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Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low.

-- Baruch 5:7



Daily Mass

Week of December 9th – 13th

Monday: 8:00 Pura Pedroza+
 Tuesday: 8:00 Ray Wilson Van Deusen+
 Wednesday: 8:00 Margaret Dougherty+
 Thursday: 8:00 Sally Costello+
 Friday: 8:00 Angela McCormick+



Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Marian Flandick, James Breen, Janet Laurent, Sharon Rinehart, Mike Abell, Michael Carter, Rufus Smith, Peggy Delson-Rini,

Weekly Collection	December 1 st
Plate	\$10,902.00
Plate -- November 24 th	\$9,413.00
Rainy Day Fund	\$1,681.00

Feast of the Immaculate Conception!

Tomorrow, December 9th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception is the patron saint of the United States. This feast day **is** a holy day of obligation. The Masses are at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There is also a School Mass at 10:30 a.m.



Today's Readings

First Reading -- Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalm -- The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading -- I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel -- The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).

Corpus Christi Choir will hold a Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 15th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Church. Featured will be the Berkeley Monks. Please come and join in the celebration of the Christmas Season. Hope to see you there!



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the earliest and most basic texts of the prophet Isaiah is this:

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

How painfully ironic are those words in our time, as in many times past. The fact is that men love war, and the inhumanity of human beings has never changed since Cain slew Abel. Advent is a time of joy as we wait for the coming of Christ in the flesh, our own human flesh. But how that flesh is tortured and killed. How can we rejoice when our own brothers and sisters suffer in the cold of Ukraine and the rubble of Gaza.

But the words of Isaiah continue:

O house of Jacob, come,

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Our task as people of faith is to hold both things in our hands. We mourn the death and destruction of war, and we rejoice that the light of God shines in our hearts: not forgetting the one, nor being complacent in the other. We lift up our souls to the Lord, as the Psalm last Sunday proclaimed. And so we go on -- the journey never ends, but we do not walk alone.

Fr. Basil

Christmas Giving Tree!

'Tis the Season, the annual Christmas Giving Tree has returned and your help is needed more than ever! Ornaments will be available on the Giving Tree in the Gibson Center which started last weekend. This year, we are sponsoring an ornament for each member of the fifty families at The Oakland Worker and for the fifty clients from St. Mary's Center. Please select one or two ornaments and purchase a \$25.00 gift card for each ornament to **Target or Walmart**. Return the cards by either giving them to a member of the Living Our Faith Ministry after all the Masses; by dropping them off at the Parish Office; or by dropping them in the mail slot at the Parish Office.

If you prefer, we can purchase the gift cards for you. Please write a check made payable to **Corpus Christi Church** or donate online through your bank. Be sure to write, "**Giving Tree**" in the memo line for either of these options. All checks and/or gift cards must be received by Sunday, December 15th. Thank You!

Corpus Christi School Open House!



Last Tuesday, December 3rd, our School held their first Open House for prospective families to visit the classrooms, talk with parents, meet the principal and learn more about our wonderful School. The next two Open Houses will be on Tuesday, January 7th and Tuesday, February 11th, from 8:15 to 10:00 a.m. The application is available on the School website at: [Application Link](#) for the 2025-2026 School year. For more information, please call the School at 530-4056.

Religious Retirement Collection!



This 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.

Coping With The Holidays!

Coping With The Holidays, hosted by the Grief Support Ministry, will be held today, December 8th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Gibson Center. It is an opportunity to share your experiences and find comfort in a safe environment. Practical tips will be offered by the team, but equally supportive is the interaction among others who have experienced the death of a loved one or who have had other significant losses. All are warmly welcomed, including your friends who may not be parishioners.

Boy Scout Tree Lot!

Piedmont Scouts, including Corpus Christi's Troop 6, are operating their annual Christmas Tree Lot located at Coaches Field, 896 Moraga Avenue in Piedmont. Hours are Mondays through Fridays from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Silvertip, Noble and Douglas Fir trees will be available, as well as stands, wreaths and garlands. The Scouts can assist you and load trees onto your vehicle. Local home delivery is also available for a fee.

Online orders can also be placed at: scouttreelot.org. You can then come to the lot for pickup or arrange for home delivery. The lot has been operating for over 50 years! All proceeds benefit the over 800 youth in Piedmont Scouts. The Scouts also wish the Corpus Christi community a Merry Christmas and joyous holiday season!

Advent!

Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.

-- Anonymous

**Readings For The Week
December 9th -- 14th**

- Monday: First Reading Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98; Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Gospel Luke 1:26-38
- Tuesday: First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96; Gospel Matthew 18:12-14
- Wednesday: First Reading Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103; Gospel Matthew 11:28-30
- Thursday: First Reading Zechariah 2:14-17; Psalm Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Gospel Luke 1:26-38
- Friday: First Reading Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Gospel Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday: First Reading Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80; Gospel Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Treasures From Our Tradition!

Look around most Catholic churches, and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistry, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth and the other his death. There are only three natiivities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary and for the Baptist. John's birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke's Gospel of the angel's announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist's birth. Halfway to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ's birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing.

Sacrament of Reconciliation!

One of the best ways for us to prepare for Christmas is by experiencing the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Church teaches that every Catholic should receive this sacrament at least twice a year. On Wednesday evening, December 18th, at 7:00 p.m., we will have a communal Reconciliation Service. I strongly encourage you to join with other members of our Parish Family for an evening of prayer and healing.