

**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

HOPEFUL EXPECTATION

Our liturgical year begins with the season of Advent—a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. On the First Sunday of Advent we look forward to the end of time when we will awaken to the dawn of Christ's new day.

Today we hear Isaiah speak of a day when God's power will have brought universal peace and God's Word will have instructed all people, radiating God's "light" (teachings) into all of human society. Only when humanity walks "in the light of the LORD" (Isaiah 2:5), when all people desire to be instructed "in [God's] ways" (Isaiah 2:3), will the world be set aright and our deepest longings fulfilled. The reading from Romans calls us to "awake from sleep" for this final "day is at hand" (Romans 13:11, 12). Together this Sunday's scriptures proclaim our Christian faith that Jesus is the One who will finally come to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

—© J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS (c. 675-749)

December 4

From almost 1300 years ago, John's message for the church's spirituality and mission is surprisingly contemporary. Pope Benedict said that in our modern culture of images, sacred images often speak more eloquently than words. This "incarnational theology," the concept that visible, tangible elements can give believers access to divine realities beyond, found an eloquent champion in John of Damascus. He challenged the Iconoclasts (image-breakers), whose misinterpretation of the biblical prohibition of idolatrous images (Exodus 20:4-5) led them to campaign for the destruction of all sacred art. Before this controversy, however, John bore witness to Christ in a way that provides a timely example for Christians in today's pluralistic society. Succeeding his grandfather and father, John served as chief financial officer to the Muslim caliph, professing his Christian faith without compromise, while winning the esteem of his Islamic sovereign by his competence and integrity. No wonder John could eloquently defend icons as "windows into heaven"—he had already learned to see Christ in the living icons of people different from himself yet fashioned in the same divine image!

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6; 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: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1
 Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

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

Fr. Logan, Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Columbina A., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H., Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca Adams, April K., Jacinta G., Gen B., Donald T.

Finance Corner:

Social Ministry



Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!

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

11/24: 1st Collection: \$1919. Rural Food: \$1777.
 12/1: Operating Expenses. 12/8: Retirement Fund for Religious.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council: Wed., 12/4/19, at 11AM in Hall
Finance Council: Tues., 12/10/19, at 2PM in Hall
Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

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 Tues. of month)

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Sat., Nov. 30, 5pm Mass ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer
 Sun., Dec. 1, 8am Mass for the People
 Sun., Dec. 1, 9:30am Mass for the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting & leading their sheep from all harm
 Sun., Dec. 1, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

Mon., Dec. 2, 9am Mass & Talk at St. Philips; 6pm Talk at St. Philips
 Tues., Dec. 3, 9am Mass & Talk at St. Teresa's; 6pm Talk at St. Philips; Art & Sheila Hansens' 64th anniversary
 Wed., Dec. 4, 9am Mass & Talk at St. Philips; 6pm Brief Talk & Reconciliation Service at St. Philips; ✠ Tina Bartolo

Thurs., Dec. 5, 9am Mass
 Fri., Dec. 6, 9am Mass
 Sat., Dec. 7, 5pm Mass ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer
 Sun., Dec. 8, 8am Mass for the healing and support of all victims of clergy sexual abuse
 Sun., Dec. 8, 9:30am Mass for the People
 Sun., Dec. 8, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier
 Wednesday: St. John Damascene
 Friday: St. Nicholas; First Friday
 Saturday: St. Ambrose; First Saturday

TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue for ever what we make them in this world.

—John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

saint snippets

The giver of every good and perfect gift has called us to mimic his giving.

St. Nicholas of Myra
4th-century Greek bishop known for putting coins in the shoes of the poor
Copyright © 2018, Michael Thimons

December 6

ADVENT

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

—Anonymous

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for NOVEMBER 2019

"I feel like I matter here" a Rural Food client told one of our volunteers as he helped her to her car.

A volunteer offered assistance to a woman standing in the middle of the hall during food distribution this week. The woman explained she was a local resident, had heard about the Rural Food Program and came by to see what it was all about. With a smile she said "I'm just feeling all the love in this room."

Over 100 warm blankets, quilts, comforters and sleeping bags were distributed to our clients this month. Thank you to all who donated to this endeavor.

On November 12, we welcomed 122 families who received nutritional support. Our clients continue to express appreciation for our service and we expect that Rural Food will continue to serve more clients in the coming months. The

Program is able to continue efforts to end hunger in our area because of funds received from the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month, private donations and the very generous support of our dedicated volunteers.

Please continue to collect paper grocery bags with handles and clean egg cartons for use during food distribution.

Thank you for your continued generous support of this program.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, December 7, from 9-10:00 am repackaging -- Parish Hall
Monday, December 8, from 10a -12noon to set up the Parish Hall
Tuesday, December 10, from 8:30 - 11:00am to distribute food and assist clients.

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 Peg Duffy for a limited print: 707-867-6073.

SAVE THE DATE!

CELEBRATE 2020 --January 26, 2020

Tickets on sale beginning December 7, 2019

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.

Tables, chairs, or any other church property request: If you wish to borrow any of our hall tables, chairs, etc., please first contact Hal (874-3304) or the parish office to find out the availability so we can try to accommodate & process your request. Items must be returned promptly. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Pope Francis Tweet

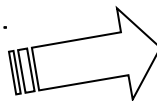
"I ask you to join in praying each day for the conversion of hearts and for the triumph of a culture of life, reconciliation and fraternity."

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 TODAY, SUNDAY, DEC. 1. Sorry, we cannot accept gifts after Dec. 1.

Advent/Christmas preparation: Some copies of *The Little Blue Book* are available today at the entrance table of each church. A voluntary \$1 donation is appreciated.



Featured Parish Bulletin Advertiser:



Green Valley Mortgage

8989 Graton Road, Graton CA

Mark Hedley, Owner

707-823-4545 or mark@greenvalleymortgage.biz

Memo from Fr. Bala:

Our Advent Parish Mission begins Monday, Dec. 2. We hope to have a good turn-out for this special event planned by our Liturgy Committee.

*Monday, December 2, 9 am Mass & Talk at St. Philips;
6 pm Talk at St. Philips

*Tuesday, December 3, 9 am Mass & Talk at St. Teresa's; 6 pm Talk at St. Philips

*Wednesday, December 4, 9 am Mass & Talk at St. Philips; 6 pm Brief Talk & Reconciliation Service at St. Philips

Those who wish to seek Counseling or Private Confession during the Mission may speak with Fr. Christopher La Rocca and get an appointment from him.

N.B. I encourage our parishioners to place generous donations to the preacher during the Mission in a box or basket. They will be given to him after the Mission.