

**Third Sunday of Advent
Tercer Domingo de Adviento
December/Diciembre 16, 2018**

Mass Intentions

Intenciones de la Misa

Sunday/Domingo 12/16	9:00am	Kevin Connolly+
	10:30am	Edward Small+
	7:00pm	Misa Pro Populo
Monday/Lunes 12/17		Maria Cresine+
Tuesday/Martes 12/18	9:00am	Darshan Sachdeva+
	8:00pm	Para la Curación y Apoyo a las Victimas de Abuso por el Clero
Wednesday/Miércoles 12/19		Ignacio & Alfonso+
Thursday/Jueves 12/20		Aniano Castro, Jr.+
Friday/Viernes 12/21		Bill O'Keefe+
Saturday/Sabado 12/22	9:00am	For the Healing and Support of all Victims of Clergy Abuse
	5:30pm	Kathy Gunn+

Prayer Requests/Solicitud de Oraciones

Isabel & Martin Lopez	Harry Sanders
Mark Bruce	Clay Van Artsdalen
Pat Hayes	Susan Motley
Maureen Holden	Toni Seeley
Gary LaFountain	Jack & Thea Dolan
Natalie LaFountain	Carson Pfoesich
Kay Gracey	Anne Calvillo
John Ridge	Chris Shimada
Pat Mottard	Julio Andrés Aquino
Don LaBash	Angela Marie Solís
Karen D'Ambrogi	Bill Gray
Ernesto Manuyag	Joseph Fox
Mario Vera	Roslyn Brown
Paul Finn	Eric Jenson
Jaime Paniagua	Jacob Dyer
Al & Cleo Konhoff	Bernie Schneider
Joan Gatley	Amie Lands
The Hermogenes Family	Haydee Blanchard
Joelle Angeli	

Finances

Last weekend/fin de la semana pasada	\$7,891.00
Last year/El año pasado	\$7,576.00

ALTAR SOCIETY BIG WRAP

We will have our big wrap on Tues, Dec. 18th at 11:00 am. Any donations of lap blankets, socks, combs, lotions and things that can be used by our friends in care homes or that are home bound would be greatly appreciated. You may drop them off at the office or with an Altar Society member.

Lunch will be served. Anyone who would like to help is welcome.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) provides a person who is not baptized with a supportive individual journey of faith. We also welcome those who have not yet received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. This may be the time for you to make your first step... for more information please call Marge 544-7272 or margebailly@att.net

PARISH ADVENT RETREAT

Celebrate Advent with us!

We want to invite you to an Advent Parish Retreat here in our Church from December 16th through December 21st. Fr. Dominic, a Dominican Priest from Oakland. will be preaching in all the Masses on the weekend of December 16th. Monday through Wednesday he will be celebrating the 9:00am Mass. At 5:30pm he will do a presentation in English and at 7:00pm he will give another one in Spanish, come let us prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

RETIRO PARROQUIAL DE ADVIENTO

Celebren con nosotros el Adviento!

Les invitamos a un retiro de Adviento que se dará aquí en nuestra Parroquia del 16 al 21 de Diciembre. El Padre Dominic, un sacerdote Dominicano de Oakland, vendrá a darnos charlas en preparacion al Nacimiento de Cristo. El celebrará todos los días la Misa de las 9:00am, despues de la Misa de las 9:00am el dará otra plática en Ingles a las 5:30pm y a las 7:00pm en Espanol. El predicará en todas las Misas del fin de semana en que el llegará con nosotros. **TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!**

FOOD DONATIONS

We continue to ask for your support with food donations, it is always a great help! Please place donations in the barrels marked Food Pantry located by the kitchen and in the office. Some suggestions are: 1 and 2 lb. bags of white rice and beans, canned soups, chili, peanut butter and jam and **ESPECIALLY NEED THICK MENS SOCKS. WE THANK YOU KINDLY FOR ANY SUPPORT YOU CAN OFFER.**

DONACIONES DE ALIMENTOS

*Seguimos pidiendo su apoyo con donaciones de comida, siempre es de gran ayuda! For favor ponga sus donaciones en los barriles marcados "Food Pantry" que están cerca de la cocina y en la oficina. Algunas sugerencias son; bolsas de 1 y 2 libras de arroz blanco, frijoles, sopas en lata, chili, mantequilla de cacahuate y mermelada y **ESPECIALMENTE NECESITAMOS CALCETINES GRUESOS DE HOMBRE. AGRADECEMOS AMABLEMENTE CUALQUIER APOYO QUE PUEDAN OFRECER.***

THE SONG OF HAPPINESS

Not all is penitence, pain, and death as we journey through this desert. Today's liturgy pauses to ring a hymn of joy. How can we not be delighted when the Son of God, who comes to save us, is near? How can we not celebrate the day in which our dream will become reality, our faults will be forgiven, and we will receive our reward? True happiness is born of the heart; it is not found in worldly things, but in the peace of our soul and in good brotherly relations where we will find joy. And one is only happy - when love is unconditional.

1. Jesus is coming, Jesus is with us. With these certainties, we live in joyful expectation, but we should also live in a productive way. Where do we find the strength to preach such a joy - especially to a world as ours, one threatened by so many problems that seem insoluble and where we are also injured by so many dramas? We need courage! This is our secret. The source of our happiness is found so High - that there is no human misery capable of clouding it. Therefore, we have a reason to be joyful.

It is urgent that we Christians give our testimony to the world through our joy. We should shout in front of all - that our faith does make us happy. Joy is contagious: it disarms us and leads us. One should say, as P. Claudel said: "My God, you have granted me that all those that see me, then have the desire to sing, as if I were measuring the time - keeping the beat in a low voice."

2. "It is always spring for a soul that is in grace" – said the saintly Curé of Ars. Where God is present, happiness flourishes - as if by enchantment. Christ has come so that our joy will be full, and so grounded - that no one would be able to snatch it away. Experience shows us, that the secret to possess true joy - is not to seek it in urgency. Many make the illusion of finding it in the superficial, mitigating factors of pleasure and yet, it ends in anguish. Pleasure remains in the senses; yet on the other hand, joy is a pure and irresistible leap of our entire being - towards the only way that satisfies all our yearnings. In this way, it is natural to believe, to pray, to help one's neighbor, and to respond to the action of grace.

3. We need to know how to listen to the Lord, who continues repeating: "Love one another, as I have loved you." How has He done this? He delivered his only robe, He shared his bread, He did not ask anyone for more than what He owed, He did not accuse those that sought his death, nor did He defend Himself of false accusations. So what should I do? Saint Augustine tells us: "Love and do what you want". The one that loves, does not ask the duration, nor how, nor why, nor much less - when. Just love! Because love acts. True love is translated into works. It is love that guides one's life and creates our happiness.

We should also ask ourselves: What should we do? This urges us to an authentic conversion, one that is not obtained without painful detachments. A nightingale knows how to sing even when it stands on a branch of thorns. May the love of Our Lord, His joy, His peace, accompany us always. May the figurines at the Bethlehem stable, the tree, the Christmas gifts, the ornaments and Christmas carols remain not as material or exterior items for each one of us, but may they become the expression of joy that we have in our soul because Christ wants to be born once more in us and wants to tell us: "I continue trusting in humanity." "I continue loving you." May God bless you, Fr. Oscar

LA CANCIÓN DE LA ALEGRÍA

No todo es penitencia, dolor y muerte cuando se recorre este desierto. La liturgia de hoy hace una pausa para entonar un himno de alegría. ¿Cómo no regocijarse cuando ya está cerca el Hijo de Dios que viene a salvarnos? ¿Cómo no celebrar el día en que se hará realidad nuestro *sueño, se perdonarán nuestras culpas y recibiremos* nuestros premios? La verdadera alegría nace del corazón; no son las cosas exteriores sino la paz del alma y la buena relación fraterna las que nos harán felices. Y sólo es feliz el que ama sin condiciones.

1. Jesús viene, Jesús está con nosotros. Con estas certezas vivimos una espera gozosa pero también productiva. ¿Dónde encontraremos fuerza para predicar la alegría a un mundo como el nuestro, amenazado por tantos problemas que parecen insolubles y herido por tantos dramas? ¿Se necesita valor! Allí está nuestro secreto. La fuente de la alegría está tan arriba que no hay miseria humana capaz de enturbiarla. Tenemos razón para estar contentos.

Es urgente que los cristianos demos testimonio al mundo con nuestra alegría. Gritar delante de todos que nuestra fe nos hace felices. La alegría es contagiosa: desarma y arrastra. Debemos decir como aquel personaje de P. Claudel: "Dios mío, tú me has concedido que todos aquellos que me ven tengan deseo de cantar, como si yo les fuera midiendo el tiempo en voz baja"

2. "Siempre es primavera para un alma que está en gracia" – Decía el Santo cura de Ars-. Donde Dios está presente la alegría florece como por encanto. Cristo ha venido para que nuestro gozo fuera pleno y tan firme que nadie pudiera arrebatárnoslo. La experiencia nos dice que el secreto para poseerla no está en buscarla afanosamente. Muchos se hacen la ilusión de encontrarla en los paliativos superficiales del placer y terminan angustiados. El placer se queda en los sentidos; en cambio la alegría es un salto puro e irresistible de todo el ser hacia el único capaz de satisfacer todos nuestros anhelos. Así resulta natural creer, orar, ayudar al prójimo, corresponder a la acción de la gracia.

3. Saber escuchar al Señor que sigue repitiendo: "*Amaos los unos a los otros como Yo os he amado*" ¿Cómo lo ha hecho Él? Entregó su única túnica, compartió su pan, no exigió a nadie más de lo debido, no acusó a los que buscaban su muerte ni se defendió de las falsas acusaciones. Y yo ¿qué tengo que hacer? San Agustín nos responde: "Ama y haz lo que quieras". El que ama no se pregunta hasta dónde, ni cómo ni por qué, ni mucho menos cuándo. ¡Ama! Y porque ama actúa. El verdadero amor se traduce en obras. Es el amor el que guía su vida y el artífice de su felicidad.

También nosotros debemos preguntarnos: ¿Qué hemos de hacer? Urge una auténtica conversión que no se consigue sin desgarrones dolorosos. El ruiseñor sabe cantar también cuando está sobre una rama de espinas. Que el amor del Señor, su alegría, su paz, nos acompañen siempre. Que las figuritas del Belén, el árbol, los aguinaldos, los globos y villancicos no se queden en lo material y exterior sino que sean la expresión del gozo que tenemos en el alma porque Cristo quiere nacer una vez más entre nosotros y decirnos: "Sigo confiando en la humanidad". "Yo te sigo amando". Dios le bendiga, P. Oscar

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS
And NEW YEAR'S DAY
HORARIO DE NAVIDAD Y AÑO NUEVO**

***Monday/December 24- Christmas Eve
Lunes/Diciembre 24- Vigilia de Navidad***

Family Mass / Misa Familiar

3:30pm Caroling / 4:00pm Mass/Misa

6:30pm Villancicos y 7:00pm Misa en Español

9:30pm Caroling /Christmas Eve Mass– 10:00pm

***Tuesday/ December 25- Christmas Day
Martes/ Diciembre 25- Día de Navidad***

9am in English; 12:30pm in Spanish

7:00pm Spanish / Español

***Tuesday/ January 1- New Year's Day
Martes/ Enero 1- Día de Año Nuevo***

9:00am-Bilingual / Bilingue

5:30pm-English / Inglés

7:00pm Spanish / Español

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

***Solemnidad de la Santísima Virgen María, Madre de Dios
Día de Obligación, Misa de Precepto***

To know is not simply to know arithmetic
By Geoff Wood

Christmas seems out of place in modern times. It's like we are entering a season where sleighs and reindeer are our way of getting about, when evergreen trees are brought into our houses and made resplendent with ornaments and lights – for reasons long forgotten. It's a season for holly leaves entwined into wreaths to welcome strangers – again for reasons long forgotten. It's about houses themselves bedecked with lights – as in the film *Home Alone* – until a whole neighborhood becomes a page out of a storybook.

It's a season when stables appear under Christmas trees or even outside on snowy lawns – inhabited by a holy family and attended by shepherds and wise men we never see at any other time of the year. It's when rock music and punk rock and whatever they call that stuff that usually bursts our eardrums on radio and TV soundtracks give way to carols (choral singing) like *Adeste Fideles* and *Silent Night* or just jolly things like *Jingle Bells* and *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. Granted the season is almost swamped by commercialism, by a deluge of products issuing from the factories of our modern world – somehow even they arrive in colorful gift wrappings, whatever the gadgets they contain.

So why this relapse into scenes right out of St. Luke and St. Matthew or the London of Tiny Tim? It's because, thank God, we still live in something other than just a modern world. By modern I mean the world that has evolved over the past four hundred years in which science and technology have had a grip on everyday life. Not that science and technology are bad – we benefit much from their power to finesse nature into speed, warmth, efficiency, longer lives . . . But it so dominates our lives that nothing else can be true if not the result of strict experiment, mathematical truth – existence by the numbers. Imagination, wishing, fantasy, wanting to know more than $e=mc^2$ or the Periodic Table of Elements can only lead to an incorrect knowledge of our universe – myths, legend, “fake news” - that's all.

I once came across a scientific guide to buying a house. Its intent was to prevent the buyer from choosing too hastily. It listed all the things the buyer might want to check: the size of the house he wanted, size of the lot, style of the house, garage space, ground maintenance factors, commute distances, proximity to schools, quality of schools, proximity to markets, price, lenders, points, utility costs, crime rate, future development – all you should know if you want to make a correct purchase, a sure thing.

And then I imagined a couple checking those items from house to house, their guideline thumb worn from use – only to enter a shady lane and coming to a For Sale sign in front of an ivy-covered cottage right out of Peter Rabbit – and exclaiming: This is it! And the basis for their judgment? Not the checklist but the charm of the place – the appeal of the place to something deeper within them than their brain – even if the place needs its plumbing repaired and maybe solar heat.

In other words, they were not just looking for a house but for a home – and that's what this season of Christmas offers us, a world that can be a home and not just a freeway. As when I say I don't just want to know the facts the laboratories may reveal. I also want to know if I am loved, if I am worth anything . . . and that's the kind of knowledge seasons like Christmas bestow – beyond the range of any empirical checklist.