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First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

"You ... must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

-- Matthew 24:44



Daily Mass

Week of December 2nd – 7th

Monday: 8:00 Ron, Chris & Gail Dempster+
 Tuesday: 8:00 Kay Daniels+
 Wednesday: 8:00 Mark Dierking+
 Thursday: 8:00 Special Intentions
 Friday: 8:00 Mary Vukas+
 Saturday: 8:00 Alfred Celidonio+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Maradee Davis, Jim Faison, Rita Jackson, Julia, Helen Roberts, Michael Echaniz, Tina Chaix, Samantha Winterer, Michael Kluziski, Sebastian Romeo, Louise Ahern, Owen Burns, Bernice De Vries, Paul Cummings, Patricia Dombrink, Laura Pierce, Marvin Johnson, Cora Rose, Tom Reid, Alexis Walker, Michael Bozman and Dori McGee-Lundy.



Welcome to Our Family

The Parish Family of Corpus Christi has been increased and enriched through the recent baptism of:

Veda Lolita Wolf de Garcia, daughter of Valerie Wolf and Miguel Garcia.

Congratulations to the proud parents from all of us!



Religious Retirement Collection!

Next weekend, December 7th and 8th, is the annual Retirement Fund for Religious appeal. Almost 33,000 religious women and more than 5,500 religious men are past the age of 70. Though they may withdraw from compensated, full-time ministry, the religious continue to visit the sick, tutor children, and volunteer in parishes and among refugee populations. Please give generously.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Oakland Elizabeth House is a residential home for women and children who need help in rebuilding their lives. To volunteer for this important work, contact Andrea Steward, Volunteer Coordinator, at: andi@oakhouse.org or call (510) 735-9587; email: ariana@oakhouse.org or call (510) 735-9774. Oakland Elizabeth House needs you. Many thanks for however you can help!

From
Father Leo



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin the Season of Advent, I want to share with you some thoughts that I read about this period of anticipation and preparation offered by the noted Jesuit, Walter J. Burghardt:

"Advent can be confusing. What are we about in the liturgy -- in this liturgy that is supposed to symbolize what goes on in the rest of our lives? The Lord has come and yet we prepare for his coming. He is risen, and still we ready a crib for him. We rejoice that he lives within us and we cloth ourselves in purple. Has 'the day of the Lord' dawned or hasn't it? Is Advent make-believe? Are we pretending that the Lord has not yet come?"

"The fact is, Advent expresses in symbol and ritual three stages in the human journey, in the Christian journey. Christ has come; Christ will come again; and Christ is here now. We remember the first; we look to the second; we live the third. All three are part and parcel of our lives; so all three have to find expression in our liturgy."

Love, Fr. Leo

Treasures From Our Tradition!

"People in love make signs of love," wrote our bishops in a document guiding the renewal of liturgical music. They were not merely urging us to sing at Mass, but suggesting that the song itself is a sign of the love of Christ. Love never expressed dies, as we know from experience. Flowers for no special reason, a caress, a hug, a turn around the dance floor, a note on the pillow or in the lunchbox, the aroma of fresh bread in the kitchen, all are signs of love's vitality. A significant treasure in our Catholic tradition is the place of the sacraments as signs of Christ's love. We can trace the sacraments back to scriptural sources, through centuries of history. They are woven through family tradition and our own life story. Sacraments are the way Christ makes signs of love for the Church. For twenty centuries, God has spoken to us in the arena of the sacraments and we have responded. For the next year of "Treasure" essays, we will explore the story of sacraments: their sources, their signs and rituals, and the way Christ nurtures and sustains us as we encounter him, the companion on our journey who loves us and faithfully makes signs of that love.

Reconciliation Service!

The Parish Reconciliation Service will be on Wednesday, December 11th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

***Want to Learn More About Your Faith?
Looking for Companions?***

The RCIA process at Corpus Christi offers a chance for anyone on a spiritual journey to gather with others who are asking questions about their spirituality or faith beliefs. It is an opportunity to search, share, question and grow alongside others who are exploring the Catholic faith. In the coming months, we will be discussing topics such as how Catholics read the Bible differently from fundamentalists, the responsibility to follow our conscience, Pope Francis' call to care for the environment and how to tell when God is speaking to us. Anyone is welcome to join us. See the link on the Parish website for the full calendar of topics. Meetings are on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Rectory Conference Room. Contact Ann Naffziger for more information at (510) 521-8011 or: ann@gospelliving.org.

Volunteers Needed!

The Outreach Committee is asking for two or three volunteers to help with deliveries of their collections throughout the year. With Christmas coming, the need is especially great! Most deliveries will go to St. Vincent de Paul and St. Mary's in downtown Oakland. Please call Madeline Briar at (510) 530-6316 or Lenore McCracken at (510) 530-7304 and leave your name and telephone number. Many Thanks!

Please be sure to thank the generous advertisers in our Bulletin. Through their participation, our Parish receives our weekly Bulletin free of charge!



Today's Readings

First Reading -- All the peoples shall stream toward the Lord's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalms -- Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

Second Reading -- It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

Gospel -- Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

Perspective!

A mountain shames a molehill until they both are humbled by the stars.

-- Old Adage

December

Upcoming Potluck!



Hospitality's next Potluck is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass in the Gibson Center. The theme is Christmas. A special Christmas Concert, with our Director of Music, Joe Hébert, will follow. The main course will be provided. Bring a side-dish, salad or dessert to share. If you have any questions, contact Carol at: heardwhat@yahoo.com. See you there!

Christmas Giving Tree!



The annual Christmas Giving Tree to benefit the low-income women and children served by St. Vincent de Paul's Visitation Center is now up in the Gibson Center. As usual, please take an ornament from the tree (labeled with the child's clothing size), make your purchase, and attach the ornament to the item and place under the tree. **Do not wrap the gifts!** Outreach will deliver the items to the Visitation Center in time for their Christmas distribution. The deadline for delivery of the gifts is Friday, December 20th. Often these gifts are the only ones received and are gratefully appreciated by Visitation's families. Thanks for your contribution to a Merry Christmas! For questions, call Madeline Briar at (510) 530-6316 or Lenore McCracken at (510) 530-7304.

Getting Ready!

Today marks the beginning of another liturgical year. The tone of today's readings casts us in the role of students learning solemn lessons. The reading from Isaiah sets the stage, calling us up a mountain to receive the Lord's instruction. In this passage, we study peace. Then, Paul steps forth with sober admonitions. We have to wake up; the day is almost here. Live honorably in the light. Paul reminds us that we really do know the time in which we are living. Finally, Matthew presents Jesus the storyteller. Just imagine, Jesus tells us what it was like in Noah's time. He paints a vivid picture of ordinary people living ordinary lives and ignoring the warnings that Noah heeded. Totally unconcerned, they were destroyed. How will it be any different for us? No one knows when the Lord will come. But, we have been warned. Perhaps we find such sobering scriptures unappealing and threatening. But, within them there is promise. We are to live in the light with nothing to hide. We are to be ready.