

St. John of the Cross Parish

Served by the Carmelites

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PASTORAL TEAM

Tel/Voice Mail

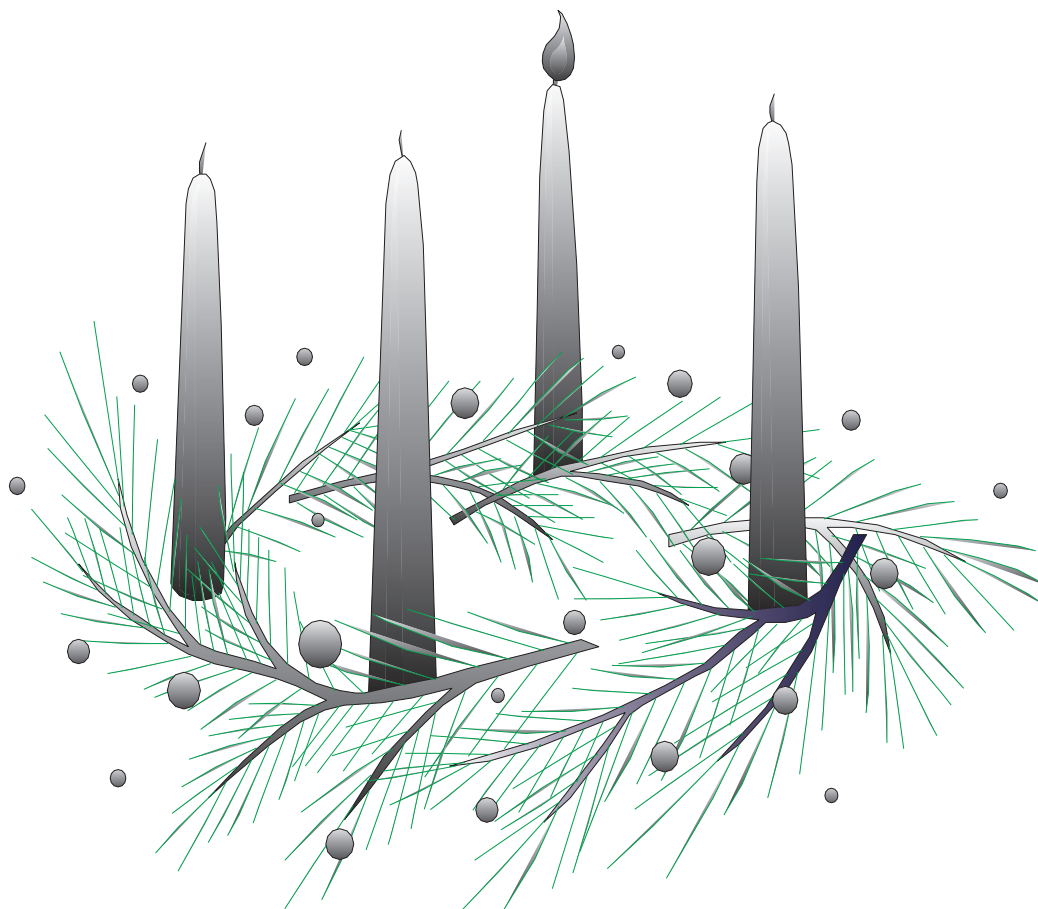
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prepare the way...



ADVENT

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Mon	Dec. 3	Isaiah 2: 1 -5; Matthew 8:5-11, 13++
Tues	Dec. 4	Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
Wed	Dec. 5	Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37
Thurs	Dec. 6	Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Fri	Dec. 7	Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31
Sat	Dec. 8	Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6; 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
Sun	Dec. 9	Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

CHURCH

Mon	Dec. 3	St. Albert of Jerusalem Advent Mass 7:00pm
Tues	Dec. 4	St. John of the Cross School Advent Mass 6:30pm
Tues	Dec. 4	Adult Choir 8:00-10:00pm
Wed	Dec. 5	Band Practice 8:00-10:00pm
Thurs	Dec. 6	St. Teresa of Avila Advent Mass 10:30am
Thurs	Dec. 6	Folk Choir Practice 8:00-10:00pm

SEMINAR ROOM

Mon	Dec. 3	RCIA 7:00-9:00pm
Tues	Dec. 4	Knights of Columbus Exec. Meeting 7:00-10:00pm
Wed	Dec. 5	Prime Time Crafts 1:30 – 4:30 pm
Wed	Dec. 5	Sacramental Preparation 6:30-7:30pm
Sat	Dec. 8	Lay Carmelite Formation 2 9:30-11:30am

NESSINGER HALL

Mon	Dec. 3	Knights of Columbus 7:00-9:30pm
Wed	Dec. 5	RCIC 6:30-7:30pm
Sat	Dec. 8	CFCFF 6:00-11:00pm

Advent Reflection for Week 1:

"Honey, we're pregnant!"

Few statements carry as much emotion as the one that titles this piece, especially for those who have almost given up after years of disappointment and false hopes. So we can imagine the response of one couple, the biblical Abraham and Sarah, who against all odds not only become pregnant, but models of faith in the process. It's both a cliché and an understatement to say that God is a God of surprises, but it's true. Theologian and novelist Frederick Buechner goes further and says that while we easily see tragedy of the stories of scripture, we must also see their comedy, when, as he says, "What shouldn't happen, what couldn't possibly happen . . . happens!"— like the resurrection, like the ne'er-do-well son welcomed home again, like the birth of Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac, whose name means "Son of Laughter." Advent should leave our faces streaked with tears of laughter at ourselves for thinking we had figured God out!



But Abraham and Sarah are Advent pillars not only because grace broke into their lives, but also because they trusted the God who made the promise. Saint Paul considers Abraham to be our father in faith not because of any qualifying deeds, but because he trusted that the promises of God would be fulfilled. We find God in surprising moments of grace, and we also find God in the experiences that call for patient waiting and trust.



Waiting is not the strong suit of many of us in our hurry-up culture. Everything is urgent. Hope is foreign to people who expect quick relief, cures, and solutions. We struggle to guard Advent jealously because popular culture short-circuits this season of hope: We are tempted to go directly to celebrating Christmas without getting in touch with the part of ourselves that is longing, hoping, and trusting.

Waiting is also difficult because we're forced to admit that we are not in control—God is. A friend who recently became pregnant experienced an awed



Would you like one of the priests or the deacon from St. John of the Cross Parish visit you while you are in the hospital? Or would you like to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick? *Please let us know by calling the parish office.*

Please keep in your prayers, Mariama Chako, mother of our beloved pastor, Fr. Joseph, who passed away on Tuesday, November 27. May she rests in the arms of our Lord. Keep in your prayers also, Fr. Joseph and his family. May our Lord strengthen them in this difficult moment.



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

helplessness as the natural process advanced within her body. Her husband also could only wait with her, loving and supporting her and their unborn child, but unable to accelerate the process.

For all their drama, the words “Honey, we’re pregnant,” uttered by a tear-streaked, wrinkle-faced 90-year-old Sarah to wobbly, unbelieving Abraham, or by an amazed, teenaged Mary to an equally confounded Joseph, indicate not the joy of birth—not quite yet—but the amazing surprise of love, and the beginning of a season of waiting, when God-is-with-us.

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YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

EDGE:

Monday, December 17 - Christmas Social, 6:30pm

LIFE TEEN:

Fri Nov 30 - Sun Dec 02 - Winter Retreat (*please pray for us*)

Friday, December 07 - Sandwiches for Homeless, 4pm

Friday, December 14 - Christmas Social, 6:30pm

SPIRITUS VITAE:

Wednesday, December 05 - Our Lady of the Airways Parish, 7pm

More Info @ www.sjocym.com



Blessing for the Advent Wreath

O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth thy blessing upon this wreath and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the Coming of Christ, and may receive from thee abundant graces. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all. Bless us and accept + these wreaths of light made from our hands. May their ever increasing brightness be a sign to us of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we might prepare in joy for his humble birth in a manger and be ready to receive him at his coming again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

PRIME TIME CLUB - (a social group for those over 50) Membership - \$10 per year.

Held occasionally are outings, Saturday evening dinners in Nessinger hall and luncheons in local restaurants. Held weekly are Line Dancing on Tuesdays at 1pm and Craft Group on Wednesdays at 2pm. Contact Mary at 905.824.8537.

Christmas Novena Cards from the Society of the Little Flower is available in the parish office at \$3 each. Check out the few designs to choose from.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Telephone voice mail extensions at the parish for questions regarding sacramental preparation for baptized children attending Catholic school. Message will be returned by Sacramental Team.

905.821.1331 x 225 1st Communion / Reconciliation

905.821.1331 x 230 Confirmation

Messages left on these voice mails will be returned by members of the Sacramental Team.



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Details posted around the church.



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