

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Parish

November 29th, 2020
First Sunday in Advent

Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor
His Excellency, Michael Barber, SJ, Bishop – Diocese of Oakland



Notes from Fr. Nick

Celebrating Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. It is a season of preparation leading to one of the Church's major feasts, Christmas. While there are parallels between Advent and Lent, the two seasons have different characters. Lent originated when Christians fasted and prayed in solidarity with those who were preparing for baptism. Advent, on the other hand, is characterized by joyful anticipation.



Advent does have an element of fasting and prayer. Leading up to Christmas these spiritual exercises are more in the spirit of self-restraint as we anticipate the great celebration. It may be a bad analogy, but the deprivations of Advent are a little like dieting before going on a cruise. The secular world celebrates the days leading up to Christmas, but the Church asks us to withhold celebration until the feast begins. This year, how can we welcome non-churchgoers to celebrate with us and at the same time respect the nature of Advent and our troubled times?

Advent 2020 will require us to be more creative about how we prepare for Christmas. None of us want our social contact to be a vector for the coronavirus! But in another way, it's more important than ever to let this season of hope be visible to the world around us. This year has been the most disorienting in my lifetime, yet I still believe in the goodness of God and his creation—I'll be damned if I'll let the virus stop me from proclaiming that message.

So this year, I think we can be excused for putting up our exterior decorations a little early. Maybe they are a little crass and commercial, but outdoor Christmas lights can symbolize hope in a year that has been both literally and figuratively dark. Do you have a creche to place in your front yard or on the roof of your house?

This might be a way to introduce the true Christmas message in a warm, inviting way. When I was pastor in Williston, Florida, I found a creche at Walmart for ten dollars. With a little paint I doctored it up so that people asked me where I found such a beautiful manger scene. Other creative means are at our disposal. Maybe this is the year to use the internet for Advent celebration. Consider displaying a weekly photo or meditation on Facebook to go along with the season. How about Advent resolutions rather than New Years?

Hope is not just a sentiment—it is an act of will. It is a statement—first to ourselves and then to the rest of the world—that all the gloom we experienced in 2020 has not completely overwhelmed us. We will be the means by which the Light of the World is manifest to a people who have seen a great darkness. Happy Advent!

*"Together we share our
Faith in Jesus Christ.*

*We live the Gospel,
and we care for others."*

PUBLIC MASSES

Saturday 5:30 pm—Church
Sunday 11:00 am—Dominican Garden

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed for Lunch: Noon-1:00 pm
Phone: 510-526-4811

WEBSITE

marymagdalen.org



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 pm
(and by appointment)

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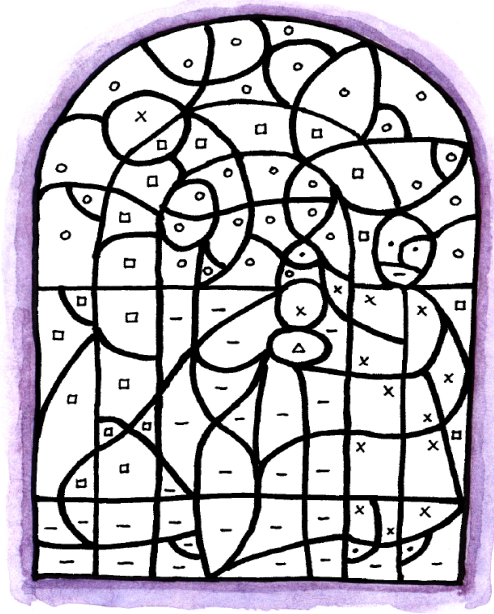
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The Kids' Bulletin

thekidsbulletin.com



*In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to always be ready.
 Here's someone waiting
 for his master to return...
 Use this code to colour the picture in:*

- DARK BLUE ◻ GREY - BROWN
- SKIN COLOUR × WHITE ▲ RED

Fill in the Blanks

*In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the people to be ready for His next coming.
 Fill in the blanks with the words at the end
 and use the letters in squares to fill in the blanks at the end, in the order they come.*

You do not ___ ___ [] when
 the time will come.

It is like a [] ___ traveling abroad.

He leaves home and places

his ___ ___ [] ___ in charge,

___ [] ___ with his own work,

and orders the gatekeeper

to be on the ___ ___ []

Watch, ___ ___ [] ___;

___ [] do not know

when the [] ___ of the house is coming.

Be ___ ___ ___ !

THEREFORE KNOW MAN
 EACH LORD WATCH
 SERVANTS YOU



November 29th, 2020 – First Sunday in Advent

Collection for the Week Ending November 22 nd			
Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
11/22/2020	\$6,802.70	\$8,829.00	-\$2,026.30
All Saints	\$445.01		
Year-to-Date	\$387,184.92	\$426,134.00	-\$38,949.08

"Come, you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." - Matthew 25:34

St. Vincent de Paul Donated 25 Turkeys This Week

Thanks to your past donations, our St. Vincent de Paul conference donated 20 turkeys to the backstretch workers at Golden Gate Fields (which is suffering a huge Covid outbreak), and five more turkeys to a few of our local neighbors in need.



This Sunday is our last *Fifth Sunday* of the year, when our **St. Vincent de Paul conference**

solicits your donations. All your funds go directly to help our Berkeley & Albany neighbors. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Click on marymagdalen.org/donate.

Scripture Readings for the Week

29th *FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT*

Isaiah 63:16-19; 64:2-7 / 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 / Mark 13:33-37

30th *Feast: St. Andrew, Apostle*

Rom 10:9-18 / Matthew 4:18-22

1st *Advent Weekday*

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Luke 10:21-24

2nd *Advent Weekday*

Isaiah 25:6-10 / Matthew 15:29-37

3rd *Memorial: St. Francis Xavier, Priest*

Isaiah 26:1-6 / Matthew 7:21, 24-27

4th *Advent Weekday [St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor]*

Isaiah 29:17-24 / Matthew 9:27-31

5th *Advent Weekday*

Isaiah 30:19-26 / Matthew 9:35-10:1-8

Mass Intentions

Saturday	5:30	Owen Basil Fitzgerald RIP
Sunday	9:00	Michael Scotto RIP
	11:00	For the People of the Parish
Monday	8:30	Holy Souls
	5:30	John Betschart RIP
Tuesday	8:30	Michael Scotto RIP
	5:30	Vinona Malaguilla RIP
Wednesday	8:30	Jewel DeBellis RIP
	5:30	Alice Mazzucchi RIP
Thursday	8:30	Michael Scotto RIP
	5:30	Intentions of Roberto Rodrigo
Friday	8:30	Barbara Gamba RIP
	5:30	Intentions of Kryisia & James Ovens
Saturday	8:30	Barbara Gamba RIP

Peace & Justice Notes

Prayer Vigils: Please join Catholic Mobilizing Network's next two **prayer vigils for Lisa Montgomery and Brandon Bernard**, who will be executed by the Federal government next month. The vigils take place in the hour before the scheduled execution, and are a time of prayer, reflection and lamentation that our government takes a life for a life, while our Faith teaches that God takes no pleasure in killing. Just as the 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence that we observed in June deepened our understanding of George Floyd's murder, prayerful contemplation in the hour leading to an execution is a powerful reminder of God's love for all, our Faith's teaching against capital punishment, and our role as Catholics.

Attorney General William Barr is now responsible for nine executions since July. Last week the Trump Administration executed **Orlando Hall**, which was the first execution by a lame-duck president since 1889. To join in the vigils: register and RSVP at catholicmobilizing.org.

Virtual Prayer Vigil for Lisa Montgomery

◆ Tuesday, Dec. 8 | 11:00 am-Noon, PST

Virtual Prayer Vigil for Brandon Bernard

◆ Thursday, Dec. 10 | 11:00 am-Noon, PST

'Thanksgiving Giving': Thank you to everyone who donated their small toiletries to our drive!

Prayers for the Hungry: Join your prayers with those across the globe who are observing the **2020 World Food Day**. The theme this year is: *"Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future,"* and we are asked to pray on any autumn day to end the scourge of hunger. Please also consider a monetary donation to the Berkeley Food Pantry, our conference of St. Vincent de Paul [see above left], Catholic Relief Services, or other groups that serve the hungry. **Food insecurity is here in our community and also devastatingly present across the globe.**

A Tribute to Beethoven



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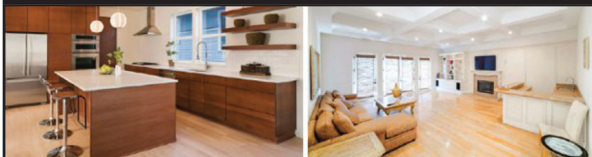
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