

St. John of God Catholic Church

Serving the UCSF Medical Center Community Since 1967

1290 – 5th Avenue, San Francisco CA 94122

Parish Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday -Tuesday -Thursday (closed Federal Holidays)

Tel. 415.566.5610 | Email: stjohnofgod-sf@sbcglobal.net | Website: <https://sjog.net>

Daily Mass: Monday – Friday 12:10 p.m. (followed by Holy Rosary)

First Friday: Benediction Service (after Mass)

Weekend Mass: (Saturday) Sunday Vigil 4:15 p.m., Sunday: 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Reconciliation (as requested or by appointment)

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent



“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.” Matthew 11:10

December 14, 2025



Prayer Before Liturgy

Dear Father in heaven, I come before your sacred altar to assist the divine sacrifice of your Son Jesus. Fix my mind on you and by his precious blood wash away all my sins as I repent of having offended you. Grant that we may celebrate this holy mystery with strong faith and devotion.

Send us the Holy Spirit of love to ignite our hearts to receive devoutly the Holy Eucharist. Bless our family, our parish, and our community. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen.

Liturgical Celebrations

Dec. 24 Wednesday 4:15 PM

Christmas Eve Mass

Dec. 25 Thursday 9:30 and 11:30

AM Christmas Day Masses

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph:

Dec. 27 Saturday 4:15 PM Vigil

Dec. 28 Sunday 9:30 and 11:30 AM
(Sunday in the Octave of Christmas)

Jan. 1, 2026 Thursday 12:10 PM

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace

The Epiphany of the Lord:

Jan. 3, 2026 Saturday 4:14 PM Vigil

Jan. 4, 2026 Sunday 10:30 AM

(no 9:30 Mass) Reception to follow.

The Baptism of the Lord:

Jan. 10, 2026 Saturday 4:15 PM

Vigil

Jan. 11, 2026 Sunday 9:30 and 11:30 AM

The Mission of St. John of God Church

Following the dedication of Saint John of God to healthcare workers caring for the poor and the sick, we walk the same path to minister to patients and their families, hospital staff and faculty in the UC San Francisco Medical Center to help meet Jesus Christ through our actions, charity, transparency, social justice, and inclusiveness.

Today's Readings:

First Reading – God himself will come to save us. (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10)

Psalm – **Lord, come and save us.** (Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10)

Second Reading – Be patient and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near. (James 5:7-10)

Gospel – Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another? (Matthew 11:2-11)

Saint of today: St. John of the Cross

Thoughts on today's Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning “rejoice.” This Sunday is so named because “Rejoice” is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5. We mark this Sunday on the Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near. As we celebrate this joyful Sunday, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on the anticipation embodied by John the Baptist.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus and says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. These signs recall Isaiah's prophecy about healing and restoration, suggesting salvation has arrived through Jesus but is not yet complete. During Advent, we witness signs of God's promise already present and help prepare for its fulfillment in the coming reign of God—an ongoing cause for rejoicing. (Adapted from LoyolaPress-Sunday Connection)

Reconciliation/Confession:

Come reconnect with God to experience mercy and joy and prepare for Christmas. Call the Parish Office to make an appointment or by speaking with the celebrant before or after Mass.

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick & Healing

Baptism

Holy Communion

Reconciliation

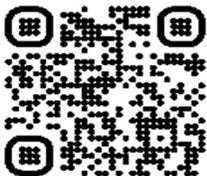
Marriage/weddings (requires six months preparation for in-church ceremony.)

Funerals

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) for Adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation, and/or Holy Communion, or joining the Catholic Church. Please call or send an email to the Parish Office. For more information, please contact Debbie Feliz at 415-819-9093, dafeliz50@gmail.com or Paul Riofski at 415-517-647 sjogmusic@aol.com.

Ways to Donate to SJOG Church

1. Monetary offerings during Mass.
2. Electronic transfer (convenient way to make a one-time or recurring donation) via: <https://www.sjog.net/donate>.
3. Scan the QR image below with a mobile/smart phone.



Either #2 or #3 will open the Vanco SJOG donation page. If you have questions, please send an email to stjohnofgod-sf@sbcglobal.net.

The St. John of God Prayer (by Rev. Thomas L. Seagrave)

Dear God, Through the intercession of St John of God, patron of the poor and the sick, grant me the grace this day to greet every person that I meet with understanding and compassion. Reveal to me their needs and give me the means and inspire in my heart the humility and generosity of St. John so that I might be to them a revelation of Christ's love. Amen.

Mass intentions this week

Date & Time	Intentions	Celebrant
Sat. Dec. 13 4:15 pm - Vigil		Fr. Narcis Kabipi
Sun. Dec. 14 9:30 am 11:30 am	Patricia Carney – Healing People of the Parish	Fr. Te Van Nguyen Fr. Narcis Kabipi
Mon. Dec. 15 12:10 pm	RIP – Lucian Bender	Fr. Te Van Nguyen
Tues. Dec. 16 12:10 pm	RIP – Julia Wielgut	Fr. Te Van Nguyen
Wed. Dec. 17 12:10 pm	RIP – Attracta Gavney	Fr. Narcis Kabipi
Thurs. Dec. 18 12:10 pm		Fr. Narcis Kabipi
Fri. Dec. 19 12:10 pm	1) Birthday – Kim Multz 2) RIP – John Green	Fr. Narcis Kabipi
Sat. Dec. 20 4:15 pm - Vigil		Fr. Te Van Nguyen

If you wish to dedicate a Mass for a loved one or for yourself, please visit the Parish Office to select available date and time, call (415) 566-5610 or send an email to stjohnofgod-sf@sbcglobal.net. The Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10am-1pm, except Federal holidays.

2025 Archbishop Annual Appeal

This is the *last month to donate to this year's AAA*. We hope to increase our contribution as compared to last year. Please help us help the Archbishop's projects to make Jesus known and loved. Your contribution is a vivid expression of your commitment to bring Christ to others and enhances our ability to spread and celebrate our faith." Please consider this tax-deductible donation. Thank you.

Community News

Welcome to St. John of God Church



Welcome to those who may be visiting with us. Please join us for refreshments after Sunday Mass.



Please help us beautify the Church with your donation to Christmas flowers and Advent candles. Every amount is greatly appreciated. Please use the Flower Offering red envelopes. Thank you!

Weekly Readings, Special Observances, Blessed Persons Third Week of Advent

15 Monday – (St. Valerian of Abbenza, Bishop in Africa, Martyr)
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a | Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [Teach me your ways, O Lord.](#) | Matthew 21:23-27

16 Tuesday – (St. Adelaide, Empress)
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 | Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 | [The Lord hears the cry of the poor.](#) | Matthew 21:28-32

17 Wednesday – (St. John of Matha, Priest, Founder of the Trinitarians) Genesis 49:2, 8-10 | Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.](#) | Matthew 1:1-17

18 Thursday – (St. Malachy, Prophet)
Jeremiah 23:5-8 | Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.](#) | Matthew 1:18-25

19 Friday – (St. Dominic Uy) Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a | Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!](#) | Luke 1:5-25

20 (Saturday) Sunday Vigil 4:30 p.m. – (St. Vincent Romano)

21 Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Advent – (St. Peter Canisius, Jesuit and Doctor of the Church) Isaiah 7:10-14 | Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. [Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.](#) | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-24

Blessed Persons This Week

St. Valerian of Abbenza, Bishop in Africa, Martyr:

Bishop of Abbenza (Tunisia), he bore witness to Jesus Christ, true God and true man, during the persecution of the Vandals. The Arian heretic King Genseric forced Valerian to be homeless, though he was eighty, for refusing to hand over the Church's sacred vessels. He died of his hardship.

St. John of Matha, Priest, Founder of the Trinitarians:

John was born in Faucon, Provence, on June 23, 1160. After studying at Aix and spending time as a hermit, he earned his doctorate in theology in Paris and was ordained in 1197. He later joined St. Felix of Valois at Cerfroid, where they planned a religious order to ransom Christian prisoners from the Muslims. In 1198, Pope Innocent III approved their Order of the Most Holy Trinity, with John as superior, and they gained King Philip Augustus's support. The Order expanded across Europe and redeemed many captives. John died in Rome on December 17; his cult was recognized in 1655 and 1694, and his feast day is December 17.

Pastoral Staff:

- Rev. Narcis Kabipi, Administrator/Pastor and Hospital Chaplain
- Rev. Te Van Nguyen, Parochial Vicar and Hospital Chaplain
- Liturgy Committee: Fr. Narcis Kabipi, Bob Gajewski, Paul Riofski, Lynette Castiglione
- Pastoral Committee: Debbie Feliz, Lynette Castiglione, Chuck Witherell, Gilda Witherell
- OCIA: Debbie Feliz, Paul Riofski
- Marriage Preparation: Susan Collins

Administrative Staff:

- Finance Committee: Susan Fox, Bob Gajewski, Bill Becker, Dave Freitas
- Bookkeeper: Jessica Flores
- Bulletin Editor: Marilu I.
- Webmaster: Joe Humphreys
- Custodian: Phil Thurman

THIRD ADVENT CANDLE MEANING

Rejoice! We are just past halfway to Christmas! During this third week of Advent, as we light the Rose (or pink) candle we are called to remember the joy that Christ brings into the world. This Sunday, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, is also one of the two Sundays in the liturgical year in which the priest and deacon wear rose, to remind us that something joyful and exciting is about to happen (the other Sunday is the 4th we of Lent, or *Laetare* Sunday). As we continue our Advent preparations for the celebration of Christmas, we continue to know we are a joy-filled people, a people whose joy comes from all of the blessings our God gives us every day. May we reflect this week of Advent on how we spread the Good News, which is Jesus Christ, with great joy to a world that can always use the light of Christ in it, with kindness, gratitude, and worship.

By: Fr. Jonathan Nestico



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Advent, 2025

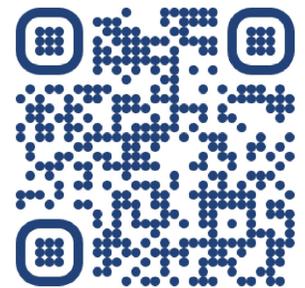
Dear Parishioners,

As we advance through the Advent Season, I wish each of you a joyful and blessed time of preparation as we remember the birth of Jesus. Each week, as we light the Advent candles, we're invited to reflect on the profound gifts Christ brings: the first candle shines with **hope** for Jesus' coming, the second calls us to **peace** as we recall Mary and Joseph's journey, the third invites **joy** as we anticipate His arrival, and the fourth celebrates the **love** God showed by sending us His Son.

Recently, one of our parishioners shared how St. John of God's spirit of welcome made them feel truly at home during a difficult moment in their life. This story is just one example of how our church's inclusive environment makes a real difference—reminding us that everyone who walks through our doors is embraced and supported, no matter where they come from or what they are facing.

But our weekly offertory collections continue to fall short of meeting our essential operating expenses, which is why I am reaching out to ask for your help. Once again we are counting on your generosity to help us bridge the gap by making an extra donation above and beyond your usual weekly offering to our 2025 Year-End Appeal. Your support will ensure that St. John of God continues to be a place where God's inclusive and affirming love is celebrated and all are welcome.

To donate by check, please write "2025 Year-End Appeal" on the memo line – this helps us separate these gifts from regular offerings. You can mail it to the office or drop it in a collection basket at Mass. You may also make your contribution online at www.sjog.net/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right. Your donation may be tax deductible—feel free to reach out for details by calling our parish office at (415) 566-5610 or email stjohnofgod-sf@sbcglobal.net. We are happy to work with you to make giving easy.



Thank you for your attention and generosity. The "Year-End Appeal" will remain open throughout Advent and Christmas. Your gift, no matter the amount, helps us maintain our church as a welcoming home for all. Know that you are always in my prayers and remembered at Masses. I wish you and your families a warm and meaningful Advent and Christmas.

Fr. Narcis Kabipi

PS Our schedule for the Christmas season is on the other side of this letter. Please join us if you are able. If you are unable to attend in person because you are home-bound, I invite you to call the parish office to request a visit. It would be my pleasure to bring communion to you!

Christmas at St. John of God

***Please join us at 1290 5th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122***



The Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Mass at 4:15 PM

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day Masses at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 27 – Vigil Mass at 4:15 PM

Sunday, December 28 – Masses at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace

Thursday January 1, 2026 – Mass at 12:10 PM

Feast of the Epiphany*

Saturday, January 3 – Vigil Mass at 4:15 PM

Sunday, January 4, 2026 – One Morning Mass at 10:30 AM

*** Note: Just one morning Mass followed by reception in Collins Hall.**

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 10 – Vigil Mass at 4:15 PM

Sunday, January 11 – Masses at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM