

Holy Trinity Catholic Church A Stewardship Parish

December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent



Pastor: Fr. Michel Dalton, OFM Capuchin

Reconciliation/Confession: Saturdays 9:00 to 10 00 am.

# Mass Schedule

Saturdays: 4:30 pm Sundays: 8:00 am / 10:30 am

Mondays: 5:00 pm Tuesdays: 9:00 am Wednesdays: 5:00 pm Fridays 9:00 am

Our vision: To be a welcoming parish committed to serving others.

Our mission: To make Christ known to the world through Word, Sacrament, Prayer, and Service

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CALENDAR Dec 7—Dec 20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 7  Mass 8 and 10:30 am  Pickleball, gym,	8 Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation	9 Mass 6 pm Advent Mission	10 Mass 6 pm Advent Mission	11 Adoration 12—1 pm	Mass 9 am	13 Reconciliation 9–10 am Thrift Shop
2 pm 2nd Collection: Maintenance	Mass 9 am and 6 pm Advent Mission 7 pm	7 pm	7pm Advent Penance Service to follow			9 am—noon Religious Ed See class schedule Mass 4:30 pm 2nd Collection: Retirement Fund for
Dec 14  Marathon Sunday Mass 4:30 pm only  Pickleball, gym, 2 pm  2nd Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious	15 Mass 5 pm	16 Mass 9 am	Mass 5 pm Fr. Flanagan Road to Sainthood Prayer Group, 6-6:3 0pm	18 Adoration 12—1 pm	19 Mass 9 am	20 Reconciliation 9-10 am Thrift Shop 9 am—noon Religious Ed See class schedule Mass 4:30 pm

# **Scripture Readings Summary**

# **Dec 7, Second Sunday of Advent**

#### (Click for readings)

**Isaiah 11:1-10** When God's day arrives, creation will become the peaceable kingdom it was meant to be. **Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17** In God's time, justice and peace will rule and the lowly will be saved. **Romans 15:4-9** Christ unites all believers, Jew and Gentile, in the spirit of hope and harmony. **Matthew 3:1-12** John the Baptist comes heralding the kingdom of heaven for those who repent.

# **Dec 14, Third Sunday of Advent**

# (Click for readings)

**Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10** Those who languish in exile have reason to hope: The time of liberation is near. **Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10** Need justice? Liberation? Restoration? Family? God will supply. **James 5:7-10** Farmers embody patience: firm hearts and no complaints until the day of vindication! **Matthew 11:2-11** John the Baptist is great. The lowliest one in heaven's reign is greater.

# **Online Giving**

To donate online, please click <u>HERE</u> or go to:

https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZH84/home

Mahalo for your generosity!

**Holy Trinity Church Contact Information** 

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By Bob White

S ewardship
In giving we receive

**Stewardship Corner Reflection 491** 

**Stewardship at Holy Trinity Catholic Church** 

#### Let's Light A Path For The Lord

"The Lord knows no favorites." (Sirach 35:12)

Disney realized it...with the famous line "...who's the fairest of them all." It's also interesting...how we feel about who in our family was the favored child. I have two brothers and they both believed that I was the favorite...but I also had a sister...and I know she was the favorite. We academically know that we are loved equally by our parents, so why the imagined competition? Well, consider the parable of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee. Both came to pray...the Pharisee listed his achievements; while the Tax Collector...he just asked for forgiveness. The Lord knows no favorites, real or imagined. He gives us talents and love...unconditional love...never playing favorites. So let's use our talents and our treasure this Advent season to truly light a path for the Lord into our lives this Christmas Season. Happy Advent!

"You Can't Out Do God's Generosity...But We Can Give It A Try "

# Donations and Weekend Attendance: Nov 22-23, and Nov 29-30, 2025

Collections	\$24,202		
Thanksgiving	877		
Major Maintenance & Repair	1,245		
Thrift Shop	1,180		
Candles	415		
TOTAL	\$27,919		



# Thank you for your continuing support of Holy Trinity!

Attendance										
		Nov 22-23	3	Nov 29-30						
	Adults	Children	TOTAL	Adults	Children	TOTAL				
Sat 4:30 PM	133	10	143	142	5	147				
Sun 8:00 AM	161	10	171	132	12	144				
Sun 10:30 AM	150	8	158	148	6	154				
TOTAL	444	28	472	422	23	445				
Thanksgiving Day Nov. 27th, 9:00 AM				83	4	87				

# **Upcoming Special Collection Retirement Fund for Religious**

Next weekend, December 13-14, will be our special collection for the Religious Retirement Fund. This special collection is taken up annually to provide financial resources to meet retirement and healthcare needs of our aging retired religious.

Our religious worked for small stipends with little monetary support and as a result, many religious communities lack adequate funding. Today, religious organizations are facing the challenges of providing care for a continually growing number of elderly priests, brothers and sisters.

Let's remember the religious of our youth and the education they might have provided.

Your generosity will be appreciated.



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# **Annual Angel Tree**

Our annual Angel Tree was up last weekend and has only a few more ornaments for picking your special gift donation.

This year, we had 200 ornaments from the HUGS organization with requests for **GIFT CARD ONLY** donations. Now's your chance to check what ornaments are available.



HUGS (Help, Understanding & Group Support) works to strengthen Hawaii's families and improve their quality of life as they face the emotional and financial hardships of caring for a seriously ill child.

The deadline for returning your gift cards for the Angel Tree is on **Sunday, December 14th**. Please tape your ornament that you chose to the back of the gift card/envelope you are donating and deposit it into the gift box in front of the Angel Tree.

Thank you all for your generosity!



# **PARISH ADVENT MISSION**

# "It is the Lord" Gospel Encounters with Divine Love

Holy Trinity Advent Mission
December 8-10, 2025
Masses by Fr. John Paul Le, O.S.B., & Presentations by Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, O.S.B.

# **HOW CAN I SEE, HEAR, AND KNOW GOD?**

Beyond the existential questions of "Does God exist?" and "Who is God?" lies a deeply personal inquiry many of us have pondered: "How can I know, see, and hear God?" The answer awaits you in the Gospel.

In this retreat, we will explore three transformative Gospel stories that reveal the path to encountering and knowing God:

- 1. The Healing of the Leper (Mark 1:35-45)
- 2. Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

These narratives illuminate a profound truth: the path to God is opened through Jesus Christ for all people—regardless of background, upbringing, or past wounds. This journey is marked by **repentance & humility**—acknowledging our sin, brokenness, and need for forgiveness—and **belief** in the Good News: trusting in God's goodness and faith in Jesus Christ, whom He sent for us. God loves each of us unconditionally and eternally. This liberating message is powerfully demonstrated in each Gospel story, which is ultimately *OUR* story.

**Format:** Each session begins with prayerful listening to a Gospel passage—"listening with the ear of the heart"— followed by contemplative reflection. You will be invited into prayer, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and speak to your heart, opening your eyes to see Him and awakening your heart to love Him.

#### **Retreat Speakers:**

Fr. John Paul Le, OSB has been a monk of Mount Angel Abbey for 15 years. He is currently the Subprior of the monastery and works as the Abbot's secretary and abbey locksmith. He also serves as the Oblate Director, overseeing the spiritual care of lay people who are spiritually associated with the monastery by organizing retreats and classes. Fr. John Paul also teaches as an adjunct professor of Mount Angel Seminary, offering classes in Mariology.

Br. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, OSB has been a monk of Mount Angel Abbey since 2011. A physician trained in family medicine, he is the monastery infirmarian, retreat speaker, spiritual director, and adjunct science professor specializing in the integration of science & faith. He has a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and credits his faith and vocation to Our Blessed Mother.



December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass at 6 pm, followed by Mission

December 9, Daily Mass at 6 pm, followed by Mission

December 10, Daily Mass at 6 pm, followed by Mission, followed by Advent Penance Service

# Respect Life Corner Weekend of December 6-7, 2025

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." Saint Theresa of Calcutta

Each Advent we are given the joy of supporting HUGS Hawaii with our Angel tree. We are grateful to Sue and Jeff Moniz for coordinating this event each year. Here is additional information regarding the positive impact this organization has on families in Hawaii.

HUGS was founded in 1982 by a small group of volunteers at Unity Church on Oahu. They learned of the financial, spiritual, and emotional challenges affecting these families and their lives at home and wanted to support them.

How it became named HUGS has a tender story that underscores their mission. First it was called the "Center," and then became the Young People's Support Center before becoming officially known as HUGS (Help, Understanding & Group Support) in 1989.



A family came up with the acronym, HUGS, while receiving support for their son, who had a cancerous tumor. "When your child is diagnosed with having a terminal illness, sometimes the only thing even a doctor can do is give you a hug," said Pleaman Shaver. "There are days when I wake up wanting nothing more or less than a big hug. It says so much -- I care, I hurt with you, hang in there."

HUGS has grown and supports families with children, ages birth to 21 years, who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness that ranges from cancer, cardiac issues, and liver and kidney ailments, to chromosomal defects. Visit <u>HUGS</u> website (<a href="https://www.hugshawaii.org/">https://www.hugshawaii.org/</a>), to learn more about how you and your family can support these families within our community.





At Holy Trinity we support and sustain a culture of LIFE. Join us each First Friday, after the 9:00 AM Mass as we pray the rosary while in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We appreciate the support of your prayers. If you have ideas and suggestions to share about activities or topics to pursue, or if you are interested in joining our Respect Life Committee, please contact Debbie at <a href="mailto:dkula@rcchawaii.org">dkula@rcchawaii.org</a>



# The Thrift Shop is Open!

Come stop by and see what you'll find! Bargains galore!

Our regular hours are Thursdays and Saturdays, 9:00am - 12noon.

We will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

See you soon!



# Holy Trinity Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - Dec 1, 2025



# **Minutes taken by:** Vickie Barela

Attendees: Fr. Mike, Dorothy Maurice, Paul Hilton, Vickie Barela Jen Ishii, Pete Gumataotao Regrets: John Kim

Meeting started at 6:13pm with an opening prayer by Fr.

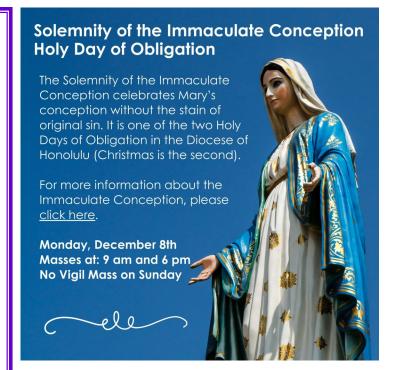
**Guest Speaker** - Bob White from the Stewardship Committee spoke. He said that in the past the Stewardship Committee's focus was on Time and Talent; now they will focus on Treasure. They are working on ways to educate the parishioners on how their monetary contributions are used and where they may be needed. For example, the Monthly Major Maintenance donations can only be used for major maintenance projects and not operational maintenance. The next Stewardship meeting will be on Jan 21st at 6:00pm in the Makai House.

#### **Parish Updates**

- Religious Education: Vanessa Mark submitted a Religious Ed Report to the Parish Council (on file). They currently have 7 teachers & 32 students and are using 4 classrooms upstairs in the Parish Center. Fr. Mike has provided them with everything they requested and they are running smoothly.
- Respect Life Committee October minutes submitted and on file.
- **Stewardship Committee** November minutes submitted and on file.
- Adult Faith Formation None.
- OCIA None.

# **Upcoming 2025 Ministry Events**

- November:
  - November 30th Christmas Lights go up.
  - Food Drive Respect Life Committee
- December:
  - Dec 8-10 Advent Mission with guest speaker from Mt. Angel Abbey
  - Dec 12 Advent Stations Adult Faith Formation - Canceled
- January:
  - Jan 1st Sign up for Mardi Gras Potluck
- February:
  - **Feb 17th** Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Potluck



# Mahala!

A big thank you to everyone who donated poinsettias to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

If you haven't dropped off your poinsettias, please drop off in the church, not the rectory.



## Marathon Mass Schedule Next Weekend!

4:30 pm Saturday, Dec 13th 4:30 pm Sunday, Dec 14th

No Sunday 8 am or 10:30 am Mass on Dec 14th





# Holy Trinity Welcomes Newest Member to our Catholic Faith Community!

HTC celebrated another baptism when Fr. Mike baptized Kupono Kenji Jude Gesik. His parents are Patrick and Mari Gesik.

Every child is a precious gift from God, and Jesus himself said: "Let the children come to me."

Congratulations Kupono and Gesik ohana!

If you are interested in baptizing your child, please contact the Parish Office.



# **OCIA Rite of Acceptance**

Eight adults are preparing here at Holy Trinity for full communion with the Catholic Church.

Nicholas Ali, Scott Maurice, and Rayleen Rawit are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist through our OCIA program (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults – formerly called RCIA). The "Rite of Acceptance," signifying entrance into the order of catechumens, is the first official step along this journey. This liturgical rite was celebrated on Sunday, November 30, at the 8:00 AM Mass and marks the beginning of the catechumenate proper.

In addition, Attilio Avino, Chrystie Brandt, Deysha Childs, Sungwook Kim, and Lukas Rhee have been studying and are preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist. They expressed, and the Church accepted, their intention to respond to God's call to follow the way of Christ.

The OCIA program is a journey of life experiences shared with the team members, our Catechumen and the candidates through weekly Gospel readings, videos and a book that explains our Catholic Faith.

Please welcome our catechumen and candidates and keep them in your prayers as we help them to respond to God's call.





The Word of God teaches us about God and how He Expects us to live.

You were created in His image to have a relationship with Him, and He is patiently waiting for you.



Last Sunday marked the beginning of our Advent season and our church's new year. Happy New Year! Jesus is the reason for the season.



As we prepare for the coming of our Messiah, we light a candle at each Advent Sunday Mass and reflect on Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love through Scripture, Homilies, and in joining our church community in celebrating Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

We encourage you and your child to come to Sunday Mass and experience the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that this Advent season brings and that is Jesus!

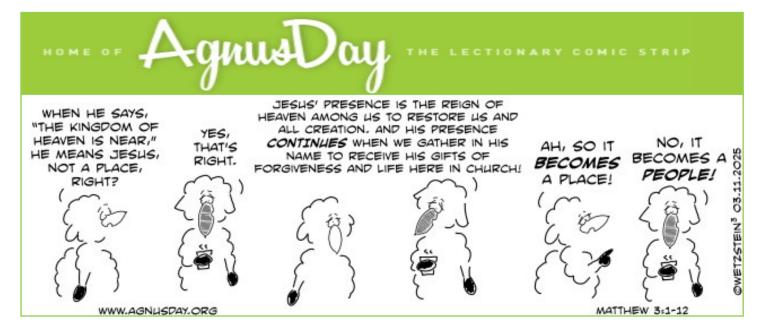
## Happy New Year and God Bless You!

As a gentle reminder for our Religious education students and parents:

- 1. Please fill out the Mass attendance forms each time you come to Mass.
- 2. Please refer your class schedules emailed on 9/18/2025 for December 2025 / January 2026 class dates and times.

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Matthew 3:1-3



## **Pope Leo's December Prayer Intention**

Each month, the Holy Father invites people around the world to join him in prayer for a special need—whether it's for peace, families, care of creation, or the mission of the Church. These intentions come through the **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**, connecting millions of people in prayer, and are also shared in **The Pope Video**, a short video that brings the intention to life. By praying together, we unite our parish with the whole Church and support the needs of our world in a simple but powerful way.

- View The Pope Video here: https://thepopevideo.org/december-for-christians-in-areas-of-conflict/
- Visit <a href="https://clicktopray.org/monthly">https://clicktopray.org/monthly</a> for the monthly prayers.



# Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network





LET US PRAY

# For Christians in areas of conflict

DECEMBER 2025



"Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope."







## PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALTH, COMFORT AND HEALING

Bernie Ordonez Filomina "Mina" Chung Pat Rossman Kai Gumataotao Taylor Hangai Aurora Saulo

Please advise the Parish Office when it is no longer necessary or appropriate to keep names on the list.



# PLEASE PRAY FOR FOR ETERNAL REST

For all who have died in the peace of Christ, may they rest in God's eternal embrace.

Please advise the Parish Office when it is no longer necessary or appropriate to keep names on the list.

# **Pray with Phyllis**

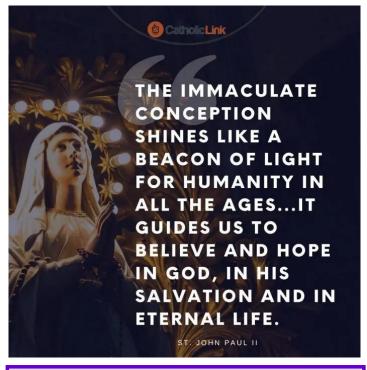


Oh, if only the suffering soul knew how it is loved by God, it would die of joy and excess of happiness! Some day, we will know the value of suffering, but then we will no longer be able to suffer. The present moment is ours. (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 963)

**Meditation:** Jesus, You are my great Teacher. From You, I learn the value of suffering. From You, I learn how to recognize all of the little and big crosses that You give to me today. Increase my awareness of my daily crosses, so that I may offer them back to You, especially for poor sinners. Sometimes my path to You is full of sharp rocks and pebbles. But, when I pick them up and give them to Mary, she cleans them off and underneath the dirt and grime is a jewel. Even though I have trouble seeing the jewel, please take these crosses, these jewels, of mine and, through the hands of Mary, may they shine brilliantly before You. Let me not overlook one cross today, but may I offer each one to You with joy.

Meditation by Fr. Leszek Czeluśniak, MI

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.



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### Sunday, Dec 07, 2025

## Put aside your to-do list

Advent can seem like a wintery Lent—purple decor, sober worship, scripture about the end times. While it is about focusing on our inner life, it's not from the perspective of repentance but a passionate desire for God. Unfortunately, a quiet time like Advent is easily shouted down by the madness of a jump-started Christmas. Advent is not a to-do list; it's a gift tied in purple velvet ribbon. Unwrap it—it's "just what you always wanted!" Confront your use and abuse of time. Create and jealously guard little pockets of quiet. Go for a walk in the crisp air. Sit with your address book; picture, pray for, and bless each person you cherish. Turn off the TV, listen to the first part of Handel's *Messiah* and bask in its beauty. Be still. Know God. SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (4). "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD."

# Monday, Dec 08, 2025

## Have a grace-full day

What is grace? One way to think of it is anything that comes from God. We can think of it in terms of what we give to God: prayer and worship, service to others, doing God's will. Or what God sends to us: the gift of creation, love, inspiration, consolation, help, and much more. Mary had grace in abundance—both what she gave and received. Make today a day of prayer to her to intercede for us and inspire us to give and receive God's grace. Here is a simple prayer from Saint Teresa of Calcutta to get you started: "Mary, give me your Heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate; your Heart so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor."

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). "The angel Gabriel was sent ... And coming to her, he said, 'Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.'"

#### **Tuesday, Dec 09, 2025**

# Patron of new beginnings

When Juan Diego (1474-1548) was canonized in 2002, he became the first indigenous saint from the Americas. The farmer and mat weaver was in his 40s when Hernán Cortés led the conquest of Spain in 1521, and within three years the first wave of Franciscan monks arrived near Juan's village. Juan and his wife were among the first of the indigenous residents to accept Baptism. Despite their age, the couple opened their hearts to a new beginning and readily uprooted themselves to move closer to the missionaries in Mexico City. Pray to Juan Diego, patron of immigrants and indigenous people, to inspire each of us to redouble our efforts to stand with those seeking a better life in a new land.

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God."

#### Wednesday, Dec 10, 2025

# A song to lift your heart

Asked what liturgical song most fostered and nourished their spiritual life, the majority of respondents in any given online poll will cite "On Eagle's Wings" by Father Michael Joncas. The song, inspired by Isaiah's prophecy and Psalm 91, contains the beautifully crafted refrain: "And He will raise you up on eagle's

wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His Hand." Remember those words of solace whenever your burden feels too great.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). "They that hope in the LORD will . . . soar as with eagles' wings."

#### **Thursday, Dec 11, 2025**

#### Found in translation

The pontificate of Damasus (366-384) occurred during a turnultuous period in the Early Church, with schisms and heresies on all sides. Perhaps Damasus' greatest contribution was his insight that a standardized version of the Bible was desperately needed. In 382 he commissioned a highly respected scholar named Jerome to revise the Bible into a more accurate and updated Latin version, working directly from the original Greek (New Testament) and Hebrew (Old Testament) versions. Saint Jerome's monumental effort came to be known as the Vulgate, meaning "translated into a native language." Even though Latin long ago stopped being a language of everyday use, the Vulgate still holds an honored position in the church. Take time for a little scripture reading today.

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). "I, the LORD, will answer them; . . . That all may see and know."

## Friday, Dec 12, 2025

#### A labor of love

Artist J. Michael Walker produced his Virgin of Guadalupe series of paintings and sketches from 1995-2020. One of the most memorable portraits in the series is *Ironing, Thinking*, where we see Mary with a slightly careworn expression on her face as she irons her famous cloak of stars while balancing her crown on her head with simple dignity. In trying to capture the spirit of Mexico on canvas, Walker said, "It is only natural that I should have fallen under the spell—along with millions of other devotees—of the Virgin of Guadalupe, whom I portray as a real Mexican woman of Indian descent, going about the myriad tasks by which women hold the world together." Let the Virgin of Guadalupe inspire us to support the dignity of all who labor.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 (690A). "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

## Saturday, Dec 13, 2025

## Adjust your vision of Christmas

One quality that many saints share is the capacity to look beyond the sometimes horrific circumstances of their lives and see the presence of God. They see with their hearts. Saint Lucy is certainly among those saints with this ability. Tradition tells us that she was raped then tortured and murdered for being a Christian, but she remained steadfast in her faith until the end. Her feast day comes at a good time. Now, midway through Advent, we might be feeling the pressure to conjure up the "perfect Christmas." Today take a moment to pause, adjust your spiritual lenses, and focus on the love that came into the world and continues to sustain us all through the darkest moments into the light.

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). "Blessed is he who shall have seen you."

