

## The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, December 8

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious**

Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6:00pm

Monday, December 9

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the**

### **Blessed Virgin Mary**

**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

**Masses at 6:30am, 12:00pm, and 6:00pm**

Tuesday, December 10

### **Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent**

Evening Prayer at 5:40pm

Cathedral Choir Rehearsal at 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 11

### **Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent**

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:00am

Thursday, December 12

### **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Friday, December 13

### **Memorial of St. Lucy, *virgin, martyr***

Saturday, December 14

### **Memorial of St. John the Cross, *priest, doctor of the Church***

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am

Ss. Damien/Marianne Prayer Group at 12:30pm

Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 15

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Repairs & Maintenance**

Masses at 6:00a/7:30/9:00/10:30/12:00n/6:00pm

## **Parish App Feature-of-the-Week**



Confession

- Helpful Confession guide
- See available times
- Set useful reminders for your next Confession

Learn more or download our parish app at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com)

\*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

## Stewardship of Treasure

Sunday Collection	\$ 11,191.75
Weekday Collection	\$ 1,440.21
Coffers	\$ 479.33
Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 60.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,171.29</b>



## Pauline Books & Media Open House

The Daughters of St. Paul invites you to their open house on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent after the 5:00pm Vigil, 9:00am, 10:30am, and 12:00pm Masses. If you are looking for a word of solace and encouragement, inspiration, books and DVDs to pass the faith on to your children, resources for pastoral ministry, spiritual reading to deepen your faith or help you explore moral issues, you'll want to make Pauline Books and Media one of your favorite places to go, either on-line or on foot. For more information, please call 521-2731.

## Committed to Christ, Living in Gratitude

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card to the church. As a reminder, all commitments need to be submitted to the church no later than Sunday, December 22 in order to be accounted for in the final Summary Report. Please complete and submit your card to the church even if you are unable to make a change to your current level of giving. For those registered parishioners not currently supporting the church with regular offertory gifts, please consider a monthly gift to support the needs of our parish.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

**Support aging religious.** Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

## Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Ministry (ages 18-39) meets on the first and third Sundays of the month from noon to 2 p.m. for many activities. Text CBYAM to 84576 to sign up for updates.

# December 8, 2019 – Second Sunday of Advent

## Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

*Isaiah 11:1-10 | Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 | Romans 15:4-9 | Matthew 3:1-12*

A perfect world where justice, peace, and abundance will flourish forever — it sounds incredible and impossible, yet Psalm 72 imagines a world like this. All people, especially the poor, the afflicted, and the lowly will be rescued and saved. All will have what they need, because of this, justice will flourish, and peace will reign.

The Israelites believed in the possibility of God's kingdom of peace and justice and expressed it in their hope for the coming of a Messiah. Christ's disciples placed their hope in the longed-for Savior, who showed his followers the way through his life, death, and Resurrection. As disciples, we are called to do our part to produce the fruits of justice and make God's kingdom come. This Advent, we, too, can pray this psalm longing for a world that will bring about God's reign, full of the fruits of justice and peace. We also must prepare ourselves to do our part to make them grow.

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### **Next Sunday's Readings: "Third Sunday of Advent"**

*Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 | Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 | James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11*

### From the Desk of Fr. Pascual

Dear Cathedral Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

***"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"***

Our Readings this second Sunday of Advent usher us into a deeper way of preparing for the coming of the Lord. As mentioned in previous reflections, Advent is a season to help us prepare for the second coming of Jesus and the celebration of His birth on Christmas Day. With all the many external preparations at home, parks, churches and shopping malls, let us remember the essential preparations that we need to do. That is, preparing our hearts and minds for the glorious coming of Jesus and celebrating the day of our salvation, His birthday. Just as we are also preparing to buy gifts for relatives and friends, let us make our lives to be treasured gifts for Jesus on His birthday.

*Matthew 3: 1*



St. John the Baptist's words are very appropriate for such preparation. Not only that he calls the people of his time but more so for us today, "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance if we are to understand it well is actually a very courageous act. It is not easy to admit to oneself whatever things or actions one person have done wrong. Every now and then, we justify ourselves that what we are doing is right even though in the eyes of God and what conscience calls is wrong. More so, a repentant person is a humble person. Humility is a virtue that calls a person to get to his or her senses and realizes the things needed to be changed. These changes could be values, perspectives, attitudes and relationship with God, others and one's self. Changes that will direct one's life to Jesus and the truth that He teaches.

As we continue our Advent Journey, may we all make this time for prayer, self-reflection and internal preparation for what this season calls us to do. Let us listen to the voice of the one preaching in the desert, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!" Let us also respond to what we heard and make it our aim that the best gift we can give to the Lord will be with a clean mind and heart. Let Jesus be born not anymore on a manger but born in one's own heart and life.

Yours in the Lord,  
Fr. Pascual