

Second Sunday of Advent – December 8, 2019

Christ sent John the Baptist to announce his first coming 2000 years ago, because he wanted the people of Israel to be ready to receive him.

- He was coming to bring them new hope, forgiveness, joy, interior peace, meaning and fruitfulness - all the benefits of Redemption and grace.
- In Advent, we remember that first coming, in order to thank God for it.

But we also re-live that coming in the "today" of our own lives.

- This Christmas, Christ wants to make a new surge of grace in the world, in the Church, and in each one of our lives. He wants to keep pouring out those benefits of Redemption.
- And he wants us to be ready to receive this year's new surge of grace - he doesn't want us to miss out on it.
- And so, through the liturgy, he sends his messenger once again to teach us how to get ready.

Clearing the way for Christ to enter more deeply into our society and our lives means, first of all, repenting.

- To repent is to turn away from selfish behavior patterns.
- To repent means to acknowledge our sins.
- After all, how can we have room in our hearts for the coming of a Savior unless we are aware of our need to be saved?

But that's only the first step.

Preparing for Christ's coming also involves positive action, it means "bearing good fruit."

- Active, self-forgetful service towards our neighbor shows that our repentance is real.
- What good is acknowledging our selfishness and sin unless we also decide to leave that sin behind, and then make concrete actions to carry out that decision?

If we do these two things, repent and reform, we will be ready to experience the joys of the coming Kingdom in a fresh way this Christmas, just as Christ wants us to.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



Catholic Daughters for the donation of \$1,121 raised during last week Bake Sale. We will apply it the Religious Education Program and the repairs fund. Thanks to all our parishioners for stopping by to get the delicious goodies

Nativity - Where Saints Have Walked! Cardinal John O'Connor of New York was consecrated a bishop in 1983 in Rome. On his way down the aisle after the consecration, he blessed the people gathered in the church. Suddenly he saw a famous face who was not Italian and went over to greet her---Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He gave her a blessing but was not prepared for what came next. She grasped one of his hands in both of hers and said to him: "*Give Jesus a free hand! Give him permission!*" Cardinal O'Connor never forgot those words, and he said that he tried to make them a watchword for the rest of his life. Let us invoke St. Mother Teresa often. Her spiritual director was our former Pastor the late Bishop William Curlin of North Carolina. Fr. Evans worked with Mother Teresa's nuns for a year here in DC at Gift of Peace AIDS hospice for men.



Guadalupe Mass! Our Lady of Guadalupe feast day is Dec. 12th. A Special Mass will be offered at St. Gabriel parish on Dec 7 in the evening at 7pm.

The faithful are also welcomed to join Bishop Dorsonville of the ADW on the annual *Walk with Mary* procession and Mass to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, will take place on December 14 with theme "Under Her Mantle." This year, the procession will leave promptly at 11:30 AM from the Shrine of the Sacred Heart (16th St. & Park Rd., NW) and will conclude at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (4th St. & Michigan Ave., NE).

Mass Intentions

December 7- 14, 2019

Sat. 12/7	8:00 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	4:30 pm	+Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB
Sun. 12/8	8:00am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	Diogo's family
	1:00pm	Efrain Fernandez (healing)
*Mon. 12/9	12:00	People of the Parish
Tue. 12/10	12:00	+Deacon Marion Evans
Wed. 12/11	12:00	+Rafaela Evans
Fri. 12/13	12:00	Sick & homebound parishioners
Sat. 12/14	8:00 am	Maria Myers
	4:30 pm	People of the Parish

***Immaculate Conception Mass**

Please pray for the sick and home-bound of our Parish:



Would you like to make a family in need happy and fulfilled this Christmas? If you answered yes, please participate in the Giving Tree! Beginning December 8, 2019, there will be ornaments hung on the Christmas tree with suggested categories of needed items. If you are able, please feel free to take an ornament, buy the item, and place it under tree. Be sure that the item is in an open gift bag. **No gift wraps please!! No used items!! Only new items please!!**

On December 22, 2019 will be the day of distribution of the gifts. Gifts will be distributed after the 10 am Mass on 12/22/19 11am-12 and after the Spanish Mass from 2pm-3pm. Thank you so much for your contributions in helping the families here at Nativity!



Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard

Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.

No flowers during Advent, however they are permitted on Gaudete Sunday (third Sunday)



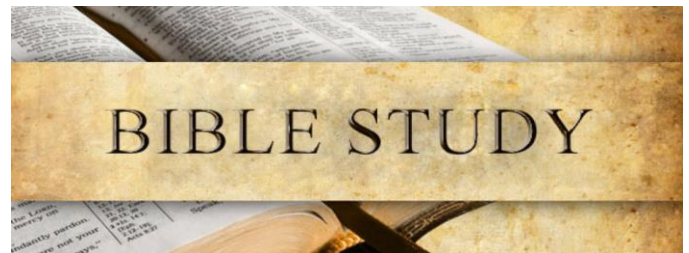
Rest in Peace

Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB

Fr. Paul died on Saturday morning, November 30, at Suncoast Care Center, a hospice, in Palm Harbor, Fla. He was 84 years old and had been a professed Salesian of Don Bosco for 66 years and a priest just short of 57 years. Fr. Paul was assistant pastor at Nativity from

2004 until 2014 where he was most fondly remembered. He was also vice director of the Salesian community of Washington (2005-2014). Fr. Paul's funeral rites were celebrated in both Tampa and Stony Point, N.Y. He was buried in the Salesian Cemetery in Goshen, N.Y., on Saturday, December 7, at 10:00 a.m.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto him, Oh Lord



Advent Bible Study One night only – Dec. 9th at 5:45pm in the Music Room. Jesus fulfilled the Ancient Covenant and ushered in a new era of Love and Peace. What are the Biblical Prophecies of a Messiah for Israel and for the World? Come learn and rejoice that we have a marvelous Savior in Word and Sacraments.



Dec. 5

Fr. Blake Evans

Dec. 7

Archbishop Wilton Gregory

Dec. 17

Pope Francis

Dec. 25

Jesus, Son of God, Son of Mary