

Reflections

My Brothers and Sisters,

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we have the opportunity to reflect on the appearance of John the Baptist in our salvation history - how John came out of the desert as a prophet, proclaiming a baptism of repentance, that the Kingdom of God is at hand - and that we are to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” Our Gospel passage (Matthew 3:1-12) goes on to tell us how John challenged the Pharisees and Sadducees to “Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance.”

As we know, John prepared the way for the first coming of Christ, his coming in history - and John will later baptize Jesus in the Jordan River. But today, we are still in that time of Advent when the Church focuses our attention on how we are to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ - when he will come in glory at the end of time, at a time we least expect and cannot predict. So perhaps the question that the Gospel places before you and me is “How do I ‘prepare the way of the Lord’ in anticipation of his return in glory at the end of time?” We can also ask ourselves “How do I ‘produce good fruit’ so as to be ready to confidently greet the Lord when he arrives on earth for the second time?”

As I reflect personally on these questions, wondering what I can do to produce good fruit and prepare the way of the Lord, my thoughts go to how I am processing my own feelings about the abrupt departure of Fr. JC from our community and from priestly ministry for a year. The past few weeks have been a roller coaster of emotions for me, as JC has not only been a colleague in ministry but continues to be one of my closest friends. Many in our community have been experiencing a similar roller coaster.

I now realize that I am experiencing a journey through what Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross described as the “stages of grief” that one goes through when dealing with a significant loss. Initially described as five stages by Dr. Kübler-Ross, she later modified her understanding that there are actually seven “stages of grief,” namely: ¹ shock and denial; ² pain and guilt; ³ anger and bargaining; ⁴ reflection, loneliness and depression; ⁵ the “upward turn” (life becomes calmer, more organized and the depression lifts slightly); ⁶ reconstruction and working through (working on realistic solutions to moving forward with life and work) - and finally - ⁷ acceptance and hope as we move into the future. As I write this column a week before you read it, I think I’d place myself approximately at the fourth stage beginning to move to the fifth. While these movements through the various stages can’t be “rushed,” I’m hopeful that at least *part* of my working to “produce good fruit” during these weeks of Advent will be to be attentive to these stages (and to the growth that they call me to) as I continue supporting Fr. JC as someone who is truly a brother to me.

As of December 1st (as I write), details continue to be worked out as to where Fr. JC will live and what he will do during the time that he is on leave. He may come to regard these coming months as a sort of “sabbatical” - a time to work on particular projects. I’ll do my best to keep the community posted as we move forward through this unexpected turn of events. Fr. JC is understandably quite embarrassed and is maintaining a low profile as he works through his own feelings and plans. If you would like to communicate with him, please feel free to send a note or card to the parish office and we will be sure that he receives it.

Let’s continue to pray for one another on our Advent journey, as we prepare to joyfully greet Jesus when he returns in glory!



Advent grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Charles G. Kieffer".

Rev. Charles G. Kieffer
Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH NEWS



Christmas Flowers

To help cover the cost of flowers for Christmas, donations are gratefully appreciated. If you wish, you may give in memory or in honor of your loved one(s). Please **PRINT** the name of the person to be remembered on an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" or use the envelope provided with your offering envelopes. *You can also make these donations with your WeShare online giving or as a one-time donation by going to <https://sttheresaphx.churchgiving.com/cflowers>.* All remembered names will be inserted in a special Christmas bulletin. **The submission deadline for ALL names will be NEXT SUNDAY, December 15th!!!**

TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

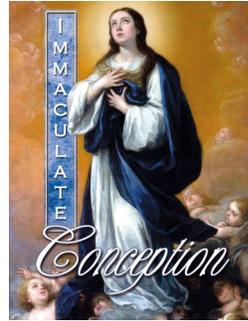
Join St. Theresa parishioners as we consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after completing Fr. Michael Gailtey's "33 Days to Morning Glory." If you have previously consecrated yourself to Mary, please join us to renew your consecration on her very special day.



**December 12th - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
(Patroness of the Diocese of Phoenix)**

6:30AM Daily Mass in the Church

Special Consecration Holy Cards will be given to each participant. If you have completed "33 Days to Morning Glory" or any other retreat/program (i.e. Sodality or Legion of Mary) that included your consecration to Our Blessed Mother, you are invited to join us in this special blessing. Questions? Please leave a message at 602-840-2728 and Catherine will return your call.



**The Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**
Monday, December 9
6:30AM Daily Mass

December 8 is a Sunday this year, and the Church will instead celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent that day. But because of the importance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, both in the global Church and as the patronal feast of our nation, its celebration has been moved to Monday, December 9. (It is also **not** a holy day of obligation this year because of this change.) Those wishing to celebrate the Immaculate Conception are invited to join us at our regular 6:30AM daily Mass.

Many Hands Make Light Work!

Christmas is fast approaching, and we need about 20 people to decorate the Church and Fr. Feeney Hall on Saturday, December 21st, starting at 9AM. (We'll especially need some hearty individuals to help with the ladder work.)

Visit our parish website for a link to get more information and sign up online. All ages are welcome, and service hours will be verified upon request. A pizza lunch will be provided, and you're also welcome to bring a "holiday favorite" to share if you like... so let your holiday spirit shine and come join us!



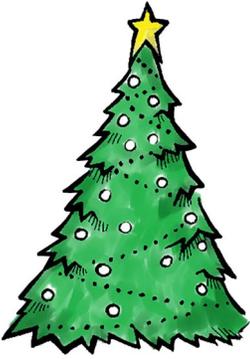
Firewood Sales: Boy Scout Troop 147 has collected and split firewood and can deliver it to your home. \$125/half truckload, \$250/full truckload. Please contact Rose Cheke @ 602-625-4959 to place your order.



Thursday, December 12

6:30am and 8:30am (with School Community)

Though not a solemnity nor holy day of obligation, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is of great significance as the patronal feast of the Diocese of Phoenix, especially during this its 50th anniversary year. Saint Theresa Catholic School will also be joining the festivities this year with a special school Mass. All are invited to celebrate with us! Not familiar with the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego? Visit the "Saint of the Day" website at www.franciscanmedia.org/our-lady-of-guadalupe to learn more!



**Families For Caring
Important Dates and
Volunteer Opportunities**

There is still time to pick an ornament and buy a gift to help make Christmas brighter for the less fortunate. Please bring all unwrapped gifts back to the church by **Sunday, December 15th**. Please bring all gift cards to the Parish Office (after

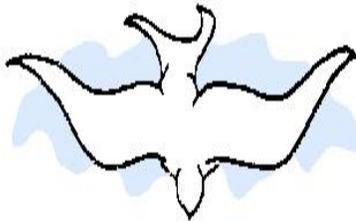
hours you can drop gift cards in the drop box outside of the office) by **Sunday, December 15th**. In addition to providing gifts, volunteers are needed to help with wrapping and delivering the gifts. Please mark your calendar and join us for the following:

Wrapping Party: Saturday, December 21st from 9AM-1PM in the Msgr. McMahon Gym - All our welcome! Bring the whole family and celebrate the spirit of giving together.

Gift Deliveries: Sunday, December 22nd after morning mass.

Any time you can donate to either wrapping or gift deliveries is greatly appreciated! This is also a great opportunity for students that need service hours. For questions please contact Anne Vogel at 602-315-0130.

Spring 2020 Adult Confirmation



Are you a practicing Catholic over age 19 who somewhere along the way, missed celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Start the new year off by growing in faith and personal spirituality. Adult Confirmation preparation sessions will be offered starting Sunday, January 26th after the 11AM Liturgy at noon in the Convent Upper Room. Sessions normally run one hour. Candidates completing the 6 week preparation period will Celebrate Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. All participants must be registered members at St. Theresa Parish and provide a copy of their Baptism Certificate with registration form. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or online at www.sttheresaphx.org and may be returned to RCIA mailbox in the Parish Office. We look forward to journeying in faith with you. Questions? pdpettit@sttheresaphx.org.



Pray For Those...
Who Are Sick: Gabriela Arriola,
Lars Arriola & Rosie Tallabas
Who Have Died: Mary Alba



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Priests around the country have reported a scam in which parishioners have received text messages and e-mails supposedly from their priest, asking the parishioner for emergency help - usually in the form of purchasing gift cards - and then signing off with the priest's name. This is a scam - do not fall for it! Your priests at St. Theresa do not send texts of this sort - if you receive such a text, please copy the text and forward it to "SPAM" (7726) free of charge to file a complaint.



Knights Corner: To join the St. Theresa Parish Knights of Columbus Council 13497 please visit <https://www.kofc.org/un/joinus/en/index.html>. Since 1882, membership in the Knights of Columbus has been open to men 18

years of age or older who are "practical" (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. Since that time, the Knights of Columbus has understood "practical catholic" to mean a Catholic who accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the **precepts of the Catholic Church**, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PASTORAL CARE

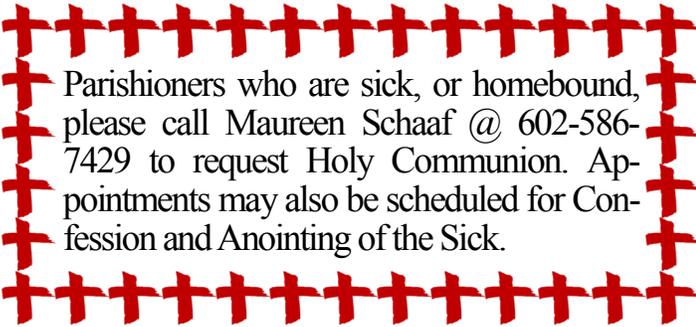


The Alzheimer's Support Group meets the last Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 31st at Panera Bread (7145 E. Indian School Rd.) at 4PM in the Parish Conference Room. If

you are caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia and need the support of others please come by and see if this is the group for you.

Pastoral Care is in need of Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMs) to serve on Tuesday mornings at The Gardens of Scottsdale.

If you are a TRAINED homebound EM and are interested in serving in this way, please contact Maureen Schaaf at mschaaf@sphx.org or 602-840-0850 x 113.



Parishioners who are sick, or homebound, please call Maureen Schaaf @ 602-586-7429 to request Holy Communion. Appointments may also be scheduled for Confession and Anointing of the Sick.

Eucharistic



Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Every Thursday in the Convent Chapel 9AM-7PM
Advent Family Adoration
7-7:30PM
(December 5, 12 & 19)

Poinsettia Plants For Our Homebound.

Pastoral Care is in need of 20 poinsettia plants. If you are able to help please bring a poinsettia to the Parish Office by Monday, December 16th.



DIOCESAN NEWS

Worldwide Marriage Encounter "Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Make sure your marriage bears good fruit. Participate in a Marriage Encounter Weekend January 25th-26th in Phoenix or March 21st-22nd in Tucson. To apply online, and for more weekend dates visit www.wmearizona.com.

"Tears Speak... But Spirits Soar" is a support group for women who have lost a child, or children, to abortion and wish to heal the pain of that loss. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th at 7PM at Mount Claret. For a confidential discussion, call Holy Spirit Parish at 480-838-7474 and ask for Patty.

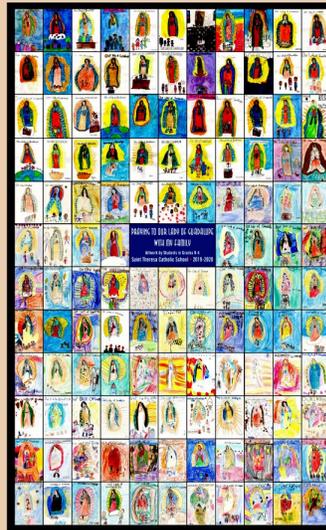


Give the Gift of Camp To Your Loved Ones This Christmas!

St. Joseph's Youth Camp, located 23 miles SE of Flagstaff at Mormon Lake, is offering week long programs with a \$50 discount for Ages 8-15 and a chance to win a *FREE WEEK* if you register by December 30th. Print out our Camper Brochure on our home page for more info at www.SJYCAZ.com. Programs include: Horseback Riding, Kayaking, Archery, Hiking, Campfire and Telescope nights, Shelter Building, Food, Lodging, Transportation from Chandler and more! Counselors can earn community service hours during the Summer sessions. Questions can be emailed to admin@SJYCAZ.com.

SCHOOL NEWS

In honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we have created two panels with the art work created by students in grades K-7.



The panels will be exhibited in the church vestibule beginning this weekend (December 7-8), and through the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

We thank Fr. JC Ortiz as he originated the idea for this project, as we continue to hold him in our hearts in prayer.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

**Mass Intentions & Celebrants
(DECEMBER 9TH-DECEMBER 15TH)**



MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

6:30AM +JAMES MONAHAN - FR. JOACHIM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

6:30AM +JAMES EGLE - FR. JOACHIM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

6:30AM +TINA TOPALI - FR. JOACHIM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

6:30AM MR. & MRS. MARK HEBERT,
SPECIAL INT. - FR. CHUCK

8:30AM +DOLORES KELLER - FR. CHUCK

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

6:30AM +MARY ALBA - FR. JOACHIM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

8:00AM ROSIE TALLABAS, SPECIAL INT. - FR. JOACHIM

4:00PM FOR THE PARISHIONERS - FR. CHUCK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

7:30AM JACKIE LONGO, SPECIAL INT. - FR. CHUCK

9:00AM +MELODY MAE MARSHALL - FR. JOACHIM

11:00AM ANNE & CHARLIE VOGEL,
SPECIAL INT. - FR. JOACHIM

5:00PM +PATRICIA RUTLEDGE - FR. PAUL

*The Priest scheduled to celebrate the Mass
IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.*

The Week Ahead!



Sunday

9:00AM RCIA (Convent Upper Rm)
10:15AM RCIC (Club Rm)
10:30AM RE Classes (School Classrooms)
12:30PM 4th-12th Grade Sacrament Prep
(Classroom 17)
6:00PM Life Teen (Life Rm/Msgr. McMahon Gym)

Monday

5:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Tuesday

4:00PM SVDP Mtg. (Convent Conference Rm)
6:00PM Cub Scout Pack 147 Mtg.
(Msgr. McMahon Gym)
7:00PM Boy Scout Troop 147 Mtg. (PJP Rm)

Wednesday

9:30AM Centering Prayer (Convent Chapel)
4:00PM Life Teen (Life Teen Rm)
5:00PM Reconciliation (Church)
6:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Church)
6:30PM Rosary (Convent Chapel)

Thursday

9:00AM Adoration (Convent Chapel)
6:45PM Benediction (Convent Chapel)
7:00PM Family Adoration (Convent Chapel)
Kevin Saunders Bible Study
(Fr. Feeney Hall)

Friday

6:30PM Communion & Liberation Group
(Convent Upper Rm)
Covenant of Love (Convent Conference Rm)

Saturday

9:00AM Reconciliation (Church)
8:00PM Al Anon (Classroom 16)
Alcoholics Anonymous (Classroom 17)

~ Readings ~

Week of December 8, 2019

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

Monday Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6,
11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2,3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt
18:12-14

Wednesday Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt
11:28-30

Thursday Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt
13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Friday Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3,4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13