

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent



Readings for December 13, 2020

1st Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
2nd 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

Mass Intentions - December 6-12, 2020

10:00 am: + Rolando & Natalia Cabutotan
+ Fidel Machuca
Thanksgiving – Rodolfo Basilio
12:00 pm: + Souls in Purgatory
+ Alberto & Corinne Jimenez
4:00 pm: + Fidel Machuca
+ Ann & Duke Rawlins

Monday

+ Bonnie Blevins & + Ter Formoso

Tuesday

Thanksgiving – Purita Refuerzo & + Rachael Rodrigues

Wednesday

Special Intention & + Douglas McGirr

Thursday

+ Souls in Purgatory & + Aurora & + Rafael Bautista,
& +Miguel Orejel

Friday

+ Cipriana Agatep & + Alfred Rapa

Saturday

8:30 am: + Juan & Marciana Lao
4:00 pm: + Charles & Dorene Ravera

SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 5 & 6 – Diocesan Assessment

The fee the Diocese charges each parish for managerial support.

December 12 & 13 – Retirement for Religious

During the early and mid-twentieth centuries, the Catholic Church in the United States experienced a surge in vocations to religious life, with numbers peaking in the mid-1960s. Care for elderly members was provided largely by younger ones. Over time, however, the number of vocations decreased while lifespans increased. The result is far fewer younger members available to support the retirement and care needs of senior members. Your contributions help with the retirement expenses of religious eldercare.

... O Come O Come. Emanuel
And ransom captive Israel.....



MASS CHANGES: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Due to recent spikes in Covid cases, San Joaquin County has been placed in the purple tier. That means that once again we must make changes to our Mass Schedule.

ALL ST. LUKE WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE OUTSIDE in front of the church (weather permitting).

Masses *this weekend remain at the same time as the past few weeks. Please bring your own chair.*

PLEASE NOTE OTHER UPCOMING CHANGES...

Due to dropping temperatures **the Saturday and Sunday evening masses will move up to 4 PM.** The first **Sunday morning mass will be celebrated at 10 AM.** The Spanish Mass will continue to be offered at Noon.

Reservations will NOT be required.

Please remember that if you have a fever or any signs of the virus, or have been in recent contact with someone who has COVID 19 you must remain at home!

Please bring your own chair. *The benches are reserved for elderly or disabled parishioners who find it difficult to carry a chair in from their car.*

Also, at this time there are NO indoor OR outdoor WEEKDAY morning masses. Our priests will livestream Mass at 8:30 AM on our website as well as our Facebook page.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST DAY

... is Saturday, December 12. Mañanitas will be sung at 8:00 am. Mass with a mariachi band will follow at 8:30 am. All are welcome to attend. Mass is outdoors. Bring a mask, folding chair, and dress warmly.





A BIG THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who donated to the Food for Families collections during the month of November. Thanks also to our great Knights who collected food and delivered it all to the Catholic Charities Food Bank. The families you have helped throughout this weirdest of years truly appreciate your kindness, compassion, and generosity.

BISHOP’S MINISTRY APPEAL (BMA) - 2020

As we approach the end of this year, St. Luke is still short on the amount of money we must pay to the Diocese to support programs administered at the Diocesan level. This year has been confusing and difficult to say the least. Still, the Church reaches out to those who need our help the most. Please consider making a one-time donation to help St. Luke’s meet our 2020 BMA goal for this appeal. **Checks should be made out to the Bishop’s Ministry Appeal Trust.** If you will not be at Mass please mail your check to the Diocese of Stockton, 212 N. San Joaquin St., Stockton, CA 95202. You may also contribute directly to the Diocese at their website at: www.stocktondiocese.org. Please be sure to **designate St. Luke Church as your home parish so all contributions from our parishioners will be credited against our goal. Anything we collect over our goal will be returned to the parish.**



CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST

Remember to add St. Luke Church to your gift list this Christmas! Gifts to your parish may be tax-deductible. We appreciate the generosity of our members at this difficult time. For your convenience, we even have Online Giving, a safe and secure way for you to contribute via the web. Funds are transferred directly from your account to St. Luke’s, and when you login, you’ll be able to view a report of your transactions that shows your total tax-deductible contributions.



2021 CATHOLIC CALENDARS AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE

Catholic calendars for 2021 are now available in the parish office. St. Luke is asking for a donation of \$3 per calendar to cover the cost of the calendars and printing. The safety of our parishioners and office staff is our top priority, so if possible, please bring exact change – it will cut down on the number of times the calendars, receipts, and money are passed back and forth. Catholic calendars give you information you won’t get on any other Christian calendar, so these make great stocking stuffers for children who may be away at school, shut-ins, and ourselves – we all may need a reminder now and then about holy days and the feast days of saints! We are unsure if the calendars will be sold after masses, so stop by the office to get yours soon.



Prayer for the Child in the Womb



Lord Jesus, you are the source and lover of life. Reawaken in us respect for every human life. Help us to see in each child the marvelous work of our Creator. Open our hearts to welcome every child as a unique and

wonderful gift.

Guide the work of doctors, nurses and midwives. May the life of a mother and her baby in the womb be equally cherished and respected.

Help those who make our laws to uphold the uniqueness and sacredness of every human life, from the first moment of conception to natural death.

Give elected officials and citizens alike the wisdom and generosity to build a society that cares for all. Together with Mary, your Mother, in whose womb you took on our human nature, help us to choose life in every decision we make.

We ask this in the joyful hope of eternal life with you, and in the communion of the Blessed Trinity. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

St. John the Baptist, pray for us.

St. Luke, physician, pray for us.

REFLECTION ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Last Sunday, we lit the first purple candle. This candle is typically called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.

This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On this the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing Christ’s humble manger birth.

REFLECTION ON TODAY’S READINGS – From ‘My Catholic Life.com’



On this, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are given the person of St. John the Baptist to ponder. What a gift he is! Jesus Himself stated that “among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist” ([Matthew 11:11](#)). What a compliment!

What is it that made John so great?

We can point to two things in particular. The first has to do with his calling and the second has to do with his virtue.

First of all, John was great because he was the transition from the Old Testament Prophets to the New Testament. He was the bridge that prepared for the new life to come. His unique mission makes him truly great.

But John was great not only because of his unique calling, he was also great because of the **virtue** he had in his life. And it is this gift that is worth pondering for our own inspiration more than any other.

The particular virtue that John had was that of humility. He saw himself as nothing other than a “voice of one crying out in the desert.” And the Word he spoke was Jesus.

John acknowledged that he was not even worthy to stoop down and untie the sandal straps of Jesus ([Mark 1:7](#)). He was praised by many and followed by many and yet he continuously said of Jesus that “He must increase and I must decrease” ([John 3:30](#)). John was not in it for praise and honor; rather, his mission was to point everyone to the Savior of the world. He could have sought the honor and praise of many and he would have certainly received it. They may have even made him king. But John was more than willing to fulfill his mission and then submit himself to the cruel sword of his executioner. His humility was such that he was focused only on Jesus and desired only to point to Him.

Reflect, today, upon this humility in your own life. Do you tend to point to yourself or to Christ? Do you seek the praise of others or do you humbly point all praise and glory to God? Humility is the path that St. John the Baptist took and it’s the path we must strive for each and every day.

Lord, thank You for the gift of St. John the Baptist. May his witness of humility inspire me in my Christian walk. Help me, Lord, to always point others to You rather than to myself. Jesus, I trust in You.