



Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2014

TODAY: It is the day of God's salvation when "Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven." We await the day of the Lord, but it is to be an active waiting. John the Baptist echoes the prophet's message: "In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!" We stand, as it were, in a desert, an empty wasteland of broken lives and discarded people. The challenge of Advent is to clear a straight path for God, to "remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy."*

Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 8 th	Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Virgin Mary—Holy Day of Obligation Mass @ 9am
Dec. 12 th	Our Lady of Guadalupe—Mass @ 6pm
Dec. 13 th	Parish Christmas Dinner 6pm in St. Hubert's Hall
Dec. 13 th -14 th	Second Collection-Retirement Fund for Religious
Dec. 24 th	Christmas Eve Vigil @ 4pm
Dec. 25 th	Christmas Day Mass @ 10am
Jan. 1 st	Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God—Holy Day of Obligation Mass @ 10:00am
Jan. 7 th	St. Elizabeth Guild Installation Luncheon

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.

Offerings: 11/29 & 11/30

St. Elizabeth: \$1261

St. Catherine: \$156

St. Colman: \$230

St. Colman: \$205 (11/23)

Total: \$1,852

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Readings for the week of December 7, 2014

Sunday:	Is 40:1-5,9-11/Ps 85:9-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15,20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Zec 2:14-17/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4,9-11/Mt 17:9-13
Next	
Sunday:	Is 61:1-2,10-11/(Ps) Lk 1:46-50,53-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Mass Intentions:

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

12/14 9am: Helen Hogan
Leseberg, for improved
health, requested by Irene
Deem

St. Elizabeth's Guild will hold their installation luncheon on Wednesday, Jan 7th, 2015 at 12:30pm at the Northwood Restaurant. Please call Rose or Grace at 869-2679 for reservations.

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. 14th

St. Elizabeth's Parish Christmas Dinner will be Dec. 13th 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. 7th to RSVP.

Our parish **St. Vincent de Paul Conference** will be continuing their holiday giveaway to the needy on December 20th from 10-12 at the Guerneville Community Church (12345 Armstrong Woods Rd). We will be filling the food bags on the 19th starting at 2 p.m. If you would like to help out or you'd like to make a donation, please call Vicki Gonzalez at 869-3314. Thank you for your help.

Thanksgiving Offerings: 11/27

\$979 was collected for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. At this holiday time of year donations are very welcome. God bless you all for your generous donations.

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://liturgy.slu.edu/2AdvB120714/reflections_justice.html

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

Pastor's Desk

Some years ago it was reported that a father had his **four-year-old son baptized twenty-six times in three years**. When he was asked by a reporter why he had done this, the father answered, "Very simple. **Each new godfather was good for at least one loan.**"

Someone has said that the world is a *kind of spiritual kindergarten* where millions of bewildered infants are trying to spell "God" with the wrong blocks. That father is a good example, perhaps, of one of those bewildered people who live in their own spiritual kindergarten. He didn't deny God, *but he tried to manipulate Him*. And that is something we must all guard against, particularly in our prayer-life. When we come to God with our own pre-conceived monologue of what He ought to do for us, we're trying "to spell 'God' with the wrong blocks," so to speak.

All too often our petitions to God take on the form of a monologue - as though we are talking to ourselves introspectively. And when that is the case, we have only ourselves to blame if our prayers end up in God's spam folder. But when we condition ourselves to become constantly aware of God's Presence in our lives, we transform the monologue into dialogue -- a dialogue with God, and it changes everything.

In today's Lesson, Mark is telling us that John the Baptist travelled the entire region of the River Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance, saying, in effect, God wants you to know you are saved! With eyes anew, God wants you to rise above the dust and ashes of ordinary existence. God has given you the means to see life from an entirely new dimension. Repent! Change!

As we move deeper into our Advent season of preparation for the coming of the Lord, may each and every one of us enter into genuine dialogue with God. In so doing, we'll be prepared for a truly glorious ending!

PEACE AND BLESSINGS!

Fr. Luis

Liturgical Music Corner by our Music Director, Rebecca Brown

Dec. 7th, Second Sunday of Advent

If you've ever listened to Handel's most successful and best-known oratorio, *The Messiah*, you've undoubtedly heard the tenor recitative, "*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God*", followed directly by the beautiful, "*every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low...*", then the exuberant chorus, "*and the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed..*"

Where did Handel get his material for *The Messiah*? All of it is directly from scripture, starting with today's first reading from Isaiah!

It is said that Handel wrote the whole *Messiah* in 24 days, from August 22 to Sept. 14, 1741. Now that's inspiration!

Let us strive this week to heed the words of St. John the Baptist, to prepare the way for the Lord in our hearts, as we await our Savior.

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 85: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Preparation of the Gifts: A Voice Cries Out (BB # 45)

Communion Song: We Await Our Savior (ss)

Choir: "*Freedom is Coming*"

Recessional Song: Save Us, O Lord (BB # 666)

BB = Breaking Bread

SS = Song sheets

The following is a list of **Musical/Christmas Events** in our area that might interest you and your family. Enjoy!

Santa Rosa Creche Festival

Fri – Sun, Dec. 5, 6, 7 Exhibits: 3 -9 pm

Over 350 Nativities from around the world on display

Musical program: Saturday 7:30 pm, Sunday 4:30 and 7:30 pm, free

1780 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

<http://roblad.members.sonic.net/creche/2014/poster.pdf>

"A Christmas Carol"

Sat/ Sunday Dec. 13-14, 7 pm, St. Seraphim's Church, 90

Mountain View Ave, Santa Rosa, \$10/ adult; \$5/ child Call for

reservations: 545-5688. Therese and Sean (our violinist and cellist) are in it!

<http://www.holydormitionchurch.org>

Singing Christmas Tree Concert

Dec. 13 & 14, 4:30 pm and 7 pm, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa, free. Full choir, orchestra, handbells, youth choir.

About 1 1/2 hours. Come very early for a seat. Overflow seating in the foyer.

Redwood Empire Sing Along Messiah

Saturday, Dec. 20, 7:30 pm, \$20 per person, Jackson Theater, Sonoma Country Day School, Advance tickets at Stanley's Music and online;

<http://www.sing-along-messiah.org>

Sebastopol Ballet Nutcracker, Analy High School Theater

6950 Analy Avenue, Sebastopol

Dec. 19-21 (Fri. 7 pm, Sat. 11 am and 4 pm, Sun. 2 pm) \$17, \$15, \$12

Call 838-3006 for tickets

<http://www.sebastopolballet.com/nutcracker.htm>

Moscow Ballet Great Russian Nutcracker

Wells Fargo Center For the Arts

Sat. Dec. 20, 3 and 7 pm

<http://www.nutcracker.com/yourcity/santa-rosa-ca>

A Little Humor: A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art! It's perfect." "Really", answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?" "Twelve thirty".