



First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2017

Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come.

— Mark 13:33

GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God's faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For "behold, you are angry, and we are sinful" (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God's promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God's might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to "rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you" (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God's hands. God is the potter, we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.

— J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Advent calendars appear now in many homes, and newfangled formats are even available on line. Children have fun opening the doors and windows keyed to the days counting down to Christmas. Behind each door is a picture related to the Christmas mystery, perhaps a scripture verse or saying, but more and more these days something totally unconnected to religious life, like a small toy or a chocolate treat, appears instead. The Advent calendar is not very old as traditions go. We can trace it back to German-speaking Christians, both Protestant and Catholic. Lutherans might have originated the custom by placing chalk marks on doors starting December 1, lighting candles every day, or placing a new religious picture on the wall each day during Advent. The oldest known hand-made calendar goes back to 1851, and the first printed ones appeared in 1908 in Germany with Bible verses behind the doors. By far the most interesting calendar is a building, the town hall (*Rathaus*) of Gengenbach in Germany's Black Forest. Every year the townspeople invite an illustrator of children's books to create twenty-four paintings or motifs for each of the twenty-four main windows of the building. Every night the people gather to see a new window opened and illuminated.

Very few commercial Advent calendars pay much attention to the core values of our liturgical calendar: the pivotal place of Sunday, the importance of Advent feasts like Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, and the clear shift in tone on December 17 from Advent longing and preparation toward imminent hope in Christ's coming. That kind of creativity is left up to you!

--Rev. James Field, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

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

Social Ministry



Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly
needed and appreciated!

For the month of **November/December** offerings:

11/26: 1st Collection: \$1471. Rural Food: \$1680.

12/3: Operating Expenses. 12/8: Immaculate Conception.

12/10: 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 2, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

Sun., December 3, 8am Mass Bill Zandoski

Sun., December 3, 9:30am Mass ✠ Sean White

Sun., December 3, 11:15am Mass for the People

Mon., December 4, 9am Mass for the Poor Souls

Tues., December 5, 9am Mass ✠ Berenice McCarthy

Wed., December 6, 9am Mass ✠ Harry McGuinness

Thurs., December 7, 9am Mass ✠ Berenice McCarthy (Bodega)

Thurs., December 7, 5:15pm **Holy Day Vigil Mass** (Occidental)

Fri., December 8, 9am **Holy Day Mass** for the People (Bodega)

Fri., December 8, 12noon **Holy Day Mass** for the People (Occidental)

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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. John Damascene

Wednesday: St. Nicholas

Thursday: St. Ambrose;

Friday: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure,
with a heart as innocent as a child's.

—St. Nicholas

Pope Francis Tweet

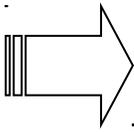
*"Let us look to Jesus today and say to Him in
our hearts: Remember me, Lord, now that
you are in your kingdom!"*

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:



Green Valley Mortgage
 8989 Graton Road, Graton CA
Mark Hedley, Owner
 707-823-4545 mark@greenvalleymortgage.biz

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.

Christmas Star Child Gifts St Philip/St Teresa Community:

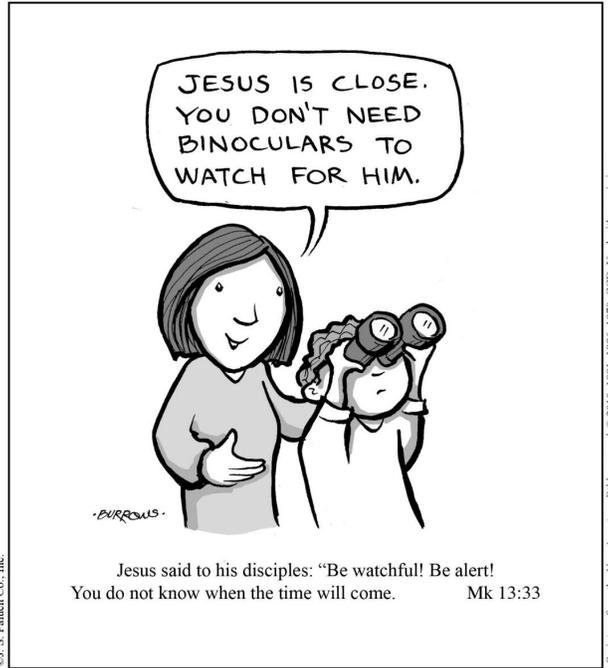
Each church tree's star has the name and age of a child from our Rural Food Program. On the stars are several ideas for a gift suggested by the parent to help you in your gift selection. Purchase ONLY ONE item in the \$25-35 price range. The gifts are meant to be given by the parents to their children. (PLEASE-NO VIOLENT GAMES OR GUNS.) 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.** (Or drop off the gift at the parish office between 9:30am-11:30AM weekdays before Friday Dec. 8.) We will be distributing the gifts on Dec. 12 and will need to 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.

Adult Confirmation 2018: On the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 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

Save the Date! Sunday, January 28, 2018

4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Union Hotel, Occidental

2018 will be the 6th year that we celebrate the heritage of the beautiful and historic buildings of our parish, St. Philip the Apostle and St. Teresa of Avila, located in the towns of Occidental and Bodega, California. In addition to honoring the history of these landmark churches, this year's event will also donate proceeds to the neediest victims of the recent Sonoma fires. One half of proceeds from ticket sales (ticket price is \$90 this year) and 100% of proceeds from a Fund-a-Need (paddle raise) will be earmarked exclusively for fire relief efforts at Catholic Charities and Saint Vincent de Paul locally.

Please note:

We need both silent and live auction items that will create lively bidding.

Also, we would love your drinkable wine contributions, for use at the event. There is a collection basket at the back of each church for the wine. (Please sign your bottle.)

You can purchase tickets or donate items after Mass, through any committee member, or at the parish office. THANK YOU!

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

The sacrament of ANOINTING OF THE SICK will be administered following the 9AM Mass on Wednesday, December 6, in St. Philip Church.

**MASSES FOR THE HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:
 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Thurs., Dec. 7, 5:15pm Vigil Mass at St P

Fri., Dec. 8, 9am Mass at St T

Fri., Dec. 8, 12noon Mass at St P

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