



Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2017

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

— Mark 1:3

NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

— J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus' birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you've ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is *presepio*, from the Latin word for "surround" or "hedge."

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the *presepio*, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a *Where's Waldo?* children's book. The oldest surviving *presepio* is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living *presepio*. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find *presepios* with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

—Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-54; 1Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Social Ministry



Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly
needed and appreciated!

For the month of **December** offerings:

12/3: 1st Collection: \$2177. Operating Expenses: \$1425.
 12/8: Immaculate Conception. 12/10: Retired Religious: Sr. Marjorie.
 12/17: No 2nd collection.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council: Tues., 1/30/18, at 10:00 AM in Hall
Finance Council: Thurs., 12/14/17, at 11:00 AM in Hall

Liturgy Committee: Wed., 12/13/17, at 10:00 AM in Hall

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Susan, 829-1189

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: 9:30 AM at St Philip

Coffee & Goodies: Following 8 AM Sunday Mass and Monday/Wednesday after 9 AM Mass, at St Philip Hall

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:

All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tuesday of month)



✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Sat., December 9, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith
 Sun., December 10, 8am Mass for the People
 Sun., December 10, 9:30am Mass ✠ Paula Masters
 Sun., December 10, 11:15am Mass ✠ Marjorie Zaharis
 Mon., December 11, 9am Mass ✠ Michael Bartolo
 Tues., December 12, 9am Mass ✠ Nino Scarfato; David Houlemard
 Wed., December 13, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo
 Thurs., December 14, 9am Mass ✠ Martin Munson
 Fri., December 15, 9am Communion Service
 Sat., December 16, 5pm Mass for the People ✠ Brendan Smith
 Sun., December 17, 8am Mass ✠ Al Gerhardt
 Sun., December 17, 9:30am Mass for the People
 Sun., December 17, 11:15am Mass ✠ Hailey Ponte

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent; International Human Rights Day
 Monday: St. Damasus I
 Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Wednesday: St. Lucy
 Thursday: St. John of the Cross

Prayer Requests: Call 874-3812 to add/remove names.

Sergio, Gary, Teresa Kooi, Pat Kampmann, Pete, Thomas Tolar, Susan Brown, Felicia Gonzalez, Holly White, Kathleen, Jamie Silva, Lorri McCamen, Sarah, Clifford James, Terri Andrews, Marilyn Vitali, Fred Pisani, Theresa Spiteri, Sara, Mary Anne Parque, Dorothy Komarek Denton, Steve, Sr. Marjorie Krusky, Barbara, Kathy Higgins, Dave Creeth, Sheila & Art Hansen, Jim Pearson, Ronald Porter, Annie Tobin, Darren and Michael, William, Parson Pfsorich, Dave, Mary O'Donnell, Bill Zandoski, Papke family, Mary Karp, Randy Tonelli, Daniel

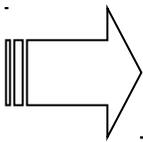
Pope Francis Tweet

"Let us look to Jesus today and say to Him in our hearts: Remember me, Lord, now that you are in your kingdom!"

14' Orchard Ladder Wanted
 On loan for St. Teresa Church Christmas decorating
 Please call Bill Merget at 292-9706

As our hearts continue to go out to the countless families affected by the wildfires, we are encouraged by the powerful response from all people of goodwill. The Chancery phone number working at present is the main number, 707-545-7610. We have created a web page on our Diocesan website to donate specifically to help alleviate the incredible financial toll the fires have had on our school communities and parish families. Please go to: www.srdioocese.org/signofhope to make a donation as soon as possible. Every little bit helps! (You can also sign up to offer one hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament each week, as well as submit your own story of how you have experienced your own sign of hope in the midst of this trial.) Thank you! --Dave Adams, the Chancery

Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:



Bluewater Bistro
at the Links at Bodega Harbour
Open daily for Lunch, Thu-Sat for Dinner
707-875-3513

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for NOVEMBER 2017

On November 14 we welcomed 131 families representing 194 adults, 86 children and 39 seniors for a total of 319 people receiving nutritional support. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers.

In November the Rural Food distribution served 14% more clients than the same time last year. Requests for Star Child gifts also grew. Many clients expressed appreciation for our service and we expect that Rural Food will continue to serve more clients in the coming months. Parishioners are encouraged to promote the program in our service area, particularly to people who have been displaced by the wildfires. Please continue to collect paper grocery bags, especially with handles, and egg cartons. We are looking into biodegradable produce bags and recyclable grocery bags for our clients.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, December 9, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall
Monday, December 11, from 12:30 – 2:30pm to set up the Parish Hall
Tuesday, December 12, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients. Star Child Gifts will also be available.

★ Deadline: Christmas Star Child Gifts

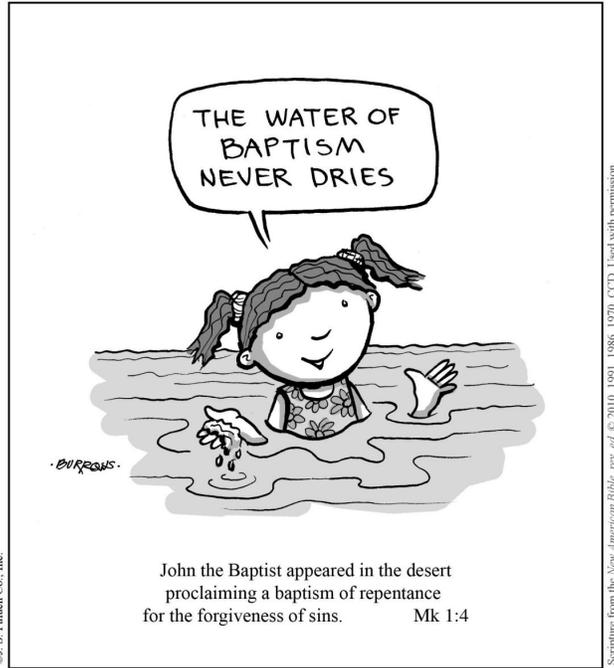
Please TAPE the star to your wrapped gift (erase the penciled suggestions) and return to St. Philip or St. Teresa Church **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DEC. 10**. We will be distributing the gifts on Dec. 12 and so must organize them by families on Sunday, Dec. 10. For questions or concerns (ex., you lost your star or find that you cannot return a gift with your star), please call Peg at 867-6073.

Flowers for the Altar during the Year : Flowers for the altar are a spiritual investment for a loved one, to celebrate any occasion, or just to express gratitude for your blessings. Flowers are also a gift to all of us as we enter and see the glorious display around the altar and experience the liturgy framed by such exquisite beauty. We appreciate your donations! To contribute for St. Philip Church flowers, please call 874-6072.

Adult Confirmation 2018: *On the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018, at St. Eugene's Cathedral, Bishop Vasa will be conducting a special Confirmation Mass for adults from throughout the diocese who are baptized Catholics but have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Anyone from our parish who might be interested in this (there will be a period of preparation required) should email Father Fergal directly at fmcguinness@srdioocese.org for further information.*

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



CELEBRATE 2018

SUNDAY 1/28/2018
4-8p UNION HOTEL, Occidental

Join us to Celebrate and honor the history of our historic churches.
Join us to raise funds for the neediest victims of the Sonoma Co. fires.

Mingle with your neighbors, meet new parishioners, enjoy a delicious Union Hotel dinner with local wines. Bid on creative and unique silent and live auction items, raise your paddle to help fire victims, and be on the look out for a few surprise guests.

Do you have a unique item or idea you would like to donate for the auction? Please call the office or any of the committee members to let us know. We are also requesting sporting, opera, symphony, concert tickets, dinner parties, gift certificates to local stores and restaurants. We are also looking for donations of magnums for a special live auction wine lot.

Tickets are \$90 (50% to help fire victims) and are available after Sat/Sun Mass and during office hours.

Celebrate Committee: Cathy McCool 861-9302, Mary Briggs 827-3471, Pat Pettibone 875-8826, Diane Benson 823-5460, Mary Griffith 225-2546, Susan Small 829-1189, Jane Vitale 526-6856, Barbara Gonnella 874-3390

**Our Lady of Guadalupe
Empress of the Americas**

Summary of her comments to Juan Diego [and us] is
"Trust in me: I am your mother."

Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be an Advent Penance Service with individual confessions at 7pm on Monday, December 11, at St. Philip Church.
(Extra priests will be available.)