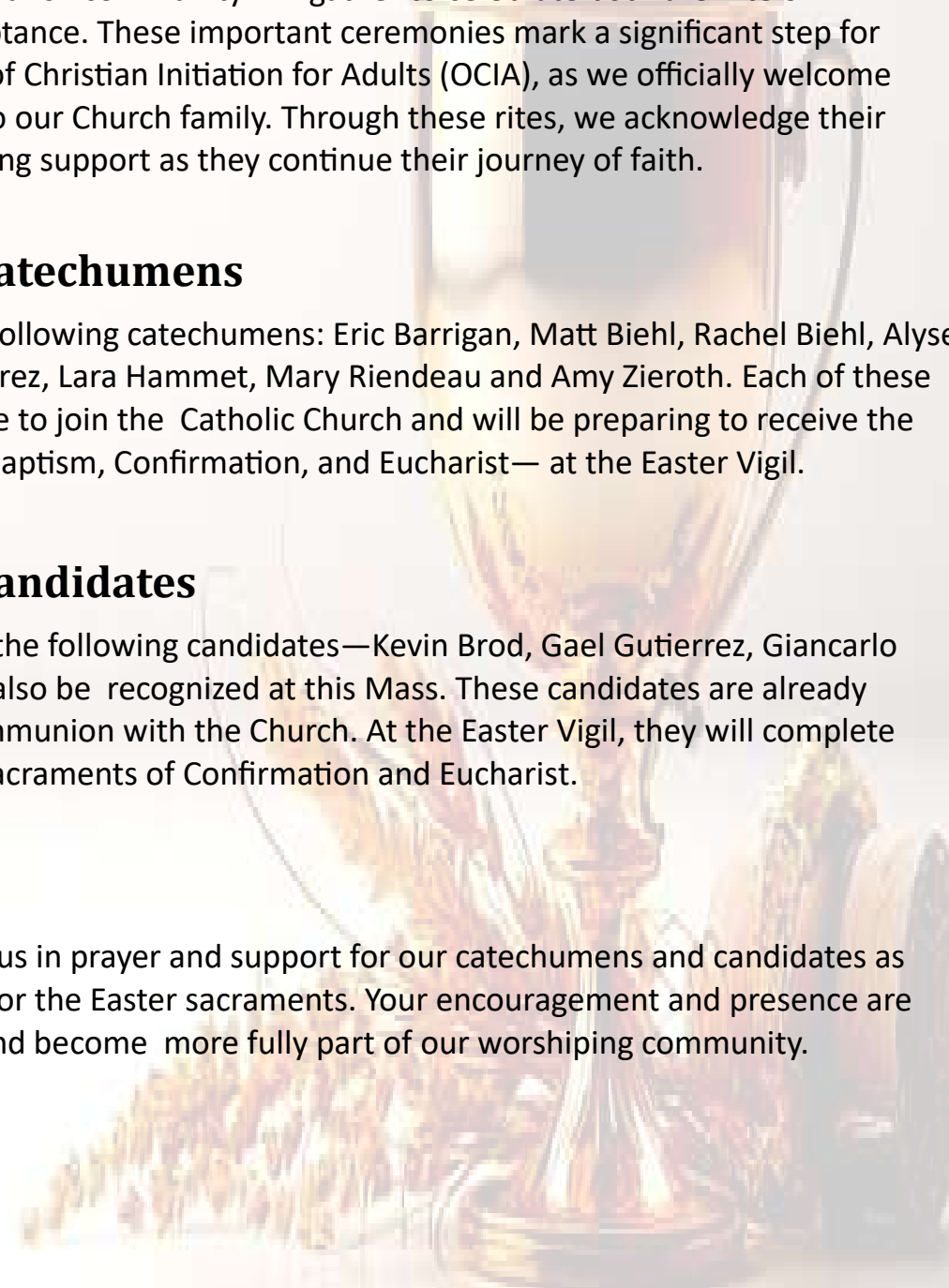
We are pleased to welcome the following catechumens: Eric Barrigan, Matt Biehl, Rachel Biehl, Alyse Fletcher, Brett Fugitt, Gael Guiterrez, Lara Hammet, Mary Riendeau and Amy Zieroth. Each of these individuals has expressed a desire to join the Catholic Church and will be preparing to receive the three sacraments of initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist— at the Easter Vigil.

Introduction of OCIA Candidates

In addition to our catechumens, the following candidates—Kevin Brod, Gael Gutierrez, Giancarlo Munoz, and Julie Wurster— will also be recognized at this Mass. These candidates are already baptized and are seeking full communion with the Church. At the Easter Vigil, they will complete their initiation by receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Community Support

We invite all parishioners to join us in prayer and support for our catechumens and candidates as they continue their preparation for the Easter sacraments. Your encouragement and presence are vital as they deepen their faith and become more fully part of our worshiping community.



City of Refuge
P.O. Box 2663
Gardnerville, NV 89410
+17757822034
RefugeNev@gmail.com



Statement

TO

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Attn: Denise Azzara, Project
Dresser
701 Mt. Rose Hwy
Incline Village, NV 89451

DATE 10/17/2025

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	RECEIVED
10/17/2025	Receipt #4543	300.00	300.00
		TOTAL AMOUNT	TOTAL RECEIVED
		\$300.00	\$300.00

Thank you for the support
you give all US moms
babys Kimmie & Oliver

TOTAL AMOUNT \$300.00
TOTAL RECEIVED \$300.00

Thank you for your
faithfulness
to Refuge.
Bless you
Senchi

Thank you for your support!

Thank you so much for
the gift of Project
Dresser! It is such a blessing
to our moms! Many moms just
light up knowing they'll be able
to pick & provide
special things for
their babies, that
once seemed out of reach.
Thank you! God bless, Erin

Come, let's sing for joy to the LORD.

Let's shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

Let's come before His presence with a song of thanksgiving.

Let's shout joyfully to Him in songs with instruments.

-Psalm 95: 1-2

Your Donation means
so much thank you
Mandy

Per IRS Regulations, City of Refuge hereby confirms that no goods or services were received in exchange for these donations. City of Refuge is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our tax ID is 88-0305787.



Kids Choir Practice



Tuesday and Thursdays

At 6pm, in the Parish Hall





Bishop Mueggenborg's Gospel Reflection

The Second Day of Advent

December 7, 2025

Our Scripture passage for this Sunday comes from the Gospel of Matthew 3:1–12. In this passage we are introduced to the person of John the Baptist and his ministry of preparing the way for Jesus. Advent is a time of preparation, and the image of John the Baptist offers some insightful challenges for us as disciples who strive for preparedness of faith in our lives.

The first part of John's preaching calls on the crowds to repent. The word "repent" comes from the Greek word *metanoia* and literally means to "re-think" or "change one's mind". John preaches this message because our actions stem from our thoughts. If we want to change our lives, we have to change our thinking first. The call to repent is the invitation to see things from God's perspective and to take on the "mind of Christ" (as St. Paul describes it in 1 Cor 2:16). When we see the situations of our lives from God's point of view, we will correctly prioritize our values and respond in a Christ-like way to the situations we face. Being a disciple is not a matter of following rules and regulations or just external observances. Rather, it is a matter of living in deep communion with God and expressing that communion in the way we act. Repentance is a good thing. There is both an inherent relationship and a difference between the moments of conversion and repentance in a person's life. Conversion means to "turn towards" the Lord and occurs in moments when a person's life is re-directed toward God. These moments can be born from a realization of God's presence, God's Love, and God's forgiveness. Conversion occurs when we willingly refocus our lives on God. However, conversion must be lived out in practical actions so that our lives are, indeed, conformed to Christ Jesus and the Gospel. As we undertake each change, each step, we come closer to being conformed to the Lord. Repentance is the process of progressing in closeness to God through a life evermore conformed to the Gospel. The teachings of Jesus and our Lord's way of life are meant to inspire us so that we will follow wherever He leads us. Most people think of the term repentance in a penitential sense and so believe it to involve actions of self-denial, self-mortification, amendment of life, and so forth. While the process of repentance may involve these things, as well as other ascetic practices, it is a much more positive process. Its ultimate goal is to bring us to deeper communion with the Lord both in how we think and in what we do.

The physical description of John the Baptist is interesting as we are told he wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt. This description correlates to that of the Prophet Elijah in 2 Kings 1:8 and suggests that John was clearly presenting himself as the new Elijah. That presentation was an important announcement because in Malachi 3:1, 4-5 we are told that Elijah would return to prepare for the Messiah. We are also told that John ate locusts and wild honey, which signifies much more than simply an odd diet. It is actually a statement that John was preserving himself in ritual purity even in the desert and was trusting in divine providence for his daily life. This description of John the Baptist may seem strange to us, but when we understand the statement he was making by his appearance and lifestyle then we better understand the message he was sending. As a disciple, John understood his responsibility to draw others to Christ with missionary outreach. John knew that attracting others to Jesus meant that he had to get their attention in a way that raised their curiosity. It was John's lifestyle and not just his words that attracted people to him and raised their awareness of the coming Messiah. Sometimes we, as disciples, don't like to stand out from the crowd in order to avoid being different from the rest. It is important to remember that our missionary outreach sometimes requires that we find ways to raise the curiosity of others. For John, this action involved his dress and diet. Regardless of the means, the challenge is the same. There should be something different about the way disciples live and that difference should intrigue and attract others to learn more about us. It is that curiosity that becomes the open door through which we can share with others the faith that guides and sustains our lives. As Saint Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." John attracted a crowd and John did not hesitate to inform that crowd of the reason for his hope — The Lord Jesus Christ.

- **What have been some of the significant experiences that have helped you to redirect your life to God (conversion)?**
- **What happens when disciples are just like everyone else in the crowd?**

Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus

GIFTS OF AN HONORED PRAYER

Why pray the Rosary this Advent?

The Rosary is a perennial Catholic prayer. As you journey through the season of Advent, it can be an especially fulfilling practice to begin, renew, or enrich your relationship with Our Lord and Our Mother in preparation for Christmas. Praying the Rosary has many benefits. Here are five.

1. Deepens Your Relationship with God

Praying the Rosary helps you grow closer to Christ. It does so by inviting you to meditate on the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through the mysteries of the Rosary, you walk alongside Christ and Mary, reflecting on their joys, sorrows, and triumphs. This repeated focus on pivotal moments in salvation history fosters an understanding of God's love and his plan for your life. The Rosary helps you align your heart with God's, offering an opportunity for quiet reflection, trust, and surrender to his will. With Mary as your guide, the Rosary strengthens your faith and leads you into a more intimate relationship with Christ.

2. Strengthens Your Virtue and Helps You Overcome Sin

A significant benefit is that the Rosary encourages virtue and discourages vice. The repetitive prayers foster humility and perseverance, creating a habit of

turning to God in times of temptation. The meditation encourages you to reflect on Christ's example and grow in spiritual maturity. By praying the Rosary regularly, you invite God's grace into your life, fortifying you against sin and strengthening your spiritual resolve. Through Mary's intercession, the Rosary offers grace to resist sin, cultivate virtue, and enrich our relationship with Christ, empowering us to live a more holy and virtuous life.

3. Promotes Peace and Reduces Stress

Perhaps a surprising benefit of praying the Rosary is that it promotes peace and reduces stress. This prayer invites you to enter into a calm, reflective dialogue with God through Mary's intercession. The gentle repetition of prayers, combined with a meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life, soothes the mind and heart, easing anxieties and fostering a sense of stillness. As you reflect on Christ's love and mercy, you are reminded of God's presence and providence, which brings comfort

amid life's challenges. The Rosary helps you surrender your worries to God, encouraging you to rely on him entirely and offer up your daily obstacles.

4. Increases Spiritual Protection

One of the greatest benefits of praying the Rosary is that it is a holy weapon against evil, as emphasized by saints like St. Padre Pio, who called it "the weapon for these times." Through its prayers, we invoke God's grace and strength, which fortify us against temptation and spiritual attacks. The meditative nature of the Rosary fills our minds and hearts with divine truths, leaving no room for the influence of evil. Mary, the Queen of Heaven, stands as a spiritual defender, and through the Rosary, she helps shield us from harm and leads us closer to her son, who is our ultimate refuge.

5. Aids in Intercessory Prayer

The Rosary is a powerful tool for intercessory prayer, allowing us to lift the needs of others to God through Mary's maternal intercession. As we pray each decade, we can dedicate our intentions to loved ones, the sick, the suffering, or those in need of conversion. Mary, as our compassionate advocate, brings these prayers before her son, amplifying their efficacy. The meditative nature of the Rosary ensures our intentions are offered with focus and devotion, uniting our hearts with God's will and strengthening our connection to those we pray for.

Ponder and Pray

- What is your experience of the Rosary?
- With whom do you associate this practice?

Tip of the Week

Pray the Rosary this week. Find a buddy, set a specific time and place, and take advantage of great resources to help you enter into prayer.



Make It Your Own

Ascension offers readers the *Rosary in a Year* podcast. Whether or not you have been following along in that program, some great resources on the Ascension app can help you to pray. With your phone camera, scan the QR code here to download the Ascension app and pray the Rosary with your family.



Dive Deeper

The Ascension blog article from which today's reflection was drawn outlines ten benefits of praying the Rosary. To read it, scan the QR code



or visit: <https://ascensionpress.com/blogs/articles/benefits-of-praying-the-rosary>.

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“Whatever you do, do it from the heart...” – Col 3:23 “Todo lo que hagan, háganlo de corazón...” – Col 3:23

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BEST
of 2025

