

St. Mary Catholic Church

*First Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**

DECEMBER 3, 2023



**TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN**

# TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

## MASS TIMES

**Monday through Friday**  
**6:30 am & 12:05 pm**

**Saturday**  
**8:30 am**

**Saturday Vigil Mass**  
**4:30 pm**

**Sundays**  
**7:00 am \* 9:00 am**  
**11:00 am**  
**1:00 pm (Spanish)**

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**  
**Saturdays 3:00-4:00 pm**  
**In the church**

## DEVOTIONS

(All take place in the chapel)

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**Mon-Fri 7 am - 8 pm**  
**Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm**

**Hispanic Holy Hour**  
**Saturdays 9 to 10 am**

**First Saturday Devotion**  
**First Sat. of each month**  
**9 to 10 am**

**Catholic Man Night**  
**First Wed., 7 pm**

**PARISH OFFICE**  
**2051 Mt. Diablo Blvd.**  
**Walnut Creek,**  
**CA 94596**  
**www.stmary-wc.org**

**OFFICE HOURS**  
**8:30 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**  
**Monday through Friday**

**2051 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

## Staff and Administration

Parish Office	925-891-8900
Fr. William Rosario, Pastor	925-891-8900 <a href="mailto:william@stmary-wc.org">william@stmary-wc.org</a>
Fr. Bich Nguyen, Parochial Vicar	925-891-8900 <a href="mailto:bnguyen@stmary-wc.org">bnguyen@stmary-wc.org</a>
Ana Lau, Office Manager	925-891-8908, <a href="mailto:alau@stmary-wc.org">alau@stmary-wc.org</a>
Aileen Baker, Bookkeeper	925-891-8911, <a href="mailto:abaker@stmary-wc.org">abaker@stmary-wc.org</a>

## Faith Formation

Administration	925-891-8939
Margaret Riley, K-Grade 5	925-891-8920, <a href="mailto:mriley@stmary-wc.org">mriley@stmary-wc.org</a>
Kiona Medina, Grades 6-12	925-891-8944, <a href="mailto:kmedina@stmary-wc.org">kmedina@stmary-wc.org</a>
Heather Abraham, Confirmation	925-891-8934, <a href="mailto:habraham@stmary-wc.org">habraham@stmary-wc.org</a>
Tim Mannix, RCIA & Liturgy Coord.	925-891-8921, <a href="mailto:tmannix@stmary-wc.org">tmannix@stmary-wc.org</a>

## School

Office	925-935-5054, <a href="mailto:stmary@st-mary.net">stmary@st-mary.net</a>
Mary Caren Heffner, Principal	925-935-5054

## ORGANIZATIONS

Cursillo Saturday Group, Bob Conlon	925-968-1929
Eucharistic Adoration, Ana Lau	925-891-8908
Filipino-American Ministry, Elena Gaoiran	925-525-7089
Finance Council, Brian Mulligan	925-360-0114
Hispanic Ministry, Angeles Ron	925-856-8780
Hospital Ministry, Angeles Ron	925-856-8780
Knights of Columbus, John Cuddihy, Grand Knight	925-286-4515
Men of St. Joseph, Mike Gallagher	925-464-8118
Rosary Makers, Ana Lau	925-891-8908
St. Vincent de Paul, Barb Erickson	925-360-1679
Walking with Purpose, Mary Kerfs	925-708-6989

## Coffee and Donuts at Our Lady's Grotto this Sunday

In preparation for our parish's feast day on December 8, our own Kiona Medina has been working on restoring the statue of Our Lady at the grotto.

Come and see the statue and greet Our Blessed Mother after the 9:00, 11:00 and 1:00 Masses and meet with fellow parishioners while enjoying coffee and treats! Dress warm!





## TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Dear sisters and brothers,

Advent is a season of getting ready, of preparation. It's a countdown to the great celebration of Christmas, when Jesus our Savior is born among us.



John the Baptist echoes the call of the prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" How do we prepare for Christ's coming? Do we take the road to the mall or to the manger?

One way to prepare for the birth of Jesus is to recognize and appreciate the work God is doing around us. In this time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I invite us to take stock of our blessings. Let us pay attention to the ways God is at work around us and in us. Let us prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas by celebrating the abundant life God has given us.

This year, our theme for Advent is "Abundant Life" that comes to us in and through the Eucharist. As the Eucharistic Revival in our parish continues, I would like to invite you to delve deeper into the mystery of the Eucharist; to

learn and appreciate the gift that God has bestowed on us.

The name *Bethlehem* literally means, "House of Bread". As Jesus, the Baby of Bethlehem is laid in the manger against the backdrop of fodder, St. Luke the evangelist presents him as "food for a hungry world" – a body that will be broken for us.

Hence, Advent is about waking up, noticing the world around us, celebrating the incredible love of our Savior who came to live among us, and acknowledging and appreciating the love with which he feeds us with the gift of his body and blood.

I hope you'll be able to come to mass each weekend of Advent to prepare your hearts for the coming of the Messiah. May you recognize the abundant, overflowing love God has for you, and may God continue to bless you in this holiday season and always.

With prayerful wishes and blessings,

*Fr. William Rosario*



**Dear Lord,  
In this season of bustle,  
help us to stay  
watchful and alert  
to the spaces and places  
You are calling us to bring  
Your love and light.  
Amen.**

©LPi

# TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

## MASS INTENTIONS

DATE	TIME	INTENTION
12/02	4:30 pm	Harvey Thommes (L)
12/03	7:00 am	Sr. Yolanda Kinsella, CSJ
	9:00 am	Robert Casey
	11:00 am	Don Marshall
	1:00 pm	The People of St. Mary
12/04	6:30 am	Chona Bussani (L)
	12:05 pm	Edwin De Jesus
12/05	6:30 am	Marianne Meinbress (L)
	12:05 pm	Libby & Joe Field & Family (L)
12/06	6:30 am	Marion Kennedy
	12:05 pm	Lou Montoya
12/07	6:30 am	Denise Cely (L)
	12:05 pm	Paulus Liem
12/08	6:30 am	Maria Tran Thi Minh
	12:05 pm	Cecilia Vy Nguyen
12/09	8:30 am	Miki Fasanella



### CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT

Men, it's Advent and we need to prepare for the coming of the Lord!

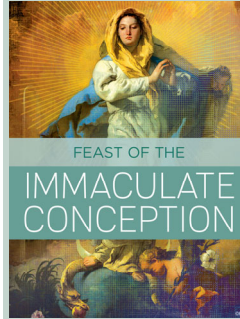
Wednesday, Dec 6, at 7:00pm at the chapel, join other men for adoration and rosary.

Fellowship after. Extra rosaries and cheat sheets available. Invite a brother!

Questions? Contact:

[michaelgallagher1025@outlook.com](mailto:michaelgallagher1025@outlook.com)

**THIS WEEKEND!** Help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land by buying beautiful olive wood items made in Israel. From olive wood nativity sets to Jerusalem crosses and Christmas ornaments, these items are perfect for Christmas gifts. Sales will be after all masses on December 2 and 3.



FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION

"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!" December 8 is one of our feasts celebrating Mary - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the "new Eve."

Faced both with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began the work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception. On this feast day, we celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady!

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE *Blessed Virgin Mary* GLPI

Join us to celebrate our parish's feast day, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Thursday, December 7 (Eve of the feast):**  
Holy hour in the church at 7:00 pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction .

**Friday, Dec. 8 (Holy day of obligation):**  
Masses at 6:30, 8:15 (School) 12:00, and 7:00 (bilingual)

Join us for a deeper journey to know Christ



## XLT ADORATION

December 4, 2023

January 8, 2023

[ 6 : 0 0 P M - 7 : 3 0 P M ]

Fellowship and refreshments to follow.

St Mary - 2039 Mt Diablo Blvd, Walnut Creek, CA

Testimony by Sarah on "To Love Christ"

# TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN



## First Sunday of Advent

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy dai-

ly living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep." Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— Father John Muir. ©LP

## In the Unexpected

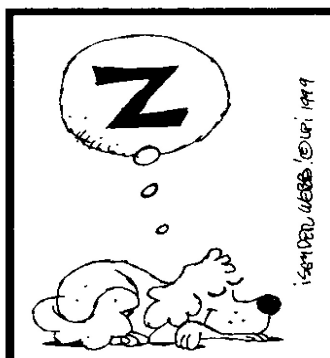
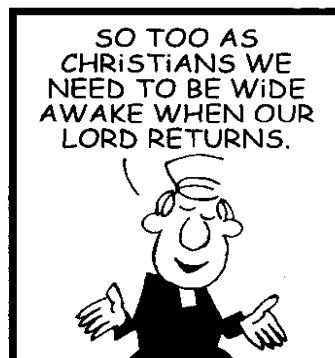
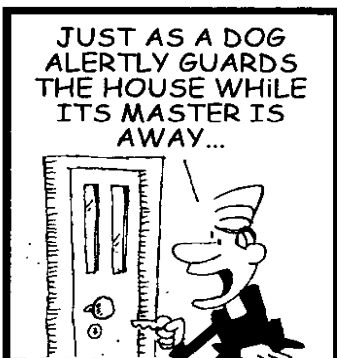
"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.

No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS. ©LPI





# TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

It's time for our  
**GIVING  
TREE!**



We will be adopting families from a community in Concord this year! You are invited to grab an ornament from the tree listing a Christmas gift and return the gift wrapped by Dec 22. Gift cards are also an option! Thank you for making Christmas possible for our community!



Carondelet and De La Salle High School 2023-2024 Admissions Season is open! The application deadline for both high schools is December 8. If you are interested in applying for financial aid, applications open on December 1.

To find out more about Carondelet of De La Salle, and to apply, please visit [carondeleths.org](http://carondeleths.org) or [dlsHS.org](http://dlsHS.org)

You are cordially invited to celebrate Advent with *Magnificat*, a Ministry to Catholic Women, at our December Prayer Breakfast.

Join us for a morning of praise and inspiration with our speaker, Mari Santoyo!



**Saturday Dec. 16 ~ 9:30am -12:30pm**  
St. John Vianney Parish, Mullen Commons  
1650 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek



Mari is a devoted wife, mother and member of St. Clement Parish in Hayward. She will share with us her dramatic story of how the Blessed Mother's intercession held her family together when her son was born at 23 weeks gestational age.

She trusts Jesus through Mary as a source of unwavering strength in the many facets of her daily life.

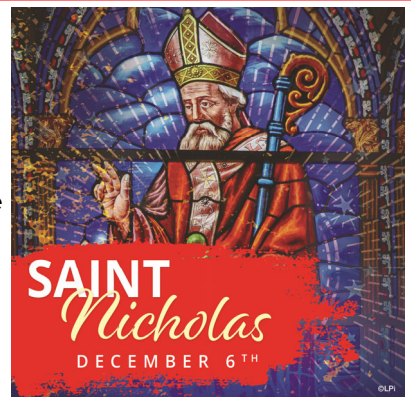
Tickets are \$33 if postmarked by 12/10//23; after that, please call to reserve. Or register online at <https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/ca-walnut-creek>

For more information, call Jennifer Rogers (503) 709-8449 or email [magnificatsotirsvp@gmail.com](mailto:magnificatsotirsvp@gmail.com)

St. Nicholas of Bari (March 15, 270 – December 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.



## HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR ...

Beth Wainwright  
Danyel Sheets  
Robin Wood  
Billy Silva  
Marissa Magno  
Ed Regan  
Pat O'Rourke  
David Holmes

Camille Giglio  
Marina Rodriguez  
Carol Lorenzana  
Jamie Crowley  
Darlene Fisher  
Eric Wilberg  
Sophia Gibson  
Richard Olmstead

Melanie Ezekiel  
Ashley Mrozek  
Jeremy Kemper  
Greg Tomlin  
Richard Lau  
Teresa Garcia  
Henry Escano  
Timothy Beel

Angelina Carcueva  
Eddie Brady  
Barbara Ryan  
Vic Muzio  
Stephanie Wilson  
John Erickson  
Marilyn Kushner  
Anne Kavanagh

Esther Gamberutti  
Lois Belmessieri  
Mary Walsh  
Arthur Gaoiran, Sr.  
Jennifer Mary Field  
Brianna Tappe  
Kerri Moore

**Come,  
LORD  
JESUS!**

***ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2023***

**Friday, December 8:**

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Masses at 6:30 am, 8:15 am, 12:05 pm, and 7:00 pm (bilingual)

**Tuesday, December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Mañanitas with Recitation of the Rosary: 5:00—6:30 am

Masses at 6:30 am, 8:15 am, 12:05 pm, and 7:00 pm (Spanish)

**Communal Advent Penance Service  
Monday, December 18, 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, December 24**

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Regular Sunday Schedule:  
7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am, 1:00 pm (Spanish)

**Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24**

Masses at 3:00, 5:00, 8:00 (bilingual), and 10:00 pm

**Christmas Day: Monday, December 25**

Masses at 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am, 1:00 pm (Spanish)

**New Year's Eve: Regular Sunday Schedule:**

7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am, 1:00 pm (Spanish)

**Monday, January 1**

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

(not a Holy Day of Obligation) Mass at 10:00 am



# TO KNOW AND LOVE CHRIST, AND MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

## Primer Domingo de Adviento

El Adviento es la espera alegre y activa de la preparación para la Navidad, cuando celebramos el nacimiento del Salvador. Nos preparamos para recibir al Señor en gozo y acción. El Señor que viene nos invita a salir a abrir la puerta para ver más allá de nuestra propia realidad. "Cada cristiano y cada comunidad discernirá cuál es el camino que Dios le pide, pero todos somos invitados a aceptar este llamado: salir de la propia comodidad y atreverse a llegar a todas las periferias que necesitan la luz del Evangelio. La alegría del Evangelio que llena la vida de la comunidad de discípulos es la alegría misionera" (Papa Francisco). Estas palabras del Papa Francisco no están pasadas de moda; son activas para todos nosotros, especialmente en este primer Domingo de Adviento.

En medio de todo lo que vivimos en la sociedad en este tiempo, la invitación continúa a seguir acogiendo y consolando, en lo que se puede, al inmigrante y al que sufre toda clase de violencia y a crear nuevas posibilidades para despertar alegría en los corazones dormidos. El Evangelio nos advierte: "Estén preparados y vigilantes, porque no saben cuándo llegará ese momento...estén despiertos" (Marcos 13,33-37). Hay que abrir bien los ojos para descubrir dónde está el Señor, porque no es fácil verlo. ¿Cuáles actitudes debemos poner en práctica en este Adviento? La confianza, la vigilancia, la hospitalidad y la esperanza. ¿Y tú, cuál otra actitud agregarías?

©LPI

## SAN FRANCISCO JAVIER (1506 -1552)

3 de diciembre

Este joven de origen vasco emigró a París para cursar estudios profesionales durante once años. Ahí destacó por su inteligencia y dotes deportivas. No obstante, conoció a otro joven vasco de nombre Ignacio, del castillo de Loyola, quien lo desafió a "cosas mayores". Vivió así sus ejercicios espirituales, logrando una conversión interior y entrega a la voluntad de Dios. Junto con otros seis jóvenes, incluyendo Ignacio, se convirtió en uno de los primeros miembros de la Compañía de Jesús (Jesuitas).

En 1541 se embarcó como misionero y nuncio papal a Goa, al Sur de la India. Ocho años más tarde, extendió su viaje a Japón, civilización que le impactó mucho por su sistema de valores y nivel educativo. Aprendió de ellos su cultura e idioma, les enseñó ciencia y evangelio, llegando a entender que, a fin de lograr la conversión de Japón, sería necesario evangelizar también a China. Aunque planeó el viaje a China para continuar su obra, la muerte le sorprendió y su viaje quedó pendiente. El Papa Pío XI lo declaró patrono de las misiones en 1927.

—Miguel Arias, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



**San Francisco Javier**

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## Lecturas de la Semana

Lunes:	Is 2, 1-5/Sal 121, 1-2. 3-4. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9/ Mt 8, 5-11
Martes:	Is 11, 1-10/Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17/ Lc 10, 21-24
Miércoles:	Is 25, 6-10/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6/ Mt 15, 29-37
Jueves:	Is 26, 1-6/Sal 117, 1 y 8-9. 19-21. 25-27/ Mt 7, 21. 24-27
Viernes:	Gn 3, 9-15. 20/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4/ Ef 1, 3-6. 11-12/Lc 1, 26-38
Sábado:	Is 30, 19-21. 23-26/Sal 146, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/ Mt 9, 35—10, 1. 5. 6-8
Domingo:	Is 40, 1-5. 9-11/Sal 84, 9-10. 11-12. 13-14 (8)/2 Pe 3, 8-14/Mc 1, 1-8

¡JESUS DIJO  
QUE DEBEMOS  
MANTERNOS  
DESPIERTOS!



ESO TAMBIEN ES PARA  
LOS QUE ESTAN SEN-  
TADOS EN LAS  
ULTIMAS BANCAS...



¡SOPNDER ULEBBS!  
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