



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are already in the second week of the Advent season. There are not many days left for us to thoroughly prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas and “*be ready*” for the second coming in glory of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Where are you now in this spiritual preparation? Do you have time to sit down and look deeply into your heart and soul to see if there is/are any obstacle(s) that **prevent** you from celebrating Christmas joyfully? Do you let anyone or anything have the power to “*block*” you away from the peace, love and joy that Jesus brings to the world, to those who want to follow and accept Him?

*“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

This is what the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist called everyone to do for the coming of the Messiah. This call, after centuries, still echoes to you and me today.

The Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did come to the world, but not many people recognized Him or accepted Him. They did not want to make straight “*their paths*,” they refused to lower “*their mountains*,” they were afraid to make straight “*their winding roads*,” and they ignored directions to make smooth “*their ways*.”

Two thousand years after the first coming of the Messiah, the *mountain of pride* is still too high; the *valley of wickedness* is too deep; the *winding road of hatred* increases the division among religions and nations; the *road of conversion and understanding* becomes rougher.

Unless you and I truly “*prepare the way of the Lord*” from within (ourselves, our families, our community) and promote it, we cannot “*see the salvation of God*.”

I think that the key for this preparation is **HUMILITY**. Humility will open the way. It will lower the mountain of pride, fill up the valley of wickedness, break down the wall of hatred, bring unity to nations and religions, and lead people to conversion and the understanding of each other. Friends, we need to see our own weakness; we must realize our need of repentance and forgiveness from God. **HUMILITY** will help us to do so.

Jesus Christ - the Messiah - humbled Himself to be born of the virgin, He died on the cross, was buried in the tomb and God exalted Him above everything.

Peace in Christ,  
Fr. Tien



Advent Penance Service Schedule

St. Mary's in Sylva - December 9<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis - December 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m. until .....



The Sanctuary Lamp this week is for  
Jeanne Lefebvre O.P.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Family Mass

7:00 p.m. Mass (In Spanish)

Our Children's Choir will sing ½ hour

prior to the 4:00 p.m. Mass

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Mass

Our condolences are extended to Alice Yuzzi on the death of her son, Anthony, this past week. May his soul, along with all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in God's loving peace.



Our Youth Choir will have practice on Sat. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 10-12; Sun. Dec 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11; Thurs. Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-3 and Fri. Dec 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-12. All youth singing in the choir must be at the Church by 3 for the Vigil Mass.

Our Giving Tree is in the back of the Church with tags indicating the gift the child would like. Please make sure your presents are returned to the Parish Office wrapped, with the tag attached, by Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



Wednesday, December 8th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day of obligation. Mass times are listed on the Mass Schedule on the right. Our Parish Office will be closed that day.

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Religious Retirement Fund. This annual appeal benefits senior Catholic women and women (sisters, brothers and religious order priest) who have consecrated their lives to serving God. Please be generous.



Our Food Pantry could use peanut butter, jelly, sweet peas, turkeys, hams or any other 3 lb. piece of meat like pork loin or roasts, etc.

The Knights of Columbus will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday. We will pray the rosary at 6:30 and our meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Our Knights are accepting donations of toiletries and transit cards or even gift cards that can be left at our church office for our Veterans.



Envelopes are available at the Church entrances for offerings to go to our Christmas altar flowers and decorations. You may make an offering in honor of or in memory of loved ones and friends. You can bring your offering to the Parish Office or put it in the weekend collection basket.

**Pray for healing:** Shirley Allegretti, Rita Bader, Joan Barnum, Ray Behr, Dean Birchard, John Wayne Crunkleton, Mary Cude, Lillianne Duong Davis, Tony Fiorillo, Brendan Fox, Carol Fox, Tony Frede, Brandon Hatch, Joan Hatch, Donna Hogsed, Aaron Ivey, Bob Mast, Millard Michaels, Bill and Dee Moffitt, Germaine Moflitt, Dolores Molter, Freeman Robinson, Josette Roisin, Tanya Savage, Bill Shaw, Linda Smith, Catherine Holten Snider, Marlene Taber, Irene Tisdale, Marlene Woods, Alice Yuzzi



**Please pray for our parishioners and all men and women in the armed forces:**  
Stephen Fox, Kyle McCormick, Elizabeth Scoone

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

### Saturday, December 4

**Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

- 4:00 P.M. †Denise Williams by Dee Opperman  
†Gary Frame by Pat Tuscany

### Sunday, December 5

**Second Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00 A.M. Lopez Santos & Lopez-Valenua Family  
by Turner and Pazar Families  
Zackary Pazar by Nikki Turner  
11:30 A.M. †Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia  
†Justino Soriano from his family

### Monday, December 6

**Saint Nicholas, Bishop**

- 9:00 A.M. †Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia  
†Teresa Pham Diep,  
†Maria Nguyen Thi Chuoc

### Tuesday, December 7

**Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
(Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception)**

- 5:00 P.M. †Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia  
†Joseph Ta Gio, †Henry Ta Quan

### Wednesday, December 8

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- 9:00 A.M. Brendan and Stacy Roisin  
Donna Hogsed by Cindy Derry  
John Long by Allene Ramsey  
7:00 P.M. Parish Peoples Mass en Español

### Thursday, December 9

**Saint Juan Diego, Cuauhtlatoazin**

- 9:00 A.M. Jeanne Lefebvre O.P. by Charlene  
†Bernadine Deimel by Glenn Deimel

### Friday, December 10

- 9:00 A.M. †Steven Thornley by Annette Michalik  
†Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia

### Saturday, December 11

**Saint Damasus I, Pope**

- 4:00 P.M. †Charles Hoefeyzers by Rosalie  
†Mary Louise Dowling by Dee Opperman  
†Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia

### Sunday, December 12

**Third Sunday of Advent**

- 9:00 A.M. Gary Galbrecht by Charlene  
11:30 A.M. †Holy Souls in Purgatory by Basilia  
†Justino Soriano from his family