

Dear Beloved People of Divine Savior and our cherished visitors:

One might wonder the reason this Sunday's Gospel was chosen for the third Sunday of Advent. We are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus and here we have a passage that relays an event in the life of the adult Jesus. But this is the unique way we as Catholics interpret the Bible and use various selections for our reflection. The season of Advent is a time to reflect on what the birth of Jesus means for us His present-day followers. Another aspect of Advent reflection is to see how the life of Jesus connects with various elements of the Old Testament, especially that of the prophets, such as Isaiah.

We know that both John the Baptist and Jesus made real in their lives and ministries themes that Isaiah saw as very important to fulfill if we are to live like faithful followers of our Creator God. Isaiah wrote to a people who had experienced the ravages of a severe military takeover. He called the people and he calls us, when we experience troubling times, to focus on how God continues to be present. In our troubled world today, this message is extremely important to keep in mind. We can easily become upset, frightened, worried, anxious and depressed at the many ways in which people are not being treated as they deserve as God's precious creation. Isaiah aptly calls us not to let our hearts be frightened, but to focus on what we can do in collaborating with God to transform our world.

With hearts, minds and souls open to God, we are called to imagine, especially during this special season, what good can come to be as God brings healing to us His wounded people. We are called to see our way, despite the dense fog of confusion, to doing what we can to help others see the possibilities and opportunities that are present for us to actualize. We can help one another listen to the Spirit dwelling within reminding us that we are not alone, and that we can rely on the Spirit for the words and wisdom necessary to bring about transformation. In the process, we find ways of making known to the powers that be how we want all people to be treated so that all of us can spring free from what oppresses us and drains us of energy. We need to do our part in realigning our world to the ways in which God intended us to live all along.

When John's disciples ask Jesus on behalf of John whether He is the one who is to come, Jesus refers to how the words of Isaiah are being fulfilled. Given that we are not sure whether John thought that Jesus would be non-violent, Jesus prays that people do not take offense at Him, given that He was dashing the hopes of those who hoped He would lead an armed rebellion against the oppression of the Roman government that controlled the area. During the remainder of this year's Advent, we pray that we are clear that we are in sync with Jesus in choosing the path of love and distributive justice for all people. Like Isaiah in our first reading, we imagine that choosing the path of Jesus will be like the desert of our lives blooming with abundant flowers as we as we rejoice in how God will crown us with everlasting joy and gladness.

~Fr. Roman

**Schedule for the week of  
December 16th—December 21st**

<b>Monday-December 16th</b>		
6:00pm	Rosary Group	Church
<b>Tuesday-December 17th</b>		
9:30am	Centering prayer	St. Cecilia rm.
<b>Wednesday-December 18th</b>		
9:15am	Tai Chi	Church
Noon	Lectio Divina	St. Cecilia rm.
<b>Thursday-December 19th</b>		
9:00am	Divine Mercy Chaplet	Church
1:00pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Library
6:00pm	Community Meal	Halls
<b>Friday-December 20th</b>		
7:00am	Men's Prayer Group	M 4
6:45pm	Church	
<b>Saturday-December 21st</b>		
2:00pm	Reconciliation Service	Church

**PRIEST AWAY FROM THE PARISH**

Fr. Marcel left early on December 15<sup>th</sup> to fly to Rome to renew his visa. He will return on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. On December 26<sup>th</sup> he will leave for vacation in Nigeria and preside for a couple of family weddings. He will return to the parish on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**Advent Communal Reconciliation Service**  
Experience God's love

**December 21st, 2:00pm**  
(for those who do not drive at night)

Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do.

Advent is an ideal time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Divine Savior offers us.

**Christmas Eve Masses**

**4:00pm**-Mass of Christmas

**6:30pm**-for Families & Children  
all ages welcome

**10:00pm**- Candlelight Mass of Christmas in the dark of night beginning with Las Posadas

**Christmas Day Mass**

**10:00am**-Mass of Christmas



**MASS INTENTIONS**

December 14th	4:30pm	Richard Alway (D)
December 15th	7:45am	People of the Parish
	9:30am	Sheila Stratakos
	11:30am	Henry Gomez (D)
		Rita Marie Maisano (D)
		Danielle Dulgerian (D)
	5:30pm	People of the Parish
December 16th	8:30am	
December 17th	8:30am	Adelaida Cordero
		Dominic Cairel (D)
December 18th	8:30am	
December 19th	8:30am	
December 20th	8:30am	Rafael S. David (D)
	8:30am	Russ & Carol Makely (D)
December 21st	8:30am	Mary Lou Marquez (D)
	4:30pm	Charles Kinder (D)
December 22nd	7:45am	Chris Biasotti (D)
		Al Denk (D)
	9:30am	Henry Gomes (D)
		Phuc Nguyen (D)
	11:30am	Olga Jacobs (D)
		David Collier (D)
	5:30pm	People of the Parish

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Wednesday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Thursday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Friday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**Pray for our Military Personnel wherever duty calls them to serve, homeland or overseas.**  
Adrienne Aleschus, James Aleschus, John Aleschus, Logan Amos, Sean Amos, James Atwood, Andrew Bauer, Jordan Biasotti, Anthony Brooks, Jonathan Brooks, Jacob Camarillo, Aimee Chabot, Ephrem Choi, Elsie Cruz, Matt David, Travis Dardis, Derek Deatherage, David DeLaCruz, Alisen Dowell, Joe Downey, Andrew Durham, Brian Eberhard, Katharine Ernst & A.J. Smith, Tom Feyoe, Mathew Fox, Timothy Fox, Joseph Gast, Tyler Gedstad, Erek Hartsell, Jeremy Herbert, Susan Hocker, Yutaro Hosaka, Ben Isla, Tyler Kenobbie, William Kraintz, Tyler Kraintz, Andy Kuehn, Dayna Landry, Charles Philip Lopez, Kelly Mancini, Doran Martin, John Masterson, Bennet D. McGrane, Garrett McMann, Aaron McMurray, Francis Montojo, Joseph M. Paddock, Nathan Paddock, Chris Payant, David Petisor, Darin Pillman, Tim Pillman, Rachael Portoman, Logan Rasmussen, Trey Rasmussen, Tim Reid, Neal Ridge, Tony Rodriguez, Nicholas Roha, Ryan Roux, Matthew Sandoval, April Skou, Jacob and Nikki Steeb, James Thatche, Jadyne Trujillo, Aimee Vigil, Noah Villarreal, Danny Walsh, David Wentling, Kyle William and Brian Wright, Alexander Wrinkle. **If your loved one is out of the military please call Mary at 916-988-4984 to have them removed.**

Please pray for those who are sick, in pain or recovery, or in need of spiritual healing. (Names will appear for 3 weeks unless an extension is requested.)

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Alice Amantea</b>     | <b>Bill Amantea</b>        |
| <b>Bill Anderson</b>     | <b>Sheldon Anderson Jr</b> |
| <b>Sharon Backus</b>     | <b>Talon Bonanno</b>       |
| <b>Julie Bouse</b>       | <b>Eduardo Bravo</b>       |
| <b>Marlys Burke</b>      | <b>Pat Collier</b>         |
| <b>Lauri Comly</b>       | <b>Jo Ann Coughlin</b>     |
| <b>Madeleine Crepin</b>  | <b>Noreen Davis</b>        |
| <b>Michael W. Donner</b> | <b>Susan Drumm</b>         |
| <b>Lexi Ewen</b>         | <b>Reggie Faulk</b>        |
| <b>Dorothy Feldman</b>   | <b>Paulie Flowers</b>      |
| <b>Ruben Gomez</b>       | <b>Gary Green</b>          |
| <b>J.J. Hall</b>         | <b>Stephany Hammer</b>     |
| <b>Tracy Hass</b>        | <b>Bridgette Hubbard</b>   |
| <b>Martin Jennings</b>   | <b>Michele Kinaan</b>      |
| <b>Angelita Martinez</b> | <b>Vicente Meno</b>        |
| <b>Allen D. Nelson</b>   | <b>Glen Newton</b>         |
| <b>Shirley Newton</b>    | <b>Ronnie Nichols</b>      |
| <b>Patty Nicholson</b>   | <b>John Padden</b>         |
| <b>Karen Paddock</b>     | <b>Waldi Paige</b>         |
| <b>Linda Parker</b>      | <b>Eleanor Peterson</b>    |
| <b>Gladys Reilly</b>     | <b>Christopher Revak</b>   |
| <b>Roxanne Rosales</b>   | <b>Madeline Rose</b>       |
| <b>Gerry Ryden</b>       | <b>Donna Schulte</b>       |
| <b>Tom Sekel</b>         | <b>Lee "Lucky" Shaver</b>  |
| <b>Shari Sigl</b>        | <b>Barbara Smith</b>       |
| <b>Joan Spagnolo</b>     | <b>Casey Wick</b>          |
| <b>John Wick</b>         |                            |


*Please pray for the souls of those who have died:*

**Danielle Dulgerian**                      **Larry Hulse**  
**Phuc Nguyen**

—For these and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**VOCATIONS CROSS**

Sunday, December 15th at the 9:30am Mass, **Dolly Winterton** will take home the Vocations Cross to pray daily for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Religious Life.



**Parish Announcements**

**DID YOU KNOW—**

A Jesse Tree is a decorative tree used during Advent to retell the stories of the Bible that led to Jesus's birth. The tree is purposely barren to help us reflect on the stark contrast between the dark cold winter season and the light and warmth that comes with the birth of Jesus.



Thank you to the families who helped decorate our Jesse Tree during the Advent social last Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. It's now in the vestibule and all are encouraged to take a closer look. "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." Isaiah 11:1

**LITURGY CORNER—**

**Why is there a pink candle amid the purple ones?**

The pink or rose-colored candle, which is first lit on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, serves as a mid-point break from the austere to rejoicing in the nearness of Jesus, the Divine Savior. *Gaudete* is a Latin word meaning "Rejoice" traditionally taken from Philippians 4:4,5: *Gaudete in Domino semper*, meaning "rejoice in the Lord always."

Also, on Gaudete Sunday, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear **rose vestments**. The change in color provides worshippers with encouragement to continue their spiritual preparation, especially prayer and fasting for Christmas.

**Come Join the Divine Savior Music Ministry**

**Children's Choir, Grades 2-8.**  
Rehearsals Mondays at 5:30pm.

**4:30 Saturday, contemporary.**  
Rehearsals Tuesdays at 6pm.

**7:45/9:30 Sunday, SATB choir.**  
Rehearsals Tuesdays at 7pm.

**11:30 Sunday, contemporary.**  
Rehearsals Mondays at 7:00pm.

contact: Elaine Bauer  
[elaine@divinesavior.com](mailto:elaine@divinesavior.com)  
559-307-4216



**Parish Announcements**

**Seeking Baby Jesus....really, we are!**

Each year we look for young families that have a newborn to play Baby Jesus during our Christmas Celebrations. Of course, Mom and Dad get to participate as Mary and Joseph, too! Grandparents, are your grandbabies visiting for Christmas? If your family has a new baby, and you will be celebrating with us on **December 25th at the 10:00am Mass**, please contact Elaine Bauer, Director of Liturgy, at 559-307-4216 or email [elaine@divinesavior.com](mailto:elaine@divinesavior.com). (baby boys OR girls qualify!)



**Our Christmas Basket Ministry needs "Santa's Helpers" to host a successful distribution event!** This is a very vigorous and hands-on ministry with lots of action and moving parts happening on Saturday, December 21st during two shifts, morning or afternoon. Please email [Caroline@divinesavior.com](mailto:Caroline@divinesavior.com) to volunteer. Give the gifts of time and service as you await the coming of the Savior!

**CANNED FOOD DRIVE— THIS WEEKEND**

We are collecting non-perishable food to supplement our Christmas Basket Ministry and St. Vincent de Paul Society. These donated items will help those in need to have enough food especially during the schools' winter break period. Please place canned and non-perishable food into the large red box in the vestibule on **December 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Ideas:** canned soups/vegetables/fruits, ramen, instant rice/mashed potatoes, mac-n-cheese, pasta noodles and sauces, juice boxes, applesauce, cereals, oatmeal, granola bars, crackers.



Thank you for your generosity!

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE** Sales will take place **THIS WEEKEND, December 14th & 15th** at each Mass in the Vestibule.

Be sure and buy fair trade coffee at the current price for yourself and all your friends **THIS WEEKEND!** We have been able to keep the price of coffee at \$8.50 for about 5 years. In January the price per 12 oz. bag will go up to \$9.25 to cover the rising cost of coffee and shipping.



**Parish Announcements**

**Year over Year Plate Collection Performance**

	Week # 23	YTD thru Week # 23
<b>2019-2020 Year</b>	\$ 19,871	\$ 398,102
<b>2018-2019 Year</b>	\$ 17,386	\$ 378,208
<b>Bldg. Fund</b>	\$ 8,757	
<b>Retirement for</b>	\$ 6,117	

**FREE MONEY FOR DIVINE SAVIOR!!!**

Every time you make a purchase on Amazon you can make a donation to Divine Savior. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3954550> or click on the link at [divinesavior.com](http://divinesavior.com). Sign up today and help support your parish family.

**Save the Date— The 16th Annual Walk for Life!**

When: January 25, 2020!

Where: San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza!

Why: For the littlest among us!

<http://www.WalkforLifeWC.com>

**Ministry Opportunities**

**CENTERING PRAYER**

Centering prayer is a method of prayer that helps develop a relationship with God by being still and listening. A Centering Prayer group meets at Divine Savior on the **third Tuesday of the month**. The group meets at 9:15am in the St. Cecilia Room. If you'd like to participate in this form of prayer, join us on **December 17th**. Questions? Call Joyce at 916-990-0546.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

If you have the talent to knit or crochet, please consider joining our prayer shawl ministry. We meet twice a month (**1st and 3rd Thursdays, 1-3pm**) in the Library. Please contact Nancy Begley at 916-705-5464 for more information.

If you know someone in need of loving comfort who could benefit from a prayer shawl, please contact the parish office.



**Parish Announcements**

**FLU SEASON UPDATE**

Due to an early onset of flu season Bishop Soto has recommended that we not share the Communion Cup at Mass.

We are not suspending the use of the Cup at this time and leave it up to your discretion.

The fullness of the Sacrament of Eucharist is present in the Precious Body and the Precious Blood of Christ whether or not both species are consumed.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and other Holy Days does not apply to those who are sick. If you are sick, stay home and take care of yourself and pray for all those who are sick.

**Adult Faith Formation News**

**Catholics Returning Home  
An Open Door for Returning Catholics**

Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to church anymore?

Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church?

Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter the reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.

Please join us for six informal sessions beginning Thursday, January 16th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The sessions will include sharing, and updates on the Church today. For additional information, contact Kathleen Hass at 916-989-7400 or [kathleen@divinesavior.com](mailto:kathleen@divinesavior.com)

**HOW ARE YOU GETTING INTO SHAPE IN THE NEW YEAR? HAVE YOU INCLUDED FAITH FORMATION?**

What are your goals for the New Year? We talk about getting into shape, but how about becoming more knowledgeable of your faith? Divine Savior is going to kick off a 6-week series of small faith groups in February. **What topics would you like to hear about?** Please send your ideas to [sharon@divinesavior.com](mailto:sharon@divinesavior.com). I have a list of suggested books and YouTube sites that can be emailed to you. You are welcome to do your own independent study or join a group with similar interests. Consider facilitating your own group by calling Sharon Laitinen, 916-989-7400.