



THE CHURCH OF THE  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Second Sunday of **Advent**

“A voice of one  
crying out  
in the desert:  
‘Prepare the way  
of the Lord,  
make straight  
his paths.’”

LK 3:4

**DECEMBER 9, 2018 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Mass Schedule**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:30 am  
Thursday 8:30 am  
Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 am

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 pm

San Damiano Adoration Chapel  
Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays

**Mission Statement**

The Mission of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is to proclaim and celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ. We fulfill our mission as Christian disciples by intentionally responding to God's call to grow in holiness.

4030 JACKSON STREET NE | COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN 55421 | 763-788-9062 | ICCSONLINE.ORG

# From the Pastor's Desk

## A Message of Joy

In the first reading, responsorial psalm, and second reading for Mass this weekend there is a consistent and explicit message of joy. From the Old Testament we read that “God is leading Israel in *joy* by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company” (Baruch 5:9). The very words of the responsorial psalm are, “The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with *joy*” (Psalm 126). Within the New Testament reading we hear these words from St. Paul, “I pray always with *joy* in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:4).



What could be the cause of joy for the ancient Israelites in the prophetic message or for the Psalmist or for the Apostle to the Gentiles? Ultimately it is not a “what” that brought about their true and lasting joy but rather a “who.” More specifically, it was the living and loving and merciful God who was the source of joy. This is a timeless truth that applies to those living in a far off land some three thousand years ago as well as for those of us living in the present age in beautiful Minnesota. At the Last Supper Jesus said to his disciples, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete” (John 15:11).

This profound statement leads us to wonder how exactly can we experience the joy of the Lord? Joy in and of itself is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and is more than just an emotional state of happiness. It is the consequence of Divine Love at work within our lives. Even when trials and tribulations come our way, when sickness and sorrow weigh us down, it is the love of God that can fill our hearts with joy to press onward. Let that be our strength throughout the Advent Season as we prepare for the joys of Christmas.

May the Lord bless you abundantly,

Fr. James

**“The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.”**

(Ps 126)

# This Week's Readings and Observances

## Sunday, December 9, *Second Sunday of Advent*

Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

## Monday, December 10

Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

## Tuesday, December 11, *St. Damasus I, Pope*

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14

## Wednesday, December 12, *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

## Thursday, December 13, *St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

## Friday, December 14, *St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

## Saturday, December 15

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

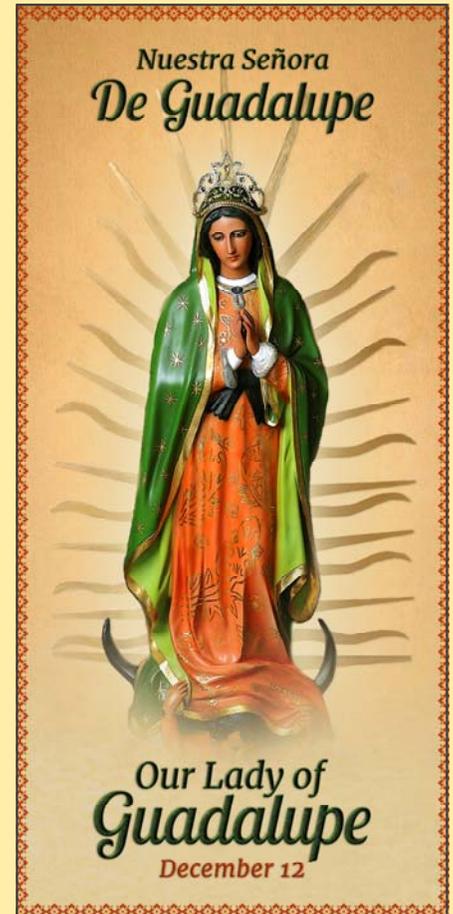
## Sunday, December 16, *Third Sunday of Advent*

Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

©Liturgical Publications Inc.

**“Mary said, ‘Behold, I am  
the handmaid of the Lord.  
May it be done to me  
according to your word.’”**

(Lk 1:38a)



## Inside this Issue

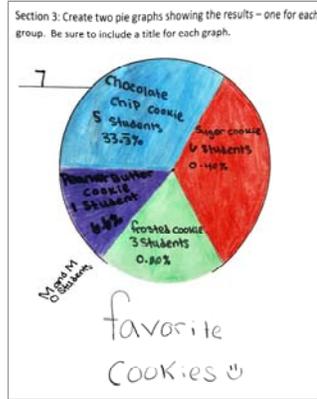
School News .....	3
Adoration .....	3
CCW .....	3
Bulletin Sponsor .....	3
Pastoral Ministry .....	4
Social Justice .....	4
Parish News .....	4
Wedding Banns .....	4
Reflections .....	5
Pray for a Priest .....	5
Weekly Calendar .....	5
Gospel Meditation .....	6
Advent Prayer .....	6
Church Directory .....	6
Collections .....	6
Our Lady of Guadalupe .....	7

# School

## School News

Seventh grade math students are learning how to develop and use graphs while considering popular questions. The grade 7 students interviewed and surveyed second grade children about their favorite foods, dogs, cookies, tennis shoes, etc. The children learned a lot about how to graph data and had lively interactions with the younger children. Pictured is the pie graph displaying the favorite cookie responses – sugar cookies are the favorite! Thank you to Mrs. Wall and Mrs.

Kulikowski for providing the classroom time for this activity!



## “Nuts About” Learning



The school teachers are very clever in how they display the seasons that we are in by decorating their classroom doors and encouraging children to create their own artwork as well.

These photos remind us to always give thanks, and that we are dedicated to, or “nuts about” learning!

# Eucharistic Adoration

*“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”*

(Luke 3:4)

Adorers prepare the way of the Lord each time they pray in Eucharistic adoration. They offer prayers of repentance along with prayers of praise and petition in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. All are invited to come and spend some time in our adoration chapel during this Advent season and make straight his path for you.

We urgently need additional adorers to cover the following hours:

- Mondays at noon, 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm
- Tuesdays at noon and 3:00 pm (partner)
- Wednesdays at noon, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm (partner), and 7:00 pm
- Thursdays at 11:00 am

We are also looking for additional substitute adorers.

If you would like information about adoration please call Sandy at 763-789-3246 or Fran at 763-788-0924.



# Council of Catholic Women

## The Nut Sale

Nuts are nutritious, delicious and make great Christmas gifts. Make your selection early. Place an order this weekend to be sure you’ll have your favorites. Next weekend will be our last sale days and our selection may be limited. All orders need to be placed by December 16 for pick-up on the weekend of December 22/23. For more information contact Kathy at 651-633-6577.

## Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale Is Here!

As promised the “Annual Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale” is this weekend! Please stop down to Fellowship Hall after all Masses to pick up some homemade baked goods, freshly packaged nuts, and browse the boutique and craft tables. *Freshly baked caramel rolls are available for purchase on Sunday morning.*

**“I am confident of this,  
that the one who began a good work  
in you will continue to complete it  
until the day of Christ Jesus.”**

(Phil 1:6)

# Bulletin Sponsor

## Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

### Village Orthodontics

850 County Road D West • New Brighton

612-788-9666 • [Discoverbraces.com](http://Discoverbraces.com)

This advertiser, and the others on the back of the bulletin, make this bulletin possible, please support them when you can.

*‘tis the season...*

**Join us at Immaculate Conception School  
for our Christmas Concerts!**

*“God chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.” —John 15:16*

## Christmas Concerts

### Immaculate Conception School Auditorium

**Grades 4 - 8 and Band & Chorus**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2018, 7:00 pm**

**Grades K - 3**  
**Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 7:00 pm**

*Enjoy an evening of both sacred and secular Christmas classics performed by Immaculate Conception students under the direction of Katherine Wall, Tucker Moore and Phil Smithley. Accompanist, Dr. Ray Bannon.*

**Admission is free—all are welcome!**

## Pastoral Ministry

### Fellowship

Join us this Sunday for fellowship and the CCW Boutique and Bake Sale. Enjoy donuts, oatmeal and beverages in Fellowship Hall (located in the lower level of the church) after the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses. Hosted by the CCW.

### Anointing Mass at Crest View

Join us on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 3:15 pm for an Anointing Mass at Crest View Senior Community, 4444 Reservoir Boulevard (Rev. James Peterson will preside). All are welcome.

Individual Anointing of the Sick is available by request—call the Parish Office at 763-788-9062 x 212.

### Pastoral Ministry Visitors Christmas Pot Luck

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All who volunteer or have volunteered are welcome. Our retirees need not bring anything but themselves. Please call Vicki if you need transportation 763-788-9062 x 212.



### In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.

To add a name to the weekend Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212. For private prayer call Larene at 763-789-4246.

### Pray For Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially *David Fuhrmann*, *Genevieve "Gen" Peltier* and all who have died from war. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

### Pray For All the Sick—Especially:

Jack Anderson	Steven Lauinger	Irene Spensley
Edward Ardito	Tom Leight Jr.	Bruce Plochocki
Paul Bona	Roger Mack	Elaine Thunstrom
Michelle Cadieux	Johnnie Meyering	Lois Weyers
Nichole Castonguay	Janet Mihalik	Germaine Wolsfeld
Mary Fredenburg	Izzy Miller	<i>and all those on</i>
Gerald Krawiecki	Shawn Moulzolf	<i>our prayer chain</i>
Joan Landberg	Greg Sery	

If your name was removed and you would like to continue to be on the prayer list please call 763-788-9062 x 212.

### Monthly Prayer Intention

Please join the Intercessory Prayer Ministry in praying for this month's prayer intentions:

*That the Holy Spirit will continue to minister to and pour out His grace on all Confirmation candidates.*

## Social Justice

### Coins for Social Justice

*Small Change Can Do a World of Good!*

Thank you to all who contribute to "Coins". We collected \$210.29 in November. Thank you for your generosity!



## Parish News

### Share the Gift of Your Smile—Be a Greeter!

Greeters are needed for the upcoming Christmas and New Year Masses. If you are interested in greeting at any of these liturgies, sign up sheets are available in the Lending Library. Thank you.

### Support the Retirement Fund for Religious

**Aging religious need your help.** Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.



## The Road to Discipleship

### Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

I remember growing up in Catholic school and having to make construction paper Advent wreaths every single year! The little yellow flames would be cut out and held until each new candle was lit. Great idea, except for the fact that the chance you could find the flames greatly diminished as each week passed. I will bet over 50% of the wreaths never received a 4th flame! Of course by then, most kids in elementary school had moved on to Christmas. Christmas was not a day. It was an entire experience of vacation from school. You may or may not have an Advent wreath in your home or office, but those flames are rather insignificant to the flame that should be burning in our hearts during this season. How are you finding ways to light your fire? How are you preparing the way for Christ to come into your life and the lives of those around you in a more profound way?

The ritual of an Advent wreath is a good idea for anyone. But don't think that your preparations are done simply because you have one. You are called to be a flame to others during this season, reminding them of why we celebrate this time at all. Each person is a candle to be lit, and you have the gifts, given to you by God, to light them. At Christmas, you want God to look at you and see all the light generated by those He lit through you. Now is the time. Don't wait until Advent is almost over. You might not be able to find your own flames if you wait too long.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



# Reflections

## Word of Life

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother. Not sure how to help or what to say?” Learn ten tips at [www.usccb.org/support-her](http://www.usccb.org/support-her).”

—10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting, USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

## Why Do We Do That?

### Catholic Traditions Explained

**Question:** *I’ve heard that Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of the Americas. What’s her story?*

**Answer:** In December of 1531, the native Mexican peasant Juan Diego was walking to a catechism class. A woman’s voice called his name. He climbed the nearby hill to see a woman who “shone like the sun.” She asked that he petition the bishop for a church to be built on the spot, Tepeyac Hill. Twice the bishop denied Juan Diego, thinking him to be a fraud. Mary appeared to Juan Diego again. He asked her for a sign. There—in the heart of winter—he found a bed of rare Castilian roses, a variety that would not be native to Mexico but that the Spanish bishop would surely recognize. Juan Diego gathered the flowers in his tunic.

When he reached the bishop, he dropped the corners of his tunic so the roses fell to the ground. The bishop was transfixed. There on Juan Diego’s tunic was an image of a woman robed with the stars, the moon under her feet, and the sun behind her. It was Mary! Juan Diego’s tunic and the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is preserved and still on display at the church Mary asked for almost 500 years ago. St. John Paul II declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the patroness of all of North, Central, and South America.

## Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

Making straight the path of Christ is not only the vocation of John the Baptist but of every baptized believer. God desires to lead us with His mercy and justice. These are essentials in God’s kingdom and some of the gifts Christ’s future coming will bring. But our world’s systems do not place emphasis on these values. Wanting greater profits, downsizing companies in order to reduce expenses, using others for personal or corporate gain, and valuing institutions over people are just a few of the “values” we encounter every day. We are called to straighten the path to Christ. In a world that places value on things that are counter to our call, how do we respond? We need to learn to discern what is of real value and then take the risk of bringing it into the marketplace.

# Pray for a Priest

## Will You Pray for a Priest Each Day?

Prayer Suggestion: *Dear Jesus, hear my prayer on behalf of your priest, Father [N]. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life. Be his comfort, his joy, and his strength. Amen.*

- December 9 - Rev. Kevin McDonough
- December 10 - Rev. Thomas McDonough
- December 11 - Rev. Edward McGrath
- December 12 - Rev. Thomas McKenzie
- December 13 - Very Rev. Steven McMichael, OFM, Conv.
- December 14 - Rev. Benny Mekkatt Varghese, CFIC
- December 15 - Rev. Philip Merdinger, BH

# Weekly Calendar

## Sunday, December 9

- Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners \_\_\_\_\_ 8:00 am
- Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
- CCW Boutique & Bake Sale, Nut Sale \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Mass, Intention, +Randal Wilcox \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 am
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 am

## Monday, December 10

- Eusebius “Sebe” Heintz Funeral Mass \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 am
- Visitation one hour prior to Mass \_\_\_\_\_
- St. Jude’s Circle \_\_\_\_\_ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- RCIC I \_\_\_\_\_ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- 4th Degree KC Mass & Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Boy Scouts \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

## Tuesday, December 11

- Mass, Intentions, +Doris Mancino, \_\_\_\_\_ 7:30 am
- Cornelio Hernandez & Javier \_\_\_\_\_
- Pastoral Ministry Visitors \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- School Advisory Council \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Charismatic Prayer Group \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

## Wednesday, December 12

- Mass \_\_\_\_\_ 7:30 am
- Intention, +John, Hedwig & Raymond Krokus \_\_\_\_\_
- Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 pm
- Discipleship Committee \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Faith Formation, Gr. 7 - 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- Intramurals \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- Confirmation I, Grade 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- Parish Choir Rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

## Thursday, December 13

- Mass (School) \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 am
- Intention, +Richard & Clarence Emon \_\_\_\_\_
- Communion Service, Crest View on 42nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3:15 pm
- Bell Choir Rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- RCIA \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- ICS Concert Gr. 4-8, Band/Chorus \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

## Friday, December 14

- Mass \_\_\_\_\_ 7:30 am
- Intentions, +Chuck Bernhagen, +Mary Ann Taylor \_\_\_\_\_
- Our Brothers Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Formation \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

## Saturday, December 15

- Saturday Morning Club \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 am - 10:30 am
- Reconciliation \_\_\_\_\_ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- Mass, Intention, +Bonnie Crema \_\_\_\_\_ 5:00 pm
- Nut Sale \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

## Sunday, December 16

- Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners \_\_\_\_\_ 8:00 am
- Nut Sale \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 am - 11:30 pm
- Parish Pancake Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 am - 11:45 pm
- Mass, (Rite of Acceptance) \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 am
- Intention, +Cliff Shedlov \_\_\_\_\_
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 am
- +Deceased \_\_\_\_\_



# Gospel Meditation

## Second Sunday of Advent

“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of...” Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday’s Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn’t a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It’s not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God’s presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus’ preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” John’s call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today’s Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas—occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today!

This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to “be filled” by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be “made low”? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to “be made straight and...made smooth.” Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!



©Liturgical Publications Inc.

# Church Directory

Emergency (Death or Anointing) ..... 763-788-9062 (#9)

## PARISH

- Parish Office ..... 763-788-9062  
(Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)
- Parish Fax ..... 763-788-0202
- Reception Desk**.....x 201
- Parochial Administrator, Fr. James Peterson** .....x 215
- Accounting Specialist, Julie Mack** .....x 204
- Director of Advancement and Discipleship,**  
*Mary Beth Pfeifer* .....x 203
- Deacon, Larry Palkert**
- Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashmore** .....x 205
- Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser** .....x 227
- Director of Marketing, Cathleen Cary** .....x 213
- Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bannon** .....x 214
- Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson** .....x 218
- Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille** .....x 212
- Special Event Coordinator, Jami Bridgeman**.....x 221
- Wedding Coordinator, Barb Hartwick**.....x 204
- FAITH FORMATION**
- Director of Faith Formation, Mary Nawrocki** .....x 210
- Administrative Assistant, Mary Scott**.....x 208

## SCHOOL

- School Office ..... 763-788-9065
- School Fax ..... 763-788-9066
- Principal, Jane Bona** ([jbona@immac-church.org](mailto:jbona@immac-church.org)) .....x 220
- Administrative Assistant, Sherri Macko** .....x 219

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

- |                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Dave Kellner</i>                 | <i>Kathy Johnson</i> |
| <i>Charles Karanja</i>              | <i>Stacy McVary</i>  |
| <i>Marcus Paulson</i>               | <i>Sandy Sichak</i>  |
| <i>Jane Bona</i> (School Principal) |                      |
| <i>Steve Smith</i> (Parish Trustee) |                      |

Copies of the Parish Council meeting minutes are available in the pamphlet racks at the entrances to the church.

## LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

Low gluten hosts (.002 gluten) are available. Come to the Sacristy before Mass to request one.

# Collections

## Week 21—December 1-2, 2018

Our weekly financial contributions will not publically available on our website. If you would like this information, please call The parish office at 763-788-9062. Thank you.

*Prayer for* **ADVENT**

Dear God, as an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son’s nativity, remind us always of the reason for our joy. As the purple of the candles stand for both penance and atonement for sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs, and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world. But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and expectation, give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at this birth. Amen.

The Immaculate Conception Church  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Council invites you to the



# Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Wednesday,  
December 12, 2018

Join us for...

**Mass at 6:00 pm** (Bilingual)

Followed by a

**Traditional Latino Dinner**

in Fellowship Hall

**All Are Welcome!**