

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday), Year A

# St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Parish



**TODAY at 12:30 pm: Christmas Tree Lighting / 2:00 pm: Christmas Concert!**

Rev. Nicholas Glisson, Pastor. The Most Reverend Michael Barber, SJ, Bishop – Diocese of Oakland

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:30 pm  
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 am

## DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Tues.– Thurs. + Saturday 8:30 am  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 5:30 pm

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday – Saturday 8:00 am  
Mon./Wed./Friday 5:10 pm

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 pm  
(and by appointment)

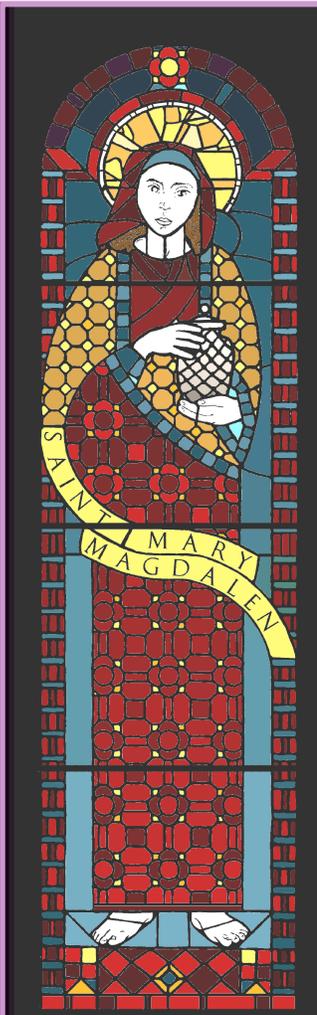
## OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
9:00 am – Noon  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Phone: 510-526-4811  
Fax: 510-525-3638

## WEBSITE



[marymagdalen.org](http://marymagdalen.org)



XDavid Lance Goines, 2002

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CFCS Funeral Services 510-223-2165

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

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

**BAPTISM:** Preparation classes take place on the first Monday of the month. Please call the parish office for more information.

**CONFIRMATION:** Classes run from September through May; contact the office for more information.

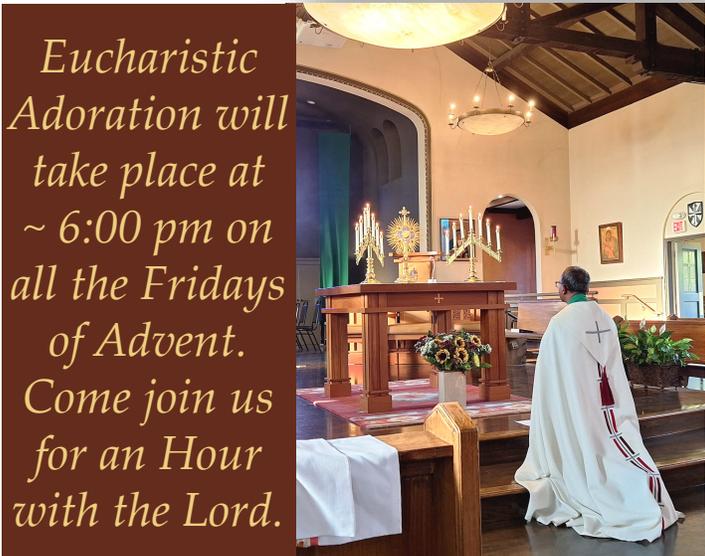
**MARRIAGE:** Please contact the pastor at least six months prior to the wedding.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** The Sacrament is offered at every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mass, and by appointment.

2005 Berryman Street | Berkeley, CA 94709 | 510-526-4811 | [marymagdalen.org](http://marymagdalen.org)

# Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent, Year A ~ December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Weekly Collections through December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2025			
Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
12/07/2025	\$8,598.55	\$10,000.00	-\$1,401.45
Year-to-Date	\$443,295.47	\$502,000.00	-\$58,704.53
<i>Better than last week!</i>			



Parish Calendar through December 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2025	
<b>December 12</b>	<b>Peace &amp; Justice Monthly Meeting</b> Friday 4:00 pm, Norton Hall
<b>December 12</b>	<b>Eucharistic Adoration (Holy Hour)</b> Friday 6:00 pm, Church ( <i>On Every Friday in Advent</i> )
<b>December 13-14</b>	<b>Preacher at Weekend Masses: Fr. Nick</b> Weekend 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00/9:30/11:30 am Sunday
<b>December 14</b>	<b>Christmas Tree Lighting</b> Sunday 12:30-1:45 pm, Dominican Garden
<b>December 14</b>	<b>Christmas Concert &amp; Sing-a-Long Carols</b> Sunday 2:00 pm, Church
<b>December 15</b>	<b>Advent Penance (Reconciliation) Service</b> Monday 7:30 pm, Church
<b>December 16</b>	<b>Discussion of the Sunday Gospel</b> <i>Zoom link:</i> Tuesday 2:00-3:00 pm, <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup">tinyurl.com/SMM-GospelGroup</a>
<b>December 17</b>	<b>Meeting of SPRED Catechism</b> Wednesday 6:30 pm, Norton Hall
<b>December 19</b>	<b>Discussion of the Sunday Gospel</b> Friday 9:15 - 10:15 am, Norton Hall
<b>December 19</b>	<b>Eucharistic Adoration (Holy Hour)</b> Friday 6:00 pm, Church ( <i>On Every Friday in Advent</i> )
<b>December 20-21</b>	<b>Preacher at Weekend Masses: Fr. Wilson</b> Weekend 5:30 pm Saturday; 8:00/9:30/11:30 am Sunday

## Scripture Readings for the Week

- 14<sup>th</sup> **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)**  
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 / James 5:7-10 /  
Matthew 11:2-11
- 15<sup>th</sup> *Advent Weekday*  
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17 / Matthew 21:23-27
- 16<sup>th</sup> *Advent Weekday*  
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 / Matthew 21:28-32
- 17<sup>th</sup> *Advent Weekday*  
Genesis 49:2, 8-10 / Matthew 1:1-17
- 18<sup>th</sup> *Advent*  
Jeremiah 23:5-8 / Matthew 1:18-25
- 19<sup>th</sup> *Advent Weekday*  
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 / Luke 1:5-25
- 20<sup>th</sup> *Advent Weekday*  
Isaiah 7:10-14 / Luke 1:26-38

## Holiday Outreach Giving Tree



*This is the final weekend for our Giving Tree!* Please take an ornament! — all are for either a \$30 Target gift card or a \$30 cash donation. Checks: to St. Mary Magdalen with "HO" on the memo line, or online: [tinyurl.com/SMM-Donate](https://tinyurl.com/SMM-Donate).

Our recipient charities are: *St. Mary's Center, Mercy Center Brown Bag Program for Seniors, Elizabeth House, Catholic Charities*, and our parish *St. Vincent de Paul Conference*. **Please return your donations by TODAY, December 14<sup>th</sup>.** The Holiday Outreach Team will be in Norton Hall from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

## Mass Intentions



Saturday	5:30	For the People of the Parish
Sunday	8:00	Ann Flemer RIP
	9:30	Donna Revecho RIP
Monday	5:30	Ann Dodds RIP
Wednesday	5:30	Nicholas Espejo RIP
Thursday	8:30	Intentions of Lucien Raphael
Saturday	8:30	Intentions of Paul Sporer

## Christmas Mass Schedule

- December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve**  
5:00 pm — Family Mass  
9:30 pm — Christmas Concert  
10:00 pm — Mass in the Night
- December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day**  
9:00 am — Christmas Day Mass  
11:00 am — Christmas Day Mass

## Two-Part Series: Lectio Divina on the Nativity with Fr. Nick



*The Nativity* by Tony Jordan for BBC One

**Thursday, December 18th @ 6:30 pm  
Norton Hall**

110-minute film,, followed by a *Lectio Divina*  
(A prayerful group discussion with Fr. Nick)

Fr. Nick is bringing us some of the fruits of his Priest's Retreat in Yorkshire, England: analyzing the nativity narratives from two different perspectives: film and art.



*Nativity*, Bicci di Lorenzo, c. 1415

**Saturday, January 3rd @ 6:30 pm  
Norton Hall**

*Lectio Divina* on this early Renaissance painting

Fr. Nick emphasizes that it is not necessary for you to have attended the first event to appreciate the second; the two evenings will embrace complementary, but different, ways of deepening our experience of the stories of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus surrounding the time of His Nativity. Light refreshments will be served.

**ADVENT**  
**WEEK THREE**

*Rejoice!*



The Third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete," or "Rejoicing" Sunday. We have arrived at the midpoint of Advent. The rose colored candle is lit, and the priest wears rose-colored vestments at Mass.

Our preparations are now half over, and Christmas is near. Our hearts are filled with joyful anticipation!

**CHRIST is COMING**

(Banner for our fence by Mary Ernst.)

## Piety

About the time I came of age, the Church refocused from an emphasis on piety and devotions to community, scripture, Eucharist and social justice. This was a laudable and necessary result of Vatican II. Devotional practices had become onerous and some, frankly, were superstitious: an Irishwoman reputedly consumed only the Eucharist and no other food for decades; praying certain novenas apparently guaranteed results, regardless of God's will; and, without considering that there is no time or space outside our material world, we were given days off from Purgatory by reciting particular prayers or visiting holy sites.

My budding intellectual bent happily bought into this trend. It seemed to me dishonest to have Mary intercede with Jesus, assuming he would grant her a favor He wouldn't give me directly. Some other questions I pondered: *If the Eucharist is truly food from heaven, how would chewing it desecrate it? Is Christ really required to grant a personal request because I have prayed Miraculous Medal novena? Doesn't this belief place limits on God's omnipotence?*

I should emphasize that, properly understood, all of these prayers and devotions are fine ways of communicating with God, but in an excess of zeal they can shortcut the depth of God's mystical relationship with us.

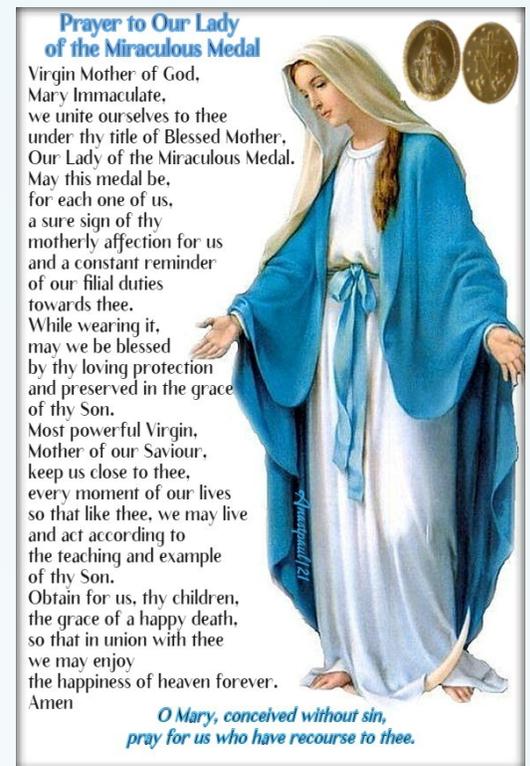
However, something can be lost in eschewing the very human way of the pious in engaging with God. Once, when presiding at a Mass in London, a woman dressed in a sari annoyed me when she spent the post-communion period touching all the statues in the church instead of praying with us. Then I thought, *"Her intimacy with heaven and the saints is stronger than mine!"* Touching statues, visiting shrines and reciting familiar prayers engage the whole person, and they keep someone like me from living in his or her head.

Jesus was likely tied to the pharisaical movement when He began His public ministry. The Pharisees believed in strict adherence to all 613 Jewish laws from the Torah. They saw these observances as the best way to be faithful to the Covenant and avoid the relativism of the Sadducees. While the Pharisees appealed to Jesus because He desired to practice his faith on a level deeper than empty ritual, He became critical of them when they imposed the letter of the law on people even when this violated the spirit of the law. (For example, shepherds were defined as sinners because they could not leave their flocks, and therefore would miss Sabbath services in the synagogue.)

As with the Pharisees, piety runs a fundamentalist risk. It can make our faith simply transactional: *"I've done what was required, now God is bound to respond in kind."* In our hearts, we know it isn't really true, but it's easy to fall into this pattern of thinking. Recently I have tried to understand many young people's fixation with the pre-Vatican II Church. It seems like the overbearing and static ethos my generation threw out has been embraced by them. But I am reminded that young people never experienced the abuses we knew. They were weaned on community and love to the point that to them, these values feel the way rote prayers and fasting did to us.

I think that young people (particularly young men) who prioritize piety over fellowship in their Church have a legitimate reason to do so. They live in a soup of relativity that is increasingly arbitrary and violent. They believe that piety will help them navigate this complex and dangerous world. Rather than decry their lack of interest in the things that brought our faith to life, we would do well to assist them on the faith journey presented to them.

Our experience with the pitfalls of piety may help them to see its limits. And their piety may be an entrée to a deeper spiritual life for us all. Young Catholics might help us discover anew a practice we elders have laid aside.





**Sunday, December 14th, at 12:30 pm:**  
**Christmas Tree Lighting in the Dominican Garden**  
**2:00 pm: Christmas Concert & Sing-a-Long Carols in the Church!**

**Advent Reconciliation Service**  
**Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:30 pm, Church**

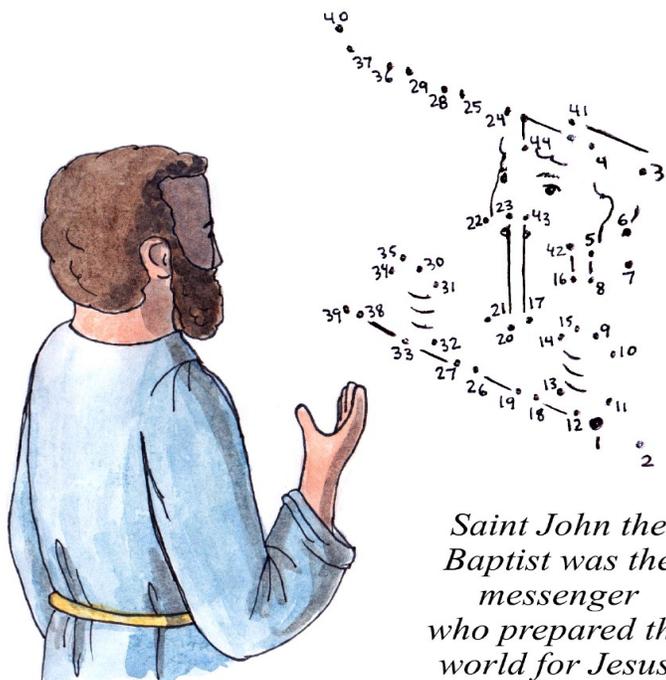
A message from Fr. Nick.

*"It is important to confess regularly.* This keeps our relation with God honest. I think that confession every six-to-eight weeks is a good habit that shows spiritual maturity. At a minimum, one should celebrate the sacrament during Advent and Lent.

*"Monday night is your chance to acknowledge the negative side of your relationship with God. At 7:30 p.m. we will host our Reconciliation Service for Advent. If you decry the commercialization of Christmas, this is your chance to restore some sanctity to the season."*



# The Kids' Bulletin



*Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.*

*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?  
 Connect the dots to find out!  
 Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*

## What Happens When Jesus Comes?

*In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples to tell John the Baptist what He does. What happens to whom? Match up the people with what happens to them.*

**thekidsbulletin.com**

- |                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| the blind •    | • are raised up                   |
| and the lame • | • have good news preached to them |
| lepers •       | • hear                            |
| the deaf •     | • are cleansed                    |
| the dead •     | • receive their sight             |
| and the poor • | • walk                            |



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