

# Saint Anne Catholic Parish

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## First Sunday in Advent December 1, 2013

During the season of Advent, we do our best to savor the days of waiting, but those with small children in their lives know what it's like to have someone tiny always insisting that there is only one important day on the horizon—Christmas. This time of year can add demands to housework (shoveling walks, coaxing the furnace into another year's service) and jobs (end-of-year accounting, health-care renewals) just when family demands are ramping up. We're all too aware of each minute that counts down to the big day.

In today's Gospel, we are reminded that we cannot be so sure of when the Lord is coming. We might circle Christmas on the calendar, but Jesus has his own schedule for breaking into our lives in new ways. Our hearts should always be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

H·O·P·E



### PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
Open my eyes  
that I may see you in the dark  
of winter  
and feel your warmth despite  
the cold of the world.  
Brighten my days with the light  
of your love  
that I may reflect that light for  
others.  
Amen.

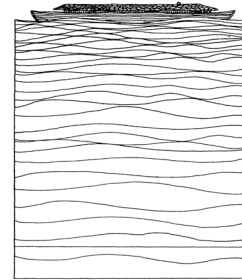
### REFLECTION QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How will you prepare this Advent for the coming of Christ?
- To what truths in your life do you need to awaken?
- What darkness do you experience, and how might Jesus shine a light for you?

# First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2013

"You . . . must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come."

— Matthew 24:44



*Prepare  
for the  
Lord's  
coming*

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*My dear friends in Christ,*

*This week we begin the new liturgical year with the season of Advent.*

*As the days become shorter, and the nights longer, the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar state:*

*“Advent has twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.”*

*There is no question that Advent is not an easy season to celebrate. There are many reasons for this. And the biggest reason is that **this time of joyful expectation is overshadowed by Christmas preparations. That’s why it is important** that we need to focus and slow down. **Our internal preparation is very important.** Our heart must be freed **from darkness and hatred, resentment and selfishness, arrogance and pride. This is the time to lower ourselves in humility before our God.** We need to let go of all these things that will prevent us from welcoming Christ in our heart. **When we let go, we make room for Christ!***

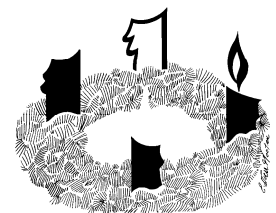
*The four weeks of Advent invite us to be on guard, to watch, to be ready, and to prepare. Everything about **our worship space reflects the season.** This is one way of reminding us about the importance of preparation. As I said earlier we can easily be caught in the external preparations of Christmas. I am not saying that we don’t do our Christmas shopping. What I am saying is that we should not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by it. **Have time for prayer and reflection!** Search your heart. Find meaning and fulfillment in our preparations and celebrations.*

*I hope that we take our preparations very seriously. And I pray that we prepare our heart. **Christ must have a place in our heart. He must be our only possession.** The gospel of Matthew reminds us, **“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”***

*The coming of the Son of Man is not about commercialism or materialism but it is about our salvation and God’s love revealed to us in Christ. What is important? Just a caution from Bishop Fulton Sheen, **“If through our lives we put a premium on the things of the world, then we will regard lightly the things of eternity.”***

*May you be filled with joy and peace during this Advent season! **At the end it is not about the presents but it is about the presence....that is--- the presence of Christ. Let us give ourselves the best Christmas ever!***

*Your servant,  
Fr. Geoffrey*



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## MASS INTENTIONS

November 30, 2013 - December 7, 2013

### Saturday, November 30

5:00 pm + Benjamin Fruto

### Sunday, December 1

8:00 am For the People

10:00 am + Policarpio Fernandez

12:00 pm + Judy Laserna

6:00 pm + Cresencia Sarmiento

### Monday, December 2

8:00 am + Virginia Wijangco

### Tuesday, December 3

8:00 am + Bien Quen Tong

### Wednesday, December 4

8:00 am + Antoni Do vong

### Thursday, December 5

8:00 am + Co Nguyen

### Friday, December 6 - FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 am + Oscar Porras

7:30 pm + Rene Sarmiento

### Saturday, December 7

8:00 am + Efi Ayupan

5:00 pm + Matilde Franco

## *Please pray for the sick...*

Ester Acda, Johnny Ang, Reynaldo Antonio, Susana Aquino, Erlina Arevalo, Alma Arreglado, Rachel Austria, Gay Badillo, Cecilia Barrera, Francisco Barrera, Victoria Bantugan, Epifania Bundang, Franklin Calub, Jr., Pacita Callantes, Gold Cantolino, Chrissy Cardona, Virginia Cuadras, Aurea Dacanay, Ofelia de Guzman, Theresa De Rivera, Bert Dimaano, Angeles Dingcong, Bernardo Dingcong, Roberto Dingcong, Theresa Diola, Ramona Dizon, Alice De Loyola, Fely de Jesus, Albert Doble, Cezar Domingo, Elpidio Dorotheo, Edilberta Enriquez, Enrique Escalante, Juanita Estrellas, Mina Fernando, Emerita Fulinar, Leticia Garces, Lenie Gutierrez, Linda Hernandez, Rosario Ilustre, Reynaldo Joachico, Dewey Johnson, Erlinda Kasilag, Francesca Kelsey, Tessie Lacandazon, Mori Lacson, Gregorio Lintao, Sr., Grace Lontiong, Arthur Macapagal, Ruth Marquez, Theresa Martinez, Saturnina Mayo, Janet McCulley, Zeny Mesa, Victor Montoya, Roquita Padua, Esperanza Paz, Marlen, Peralta, Orlando Peralta, Benita Quintong, Cora Ragasa, Lita Raposas, Oliver Rasul, Elaine Resurreccion, Leo Reyes, Felix & Marcie Rivas, Charmaine Rivera, Eufenia Rivera, Anita Sacdalan, Epifania Santos, Bill Sarati, Fe Segundo, Jose Segundo, Virginia Sosongco, Joseph Thompson, Leonard Torres, Deity Trocino, Emeline Velayo, Pio Verdán, Lydia Villacorta, Delfin Villafior, Joe Yumang, Milad Zayat.

**\*Please call the parish office @510-471-7766, if you have someone to add to the Sick List.**

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

**Psalm** — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

**Second Reading** — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

**Gospel** — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

## TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue for ever what we make them in this world.

—John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury



## Interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith?

Are you an adult who...

is interested in being baptized Catholic?

- was baptized in another Christian tradition and would like to explore what being Catholic is all about?
- was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

If you answered yes to any of the above, please consider joining our ongoing Inquiry sessions for chance to ask questions, learn more about us and about the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, the process by which adults join the Church. No commitment required. For more information, call the parish office at 510-471-7766 or email:

[stantheadultfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:stantheadultfaithformation@gmail.com)



### **St. Anne Youth Ministry**

St. Anne Youth Ministry enters into the season of Advent with a three week series called: "In Season." We will gather on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall...we look forward to each of us preparing for the coming of the child Jesus.

Thank you to all those who donated socks, coats, hats and gloves before Thanksgiving...they were donated to St. Anthony's Foundation this last Tuesday.

### **St. Anne Confirmation**

St. Anne Confirmation Candidates and Parents will meet in the Parish Hall next Sunday, December 8 for the retreat information meeting. At least one parent must attend. The gathering will be at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

### **Youth Ministry Retreat December 6-8, 2014**

Please pray for the Youth Ministry students and staff who will be attending the winter retreat December 6-8 at the Diocesan Youth Retreat Center. Their retreat Mass will be the 6:00 p.m. Youth Mass on December 8.

### **Annual Tree of Remembrance Celebration Thursday, December 5 – 6:30pm**

If Holy Sepulchre Cemetery or Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Center have assisted you with the services of a loved one, then please join us for our Annual Tree of Remembrance Celebration. In order to ensure that we have a sufficient supply of Memorial Ornaments, refreshments, and seating, reservations are required. For more information and to reserve your space, please call 510-537-6600 or email us at Holy-Sep@cfcsOakland.org. **RSVP no later than Monday, December 2nd please.**

### **Knights of Columbus "Serving our church, community & country."**

**Corinthians 9:7:** "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

**December 7 – 6:30 PM,** Knights Christmas Party, in the Parish Hall

**December 14 – 9:00 AM** Knights will put up Christmas light decorations around the church.

**December 16 to 24 –** Simbang Gabi (Dawn Masses) Knights will usher and help at the Parish hall.

For information contact: Roland Nimis, Grand Knight  
RNimis@yahoo.com or 510-487-8232

## **ST ANNE SCHOOL OF FAITH FORMATION**

### **ST. ANNE SCHOOL OF FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 1- 8)**

*Faith Formation classes resume Monday, December 2.*

**ADVENT – December Canned Food Drive:** We will have the Canned Food Drive for the Annual Christmas baskets that will be distributed by St. Vincent De Paul to help families in need during this Christmas Season. Please make sure that canned foods are NOT EXPIRED! Thank you for your generosity.

### **FIRST COMMUNION**

*For 149 First Communion students who are in their second year of faith formation and attend Tuesday First Communion classes. Reconciliation - As our young children preparing for Reconciliation continue to reflect this week on God's gift of forgiveness, we pray that they continue to grow in their relationship with our God of mercy, bear witness to Jesus' power of healing, and recognize themselves as peacemakers in the world.*

### **ADVENT**

Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.

Anonymous

### **CCD Children's Stewardship Envelopes**

Ailinh:	I washed the dishes.
Annelise Adion:	I put the dishes away in the cabinet.
Justin Hui:	I helped with the laundry.
Jasmine Reyes:	I did the dishes & donated \$.25¢.
Tyler Medeiros:	I I tried to make sure we did not fight.
Jasper Consul:	I helped my Mom to get the clothes.
Angela Adug:	Donated \$.48.
Princess Benitez:	I pray everyday.
Rebecca Austria:	Donated \$1.00 & I did what was right.
Justin M.	I'm praying for the typhoon victims.
Francesca Garcia:	Treasure giving \$1.00 & helped my 3rd grade teacher during recess.
Sierra Smith:	I cleaned my room and said thank you to Mom & Dad for letting us eat out.



Sunday, December 1, 2013

### FINANCE CORNER

#### Weekly Collection Goals

<u>Sunday, November 17, 2013</u>	\$12,818.50
<b>Budget</b>	\$15,000.00
Over (Under)	(\$ 2,821.50)
<b>Concert</b>	<b>\$16,880.00</b>
<b>Love Offering</b>	<b>\$11,601.00</b>
<b>Second Collection</b>	<b>\$12,821.00</b>

### CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The St. Vincent de Paul and the Knights of Columbus are collecting non-perishable food (**NO CLOTHING**) to make Christmas Baskets for those in need in our community. Please food donations in the barrels at the Church entrances by December 15. If you know of a person/family in need of a basket, please call the parish office at 471-7766 and leave their name and phone number.

### ADVENT GIVING TREE

There will be an Angel Gift Tag Tree at the Church entrance. Please consider sponsoring someone in need by donating a gift card from a local store. Please leave gift cards at the parish

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**LIFE ELDER CARE** needs good people who have a desire to make a difference in the lives of frail seniors in the Tri-City area. 2-3 hours per week, every other week or monthly, is all it takes.

**VIP RIDES** - Assist/accompany senior or persons with disabilities using local Paratransit or your own vehicle to get to medical appointments, shopping or errands.

**MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS** - Deliver food and friendship to homebound seniors. Drivers needed Monday - Friday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

**FRIENDLY VISITORS** - Provide companionship (minimum of two hours per week) to a homebound, lonely senior. Activities include sharing hobbies, going for walks and other fun activities. If you can help, please call:

Tammy at 510-574-2086

[www.lifeeldercare.org](http://www.lifeeldercare.org)

### THIS WEEK AT ST. ANNE

Monday, December 2

**8:00 am - Mass**

9:30 am - Legion of Mary, CR #103

4:45 pm - Faith Formation, CR #102-#106

6:00 pm - Youth Ministry, SH

7:30 pm - Lectors, CH

7:30 pm - St. Vincent de Paul

Tuesday, December 3

**8:00 am - Mass, CH**

4:45 pm - Faith Formation, CH,

7:30 pm - Fit Club, SH

7:30 pm - RCIA, CR #106

Wednesday, December 4

**8:00 am & 7:00 pm - Mass, CH**

5:00 pm - Faith Formation, CH, CR #102-105

6:00 pm - SPRED, SH

7:00 pm - Perpetual Help, CH

7:30 pm - Young Adult Choir, CR #105

Thursday, December 5

**8:00 am - Mass, CH**

5:00 pm - Faith Formation, CR #102-106, SH

7:30 pm - Pinto Choir, CH

7:30 pm - KofC Squires, CR #1043

7:30 pm - Unity Choir, CR #106

Friday, December 6—**FIRST FRIDAY**

**8:00 am & 7:30 pm Mass, CH**

9:00 am - St. Vincent de Paul, CR #106

10:00 am - Lectio Divina, CR #103

6:00 pm - Legion of Mary, CR #103

6:00 pm - First Friday Choir, CR #106

7:00 pm - Divine Mercy, CR #104

7:00 pm - Hand Maid of the Lord, CR #106

7:30 pm - Fit Club, SH

Saturday, December 7

**8:00 am & 5:00 pm Mass, CH**

9:00 am - Lectio Divina, CR #104

9:00 am - SPRED, CR #105 & 106

9:00 am - Knights of Columbus, SH

9:00 am - Individual User, CR #103

6:15 pm - Charismatics, CR #104

7:00 pm - El Shaddai, CH

Sunday, December 8

**8:00, 10:00 am, 12:00, 6:00 pm- MASS, CH**

11:00 am - Indonesian Community, CR #102

1:00 pm - Children's Choir, CR #103

1:30 pm - Polish Community, CH

1:30 pm - FAUCEB, CR #106

3:00 pm - Confirmation, ALL FACILITIES

7:30 pm - Divine Mercy, CH

7:30 pm - Fit Club, SH



Prepare  
a Way  
for the LORD

# ADVENT *Reconciliation* SERVICE

**Tuesday, December 10  
7:30PM in Church**

Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs our minds and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation gives us a chance to take time out to think and to experience Christ's presence in this sacrament.

Priests will be available for individual confession.

