

## Prepare the Way of the Lord

The admonition in the title of this reflection is found in the reading from Isaiah and in the Gospel passage. Isaiah describes a long line of exiles returning to Jerusalem after many hard years in Babylon. God leads them back home. In preparation for God's and the people's entry, the way is made clear: "Every valley shall be lifted up...The rugged land shall be a plain" (Isaiah 40:4). The road is repaired, just as we might do if someone important were coming to town. The Gospel writer reinterprets this passage. Instead of repairing an actual roadway, the words of John the Baptist prepare for the entrance of Jesus into his public ministry. Despite their differences, both passages

speak of the "way of the Lord," which is the way of salvation.

The people are told they will get a new start. In the first reading it will be after exile; in the Gospel it is the new ministry of Jesus. Even St. Peter refers to this newness. He calls it "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3:13). He goes on to explain what this means. It will be existence "in which righteousness dwells." Saint Peter further states that this will come to pass on "the day of the Lord," the day when God's promises will be fulfilled and "all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9-10).

The events described in all three readings unfold because of God's merciful love of all. It is for such a day that we are called to prepare. Are we willing to exert the effort? Are we willing to listen to God's words?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- To move in a new life direction, we must leave what we have come to know. Are you ready?
- What might you have to leave behind?



In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!  
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!  
ISAIAH 40:3

## OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That we are called to live holy lives and invite others to do the same

On December 8, we honor Mary, our Mother. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Catholic feast celebrating Mary's conception without sin. Even though this feast day occurs in the liturgical season of Advent, which prepares for the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception asserts that, "from the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of Mankind, kept free from all stain of original sin." The observance of this feast began with a Papal encyclical by Pope Pius IX, when he formally defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, *INEFFABILIS DEUS*, on December 8, 1854. Several years later, in 1858, the Blessed Mother gave her name to St. Bernadette at Lourdes stating, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

### Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mass at OLP will be 7:30am and 5:30pm

Mon 12/7	St. Agnes	5:30pm	+Daniel Mazzeo
Tue 12/8	OLP	7:30am	+Genevieve & Bernard Zimprich
		5:30pm	+Mark Lipsiea
Wed. 12/9	OLP	9:00	+Mark Lipsiea
Thur 12/10	OLP	9:00	+Florence Gagner
Fri 12/11	OLP	9:00	+Genevieve & Bernard Zimprich
Sat 12/12	OLP	5:00	+Mark Lipsiea
Sun 12/13	OLP	8:30	For the people
	St. Agnes	10:30	+Donald Aune

### OLP STEWARDSHIP

Adult envelopes	\$1570.00
Plate	\$31.00
Votive	\$20.00
Black & Indian	\$25.00
Mission	
Total	\$1646.00

# ST. AGNES PARISH

## Holy Father's Prayer Intention

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

**Tuesday, December 8 is The Immaculate Conception**  
Vigil Mass at St. Agnes will be Tue. Dec 7th at 5:30pm

Please pick up your weekly offering envelopes for the year.

St. Nicholas was a real person, he is not a myth. The legend of Santa Claus is based on St. Nicholas. Go to [www.stnicholascenter.org](http://www.stnicholascenter.org) for a wealth of information on this great man who was known for his great charity. Feast day December 6, patron saint of children.

Masks: To wear or not to wear. While there are exemptions for worship and in general Bishop Folda has not specifically mandated the wearing of masks during worship, he urges our cooperation with (any) emergency measures during worship and compliance with the law whenever it is binding for our churches, offices, and other facilities. –  
Msgr. Goering

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St. Agnes Stewardship 11/29	
Adult envelopes	\$275.00
Plate	\$ 40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$315.00</b>

Holy Hour Sundays:4:00-5:00pm

## Dear Padre,

**Do we need to evangelize, or spread the gospel, to fellow Catholics?**

**Yes!** Evangelization is beneficial to Catholics who already practice the faith. As St. Paul VI pointed out, "The Church...seeks to deepen, consolidate, nourish and make ever more mature the faith of those who are already called the faithful or believers, in order that they may be so still more" (On Evangelization in the Modern World [*Evangelii Nuntiandi*], 54).

What about nonpracticing Catholics? Yes, again! A particular focus of the evangelizing Catholic ought to be those who have been baptized but who live outside the Christian life. We already know that a large number of the baptized have not formally repudiated their baptism but do not live in accordance with it. They resist the idea of evangelization out of indifference or a hostility based on the belief that he or she is one of the family, but is "in the know" and no longer believes.

Christ wishes God's love to be proclaimed and reproclaimed to all Catholics—practicing and nonpracticing. This is the essential mission that Christ gives to his Church—to invite everyone to experience the full impact of God's love in Jesus.

—[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

How beautiful it is to think of ourselves as proclaimers of the resurrection of Jesus, not only in words, but also in our conduct and testimony of life! Jesus does not want disciples who are merely able to repeat memorized formulas. He wants witnesses: people who spread hope with their way of welcoming, smiling, and loving.

—GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 4, 2017

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## Calendar

**Monday**  
DECEMBER 7  
St. Ambrose,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church  
Is 35:1-10  
Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday**  
DECEMBER 8  
Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary  
Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday**  
DECEMBER 9  
Advent Weekday  
Is 40:25-31  
Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday**  
DECEMBER 10  
Advent Weekday  
Is 41:13-20  
Mt 11:11-15

**Friday**  
DECEMBER 11  
Advent Weekday  
Is 48:17-19  
Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday**  
DECEMBER 12  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Zec 2:14-17 or  
Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

**Sunday**  
DECEMBER 13  
Third Sunday  
of Advent  
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11  
1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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