

**DECEMBER 23 & 24, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:**



We light all four candles today to symbolize our intense anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world who comes to banish the darkness with love.

SEE+ This week we stand in great anticipation in the face of the mystery of God's love and life coming to us in the birth of the child Jesus. Yet that is what we celebrate this and every Advent and Christmas season. God's love comes to us in a vulnerable new-born child. Confounding though it is, if we can comprehend how God is active and present here, the hope is that we can begin to see all the other ways God's love continues to embrace us and our world, reaching out to us in love, calling us into relationship.

One of the parts of speech we use when we encounter mystery or have a hard time expressing how we feel in precise words is a **paradox**. A paradox is defined as a "seeming contradiction" – something that seems to be in contradiction but really is not. For example, we sometimes say, "I'm so happy I could cry." Technically, we associate tears with sadness, yet this phrase seems contradictory. However, we know that there are human experiences where tears can be associated with overflowing joy – the birth of a child or the release of someone we love from prison.

Paradoxes are essential when we commemorate the birth of Jesus. Why would we celebrate an all-powerful God that would choose to be present in a vulnerable child? There seem to be so many other ways God could reach out to us. This is precisely where the paradox comes in. To comprehend God's love in the child Jesus, we begin to see how God's love works in our world. And there are multiple paradoxes in the Christmas story – Jesus' birth in a stable, not even a house; the announcement of his birth given to poor shepherds, not the king or ruler; the violence, danger, and trauma inflicted by the powerful threatened by the news of this child's birth. If we see God present in a helpless child, can we see God present in all helpless children? If we follow this vulnerable child as he grows and develops and lives his life completely in tune with that love of God that is poured into his heart, we see that Jesus too demonstrates the paradoxical quality of the mystery of God's love. Jesus eats with the rejected, cares for the poor, brings healing to the broken, and reaches out to the despised, vulnerable, and overlooked. God's love is radically humble – a mystery only captured faintly by paradox.

Our Readings today speak about God making space, a home, a foundation in our lives. The scriptures attest that God has already done this at the moment of our creation and birth, and again in the generous gift of Jesus' spirit at our baptisms. All we are called to do is open our hearts to that transformative love and live it as our sure foundation. Paradoxical – definitely. But scripture tells us again and again that there is really nothing that can separate us from the love of God that has come to us in Christ Jesus! Nothing and no one. This Christmas calls us to build our house on that sure foundation and share that love with others, especially those most in need.

DISCERN+ (We reflect on the Readings for this Fourth Sunday of Advent and the testifying of others involved in restorative justice ministry as a way to listen to their challenge and discern ways they impact our lives and ministries. What are the ways the Scriptures and others' experiences, words, and stories help us understand how God is inviting us to open our lives to the love of God in Christ Jesus.)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear parishioners,

The gift of God's presence gives infinite meaning to our lives. Christmas time calls us to consider God's loving desire to be with us, to be present to us in the midst of our daily joys and sufferings. During this season of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, we are provided with the opportunity to see more clearly what God has done for us, and what He desires to offer us. May this holy time instill within us a deepened awareness that God is among us, and inspire us to draw closer to Him.

May you and your loved ones have a blessed and holy season of Advent and a joyous Christmas!

Rev. Andrew J. Pacheco

Pastor

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2023**

5PM – ENGLISH MASS
6:30PM – SPANISH MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

8AM - ENGLISH MASS
10AM – ENGLISH MASS

CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

6:30PM – SPANISH MASS
12AM – MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 2023

10:00AM – ENGLISH MASS



FROM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH – 29TH

THERE WILL BE NO MASS.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT ST. ANTHONY'S
IN MENDOCINO CELEBRATES WEEKDAY MASS AT 9AM.**



**The Mendocino
Knights of Columbus**

STEVE JORDAN IS BACK!!

The Knights cordially invite you to the 47th Annual
BEST CRAB FEED ON THE NORTH COAST
Friday & Saturday, January 26 & 27, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

COME AND ENJOY!

Loads of fresh Dungeness crab, fresh salad,
toasted garlic bread, dessert AND entertainment

\$ 150.00 pp — Friday or Saturday Crown Hall Dinner (VIP seating)*
Tickets for *VIP Seating* will go on sale on
Friday, November 10
at KCMendo.org

*VIP seating includes ticket, premier seating, premium wine and assigned servers

\$ 95.00 pp — Friday or Saturday Crown Hall Dinner (General Seating)
\$ 95.00 pp — Saturday Take Out Dinner (includes 2 raffle tickets)
(to be picked up at Crown Hall)

Tickets for General Seating and Takeout will go on sale
Monday, November 13 at KCMendo.org

As always, these tickets sell out quickly, so please purchase early

Raffle tickets on sale online, as well as at the event

Seating assignments for the Crown Hall dinners and information for Takeout
pickup will be sent out on January 22, 2024

Questions? info@kcmendo.org or (707) 710-7787



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.



YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO BRING YOUR POINSETTIAS FOR THE
DECORATION OF OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS. PLEASE DELIVER
THEM TO THE CHURCH. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
THE PARISH OFFICE AT 707-964-0229.



CALENDARS FOR 2024 ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE
OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE TAKE ONE.



Walk for Life West Coast 2024:

Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and
beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 19th
Annual Walk for Life West Coast In San Francisco on January 22,
2024. There will be Mass at 9:30am celebrated by Archbishop
Salvatore Cordileone at St. Mary's Cathedral. The rally begins at
12:30pm in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk,
down the city's Market Street, begins at 1:30pm. For more
information, visit www.walkforlifewc.com or call 415-658-1793.

**MASS INTENTIONS
DECEMBER 23 - 29, 2023**

Saturday (23)	5:00pm	Fred & Clara White † Thomas Galemba † Jorge Santos †
	6:30pm	Antonia Rentería † Mauricio Escobedo † Victor Martín & Raquel Dzul † Manuel & Alma Rentería (Wedding Anniversary) Gerardo Escobedo (healing)
Sunday (24)	8:00am	Open Intention
	10:00am	Missa pro populo
Christmas Eve	6:30pm	Antonia Rentería †
	12am	María Bran † Cirilo Martínez & María Carmen Flores †
Christmas Day Monday (25)	10:00am	James & María Alda Mello † Evelyn Costa †
Tuesday (26)	5:30pm	NO MASS
Wednesday (27)	12:05pm	NO MASS
Thursday (28)	12:05pm	NO MASS
Friday (29)	12:05pm	NO MASS

WEEKLY COLLECTION

DECEMBER 16 & 17, 2023...\$2,390.00
RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS...\$752.00
OLOG.....\$790.00

**THIS WEEKEND OUR SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR
MAINTENANCE FUND FOR CHURCH
NEXT WEEKEND OUR SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL'S MINISTRY**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT & CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY!!

**LET'S PRAY FOR ALL OUR FAMILY MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY**

Jovany Baez, Justin Mertle, María de la Luz Ramírez, Rebeca
Sánchez, José Araiza, Jr., Marina González, Alondra Jara, Sonia
Jara, Matt Mills & Jared Schroeder.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Bertha Valenzuela, Carole Shoptaw, Gina Pivrotto, Angie Gómez,
Judy Halren, Rose Cortez, Fidela Jara, Felix Sanfillán, Martha
Sánchez, Gerardo Escobedo, Angie Freitas, Russel Bryant, Derrick
Heater, Ann Gallagher, Brianna Lopez, Margaret Milliken, Nick
Quin, Mary Servis, Matty Walker, Ofelia Ybarra.



**EVERY THURSDAY @ 11:00AM,
WE HAVE THE EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, FOLLOWED BY MASS AT 12:05PM.**

TEMPORARY TUESDAY MASS TIME
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, MASS WILL BE AT 5:30PM.



IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH, ON THE SOUTHERN WALL IS A BEAUTIFUL MEMORIAL TREE. ITS BRIGHT LEAVES REPRESENT PERMANENT MEMORIALS TO THE DEPARTED OF OUR PARISH. FOR THE SUM OF \$200.00, YOU CAN GIVE TO THE PARISH SECRETARY, THE CORRECT SPELLING AND DATES OF THE DEPARTED AND IN DUE TIME THE LEAF IS PRINTED AND ATTACHED TO THE TREE, AS A PERMANENT REMINDER OF A LOVED ONE WHO IS GONE.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 707-964-0229.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

When a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized and would like Father Pacheco to pay them a visit to receive Holy Communion and/or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Office at 707-964-0229 and after office hours, please call 707-813-4188.



**WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT:
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish now provides
“ParishSOFT Giving,” an online giving software!**

To get started, you can go to olgcinfb.org.

From this link you will be allowed to manage your own account online, set up gifts on a schedule that you choose or a one-time donation, and can be set up with a credit card, debit card, checking or savings account!

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at 964-0229.