

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2019

Dear Parishioners,

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse. (Isaiah 11:1)



Have you ever seen a Jesse Tree? It's an ancient Advent tradition consisting of a carving, painting, or stained-glass window—even an actual tree—that portrays the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of the Messiah. Jesus is usually at the top. Many medieval Jesse Trees also included a depiction of Jesse himself lying at the base of the tree. That's because the design comes from today's first reading: a shoot sprouting "from the stump of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1).

Jesse was the father of King David and an ancestor of Jesus, so the branches of the Jesse Tree are meant to display Jesus' rich and varied heritage. The Tree reminds us how faithful God was during the "long Advent" when his people waited for the Messiah. Each person and event represented on the tree depicts part of God's plan to save his people. Prophets like Jeremiah and Isaiah often show up. So do David, Solomon, and other kings, as well as virtuous women like Ruth, Esther, and Susanna.

Even if you don't decorate a Jesse Tree in your home, the ideas behind it can help you prepare for Christmas. During Advent, it's traditional to review stories from the Old Testament that promise the coming of the Messiah. Stories of these ancestors of Jesus illustrate God's commitment to his plan to save us. It's a commitment that stretched from the very beginning, through thousands of years, right up to Christmas Day. It's a commitment too that reaches even to the present.

Jesus' birth has brought about something new and wonderful, and the Jesse Tree illustrates it: a salvation that is far more wide-reaching than we ever could have imagined.

"Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithfulness to your promises! Thank you for making me a part of your family."

Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

Men, Mark Your Calendars

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 24, 25, and 26 2020. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, and Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM Friday. Our retreat opens at 5:45 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 12:30 PM. A **\$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.** This year's Retreat theme: **"God is doing something New In Us... Exploring paths of deepening Faith"**. For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner your parish retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214.

You may register online at: materdolorosa.org/event/mens-weekend-retreat-jan-24-26-2020

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-17, Mt 3:1-12
Monday	Gn 3:9-20, Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday	Is 40:1-11, Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31, Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Zec 2:14-17, Lk 1:26-38
Friday	Is 48:17-19, Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-11, Mt 17:9a-13
Sunday	Is 35:1-10, Ps 146:6-10, Mt 11:2-11

Mass Intentions

Saturday December 7

5:15 PM Soul of Milton Keys

Sunday December 8

8:00 AM Soul of Karen Lee

10:00 AM Intention of all Parishioners

12:15 PM Soul of Angela Dupré

Wednesday December 11

8:00 AM Soul of Paul Ward

Sunday December 15

8:00 AM Intention of Aaron & Briana Katz

10:00 AM Souls of Preston, Rosa & Dante Thompson

12:15 PM Intention of all Parishioners

Weekly Offering

November 24, 2019	December 1, 2019
\$7165.00 Tithe and Offering	\$5496.80 Tithe and Offering
3.00 Building Fund	55.00 Building Fund
20.00 "We Care"	51.00 "We Care"

The School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 11th at 6PM

Mass of Anointing

Our church community will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on **Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 11AM** here at Transfiguration. **NO 8AM MASS.** A light luncheon will follow.

AND

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7PM
at Holy Name of Jesus Church

Transfiguration Choir Christmas Concert



Sunday, December 15 at 5PM

This year's theme is:

"May the Blessing of the Baby Jesus flow to you".

The choir invites you to an evening of beautiful Christmas music, Gospel music and Songs of Christmas. Get your tickets today from a choir member...adults tickets are \$15 and \$7 for children.

Thank you

The beautiful flowers on the altar this week were donated by **Cynthia Richardson** in memory of her beloved father **MILTON KEYS**. If you would like to donate flowers, please call the rectory for more details.

Did you know?

Independent Compensation Program for Victim-Survivors of Abuse by Diocesan Clergy (ICP)

As part of our long-standing commitment to provide pastoral care and to support the healing process for victim-survivors, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, along with five other dioceses in California, is participating in the Independent Compensation Program for Victim-Survivors of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests (ICP). The ICP is administered independently of the Church by Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, widely recognized as premier dispute resolution administrators in the country. The program is accepting registrations from any person who has been sexually abused as a minor by diocesan priests of the participating dioceses, no matter when that abuse might have occurred. Funding for the program in our Archdiocese will come from self-insured reserves, monies set aside for this purpose. We pray that this new program might provide another avenue toward healing and hope.

For more information on the ICP, please visit www.californiadiocesesicp.com.

Stewardship Thought

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." MATTHEW 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Cyd Michelle Anderson, Brian Argusta, Percenia Beasley, Fr. Emile Belletty, Glenda Brown, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Katherine Clark, Agnes Cooper, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Alton Duhon, Cynthia Fortier, Teresa Franklin, Judy Felton-Gardner, Michael Frierson, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Janie Jackson, Robert Johns, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Mercedes LeBlanc, Baby Amani Leffall, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vylfred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Aliyah Patterson, Sally Price, Wiley R. Pugh, Vickie Race, Andrea Raggette, Doris Rogers, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Chris Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Sandra Sterling, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, Johnnye Washington, and Alice Williams.