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 Rev. Deacon Jim McLaughlin
 (phone office for appointment)
 Liliana Haynes
 Office Administrator



Sunday, December 15th, 2019

Sat. Dec 14	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Third Sunday of Advent Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Graham Dakin (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. Dec 15	9:30am 11:00am	Third Sunday of Advent Missa Pro Populo ✠ Souls in Purgatory (Gerard & Delores Kennedy)
Mon. Dec 16	9:30am	✠ Armand Mei (Patti & Cyril Simek)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Confessions
Tues. Dec 17	9:30am	✠ Julie Kibuishi (Teresa Walters)
Wed. Dec 18	9:30am	✠ Isaiah (Magazzeni Family)
Thurs. Dec 19	9:30am	St. Ann School Advent Mass ✠ Ashley Lelievre & Dorothy Racz (Racz Family)
Fri. Dec 20	9:30am	✠ Patrick Bisson (Rosemary & Steve Lastovic)
Sat. Dec 21	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent Confessions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Tim Hunter (Diane & Ben Kooter)
Sun. Dec 22	9:30am 11:00am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Missa Pro Populo ✠ Anthony Filbert (Lynda Filbert & Family)

Confessions from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.
Offertory December 7th & 8th, 2019

70 Envelopes	\$2, 595.00
Loose Collection	\$ 41.00
Total Offertory	\$2, 636.00
Flowers	\$ 480.00
Maintenance	\$ 170.00

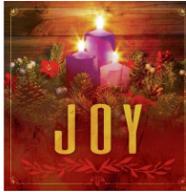
Advent food drive: Donations will be forwarded to Pelham Cares. **If you would like to donate gift cards as in past years, please leave in the collection basket (in a separate envelope) and we will send them to Pelham Cares.**

Third Sunday of Advent

Who did you come to see? A version of this question is posed by Jesus many times in the Gospels. He asks it of Andrew and John when they begin to follow him. He asks it of Mary Magdalene in the garden of the resurrection. He asks it in today's Gospel. "What did you go out to the desert to see?" There is something innately human about "seeing." Animals have eyes — some with much more powerful vision than our own — but that's not the kind of seeing Jesus is talking about. We could phrase the question several other ways. "What are you looking for?" "What are you longing for?" "Whom do you seek?"



It is in seeing for ourselves that our suspicions or hypotheses are confirmed, that our desires discover their fulfillment, and that we can rest for a moment in certainty. John the Baptist sought certainty of Jesus' identity. "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus sends word to him based on the testimony of sight, observations of the mighty deeds Jesus has begun to work. "Go and tell John what you hear and see." God recognizes our desire to see. In the Incarnation, the Word is made flesh. The invisible is made visible. The supernatural is made manifest in an infant who can do little more than the most natural of movements as he feeds, cries, sleeps. We don't need to wait for Christmas to see God. The work of God is all around us. Those blinded by sin "regain their sight." People overcome backgrounds of poverty and violence to make world-changing contributions. Addicts grow and heal. Truth is spoken, and people listen. Let's pray for the grace to see God's movement in our lives this week. How have you seen the work of God?



On this Third Sunday of Advent, **Gaudete Sunday**, we are encouraged to rejoice. Gaudete Sunday derives its name from the opening prayer of the Mass for this day, where we pray, "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). So in the midst of Advent fasting and devotions, we rejoice because the time we have been preparing for is almost at hand. We pause in this season of anticipation to remember that, in truth, our hopes have already been fulfilled. He is among us, saving us even now!

Christmas Flower Memorial Envelopes are in your offertory boxes dated **Dec. 8th**. We invite everyone to make a gift towards the cost of the Christmas greens and flowers that will decorate our parish this blessed season.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Families or individuals are asked to volunteer to light the candles during each of the weekend Masses of Advent. The sign up sheet is at the back of the church. You may choose a Mass during any of those weekends.

A Prayer to Prepare My Heart for Christ's Coming
 Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from worshipping you this Advent. Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent—the first coming—I look toward the day where I will see You face to face. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis. Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. My offering to You today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus. Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven. Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness and to then change my ways.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2019/20

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Tuesday, Dec 24th 5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
 Wednesday, Dec 25th Midnight Mass
 10:00am Christmas Day Mass

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, Dec 28th 9-10am Confessions
 4-4:45pm Holy Hour & Confessions
 5:00pm Mass
 Sunday, Dec. 29th 9:30am & 11am Masses

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Tuesday, Dec 31st 5:00pm Mass
 Wednesday, Jan 1st 10:00am Mass

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, Jan 4th 5:00pm Mass
 Sunday, Jan 5th 9:30 am & 11am Masses

Children's Liturgy During the Season of Advent: The Jesse Tree tradition provides a wonderful teaching opportunity; reminding children about the preparatory nature of Advent. This tradition will be the focus of our Children's Liturgy classes during Advent. **If your child has not received the Sacrament of First Eucharist, he/she is most welcome to attend during the 9:30 am mass.**

Cathedral Appeal Update: It has now been six months since we launched our Cathedral Appeal, and as of Oct. 31st, 2019, our appeal has raised \$594,304.46 in cash donations and \$119, 052.67 in pledges. This brings our total raised to \$713, 357.13 or 59% of our \$1.2 million goal. **THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROSITY OF SO MANY!** Thinking of a special gift in memory of the loved one? Consider making a donation for a hand painted ceiling medallion for \$1500. Your name and the name of your loved one will forever be in the Cathedral on our wall of donors. Call the Cathedral at 905-684-3964 for more information. And be sure to visit us on the web at www.saintcd.com/appeal or pick up a brochure and pledge form in your church today to play your part in this amazing restoration project. May God bless you!

Parish Calendar

December.....
 Dec 15th..... Youth Ministry fundraiser—bake sale & Christmas crafts. More to follow.
 School Advent Mass 9:30am

Dec 19th....
January 2020.....
 Jan 1st..... Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. Mass 10am

Jan 1st.... World Day of Prayer
 Jan 3rd..... First Friday Holy Communion to sick and homebound. Phone the office to arrange a visit.

Jan 15th..... St. Ann School Mass 9:30am
 Jan 15th..... Youth Ministry resumes 6:30-8:30pm.
 Jan. 15th..... Finance meeting 6:30pm
 Jan 18-25.... Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

2020 Offertory Envelopes: are now available in the church hall. Please note that there have been updates made to the offertory numbering system. **FOR THE YEAR 2020, PLEASE USE ONLY THE ENVELOPES ASSIGNED TO YOU FOR THAT YEAR.** This will ensure that donations are credited to the proper person. **If you do not find a box prepared for you, please phone the office.** Also, please do not begin using your new envelopes until the new year. Thank you!

Church Contributions: All Church donations for 2019 must be **received on the weekend of Dec 28/29, 2019** to be applied to your 2019 tax receipt. Please note though, that donation envelopes received on Dec 31st for the January 1st Feast of Mary the Mother of God will be applied to your 2020 tax receipt. Thank you for your cooperation.

Office Closure for Christmas: The Church Office will be closed from **Tuesday, December 24th, 2019 to Wednesday, January 1st, 2020.** Messages may be left at any time and will be checked regularly. **Regular office hours will resume on Friday, January 3rd, 2020.**

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS- Leading the Way

There are many examples of false prophets in history. Some of these gifted charlatans have led people away from family and friends. They have led people to do evil things, like stealing, torture, or even murder. It is amazing how those gifted with charisma can lead others down such a destructive path. In today's modern world filled with so much technology and sophisticated communication platforms, one must be careful not to buy into a lie or scam so easily. John the Baptist didn't have any modern technology in his toolbox as he was preparing the way for the Messiah, Jesus. He moved people with a profound message and by the way he lived his life. People questioned whether he was the One who was to come, but he assured them that he was not the One. Instead, all he did was to prepare people for Jesus' coming. You and I can either lead people to Jesus by our words and actions, or we can lead them away from him. Our stewardship can be a powerful witness to how Jesus has changed our lives. Unfortunately, if we are not changed and instead act in ways that are contrary to a mature disciple, we can lead people down the wrong path. During the Advent season, there is much to be done in our homes and with our families to get ready for the celebration of Christmas. However, this is not about a day; it is about Jesus. May our actions and words bear witness to the transformative power of Jesus Christ in our lives, not just during this season, but all year long.



