



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — DECEMBER 20, 2020



“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.”
~Luke 1

2540 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 295-4141

www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org — parish@immaculate-conception-sandiego.org

Mass Intentions
<p>Sun., Dec. 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent 4:00 Vigil -The Schrader Family, SI 8:30 - People of Immaculate Conception 10:00 - †William & Lucille Brown</p> <p>Mon., Dec. 21 - Late Advent Weekday Tammie Mateo, SI</p> <p>Tues., Dec. 22 - Late Advent Weekday Priest's Intentions</p> <p>Wed., Dec. 23 - Late Advent Weekday Priest's Intentions</p> <p>Thurs., Dec. 24 - Late Advent Weekday 8:00 - Priest's Intentions 2:30 - People of Immaculate Conception 4:00 - †A.H. Lorch, MD</p> <p>Fri., Dec. 25 - The Nativity of the Lord 10:00 †Mr. & Mrs. Donald Goodman</p> <p>Sat., Dec 26 - St. Stephen 8:00 - Priest's Intentions</p>

Daily Readings
Monday: SG 2:8-14, LK 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 SM 1:24-28, LK 1:46-56
Wednesday: MAL 3:1-4, 23-24, LK 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16, LK 1:67-79
Friday: Is 52:7-10, Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59, MT 10:17-2
Sunday: SIR 3:2-6, 12-14, LK 2:22-40

Pray for Our Sick
<p>Joane Anderson, Rev. James Boyd, Cosmo & Joan Busalacchi, Dominic Castagnola, Reginald Custodio, Joanne Daleo, Michael Denny, Dawn Desimone, Adela Diaz, Adele Dunne, Arline Fisch, Julie Fish, Ardell Haskins, Ditas Ibarra, Shirley Ilog, Donna Cruz Jones, Ricardo Hernandez, Olivia Ingram, Grace Mulvanity, Stephanie Ng, Ann Orwig, Peter Salmon, Anyssa Sanchez, Tom Sapien, Crystal Spera, Nancy Stodgell, Marie Whitman, Barbara Wingler.</p>

<p><u>Mass Schedule</u> Weekdays: Monday thru Saturday, 8:00 AM</p> <p><u>Sunday Masses</u> Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM (outdoors) Sunday: 8:30 AM*, 10:00 AM (outdoors) *live-streamed</p> <p><u>Holy Day Masses:</u> To be announced.</p> <p><u>Reconciliation:</u> After weekday morning Mass and by appointment.</p> <p><u>Baptisms:</u> By appointment only. Please contact Deacon Robert Fitzmorris to make arrangements.</p> <p><u>Weddings:</u> By appointment only. Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance. Please contact the parish office.</p> <p><u>Funerals:</u> For arrangements, please call the parish. Parish Office: 619-295-4141</p>

RECONCILIATION
<p>Confessions may be heard on Sundays between 9:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. See one of the ushers who will escort you to the priest. One can also ask the priest for confession after the weekday morning Mass.</p>

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
<p>All of us at Immaculate Conception parish, wish you and your families a wonderful day of rejoicing in the birth of Christ. Thank you for your support during this challenging year.</p>

<p>Deacon Robert Fitzmorris, Parish Administrator rfitzmorris@sandiegodeacon.com 619-997-9063</p>	<p>Fr. Garrett Galvin, OFM, Liaison to the Parish Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM, in residence Fr. Anthony Garibaldi, OFM, Mission San Luis Rey Parish email: parish@immaculate-conception-sandiego.org</p>
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**Dec. 13, 2020
COLLECTION**

Due to publication deadlines, we are unable to provide a financial report for last week's collection and expenses.



Serra Gifts...

STORE HOURS

Thursday & Friday 1:30-4:30 pm
Saturday 11 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 11 am - 5:00 pm

New Items

Magnificat Advent Companion
St. Joseph Sunday Missal 2021
Devotional Oils

If you are able to volunteer once a week (or more), please contact Linda at 619-295-4141, ext. 104.



**Christmas Mass
Schedule
for 2020**

**Thursday, December 24
2:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m.**

**Friday, December 25
10:00 a.m.**

New Bulletin Publisher

LPI is our new bulletin publisher and has offered to email our bulletin to parishioners at no cost. If you are interested in receiving the bulletin via email, please email your request to parish@immaculate-conception-sandiego.org and we will add you to our list of recipients.

Dear Parishioners,

This Christmas will be a Christmas like no other for most of us. We are called to share the joy of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds of the Judean hills who first saw the Baby Jesus over 2000 years ago. Much as on that first Christmas night, our faith enables us to see the child born for us, to hear the great news of joy sung in the heavens above and on the earth below, and to follow the shepherds to the crib. Yet, our journey of joy and light is set at nighttime, and we too are now made aware of the suffering and sadness that marks our world in the mounting deaths and the record number of hospitalizations – nothing that I have witnessed in my lifetime.

Yet, is this really too different from what the Jesus and his family faced? His parents were not able to find room at the Inn; they faced indifference at best and hostility at worst from the powerful of this world. His parents were not able to return home to Nazareth; rather, they had to escape to Egypt. Be that as it may, there was still their joy in a family joined together in a communion of love, in the voices of the angels who shared joy with the shepherds, and in the shepherds themselves who were sent to welcome the Baby Jesus (Luke 2:10). There continues to be today a message of “good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Christ is brought into the world again whenever we can present an open and joyful attitude toward others. Since we are all made in the image and likeness of God, we are called to the same joy when we see each other as if we were to see Jesus. I think we can be joyful when we have an attitude of openness, self-forgetfulness, and availability. These attitudes help form the community that Jesus modeled for us. Relationships will unfold in trust and love when we seek to live these other-centered values rather than give in to indifference, negativity, and despair. Christmas is a season of hope. The Baby Jesus and every baby brings hope into our world.

Christmas is fixated on our potential. Whenever we think of a little child, we gravitate to potential rather than sin. Rather than dwell on shortcomings and sin, Christmas focuses us on a time when those around Christ understood him and acted out of their best selves. We are all called to a conversion from both sin and a negative view of the world. We too will be joyful when we withdraw from the turmoil of distracting thoughts and seek Christ in our brothers and sisters.

May Christ's peace fill your heart this Christmas,

Garrett Galvin, OFM

LIVE STREAM MASS

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is providing live stream and recordings of the live streams in two ways.



1) On the [Franciscan School of Theology on the You Tube Channel called FST EDU1](#). During this Covid-19 Shelter in Place period please visit the You Tube Channel to see all opportunities for viewing.

2) On the parish website www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org. Simply click on the photo (shown above).

Updated equipment has been installed and the live stream has high quality picture and sound.

Other Franciscan lectures are available on the You Tube Channel called FST EDU1.

**OFFICE FOR
EVANGELIZATION
AND CATECHETICAL
MINISTRY**



The Advent and Christmas seasons are upon us and Bishop John Dolan has prepared this wonderful resource of

Christ in Our Neighborhood small group series in preparation for the upcoming seasons.

Registrations are now open and are filling quickly! Make sure to secure your spot by registering at web address provided below. These are available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

<https://www.sdcatholic.org/bishops/auxiliary-bishop-dolan/christ-in-our-neighborhood/>



Apostles vs. Disciples

What is the difference between apostles and disciples

When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: apostles and disciples. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many disciples, the group of apostles was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word apostle essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23).

In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognize Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word disciple, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.

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Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"



In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser," emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience His truth and tenderness," – because "we know that God's

truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us" (2).

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father." Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he "cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption," as St John Paul II said, "and is truly a minister of salvation" (3).

At the same time, Joseph is "an accepting Father," because he "accepted Mary unconditionally" — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, "in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident." But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, "setting aside his own ideas" and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph's spiritual path "is not one that explains, but accepts" — which does not mean that he is "resigned." Instead, he is "courageously and firmly proactive," because with "Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude," and full of hope, he is able "to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments." In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: "Do not be afraid!" because "faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad," and makes us aware that "God can make flowers spring up from stony ground." Joseph "did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it." For this reason, "he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (4).

Patris corde highlights "the creative courage" of St. Joseph, which "emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties." "The carpenter of Nazareth," explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence." He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

In this sense, St. Joseph is "the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty." As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot "be other than the guardian of the Church," of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. "Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is 'the child' whom Joseph continues to protect." From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, "we must learn... to love the Church and the poor" (5).

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

"A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family," St Joseph also teaches us "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour." This aspect of Joseph's character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become "a burning social issue" even in countries with a certain level of well-being. "there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron," the Pope writes.

Work, he says, "is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion." Those who work, he explains, "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us." Pope Francis encourages everyone "to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new 'normal' from which no one is excluded." Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to "review our priorities" and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!" (6).

Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* — a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński — Pope Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father."

"Fathers are not born, but made," says Pope Francis. "A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child." Unfortunately, in today's society, children "often seem orphans, lacking fathers" who are able to introduce them "to life and reality." Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities."

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a "most chaste" father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, "knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus."

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: "In him, we never see frustration, but only trust," writes Pope Francis. "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands

out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants"; a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

True fathers, instead, "refuse to live the lives of their children for them," and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that "he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied." Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, "has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood": that of the "heavenly Father" (7).

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]" he has "recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary." This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," on account of its closing words: "My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power." At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

By Vatican News
December 8, 2020

NEW BLANKET DRIVE



December through January

2020-2021

OUR POOR CHILDREN IN TECATE NEED YOUR HELP!

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