

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

God has commanded  
that every lofty mountain  
be made low. — *Baruch 5:7*

### AWAITING THE SALVATION OF GOD

The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading, the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of God's salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters.

According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees.

It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes, it can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God. -- © J. S. Paluch Co.

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

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
Wednesday: 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  
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: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

### Announcements from our Pastor:

#### 1. Open Parish Meetings

In response to a desire expressed by many parishioners to have a parish-wide discussion of the Church's response to scandal of clerical sexual abuse, we will be holding two Town Hall-style meetings this coming week. The first meeting will be on Tuesday December 11 at 7pm in the Parish Hall at St. Philip's. The second meeting will be on Friday December 14 at 10am in St. Teresa's Church. Any parishioner who wishes to participate in the discussion is invited to attend either meeting.

#### 2. Gregorian Chant Mass, Saturday 12/15 at 5pm

The Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa, who both sing and teach traditional Gregorian Chant, will be joining us for the 5pm Mass at St. Teresa's on Saturday December 15th, the vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). All are invited to experience this wonderful example of one of the treasures of the Catholic liturgical tradition.

## Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

## Weekly Offering



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For the month of **December** offerings:

12/2: 1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1887. Operating Expenses: \$872.

12/8: Immaculate Conception.

12/9: Optional 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for Sr. Marjorie. 12/16: No 2<sup>nd</sup> collection.

## Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

**Parish Council:** Fri., 1/25/19, at 10AM in Hall

**Finance Council:** Wed., 12/12/18, at 11AM in Hall

**Liturgy Committee:** Fri., 2/22/19, at 9:30AM in Hall

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

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

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

**Coffee & Goodies:** Following 8AM Sunday Mass and Wednesday/Friday after 9AM 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., Dec. 8, 9am Immaculate Conception Mass, Bodega, for the People  
Sat., Dec. 8, 12pm Immaculate Conception Mass, Occidental, Evan Cooley  
Sat., Dec. 8, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith  
Sun., Dec. 9, 8am Mass Paul Wallace  
Sun., Dec. 9, 9:30am Mass for the People  
Sun., Dec. 9, 11:15am Mass ✠ Holly White  
Mon., Dec. 10, 9am Prayer Service  
Tues., Dec. 11, 9am Mass Emma Wallace  
Wed., Dec. 12, 9am Mass ✠ Michael Bartolo  
Thurs., Dec. 13, 9am Mass Darren Wallace  
Thurs., Dec. 13, 11am Memorial Mass for Annie Tobin, Occidental  
Fri., Dec. 14, 9am Mass ✠ Tina Bartolo  
Sat., Dec. 15, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith  
Sun., Dec. 16, 8am Mass for the People  
Sun., Dec. 16, 9:30am Mass Jackie & Dante Corsetti  
Sun., Dec. 16, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

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



**Prayer Requests:** Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Jamie Silva, Lorri McCamen, Sarah, Clifford J., Terri Andrews, Marilyn Vitali, Fred Pisani, Theresa Spiteri, Sara, Mary Anne Parque, Sr. Marjorie Krusky, Barbara, Kathy Higgins, Fr. Logan, Dave Creeth, Jim P., William, Parson Pfsorich, Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally Tillsbury, Mary Karp, Columbina Albini, Michael Dan, Richard Macche, Kathleen, Lisa, Rosa Santos, Papke family, Susan Bonomine, Zeidan family

## Advent/Christmas preparation:

Copies of *The Little Blue Book* are available at the entrance table of each church. (A voluntary donation is appreciated.)

**Remember Lord, those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.** These beautiful words at Mass recall our beloved dead. A Mass intention is a way to remember a beloved friend or family member, whether in death, for healing, in celebration of a special day, or simply for prayer and guidance. Come by the office (or call 707-874-3812) to arrange the Mass. A customary donation of \$10 is appreciated.

**Flowers for the Altar throughout 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.

**RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for November, 2018**

On November 13 we welcomed 110 families representing 149 adults, 55 children and 37 seniors for a total of 241 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.

**Even in an area known for its incredibly rich agricultural resources, 36% of households in Sonoma County still go hungry each day. The Sonoma County Hunger Index reported that, even with numerous agencies providing food and support for hungry residents, the meal gap has remained steady for several years. The St. Philip/St. Teresa Rural Food Program has been responding to those in need for over thirty years thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and donors.**

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. Please consider one of the volunteer opportunities listed below. Over 160 St. Philip/St. Teresa volunteer hours are needed each month to provide this program for our Rural Food families.

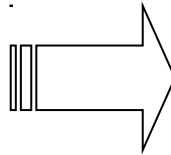
**RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

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

*Pope Francis Quote*

*“This Advent, make yourself small, make yourself humble, make yourself a servant of others, and the Lord will give you the ability to understand how to make peace.”*

**Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:**



**Michael Murphy**

Ranch and Land Sales

[michaelmurphyhomesandland.com](http://michaelmurphyhomesandland.com)

707-836-7080 or 707-332-1195

**Rural Food Program Alert!!!** The devastating wildfires have displaced many people and it is evident that the rebuilding process will take many months. Family and friends of our Rural Food clients and individuals relocating to temporary housing in our service area will need support. In view of this, we are suspending the residency requirement for our service area (this includes communities from Occidental to Monte Rio, Cazadero, Jenner, Bodega Bay, Bodega, and Freestone). Catholic Charities Rural Food and the Redwood Empire Foodbank will be informed so that they can refer people to our program. I encourage our parishioners and volunteers to refer individuals and families that may be in need of food. Of course, this will place additional need for volunteers in anticipation of more requests for assistance. November, December and January have always been our busiest months so please help us with set-up and/or distribution. Please be in communication with me ([roddemar@comcast.net](mailto:roddemar@comcast.net)) and/or leave messages at the parish office (874-3812) if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you, Rod DeMartini, Program Coordinator



Save the Date!

**CELEBRATE 2019**

**SUNDAY - JANUARY 27, 2019**

4PM AT THE UNION HOTEL

The price of each ticket is \$45. Tickets are on sale, starting this weekend, after each Sat/Sun Mass and also at the office on weekday mornings.

**Christmas Star Child Gifts St Philip/St Teresa Community:**

Please TAPE the star to your wrapped gift and return to St. Philip or St. Teresa Church **NO LATER THAN THIS SUNDAY, DEC. 9.** Sorry, we cannot accept gifts after Sunday, Dec. 9. We will be distributing the gifts on Dec. 11 and so will need to organize them by families on Sunday, Dec. 9.

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.

**Exclusive Limited Print of Ansel Adam's original picture of St. Teresa Church from 1953:**

All proceeds support needed restoration of St. Teresa of Avila Mission. A limited number of prints have been printed from Ansel's original negative. Each reprint is individually numbered. Prints are available for a donation of \$175. Please contact a restoration committee member for your own limited print: Peg 707-867-6073 or Bob 707-875-9148.

**Thomas Stuart to be Ordained Deacon in June 2019**

Thomas Stuart from our parish will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate along with John Plass on Friday, 21 June 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at the Cathedral of Saint Eugene in Santa Rosa. Please mark your calendars and plan to support Thomas and John by attending their ordination Mass.



**Memo from St. Teresa Guild:** "We will be putting up Christmas decorations in St. Teresa's on Sunday, December 16, after the 9:30 am Mass. All parishioners are welcome to join us in this special event complete with pastries, hot drinks, music, and camaraderie."

**New mailing address for Fr. Loren Allen:**

P. O. Box 640592  
 San Francisco, CA 94164