**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2019**



**REASON TO REJOICE**

Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and ***“the coming of the Lord.”*** But on the *Third Sunday of Advent,* formerly known as *Gaudete* (Latin for ***“rejoice”*)** Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing. Today’s First Reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God’s saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation, as a result of God’s presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah’s prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf**), Jesus’ presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: *“The dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News proclaimed to them”*** (Matthew 11:5).

**TRUTH AND OPINION**

By Dennis Tavares

Truth and real knowledge are either revealed by God as in the bible, or are self evident as in gravity attracts, or absolutely given as in I exist. Truth can only be received humbly and held with absolute certainty. Opinion, however, is the self assured belief in the correctness of an unproved idea. The domain of opinion is all the things in the world for which certainty is difficult or impossible to attain. When a self assured opinionated person accuses another person of error, who is only accepting the truth, the accuser is acting out of pride and the accused is only acting humbly before the power of truth. What is true is true for all and hence unifying; what is opinion is sometimes error and divisive. Only a fool would die for opinion, but we should all live and die for the truth.

**PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT ARE IN THE MILITARY SEVICE**

María de la Luz Olvera, Rebeca Sánchez, José Araiza Jr., Edgar Toscano, Marina González, Alondra Jara, Sonia Jara, Jason Lorenz, Matt Mills & Jared Schoeder.

**PASTORAL RUMINATIONS**

By Father Andre Querijero

At the 10am Mass last Sunday, I noticed some of our Catechism students being dropped off by their parents to attend our Eucharistic Celebration just in time for the reading of the Epistle. Reports have also reached me that some arrive 10 or 20 minutes before the Mass ends.

     In Catechism, we teach the importance of completing the Holy Mass-- seeking God's mercy *(Kyrie)*, listening to and reflecting on the Scripture Readings *(Liturgy of the Word)*, the consecration of the gifts/communion *(Liturgy of the Eucharist)*, and the *Final Blessing*- precisely what we expect parents to follow through. The Holy Mass demands our respect for the God we worship, and the community of the faithful who break bread in thanksgiving. Have we absolutely lost our sense of the sacred by treating our Eucharistic Celebration like going to the movies? And when watching an opera or a musical, do we not follow a strict decorum? Lest we forget, the Eucharist is the highest form of prayer and worship!

Allow me to dwell on the practical side of this matter. It is understandable for parents who work on weekends to leave their kids to attend mass; however, the problem arises when, for the failure of parental/adult supervision, these students choose to stay in the vestibule rather than join the rest of the congregation in the pews. There was even one student who remained by the church entrance door. Last Sunday, I had to request Mr. Vince Johnson to convince them to come inside the church. Still, the children refused to cooperate; hence, after my homily, I, myself had to halt the Liturgy of the Eucharist for the kids to be properly seated. Unfortunately, the students chose not to follow my instructions but kept standing at the back along with some adults. We are completely amiss in imparting the value of discipline as well as the virtues of humility and obedience.

If left unchecked, the parental system of dropping children to attend Mass without parental/adult supervision can be a big liability to our parish community. There is a potential risk that these children may stray into the streets and encounter unexpected trouble; therefore, it is unacceptable for parents to pass on the responsibility of **“babysitting”** to our Volunteer-Catechists/Teachers.

In this regard, I am instructing our Catechism Teachers to secure the names of **“unaccompanied students”** so that their parents will be promptly alerted and instructed to personally see me**. I shall take responsibility to meet with the parents to discuss and find a workable solution to their concerns; they will also be asked to sign a waiver signifying that OLGC will not be held responsible for their children while they are at church**. Anything untoward that could happen to any of our students will still be the parents' liability and not point to the neglect of the Pastor and our faith community. I would likewise greatly appreciate the vigilance not only of our catechism students' parents but that of our faithful parishioners. As a parish, it is imperative that we work hand-in-hand in the faith and character formation of our children.



Father Andre will be saying Mass to celebrate Christmas at Sherwood Oaks on Friday, December 20th at 10am. Please, come and help our older parish members celebrate the holiday and make them feel part of our parish community. Father visits Sherwood Oaks regularly and his visits are always much appreciated and visits from parish members would be special at this time of the year. Just a small amount of your time, would bring joy to our fellow Catholics, who are perhaps feeling lonely and sad at this time of the year. If you have any questions, please call Sallie Richards at 707-357-4446.



IN YEARS PAST, WE HAVE ASKED FOR DONATIONS OF POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS.

THIS YEAR WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

WE ASK THAT YOU DONATE A POINSETTIA IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY.

PLEASE DELIVER THEM TO THE CHURCH OR THE PARISH OFFICE.



Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry

# Free Lunch Program

Every Sunday after the 10 am Mass, the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry of Our Lady of Good Counsel prepares 30-40 sack lunches to be handed out to those in need in our community. We start immediately after Mass and start handing out the lunches at 12 noon-1 pm.

The Ministry provides all the food and supplies needed. All we need is YOUR help! There’s a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the vestibule of the Church on North wall. This is a great Ministry to share with your family and friends to carry out our directives to care for the poor and the hungry as Jesus has asked of us. **Catechism and Confirmation students can earn 1.5 hours community service by volunteering to help!**

The Ministry also needs donations of granola bars, juice packs, small individual bags of chips and cookies, and tax-deductible donations (we actually assist families in financially difficult times).

**Let St. Vincent de Paul assist you in your Catholic mission of caring for those less fortunate and in need!**

**For more information, please call Will Lee at 707-367-8060 or Lynn Black at 707-734-0087.**

**REMINDER**

THE CALENDARS FOR THE YEAR 2020

ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH.

TAKE ONE, PLEASE.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**DECEMBER 16 - 22 2019**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monday (16)  Tuesday (17)  Wednesday (18)  Thursday (19)  Friday (20)  Saturday (21)  Sunday (22) | 12:05pm  12:05pm  12:05pm  12:05pm  12:05pm  5:00pm  6:30pm  8:00am  10:00am | Prachak Sripriwong (health)  Hector Magaña †  José Miranda †  Deceased Members of the Altar Society †  Maria Teresa Serrano †  Bryan & Teresa Serpa †  Fred & Clara White †  Haig & Jane Vartanian †  Ray Lotten †  Moy Villalpando †  Angeles Rentería †  Leonor Navas †  Francisco Hurtado †  James & Ruby Andreani †  Sister Adrienne Andreani † (SHF)  Richard Prill †  Susana Hurtado †  Jesús Araiza † |

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**DECEMBER 7 & 8, 2019……..$1,694.50**

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE’S FEAST….$720.00**

THIS WEEKEND’S SECOND COLLECTION:

**MAINTENANCE FUND**

NEXT WEEKEND’S SECOND COLLECTION:

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT & CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS**

Betty Cox, Francisco Fernández, Antonia Rentería, Pauline Ortiz, Ana María López, María Cristina Reyes, Karma Mendez, Juan Hernández, Frank Richards, Lisa Wright, Ricardo Contreras, Florencia Chávez, Refugio Yáñez, Tarcicio García, Sofía García, María de Jesús Mendoza, Antonio Cazares, Ana García, Ryan Moore, Marianne Brannan, Lilia Parrish, Nancy Smith, Julián Palomar, Jennifer Vera, John Braet, Kim Koskinen, Margaret Valencia, Matthew Marcoulier, Dennis Tavares, Jose Freitas, Alfredo Sousa, Juana Arreguín, Aron Yasskin, Victoria Walzer, Fidela Yáñez Jara, Erika Ramos, Carla Tomas, Erasmo Yáñez, Memo Soria, Patricia Vargas, Fidela Yáñez, Elvia Flores, Yonel Ruíz, Angie Freitas, Russel Bryant, Derrick Heater, Luis Angel, Juan Barrera-Terán, Gabriel Hurtado, Gerald Butler, Helen Reynolds, Toni Clark, Ann Gallagher, Brianna Lopez, Margaret Milliken, Gina Pivirotto, Nick Quin, Mary Servis, Denis Sousa, Victor Venegas, Matty Walker, Charles Lorenz, Rebecca Lorenz, Ofelia Ibarra, Leonardo Naal, Gina Leal.

**ATTENTION**

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS**

WILL BE ON

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2019 AT 6:00PM**.



**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON**

**DECEMBER 24TH AND DECEMBER 25TH.**



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HAS **AMAZON SMILE**.

WHEN YOU MAKE ANY PURCHASES THROUGH AMAZON, MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE AMAZON SMILE AND “SELECT” **PASTOR OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH A CORPORATION SOLE.**

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A DONATION TO OUR CHURCH IN EVERY PURCHASE.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL**

**THE OFFICE AT 964-0229**.



**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL MEMORIAL TREE**

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: a permanent reminder of a loved one who is gone.

For more information, call the Parish Office at 964-0229.

**A CALL TO ACTION**

WE ARE UPDATING OUR PARISH

REGISTRATION LIST.

PLEASE TAKE A FORM AND GIVE US

YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION.

YOU CAN PUT IT IN THE COLLECTION BASKET,

RETURN IT TO THE OFFICE, CALL US AT 707-964-0229

OR EMAIL US AT olgcinfb@gmail.com

**ATTENTION**

There are two electric organs in the OLGC school building that we would love to see go to a good home. **The price is right! They are free.**  Please contact Kathleen Kasperson if you would like to look at them at 707-964-5854. If you would love to take one or both of them but do not have a way to transport them, help is available.