



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Church

DECEMBER 13, 2020



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

Sacraments

Masses

A mask is required and must be worn at all times. Please sign in for contact tracing purposes.

Weekend Mass Times

3:00pm (Sat)

10:00am & 11:30am (Sun)

Soccer Field

Daily Mass Times

Currently cancelled

Reconciliation / Confession

Saturday 3 - 4:30 pm

& by appointment

All Other Sacraments

Please call the office for information.

Clergy

Fr. Renier Siva

Pastor

Fr. Cleetus Karakkat

Parochial Vicar

William Goeke

Jim McFadden

Deacons

Fr. Ignatius Haran

Pastor Emeritus

Parish Office

The office is closed until further notice. Please call and leave a message.

307 Montrose Drive, Folsom

Phone: 916-985-2065

Website:

FolsomCatholic.org

Social Media:

@FolsomCatholic

Bulletin

FolsomCatholic.org/bulletin

Bulletin Date **Ads Due by 5pm**

Dec 20

Dec 8

Dec 27

Dec 14

Jan 3

Dec 18

Welcome to

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

We are a community where we welcome all as members of the Body of Christ.

We are welcoming, faithful, passionate, joyful, authentic, sacramental, loving and charitable.

Today's Readings

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b] / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

"My soul rejoices in my God."

(Is 61:10b)

Gospel Meditation

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

Scripture Reflections

First Reading

Isaiah shares his understanding of his prophetic call and his experience of the Lord as a God of justice and compassion. As we continue in the season of Advent, what new spiritual insights are you discovering?

Second Reading

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be thankful to God and be active in their newly found faith in Christ by following his moral imperatives. How are you putting your faith into practice during this Advent?

Gospel

John tells us that the religious leaders in Jerusalem questioned the identity of John the Baptist, wondering if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or the Prophet who Moses prophesied would come. John the Baptist responds in humility, with a clear sense of his own call. Do you humbly accept God's call in your life?

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At St. John the Baptist Parish,
we welcome all
as members of
the Body of Christ.

3

Christmas Mass Sign-ups

Sign-ups for Mass coordinators, EMs and lectors for Christmas Masses will be in the sacristy.

Check Our Parish Website For Updates folsomcatholic.org

Please check our website for updates regarding the COVID-19 status here in our parish. Bulletins are also posted. Just click on the word "Bulletin" located near the top of our Home page. A limited number of printed copies are also available in the vestibule.

2021 Mass Intentions

Scheduled Mass Intentions are being accepted for the first quarter of the new year. Since the Parish Office remains closed, please mail in or call the office with the intention and a possible date and time you would like to reserve. If the particular Mass is not available we will reserve the next open opportunity. There is a limit of 5 intentions per family.

Donations can be made online or mailed to the Parish Office. Please include "Mass Intention for" and the prayer intention noted in the memo section of the check or in the comments on the online giving form.

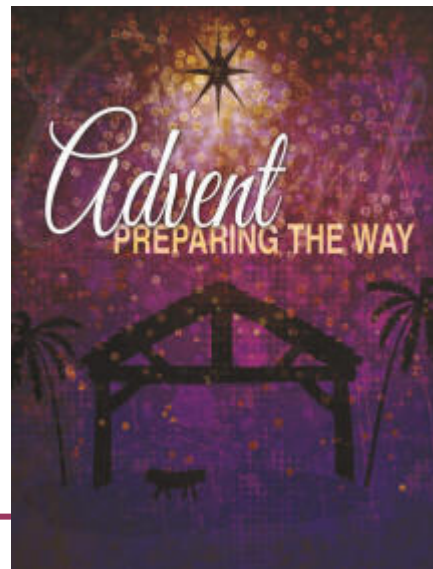
St. John's Gift Shop

Our Parish Gift Shop is open for your shopping needs by appointment only. Please check the sign posted on the gift shop door to contact Connie.



"Those whose hearts are pure are the temples of the Holy Spirit."

Feast Day December 13



Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation

There is no Advent Communal Penance Service. Instead Father Renier and Father Cleetus will hear Confessions on:

- Monday, December 14: 5pm – 7pm
- Wednesday, December 16: 5pm – 7pm

Christmas Mass Schedule

If the COVID-19 restrictions do not ease up before Christmas, our Mass schedule stays the same, with the addition of one Mass at 1pm.

Christmas Masses are as follows:

- Dec 24th: 3pm
- Dec 25th: 10:00am, 11:30am, and 1pm

If it's raining outside, we will stream on Facebook. Parishioners can stay in their car or stay at home and watch the Mass via Facebook live. At the end of the Mass, Communion will be distributed at the vestibule of the Church.

If however; restrictions are lifted before Christmas, with 25% capacity or 100, whichever is less, Mass times are as follows:

- Dec 24th: 4pm (Church),
4:15pm (Gallagher)
7pm (Church)
12 midnight (Church)
- Dec 25th: 7:30am (Church/Gallagher)
9:30am (Church/Gallagher)
11:30am (Church/Gallagher)

P R A Y E R

Mass Intentions

Scheduled prayer intentions will be offered by the priests of the parish during their private mass.

Sunday, December 13th

Nicolas Gomez+
Hannelore Dunkel+
People of the Parish

Monday, December 14th

Fernanda Castelo *(healing)*

Tuesday, December 15th

Marcelo & Teodora Austria+

Wednesday, December 16th

Ciriaco Palamos+

Thursday, December 17th

Prabasheeni Iddamalgoda+

Friday, December 18th

Lydia Nagano+
Giovanna Vitale+

Saturday, December 19th

Annett Alappatt *(birthday)*

Observances

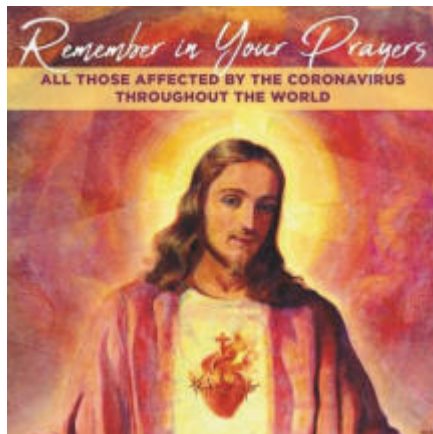
We Celebrate This Week

Mon: St. John of the Cross

December is Dedicated to: The Immaculate Conception

Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for December For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



Intercessory Prayers

Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul.

Dharmo Dhillon	Kimanh Davis
Jen Fancher	Mark Penman
Jesse Diaz	Robert Coughlin
Joanne Harden	Sarah Norberg
Jody Park	Zachary Whiten
Kainoa Wood	


Prayers for Our Troops

We pray for our military personnel abroad and at home, and for their families.

Michael Dalupan

Prayers for the Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of all who have died, our family members, friends, and parishioners. May they rest in peace.

Brian Trevisan Maxey	Nasri Michael	
Chris McDowell	Ofelia Bagabaldo	
Clifford W. Kinney	Pete Sidhu	
Doug Jackson	Prabasheeni	
Francisco Bejarano	Iddamalgoda	
Herbert Kohagura	Purificacion Siruno	
Jean Mellberg	Rose Imbriani-Ajalat	
Joyce Margaret Elliott	Tommy Nunez	
Kay Warren	Valenzuela	
Lillian Robert	Sunta de Rivera	
Lorraine Roche		

Prayer Requests

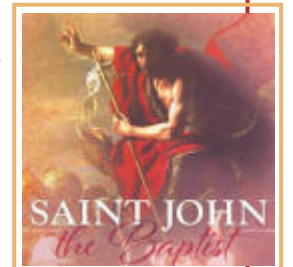
Prayer requests for the sick, military or recently deceased may be made by calling our Parish Office. Names will appear for four months.

O God,

You raised up St. John the Baptist to prepare a perfect people for Christ.

Fill Your people with the joy of possessing His grace, and direct the minds of all the faithful in the way of peace and salvation.

Grant that as St. John was martyred for truth and justice, so we may energetically profess our Faith in You, and lead others to the Way, the Truth, and Eternal Life.
Amen.



At St. John the Baptist Parish, time in conversation with our Lord is at the center of our lives.



The Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel is closed until further notice
Adoration has been moved to the Church

A link to an Adoration Video (50mins) is located our website.

Scroll down to midpage and click on "Spend Time..."

A YouTube video will pop up to play the video.

Another Adoration Video (30mins) is also posted and pinned on our Facebook page.

A Facebook account is not necessary to view.

Once on our Facebook page click on the Monstrance picture to start the video.

www.facebook.com/FolsomCatholic

Live Stream Mass

scd.org/coronavirus/livestream-mass

Please visit the Diocesan page. It lists Parishes which are currently live streaming Sunday and Daily Masses.

Church Hours

Monday - Friday

The church will remain open for those who would like to pray before the Blessed Sacrament from 8am-4:30pm.

Saturday - Sunday

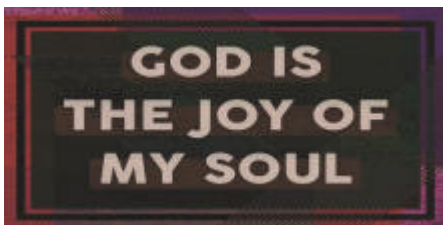
On the weekends, the church will be open from 7am-6pm.

Please keep in mind your minimum 6ft "social distancing"

Confession

**Saturdays: 3 - 4:30 pm
and by appointment**

Please note confessions at this time will still be offered but not in the confessional. We will be doing a face to face format in a larger setting in order to maintain the recommended minimum 6ft "social distancing."



A Prayer For Uncertain Times

God of infinite mercy, hear our prayer!

In this time of bewilderment and fear, we ask you to give us the courage to take care of one another as Jesus did. For those who are ill, especially those who are frightened and alone, for those who cannot access healthcare, for those who are homeless and lost, hear our prayer!

In the midst of our sadness and grief, we ask you to give us words to comfort one another. For those who are dying, and for those who have already died from this virus, for those who tend them and for those with no one to tend them, hear our prayer!

In the midst of our own anxiety we ask you to give us the courage to support one another as you would. For those who are unexpectedly unemployed, for employers who share what they can, for our government and financial institutions and those who lead them, hear our prayer!

In the midst of our struggle to ensure a healthy future for all who live on this planet, we ask you to give us the hope that surpasses our current understanding. For healthcare workers, spiritual leaders and our faith communities, for artists and poets, for prophets and teachers, hear our prayer!

In the midst of our growing awareness that all life on Earth is connected, we ask for the heart to respect and cherish all life. That all peoples recognize that we are all your children, hear our prayer!

*We trust in you and your power working in us.
Please hear and answer our prayers.*

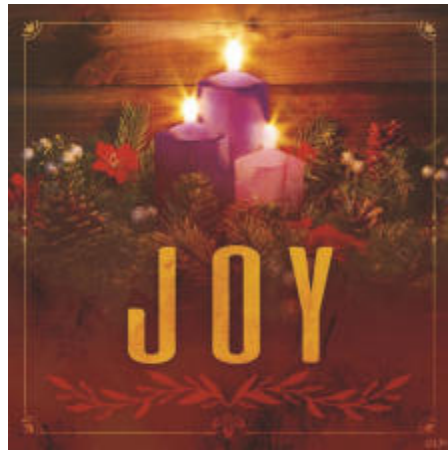
Amen!

Sister Cynthia Serjak
<https://www.sistersofmercy.org/>





At St. John the Baptist Parish,
we foster a
commitment to lifelong
spiritual growth.



A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Be Alert, Get Ready, and Welcome the New King!

4 week on-line Advent Bible study series
with Deacon Jim

December 15, Tuesday, 7pm
Contact: Theresa Grant
tgrant203@aol.com.

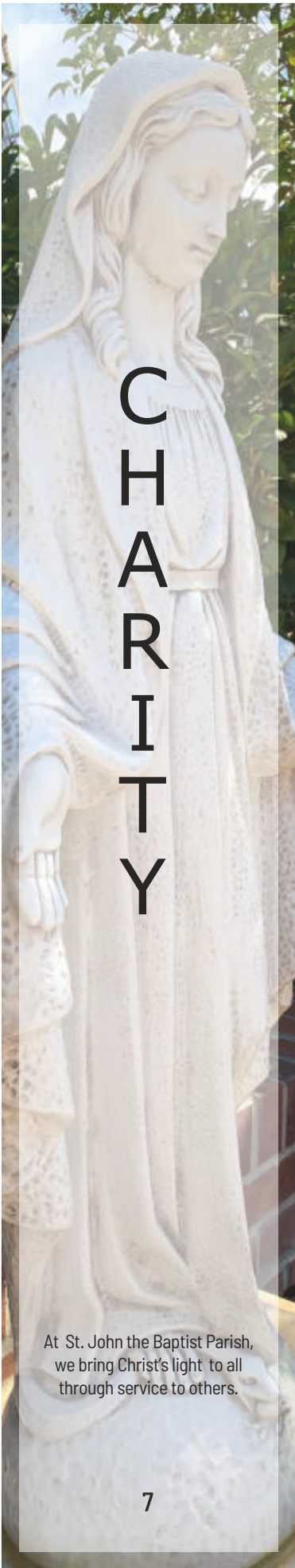
Adam, David, and Jesus: Three Kings

Adam had a kingly mission, but he blew it. David was meant to restore kingship to its proper form. However, he failed too. But, Christ the Lord, is the King who pulls everything together and restores creation. His Kingdom triumphs all others.

To register for the series, please email Theresa. You will receive an email prior to the scheduled session with the Zoom link & instructions. Please check your spam/junk mail in case you do not receive the email in your inbox.

Inspiration for the Week

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.



At St. John the Baptist Parish, we bring Christ's light to all through service to others.

2nd Collection

Last weekend our second collection was for the RE Program and SJND. Together we collected \$681.

This weekend our 2nd collection is for the Building & Maintenance Fund.

Next weekend our 2nd collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Giving Tree

Due to the COVID-19, we have made the very difficult decision to not put up our Christmas Giving Tree this year. Unfortunately, due to the vulnerability of our volunteers, we are unable to participate as in the past. Once again, I reassure you that Christmas gifts are being distributed by other organizations in the area and we will help our families make contact. We continue to check phone messages, and as with Thanksgiving, if we are contacted by a family who is in need for Christmas, we will respond on a one-on-one basis. We look forward to resuming our Thanksgiving and Christmas activities in 2021 when it will be safer for all. Thank you for your support and we wish you all a Blessed Christmas.

Do You Have Any Christmas Themed Unused Greeting Cards Available?

The Christmas and holiday seasons are especially difficult times for people who are incarcerated. Chaplain Greg Mellor invites you to contribute to this year's New Folsom Prison Christmas Card Drive. With the help of donors, over 5,000 Christmas cards will be distributed so that each inmate will have two cards to send to family and friends. Unused Christmas cards can be placed in the box in the vestibule from now through December 31.

Stewardship of Treasure the Lord Has Entrusted to Us

Weekly goal: \$25,529.00

Weekly Offerings:

December 5/6 \$19,469

November Online Weekly Donations \$27,573.36

Loaves and Fishes

Contact:

Cathy Kovarik, 916-353-0688 or
Greta Tecson, 916-337-2014

"Let us have compassion and caring as we prepare our hearts for the Coming of Our Lord"

There are lots of requests for help this month of December. However the poor and the homeless are always with us. The Divine Mercy Ministry is grateful for your support. Over 250 were served last month. The collection cart remains in the church vestibule for your donations. Items most requested are cup-of-soups, peanut butter and cheese crackers, hot chocolate and oat-meal packets, nutritious bars, raisins and fruit cups. There is also a request for gloves and socks. Thank you for sharing Christ's Indescribable Gifts of Love through your material generosity. All will be delivered on December 23.



"Let us rejoice, O my Beloved!"
December 14 is the feast of mystic, poet,

and reformer, St. John of the Cross. St. Teresa of Avila enlisted his assistance in reforming the Carmelite order. The proposed reforms didn't go over well, and John was imprisoned. Rather than become discouraged or defiant, John turned to prayer. His time in prison resulted in some of the greatest mystical poetry the Church has seen. After his escape, his efforts were recognized and honored by the Carmelites. While he was appointed to the highest office in his order, dissension forced him into solitude again. Following Christ isn't always easy, nor will it always be received well by everyone around us. John of the Cross teaches us that these challenges can be opportunities to unite ourselves closer to Jesus.

Sharing the Gospel

People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them to Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Ask a friend if he or she is ready to meet Jesus.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to be different because I love you.

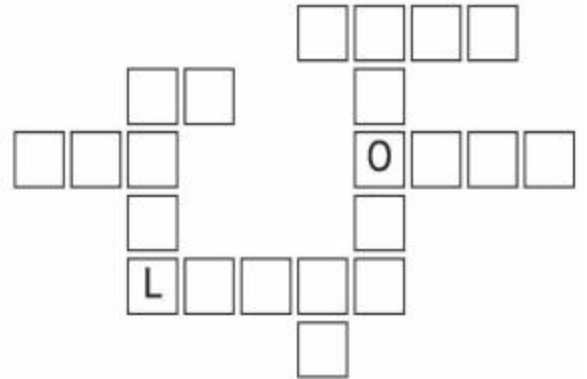
Read the Gospel and Color

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares.
He came only to tell about the light.



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"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Our parish is enriched with many ministries, please consider learning about and engaging in one or more of our ministries. Call the contact listed or see a Minister of Hospitality after Mass.



MINISTRIES

Welcoming Ministries

Communications Ministry

Loreen McMahon, 916-933-1330

Ministers of Hospitality

Shannon Bleeker, 916-200-8059

New Parishioner Welcoming Ministry

Lori Hopper, 916-337-0139

Ushers

Stanley Posis, 916-705-9192

Prayer Ministries

Companioned Prayer

Bill Stobbe, 916-505-3800

Divine Mercy Devotion/Cenacle

Zoanne Tafolla, 707-333-7359

-*Chaplet/Rosary/Morning Prayer*

-*Divine Mercy Chaplet/Mass*

-*Cenacle* - Zoanne Tafolla, 707-333-7359

-*Cenacle-Spanish* - Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

Eucharistic Adoration

Veronica Thomas, thomas_vera@yahoo.com

Perpetual Adoration—1st Fri 9am - Sat 4pm

Marian Cenacle (Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle)

-*English* – 1st Saturday of the month

Sally Gomez, 916-693-2411

-*Spanish* – 2nd Wednesday of the month

Ana Haid, 916-956-1177

Our Lady of Fatima

Henry Altamirano, 925 - 899-7769

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Adult Scripture Study

Lee & Teresa Weider, 916-983-8065

Couples for Christ

Myrah Empleo, 661-993-4721

Praise & Worship

Sheila Fitzpatrick, 925-437-0798

Religious Education

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Debbie Duncan, 916-798-0201

Theology on Tap

Aaron Santos, 916-985-2065

WINGS (Women in Growth Spiritually)

Sue Collins, 916-337-6237

Youth/Young Adults Ministries

Aaron Santos, asantos@folsomcatholic.org

Parish Committees/Councils

Finance Council

Elizabeth Beigh, 916-730-1291

Liturgy Committee

Barbara Bowden, 916-984-9476

Pastoral Council

Outreach/Charity Ministries

Bereavement Hospitality/Receptions

Nina Pucci, 916-947-6386

Catholics for Life

Kathy Baxter, 916-337-6824

Gabriel Project

Helen Boyd, 916-367-8071

Grace Quilters Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

Grupo Pastoral Hispano

Anna Haid, 916-956-1177

Knights of Columbus

Dick Phelan, 916-221-0596

Pastoral Care Ministry

Dan Dunne, 916-817-1675; Sunday

Candice Ralston, 916-806-8090; Tuesday

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Catherine Scott, 831-402-4681

Prison/Restorative Justice Ministry

-Folsom Prison - Fr. H. Gomez, 916-985-2561 x 4206

-CSP Sacramento - Greg Mellor,
Catholic Chaplain, 916-985-8610 x6425

School Ministry (St. John Notre Dame)

Keith Martin, Principal, 916-985-4129

Senior Visitation

Charlene Agles, 916-984-9602

St. Vincent de Paul (Helping Hands)

John Knight, 916-985-4630

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

Hugo Schmidt, 916-817-4541

Children's Liturgy during Mass

Shannon Langer, 916-985-7338

Extraord. Ministers of Holy Communion

Steve & Maryanne Ashley, 916-479-2214

Lectors

Patti Midtlyng, 916-837-8322

Liturgical Environment

Arlette Peterson, 916-220-5968

Music - See choir director after Mass.

Additional Ministries

Children's Babysitting at Mass

Georgia Oatmeyer, 916-201-3193

Family Fellowship

Carol Stephenson, 916-952-6744

Gift Shop

Connie Aley, 916-984-9284

Women's Game Day

Roberta Puzio, 916-933-2561

Please send ministry updates and corrections to
Loreen McMahon, mcmahon510@comcast.net.

"Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will."



With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the home-bound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.



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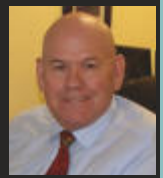
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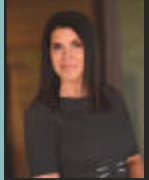
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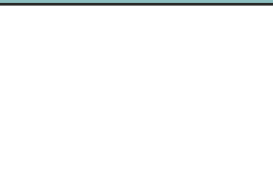
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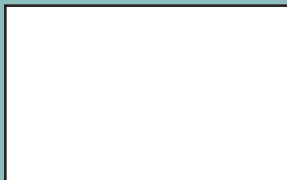


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