**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 21 & 22, 2019**



**TRUST IN GOD**

On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel.
 Isaiah, the prophet, begs Ahaz to ask for a sign to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to “tempt the LORD” in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord’s enduring protection of God’s chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel.
 Matthew’s reference to this history in his description of the birth of Jesus highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ.

 **GIBBERISH**

By Dennis Tavares

 **The price of rice is nice if we can splice together mice. This example of gibberish illustrates how rhyming nice sounding words can be pleasant to the ear but contain no meaning. Some in public life prattle on, saying nothing or contradicting themselves. A current seeker of political office wants to remove all restrictions on abortion, seemingly wanting more freedom. But if there are no restrictions, then the abortionist can be sloppy**

**and unqualified, leaving the woman vulnerable. Or a woman could be forced into an abortion against her will as in China. We must look beyond words**

**coming from silly minds to meanings and consequences. We must be like old St. Paul, and listen closely to it all, but throw out all the stupid stuff. Then we will know what’s truly so, and won’t get lost in someone’s snow, and be real happy with what’s enough.**

**PASTORAL RUMINATIONS**

By Father Andre Querijero

The first live crèche, or the Nativity Scene, is credited to St. Francis of Assisi. Story has it that he thought of reenacting the birth of the poor Baby Jesus in a stable with real sheep, horse, cattle, etc. inside the Franciscan monastery church in Greccio, Italy. Confronted with the practical problem of accommodating the villagers for the midnight mass, Francis, along with his confreres, celebrated mass al fresco. For the first time ever, the altar was set in a stable where Christ’s presence in the Eucharist and the Infant Jesus lying on a manger stood in contrast, but beautifully commingled, into an authentic “communion” experience for the villagers.

 Here in our parish, some people have voiced out their objection to setting up the crèche or the Nativity Scene below the altar table right at the center of the sanctuary. On liturgical grounds, their concern is a very valid argument, as the crèche should not distract our attention from the Eucharistic presence of Christ during mass.

 We, however, have always reserved that exact same spot for the crèche in deference to our parish children’s Annual Nativity Play on Christmas Eve. Weekly practice with the cast and the dress rehearsal itself can already be a nightmare for our teachers, Angelene Leist and Verónica Rentería; what more the logistics of moving the humungous crèche structure, figurines and lights from one location to another!  Considering that our small church has limited pivot space for endless creativity we could otherwise hold the play at a bigger venue such as the Michaelraj Parish Hall. Either way, we can have the play separate from the Holy Mass or profit from both the play and the Eucharist in one contiguous and continuous celebration.

 Would it not be nice for our parish children to connect the Birth of Jesus to the bigger picture of our Savior’s redeeming offering of Himself at mass? The stories that we tell our children about our faith will make an indelible mark in their spiritual life as adults. These stories will be passed on in future generations of our children’s children as an effective catechetical instruction tool for believers and non-believers alike.

**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



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 PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON**

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



PLEASE DONATE A POINSETTIA IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY.

YOU MAY DELIVER THEM TO THE CHURCH OR THE PARISH OFFICE.

**REMINDER**

THE CALENDARS FOR THE YEAR 2020

ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH.

 TAKE ONE, PLEASE.



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**.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**DECEMBER 23-29 2019**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Monday (23)Tuesday (24)Wednesday (25)Thursday (26)Friday (27)Saturday (28)Sunday (29) | 12:05pm5:00pm8:00pm8:00am10:00am12:00pm12:05pm12:05pm5:00pm6:30pm8:00am10:00am | Meredith Ane Lohne † Hector Magaña †José Miranda †Angelina Mendoza-Alcalá †José & FilomenaSousa †Anna Freitas †Leonilde Sousa †Katie Richards †Marian Lotten †Mariano Tan †Severo Cuevas, Jr.B-dayFred & Clara White †Angelo & Cesarina MiradaJose Bermudez †Refugio Tinoco †Beatriz Gaona † Bruno & Camilla BenedettiJose Bermudez †Refugio Tinoco † |

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

 **DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2019……..$1,902.00**

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE’S FEAST….$ 566.00**

THIS WEEKEND’S SECOND COLLECTION:

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

NEXT WEEKEND’S SECOND COLLECTION:

**YOUTH GROUP AND RETREATS**

**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.



**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.