

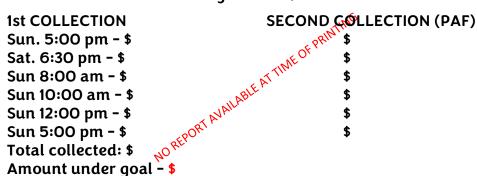
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Stewardship Report for Dec. 14 & Dec. 15, 2024

Weekly Goal: \$8,000



Thank you for your continued support!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

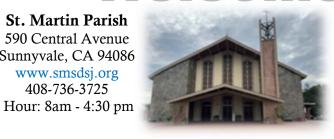
BLOOD DRIVE January 25, 2025 9:00 am to 1:30 pm St. Martin Parish Hall

Co-sponsored by: Sampaguita Lions Club



Welcome!

St. Martin Parish 590 Central Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94086 www.smsdsj.org 408-736-3725

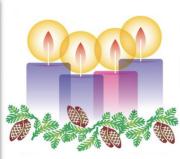


Pastor Fr. Prosper Molengi prosper@smsdsj.org

Parochial Vicar Fr. Duy Nguyen duy@smsdsj.org

4th Sunday of Advent





Blessed is the fruit of your womb.

The Candle of Love

Come, Lord Jesus, come soon. In this time of your coming, support and console us who trust in your love. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

MASS SCHEDULE

DAILY - 5:00 PM

SATURDAY

5:00 PM - ENGLISH

6:30 PM - SPANISH

SUNDAY

8:00 AM - ENGLISH

10:00 AM - ENGLISH 12:00 PM - SPANISH

5:00 PM - VIETNAMESE

CONFESSION

SATURDAY - 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Every Friday after 5 pm mass till 10 pm

FAITH FORMATION

Contact: Nancy Cordova ext. 15 **FIRST COMMUNION -** 2 year program.

CONFIRMATION - 2 year program

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adult

Contact: Aime Overcamp ext. 18

BAPTISM - Once a month. Registration packets & calendar available in the parish office or go to the parish website.

GATHERING SONG - O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

(Veni, veni Emmanuel)



O come, O come, Em-ma-nu-el, And ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el, That mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here Until the Son of God ap-pear.

Refrain Rejoice! Re-joice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.

O come, O Wis-dom from on high, Who or-d'r-est all things migh-ti-ly; To us the path of know-ledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Si-nai's height In an-cient times didst give the law In cloud and ma-jes-ty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, O Rod of Jes-se's stem, From every foe deliver them That trust Your mighty power to save, And give them vic-to-ry ov-er the grave. *Refrain*

READING I

Mi 5:1-4a

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah

Thus says the LORD:
You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient times.

Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel.

He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock

by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

The word of the Lord - Thanks be to God.

German origin.

In the 16th century Germans started to decorate fir tres inside their homes. At the beginning Christmas trees were decorated with fruit, later some families decorated them with candles, one for each family member.

A legend says that Martin Luther was walking home through the woods, and he liked the beauty of starlights at night, so he wanted to share this experience with his family, and he placed small candles on the branches of a fir tree.



The modern Christmas Tree.

In the XIX century, German immigrants brought the tradition of Christmas trees to Britain. When Queen Victoria started to celebrate Christmas with fir trees and presents hung on the branches, everybody followed her and they placed presents around the decorated trees at home.

In America, the president Franklin Pierce decorated the first Christmas tree in the White House, about 1850. Now, Christmas tree tradition is all over the world. Many people of other religions have adopted the Christmas tree (even in Japan).

In the U.S.A. 35 million Christmas trees are sold every year. The most famous Christmas tree in the United States is placed in the Rockefeller Centre in New York. It is between 21 and 30 metres high, and about 125 million people visit it every year.



"This Christmas, spread jog, share love, and create memories."





The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22nd, 2024



HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE TRADITION.

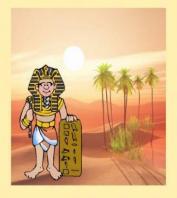
Nowadays, there is a tradition to celebrate Christmas with a beautiful fir plenty of ornaments, and presents in the living room.

The origin of Christmas tree comes from ancient times.

Let's learn something about it...

Egyptian origin.

Long ago, before Christianity people used evergreen plants to decorate their homes, to celebrate the Winter Solstice. On December 21st or December 22nd, the day is the shortest of the year. From that date the days are longer and longer. The evergreen plants symbolise the God of Sun will be strong again. Egyptians filled their homes with green palm plants in honour of the god Ra.

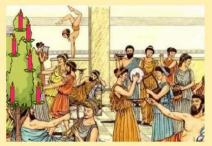


Northern origin.

In Northern Europe, the Celts decorated their homes and temples with evergreen branches which signified eternal life. The Vikings thought evergreens were the plants of Balder, the god of light and peace.

Roman origin.

The ancient Romans celebrated the Winter Solstice with a feast called Saturnalia in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture. Saturnalia was the most important celebration in Roman life. It was a celebration between 17 and 25 December in which no one could be prosecuted for injuring or killing people, theft...



But, Saturnalia could also be a time for kindness and exchange of presents. The birth of Jesus was set at the last day of Saturnalia by the first Christian Romans to attract pagans, and Saturnalia transformed into the celebration of the birth of Christ.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-

R. (4) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

READING II

Heb 10:5-10

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came into the world, he said:
 "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
 but a body you prepared for me;
in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight.
 Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,
 behold, I come to do your will, O God."
 First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings,
 holocausts and sin offerings,
 you neither desired nor delighted in."
 These are offered according to the law.
 Then he says, :Behold, I come to do your will."
 He takes away the first to establish the second.
 By this "will," we have been consecrated
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

 The word of the Lord - Thanks he to God.

ALLELUIA

Lk 1:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL Lk 1:39-49

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed aré you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTIONS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

There is a Christmas song that says of Bethlehem: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light." Bethlehem is a suburb of Jerusalem. Its main tourist attraction in the time of Jesus was that it was the birthplace of David. Though today it has many modern homes and buildings, you can still see that it is part of "the hill country...of Judah." (Lk 1:39) It is not too far from En Kerem, where John the Baptist was born, and apparently where today's Gospel takes place.

We see in the Gospel reading today how Elizabeth and her unborn child rejoiced at the news of Jesus' coming birth. The story implies that Mary went to see Elizabeth as soon as the angel told her about Jesus. Maybe it was easier to tell her cousin, who was also with child, than her fiancé. I would think that talking about it made this miracle more real. I know that talking about my faith makes it more real to me.

Jesus is the "everlasting Light" mentioned in the song. That light shines today, not just in Bethlehem, but everywhere that his followers bring it. When we console someone who is mourning, that light shines. When we offer to help someone in need, it shines brighter. When we forgive someone who hurt us, the light is burning. When we offer to sponsor a candidate in the RCIA, the light grows. When we teach a child how to pray, it shines even brighter.

Our dark streets need the everlasting Light today as much as they did

Our dark streets need the everlasting Light today as much as they did 2000 years ago. Today we remember how Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith in God. They did so much like we do today. Mary could not see her unborn son yet, but helped Elizabeth to believe by her words. Jesus, who seems to be invisible today, is seen in the shared faith of those who bring him into the world by their words and actions. Tom Schmidt



UPCOMING MASS SCHEDULE

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - VIGIL CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday - Dec. 24, 2024

6:00 pm - English 8:00 pm - Vietnamese 10:00 pm - Spanish

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024

8:00 am - English 10:00 am - English 12:00 pm - Spanish 5:00 pm - Vietnamese

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD - VIGIL NEW YEAR'S EVE

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024

5:00 pm - English 6:00 pm - Spanish

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR'S DAY

This is a Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 Corrected time of masses

> 10:00 am - English 12:00 pm - Spanish 5:00 pm - Vietnamese



PLEASE NOTE:

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED 12/19/24 - 01/03/25

PLEASE VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE: **WWW.SMSDSJ.ORG** FOR INFORMATION ON:

MASS SCHEDULE FAITH FORMATION MASS INTENTION HOW TO REQUEST CERTIFICATE



MASS INTENTIONS

For the week of Dec. 16 to Dec. 22, 2024

Dec. 16 - Agnes So †

Dec. 17 - Agnes So †

Dec. 18 - Agnes So †

Dec. 19 – Eddie Atangan †

Agnes So †

Maybelle Alcantara - Thanksgiving

Dec. 20 - Agnes So †

Dec. 21-

5:00 pm - Dionisio Cerezo † Marina Cerezo † Agnes So †

6:30 pm - Pedro

Dec. 22

8:00 am - Fr. Jose Mary Nguyen Xuan Huong †
Paul Sang Ngoc Tran †
Cherie Atangan - Birthday & Thanksgiving

10:00 am - For the Parishioners

12:00 pm - Maria Teresa Luna Santacruz †
Manuel Solis †



MASS INTENTIONS CAN NOW BE REQUESTED VIA EMAIL. PLEASE GO TO THE PARISH WEBSITE: WWW. SMSDSJ.ORG FOR INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO REQUEST INTENTIONS, 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE AND TO MAKE DONATIONS.





To make donation, please use the envelopes on the table in front of the church and drop your donation in the offertory basket.

OFFERTORY - ALL THAT I AM (Temple)



All that I am, all that I do.

All that I'll ever have, I offer now to You.

All that I dream, all that I pray,

All that I'll ever make, I give to You today.

Take and sanctify these gifts for Your honor, Lord, Knowing that I love and serve You is enough reward.

COMMUNION 1 - TASTE AND SEE (Moore)



Refrain:

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times.
His praise shall always be on my lips;
My soul shall glory in the Lord
for He has been so good to me. *Refrain*

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise His name.
I called the Lord and He answered me;
from all my troubles He set me free. *Refrain*

Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask. Taste and see that God is good; In Him we need put all our trust. *Refrain*

COMMUNION 2 - HAIL MARY: GENTLE WOMAN (Landry)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women And blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of death. Amen.

Refrain:

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love. You were chosen by the Father; You were chosen for the Son. You were chosen from all women And for woman, shining one. *Refrain*

Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too. Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts. *Refrain*

SENDING FORTH HYMN - O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH

(Venez, Divin Messie)



O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day When hope shall sing its triumph, And sadness flee away.

Refrain:

Dear Savior haste; come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

O Christ, whom nations sigh for, Whom priest and prophet long foretold, Come break the captive's fetters; Redeem the long-lost fold. *Refrain*

Chúa Nhật Thứ Nhất Mùa Vọng (ngày 22 tháng 12 năm 2024) - Năm C



GIÁO XÚ ST. MARTIN Cộng Đoàn Đức Mẹ Fatima Phone: 408-736-3725 Website: smsdsj.org

Linh mục Chánh xứ: Prosper Molengi Linh mục Phụ Tá: Anphongsô-Cêcilia Nguyễn Đức Duy



Mùa Vọng & Giáng Sinh 2024

Lễ Đức Mẹ Vô Nhiểm Nguyên Tội (Lễ Trong)

Thứ hai 09 tháng 12, 2024 lúc 7:30pm **Tĩnh tâm và Giải tội Mùa Vọng** Thứ Sáu 13 tháng 12, 2024 lúc 7:00 pm

Thánh Ca Noel Mừng Chúa Ra Đời

Chúa Nhật 15 tháng 12, 2024 sau Thánh lễ 5:00pm

Lễ Vọng Giáng Sinh

Thứ Ba 24 tháng 12, 2024 lúc 8:00 pm **Lễ Giáng Sinh**

Thứ Tư 25 tháng 12, 2024 lúc 5:00pm

Lễ Đức Mẹ là Mẹ Thiên Chúa

Thứ Tư 01 tháng 01, 2025 lúc 7:30pm

, Thiên Chúa viếng thăm...

Bài Tin mừng của Luca bắt đầu tường thuật về người phụ nữ này sẽ sinh hạ con Thiên Chúa nhập thể làm người. Bà là một con người được nâng đỡ bởi sức mạnh Thánh Thần. Xuất thân từ làng nghèo Nazarét thuộc miền Galilê, người phụ nữ bình thường nhưng thực là mạnh mẽ này đã đính hôn với Giuse nhưng chưa sống chung với chồng đã nhận được sự viếng thăm đặc biệt của

sứ thần Gabriel, và bà đã được báo tin vui là sẽ thụ thai và sinh hạ một con trai sẽ là Đấng cứu thế thuộc dòng tộc Đavít. Bà cũng được báo tin là việc thụ thai này là do bởi Thánh Thần Thiên Chúa thực hiện và Bà đã khiêm tốn và tin tưởng đón nhận lời mời gọi của sứ thần. Đồng thời, bà cũng được báo tin là Êlisabét, người chị họ của bà cũng đã thụ thai đã được sáu tháng, người vẫn bị mang tiếng là son sẻ.

Khi đón nhận sự viếng thăm của Maria, Êlisabét đã cảm nghiệm được niềm vui trong lòng, niềm vui dào dạt thúc đẩy bởi Thánh Thần, bởi vì chính hài nhi đã nhảy mừng trong lòng mẹ.

Êlisabét nói lên lời kinh ngạc của Giáo hội đứng trước mầu nhiệm mà Maria đang mang trong mình. Như xưa kia, vinh quang của Thiên Chúa bao phủ đền thờ là nơi chứa đựng hòm bia Thiên Chúa, thì giờ đây vinh quang Thiên Chúa bao phủ trên Đức Maria là người đang mang trong chính mình Con Thiên Chúa nhập thể làm người. Maria không phải chỉ là mẹ của một con người nhưng là mẹ của Thiên Chúa nhập thể làm người. Niềm vui của Êlisabét là niềm vui cho toàn thể nhân loại được Thiên Chúa thăm viếng.

Tin mừng của Luca muốn nói lên ở chẳng đường của lịch sử nhân loại với nhiều vấp váp, Thiên Chúa đã thực sự đi vào với sự tràn ngập của sức mạnh Thánh Thần, Maria cùng với hài nhi là Con Thiên Chúa trong lòng, Êlisabét cùng với hài nhi là Gioan tẩy giả, những con người này đã đón nhân được sức manh Thánh Thần biến đổi ho và ho nói lên cho chúng ta niềm vui của mình. Đức Maria vôi vã lên đường đến với người chi ho của mình bởi vì bà đã được Thánh Thần thúc đẩy đến với chi họ của mình để chia sẻ niềm vui của mình cũng như đón nhân niềm vui của Êlisabét cũng đang mang thai nhờ bởi ơn Chúa. Nơi mọi người, Thánh Thần Thiên Chúa chan hòa và thánh hóa họ. Chúng ta đang lần hồi được tiếp cân sư viếng thăm của Thiên Chúa, một sư viếng thăm thực là kỳ diêu, không phải chỉ là một cuộc viếng thăm theo nghi thức với những lời chúc mừng trang trọng vồn vã nhưng không thực chất, nhưng là cuốc viếng thăm thực sự với việc nhập thể của Con Thiên Chúa nơi Maria. Chiều sâu của mầu nhiêm giáng sinh là đó: con Thiên Chúa đi vào trần gian để đổi mới cuộc đời của chúng ta. Những hy lễ của chúng ta đã trở nên vô hiệu vì thiếu phẩm chất đích thực, giờ đây Con Thiên Chúa sẽ thực hiện một sự đổi mới thực sự, người không dùng những hy lễ, lễ tế hay lễ toàn thiêu hay lễ đền tôi, nhưng người hiến dâng chính thân xác của mình để thi hành thánh ý của Chúa Cha, và người mời gọi chúng ta đón nhân sức manh Thánh Thần để được đổi mới từ bên trong, để làm cho con người yếu hèn của chúng ta trở nên nơi mà Con Thiên Chúa đến viếng thăm và ở lai để người cũng sẽ thực hiện những việc la lùng cho mỗi người như đã thực hiện nơi Đức Maria.