



## First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2014

**TODAY:** "Keep awake" is not about sleep, but about spiritual torpor, which in our day manifests itself often as busyness in the form of distractedness. Distractedness is a way of not paying attention to oneself or the needs of others or the voice of God because we are so busily doing nothing. Being awake when the Messiah arrives depends upon our ability to wait quietly and to be aware enough to recognize Christ when he comes.\*

### Upcoming Dates:

- Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Russian River Food Pantry-2<sup>nd</sup> collection
- Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Parade of Lights-*Joy to the World*
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Colman Guild Christmas Party
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Virgin Mary-Holy Day of Obligation  
Mass @ 9am
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Guadalupe—Mass @ 6pm
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Parish Christmas Dinner 6pm in  
St. Hubert's Hall
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Second Collection-Retirement Fund for  
Religious
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Mass @ 10am

### Please pray for our brothers and sisters

**Who Are Ill or in Pain:** Maureen Shaw, John Hoffman, Margie Heil, Mary Tamargo, Mary Coverdale, George Shorb, Art McNulty, Lotte Cabral, Don Covello, Louis Baros, Dale Guinn, Bill & Joanne Rodgers, Gary Wood, Mary Helen Carpenter, Helen Murphy, John Beamon, Phil Mohardt, Jeanie Torr, Larry Gomme, Sara Bardoni, Ila Donovan, Abbey Moreno, Alicia Bicoy, Maureen O'Rourke, Valerie Jones, Mel Jones, Andy Jones, Frank Danzart II, Mike Wilson, Erling Ribbing, Janice Miller, Shirley Segar, Ed Copeland, Stephen Donnellan, Kevin O'Shea, Chuck Lee, Rosa Maria.

**Who Have Been Called to Eternal Life:** Frank Lambert

**Gingerbread Tree Project** Our parish will again this year participate in the Gingerbread Tree Project. This project provides Christmas gifts for needy kids through River to Coast Children's Services. Kids write their gift wishes on a paper gingerbread character that will be available on the tree in the back of each church. You are invited to choose a name and buy the wrap the gift and return to the church by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>

**Offerings:** 11/22 & 11/23 St. Elizabeth: \$812, St. Catherine: \$197, St. Colman: not counted

**Total: \$1,009** *Thank You for Your Generosity!*

### **Readings for the week of November 30, 2014**

- Sunday: Is 63:16-17,19;64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19/  
1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37
- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21,24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21,23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1,5-8
- Next
- Sunday: Is 40:1-5,9-11/Ps 85:9-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

**Mass Intentions:** **12/7 9am** Den Thompson + requested  
by Larry Poirier

**Catholicism**, the DVD series by Fr. Robert Baron, will be presented at St. Hubert's Hall **beginning Friday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am**. The groundbreaking *Catholicism* Adult Study Program is a thematic presentation of what Catholics believe and why, so all adults can come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith. See our website [www.rrchurches.com](http://www.rrchurches.com) for more information.

### **St. Vincent de Paul, Guerneville says Thank You!**

Our Thanksgiving giveaway on November 22<sup>nd</sup> was a big success with more than 100 people receiving food that would feed close to 300! Thanks to all of you who volunteered, "dumpster diving"--Gina & Rich Busalacchi, Eleanor Gerigk and Fran Korn; loading and unloading: Tony Asaro & Rich Busalacchi; collecting donations at Safeway: Rose Chromy, Irene Deem, Beverly Donnellan, Vicki Gonzalez, Mary-Anne Gustafson, Arlene Irziery, Fran Korn and Jean Koutz; -bagging on Friday: Tony Asaro, Rosie Bohny, Denise & Drew Britton, Gina & Rich Busalacchi, Eleanor Gerigk, Vicki Gonzalez, Mary-Anne Gustafson, Arlene Irziery, Fran Korn, Ken Koutz, Barbara Seymour and Cathy Smith; helping our guests with their bags on Saturday: Rosie Bohny; Denise & Drew Britton; Rich Busalacchi; Beverly Donnellan; Lorna Drake; Eleanor Gerigk; Vicki Gonzalez, Melissa & Elizabeth Hernandez, Fran Korn and Jose, Luis & April Valencia. (Forgive me if I forgot you!)

Of course, it would not have been possible without your generous donations, those we received at Safeway the weekend before and the Redwood Empire Food Bank. As full as our pantry looked, it was empty at the end of the day! Thank you so much for your generosity and your continued support. The Christmas giveaway will be on December 20<sup>th</sup> from 10-12, with filling the bags on the 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 2 p.m. If you would like to help out, please call Vicki Gonzalez at 869-3314. We have so much to be grateful for!

Deadline for Bulletin news items is Wednesday, 5PM. You can call the Rectory at 707-869-2107 and leave a message

\*Input for **TODAY** comes from: <http://americamagazine.org/content/the-word/daily-distractions>

Parish Website: <http://www.RRchurches.com>

## Pastor's Desk

A young playwright was extremely gratified when an important New York critic agreed to attend the opening of his "Off-Broadway" play. The critic came to the opening as promised, but quickly fell asleep and remained in that condition throughout the performance. The playwright was heartsick. As soon as the play ended, he dashed down the aisle and said to the critic, "I'm sorry you couldn't stay awake longer. You know how much I wanted your opinion!" The veteran playgoer rubbed his eyes and said, "**Young man, sleep is an opinion.**"

In the matter of our approach to the Advent Season, *sleep is an opinion*. Instead, if we are fully awake to message of the Advent message, and open ourselves up to let Jesus into our lives more fully, the awful coldness down there at the center of our beings gives way to the warmth of His Presence; the fatigue gives way to new physical strength; the fear and anxiety give way to peace and joy. This actually happens as we receive God's Power and Love through Jesus Christ.

One Advent Season, the pastor of a big-city Church asked his congregation to conduct an experiment. *Go into each day and each situation claiming that Jesus Christ is walking beside you every single moment. Wherever you go, whatever you do, claim that Jesus Christ is walking with you. Then, when the difficult challenges arise, when the going gets tough, when the outlook is grim, ask Him for the power and strength -- not only to cope with the situation, but also to have good come out of it.*

*Go into each day and each situation with this attitude and approach and you will find that the Living Christ will be with you and will give you the power and strength to be with others. You will find yourself not withholding love from the people you encounter. Rather you become fully present to them in the ups and downs, the good and bad times of their lives. You will find yourself becoming a channel of God's power and God's Love to them.*

***The season of Advent is not only about God sending His Son to us, but sending His Son through us to other people.***

During this Advent Season, remember, sleep is an opinion. So stay awake . . . Stay awake to the possibility that Christ is coming to present you with a new opportunity to experience God's unconditional love at the deepest level of your being. Stay awake to the possibility that Christ is coming to present you with a new opportunity to love each member of your family unconditionally. Stay awake to the possibility that Christ is coming to present you with a new opportunity to carry the Spirit of Love, into a fearful, anxious world.

During this Advent Season, stay awake, for "The master of the house is coming!

PEACE AND BLESSINGS!

Fr. Luis

**CASTING CALL:** Calling all shepherds, wise men and angels. We need your help for our entry in the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> ***Parade of Lights***. The name of our entry is "Joy to the World" and will feature our choir singing with microphones from the bed of the truck. A living nativity scene on a low trailer will follow behind the truck. This is where we need you—shepherds, wise men, and angels! We also need help decorating the float, and with costumes for the cast. We also need Christmas lights, luminarias, a bale of straw, lanterns, Joseph's staff, etc. Lastly, does anyone have a low trailer that can be used for the living nativity scene? We will decorate at 5:00, at St. Hubert's Hall, and get in line at 6:00. Hot chocolate will be served!

Everyone is invited to participate and all walk behind the truck with or without costumes. If you have angel wings, halos, or any other costumes to loan, we would greatly appreciate it. Contact Irene Deem at (707) 869-3751.

## Happy New Year!

With the First Sunday in Advent we begin a new Liturgical Year, Year B. During this year, the Church's lectionary will feature prominently the Gospel of St. Mark.

Mark's Gospel is regarded as the earliest Gospel. It presents a stark and challenging portrait of Jesus' public ministry, which leads into a dramatic account of his passion and death. Mark presents Jesus as a wise teacher and a powerful and compassionate healer. But he also insists that this Jesus can be properly understood only when we confront the mystery of the cross and Jesus' identity as a suffering Messiah.

Traditionally, the gospel is said to have been written shortly before A.D. 70 in Rome, at a time of impending persecution and when destruction loomed over Jerusalem. Its audience is thought to have been Gentiles, unfamiliar with Jewish customs. The Gospel of Mark aimed to equip such Christians with the impetus to stand faithful in the face of persecution

For this reason Mark's work is sometimes called the Gospel of Suffering. As we study and pray through Mark's Gospel, we will face the suffering of Jesus the Son of God and the suffering that is part of our lives as individuals and as citizens of the world. But at the same time we will also hear Jesus' message about the kingdom of God now entering into human life as good news and Jesus himself as the gospel of God—Jesus, the Son whom God has sent to rescue humanity by serving and by sacrificing his life.

Adapted from *Meeting St. Mark Today*, by Daniel J. Harrington, S.J.

**Liturgical Music Corner** by our Music Director,  
Rebecca Brown

### Nov. 30, First Sunday of Advent

Today we begin our preparation for Christmas. The season of Advent is 4 weeks long, and the word "advent" means "waiting". From the blessing of the Advent wreath, "Lord God, your church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin." Our readings today plead with God to save us from our sins, and exhort us to be "watchful and alert, for you do not know when the Son of Man is coming'."

### Songs for the 9 am Mass:

Processional Hymn: Gathering Song For the Sundays of Advent

"Come, Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, come and give us your peace."

Psalm 80: Lord make us turn to you, let us see your face, and we shall be saved.

Preparation of the Gifts: Abba Father (BB # 543)

Communion Song: Remember Your Love (BB # 671)

**St. Elizabeth's Parish Christmas Dinner** will be Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM cocktails and dinner at 6:30. Chefs Joe Torres and Rich Busalacchi are preparing delicious Roast Beef Dinners served free of charge but RSVPs are required. Call Francine Korn at 869-9341 by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> to RSVP.