

Dear People of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors:

Our Gospel today quotes a sentence from our first reading from the prophet Isaiah: "the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Matthew adds the words, "which means, God is with us." Some would say that Isaiah accurately predicted the birth of Jesus, but this is not the case. Isaiah is writing to a people who have been banished from their homeland and are not free to practice their faith. They are in this horrible situation because their lives had become depraved and immoral and, as usually happens in such circumstances, the society crumbles, in this case by being overcome by a hostile country. Isaiah is trying to reinvigorate the faithful people to believe that God will rescue them from their oppression. We, too, are invited to believe that God will lead us out of what keeps us from following God's way more faithfully.

The reference to a virgin bearing a son is Isaiah's creative way of saying that God has wonderful ways to bring hope, joy and goodness out of disaster and defeat. When Matthew quotes the statement from Isaiah by stating that the birth of Jesus fulfills Isaiah's statement, he means that there is a distinct continuity throughout the history of God's saving actions. We are blessed by the same Spirit by which Jesus was conceived to realize how our lives are also part of the history of God's saving action. Ahaz in our first reading was invited to do his part in the development of this healing history, but for some silly reason he refused, most likely because he thought he had better ideas.

Today, instead of asking for a sign, we will benefit from looking for the many signs by which we can realize ever more fully how Jesus is truly present. Like Joseph, we typically have fears about many things, some of which surface because of real threats to our person or name. We also fear that we might botch up what God wants us to do in order to do our part in making Jesus more fully known in the way that we speak and act. Matthew began today's Gospel passage with the words "this is how the birth of Jesus came about." How do you and I bring about a rebirth of Jesus in today's world so that all the people we interact with will come to know about Him and relate with Him more intimately? It begins with following the example of Joseph who allowed his fears to be transformed into the action that had him doing his part in bringing about the birth of Jesus.

Joseph no doubt was concerned about what other people would think of him for his decision to trust God and do what God had asked of him. How much are we restrained by a similar thought process as we go about sharing with others what believing in Jesus means to us? Are we concerned about how people might react to us when we insist that people be treated with dignity and honor? How readily do we risk inviting others to consider other ways of thinking instead of the rigid, dug-in stances some people take? Let us open ourselves in these final days of Advent to be blessed with what we need in order to let the light of love revealed in Jesus' birth shine brightly through our words and actions.

~Fr. Roman

**Schedule for the week of  
December 23rd—December 27th**

<b>Monday-December 23rd</b>		
6:00pm	Rosary Group	Church
<b>Tuesday-December 24th ***Office Closed***</b>		
8:30am	Daily Mass	Church
<b>Wednesday-December 25th ***Office Closed***</b>		
<b>Thursday-December 26th</b>		
9:00am	Divine Mercy Chaplet	Church
6:00pm	Community Meal	Halls
<b>Friday-December 27th</b>		
7:00am	Men's Prayer Group	M 4
9:15am	Tai Chi	Vestibule

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**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

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
Holy Day of Obligation**

**December 31, 2018**

6:30pm-Vigil Mass

**January 1, 2019**

10:00am-Mass



**PRIEST AWAY FROM THE PARISH**

On Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> Fr. Marcel will leave for vacation in Nigeria and preside for a couple of family weddings. He will return to the parish on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Christmas Blessings*

The church office will be closed on  
Tuesday, December 24th  
Christmas Eve and  
Wednesday, December 25th  
Christmas Day.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

December 21st	4:30pm	Mary Lou Marquez (D) 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
December 23rd	8:30am	Wade & Kelly Stewart
December 24th	8:30am	
	4:00pm	Delfin Pelagio David Collier (D)
	6:30pm	Delfin Pelagio Robert Mueller (D)
	10:00pm	Kathleen Koregelos James Bortoletto (D)
December 25th	10:00am	Ardene Grace Ibanez (D) Joseph Soares (D)
December 26th	8:30am	
December 27th	8:30am	Rafael & Ana Nunez (D) Julio Pichardo (D)
December 28th	8:30am	Ed Andert (D) Laura Swift (D)
	4:30pm	Catalina Montenegro (D) Jacqueline Lerma (D)
December 29th	7:45am	Catherine Valerio (D)
	9:30am	Phuc Nguyen (D)
	11:30am	
	5:30pm	

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

**Wednesday: Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

**Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

**Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

**Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**VOCATIONS CROSS**

Sunday, December 22nd at the 7:45am Mass, **Marie & Jack Moore** will take home the Vocations Cross to pray daily for the next two weeks for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Religious Life.

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>Bud Green</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:*

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Laura Asay</b>         | <b>Tony Daquipa</b> |
| <b>Danielle Dulgerian</b> | <b>Phuc Nguyen</b>  |

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

**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, Erik Hartsell, Jeremy Herbert, Susan Hocker, Yutaro Hosaka, Ben Isla, Tyler Kenobbie, William Krantz, Tyler Krantz, 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.**

**Parish Announcements**

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS DAY AND SEASON TO ALL**

Writing on behalf of our Parish Pastoral Council and our Parish Staff, I want to wish everyone the best gifts of this Christmas Season, lifelong joy and enduring peace.

We live in a unique time in history when we have many opportunities to use our time, talent, and treasure to cooperate with God in building the community of faith that Jesus began. I pray many blessings to all who are involved in one or more of the various ministries active in our parish.

In order to be the community the Holy Spirit calls us to be, please invite those who have stopped coming to pray at Divine Savior to come back home for Christmas; we need all the energy and enthusiasm to accomplish as much as possible in praise of our all-generous God. I realize that we all are very busy about many important factors, but I hope that more people can join together for the community prayer of the Mass so that we can develop connections that give all of us a greater sense of belonging and fulfillment that celebrating the Mass together provides.

With every wish for a holy and love-enriching Christmas wherever we might worship this Christmas Eve and Day, I pray for any and all blessings that we desire at this time of the year.

Fr. Roman Mueller, S.D.S.



We all have unique gifts and talents, and as we head into the Christmas season, it seems an appropriate time to recognize our parish family, who has such a huge participation in our various parish ministries. Since we are such a vibrant community, we still need more help.

Each of us has a role to play in our Divine Savior family, and if you have not yet discerned yours, we welcome you to consider one of our Liturgical Ministries, including Choir Member, Altar Server, Tech Booth Operator, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Altar Server, Usher, Greeter, Minister of Hospitality, Environment Team, Back End Tech prep, or any of our many, many service oriented ministries. Our children need more leaders in faith formation as well.



If being here today is all you are able to provide at this time, **please know that your presence is an invaluable gift.**

**Parish Announcements**

**DID YOU KNOW—**

**SmarTRide will be available their regular hours 6am—9pm on Christmas Eve.** If you are looking for a way to come to Mass on Christmas Eve consider SmarTRide. SmarTRide will NOT be available on Christmas Day. To schedule a ride call 916-556-0100 or go online to [ondemand.sacr.com](http://ondemand.sacr.com). Rides need to be scheduled the day of and you should call at least two hours before you need to be picked up. SmarTRide service currently includes Orangevale, Citrus Heights and parts of Fair Oaks. The service area will increase to include Folsom and Carmichael in January.



**LITURGY CORNER—**

I know it's still Advent, but wait...this Sunday seems a little different than the other three...

Good observation!

The first three Sundays of Advent focus on the second coming of Christ to humankind, while today, the fourth Sunday, focuses on the events in the lives of Mary and Joseph that led directly to the birth of Jesus.

Each week, we have been bringing forward items referred to in our first readings, from the prophet Isaiah.

The first week, a sword, left in the manger, as the prophet reminds us that one day, our swords will be beaten into plowshares.

The second week all the animals came together, as a reminder that one sacred day, we will live together in peace, led by the children (Our children are living out this prophecy right now!)

The third week we were reminded that when Christ comes again, the desert lands will burst forth into blooms and streams, the lame will leap, the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the dead will live again (Pay attention to the song Mary did You Know...It directly refers to this prophecy).

This fourth week Isaiah prophecies about the birth of Christ, and is complemented by the Gospel Reading.

**EXCITING STUFF, Advent!!!**



**Parish Announcements**

**Year over Year Plate Collection Performance**

	Week # 24	YTD thru Week # 24
<b>2019-2020 Year</b>	\$ 14,970	\$ 413,072
<b>2018-2019 Year</b>	\$ 16,146	\$ 394,832

**RECYCLING SUNDAY**



**Where:** back parking lot near the dumpster

**When:** Sunday, Dec. 29th, after all morning Masses.

**What:** ONLY CA CRV Aluminum, Glass and Plastic water bottles, beverage containers and cans. **We no longer accept any number 1 plastic containers.**

**Why:** Salvatorian Haiti Project

**Ministry Opportunities**

**Exciting News! Building Bridges, LGBTQ+, allies, friends and family group has become an ongoing ministry at Divine Savior.**

At our parish - all are welcome, all are worthy, all are loved.

No asterisks, no exceptions - just as Jesus would do.

Whether you are 16 or 96

Come, join us and bring a friend.

We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7pm

Call or text Elaine at 559-307-4216 or

Email [elaine@divinesavior.com](mailto:elaine@divinesavior.com) for more information

**MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND**

This ministry, whose mission it is to take the Eucharist to the homebound, would like to wish each and every one of you a very happy and peace-filled Christmas. We welcome new people and we invite you to come to our next meeting on Saturday, January 25, from 9:15 to 11:00 a.m., and learn about us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



**Faith Formation News**

**ARE YOU THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC**



If you are thinking of becoming Catholic, there are RCIA sessions, called "Inquiry." In a warm and accepting environment, you are welcome to share your questions. If you are interested, please contact the parish office 916-989-7400 or [sharon@divinesavior.com](mailto:sharon@divinesavior.com)

**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)



**CFF, EDGE and LifeTeen wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.** Children's faith formation sessions will resume on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> and EDGE & LifeTeen will resume on Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup>.