

**December 20th, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Reflection for the Week
CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART**

Christmas! 'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart.
—Washington Irving

Today's Readings

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people.
(2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).
Psalms — Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord
(Psalm 89).
Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever
(Romans 16:25- 27).
Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word
(Luke 1:26- 38).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass*
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Readings for the Week

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-1 2, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46- 56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Friday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13.
Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Please pray for our parishioners & extended family: Rest in Peace:

Judy Laxen, Dorle & Paul Gross, Josephine Small, Martha Araj Ayoub, David Desch, Ethel Friedrichs, Charlie & Dodie Vaszko, Father Kirk, Father Ken Westray of St. Vincent De Paul –SF, & Father P. Gerard O'Rourke

For Healing: Edith Bucoy, Pat Hoffman, Tom Johnson, Maureen Francis, Joe Humphreys, Mike Marty, Patrick Lee, Teresa Hyatt, Estela Becerra, Shirley Dela Cruz, Lynette Castiglione. & all our parishioners that are sick...and a special reminder to pray for those we know now living in care facilities.

Mass Intentions

Dec. 18th thru Dec. 24th, 2020 (Fri. thru Thur.)

Fri. Thomas Seagrave 5 Yr. Anniversary (RIP+) 12:10pm
Sat. (RIP+) 4:15pm
Sun. (RIP+) 9:30am
Sun. Anthony Wirth and Dr. Phil Jimenez (RIP) 11:30am
Mon. (RIP+) 12:10pm
Tues. (RIP+) 12:10pm
Weds. (RIP+) 12:10pm
Thurs. Chris Davies (Living) 12:10pm

**Give the gift of a Mass Intention.
Intention for Birthdays, Memorials, RIP,
Blessings, Marriage, and Get Well.**

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday: Winter begins
Wednesday: St. John of Kanty
Thursday: The Vigil of Christmas
Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday: St. Stephen; First Day of Kwanzaa

FEAST OF FAITH

Gathering

When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in 2008, tens of thousands gathered in Yankee Stadium to celebrate the Eucharist with him. What made them different from all the other excited crowds who have assembled there through the years? When they began to sing together, to listen together, to pray together, they ceased to be a crowd, and became a liturgical assembly. It was not where they were but what they did that set them apart.

The Gospels speak of many instances when Jesus prayed alone to his Father. But Jesus also put a special value on communal prayer. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name," he told his disciples, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Jesus gave his own mission to his followers, sending them forth to do everything he did: to heal, to teach, to proclaim the kingdom. Jesus wants us to meet God in and through each other. So the Christian community continues to gather, Sunday after Sunday. When we get up on Sunday morning and come to Mass, we respond to Jesus' invitation, and we express our trust in his promise that whenever we come together, he comes, too.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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Earlier this year, the Pastoral Council of St. John of God published our goals for the year. Among those goals: the creation of an out reach ministry to use telephone calls to reach out to the sick and/or those who are experiencing a long term absence from the liturgy at St. John of God. As we enter a new year, we would like to put words into action. Please contact Pat Hoffman at astropah@aol.com, or other parish members: Cindy Conway, Lynette Castiglione, Gilda Weatherall, Chuck Withereil or any other member of the Pastoral Council. Your requests will remain confidential.. We are also looking for a name for this outreach group. Anyone who comes up with a clever name for the ministry will be awarded a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. The winning name will be judged by the Pastoral Council. All entries must be submitted to any member of the Council by January 17, 2021. Good Luck!!

Livestreams of Liturgies

Those who are unable to attend Mass in person during the pandemic are encouraged to maintain their spiritual life in other ways. In particular the Cathedral and many other parishes are livestreaming Masses. Information concerning livestreams from the cathedral and other Bay Area parishes can be found at <https://sfarch.org/livestreams>

WEDNESDAY EVENING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY ON ISAIAH

Our Adult Faith Formation Team invites you to participate in an interactive Bible Study on the Book of Isaiah, to be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 PM on Zoom, starting January 6th, 2021, led by Pat Hoffman and Paul Riofski. We will be using the New Collegeville Bible Commentary (the volume on Isaiah contains commentary by Leslie J. Hoppe, OFM, Adjunct Professor at Catholic Theological Union). Our meetings will be interactive, with participants reading the Scripture along with the commentary, to discuss the meaning of the texts. Please contact Paul Riofski (sjogmusic@aol.com, 415-517-4647) to participate and arrange to receive the book (\$12.95 suggested donation). Please provide your name and e-mail address (or telephone number if you will access the sessions via phone). Zoom instructions will be sent prior to each session.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE., DECEMBER 24 AT 4:15 P.M.

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES, DECEMBER 25TH : 9:30 A.M.
AND 11:30 A.M.**

NEW YEARS DAY MASS, JANUARY 1, 2021: 12:10 P.M.

COVID-19 symptoms including fever, chills, cough, congestion, sore throat, difficulty breathing, headache, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell.

The Saint John of God Prayer

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 to inspire in my heart the humility and generosity of St. John so that I might be to them a revelation of God's Love. Amen.
- Rev. Fr. Thomas L. Seagrave

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council would like you to know what we've been doing this past year. If you are interested in planning for the coming year and in assisting Fr. Kabipi to help decide what issues are facing the parish, please join us on a Zoom Conference. In the past, we have worked on bringing the parish into compliance with the Archdiocese safety guidelines. We have brought in an epidemiology expert from UCSF to speak to us so that we can safely open the church. We invited parishioners to speak before the council to address issues that were important to them. The Department of Religious Education spoke to us regarding future catechetical programs in preparation for the holy sacraments. We also have a meeting with the finance committee to discuss the impact of COVID on revenues and future needs of St. John of God. We published a list of Pastoral Council members so that other parishioners can seek them out for topics of concern. We have established a policy of responding to inquiries and comments within 24 hours. We have a correspondence file available which can be found in the parish office. We also keep minutes to our meetings that can be easily accessed on the google news group. They are also kept in a binder in the Parish Secretary Office for viewing. We would like our mission statement to align with the goals of SJOG. Please feel free to contact Pat Hoffman at astropah@aol.com.

Masses resume outdoors again!!

I want to reach out to you as we continue to deal with Covid-19. Please know that you have been in my daily prayers & Masses even as we have been unable to be together in person. I am here for you and I am available to bring Communion to you at your home at your request. Please call the Parish Office and leave your name and phone number so we can schedule a time for me to bring you Communion. You are a valued member of our St. John of God Community and I thank God for you! Masses will return to the outside courtyard pending further direction from the City and County. This includes Saturday 4:15 p.m., Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Weekday Mass has been suspended. Please follow the (now) normal requirements listed below:

*A face mask covering your nose and mouth is required.

*Physical Distancing will be observed.

*Please place your Offertory gift at the end of Mass in the basket as you leave the courtyard.

*Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Those of you who are elderly or who have pre-existing conditions that make you more vulnerable to infection, PLEASE STAY HOME. The same applies if you are exhibiting symptoms of illness.

I look forward to celebrating Mass with you. May the Peace of Christ be with you! Fr. Kabipi

NOT TOO MUCH

If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time

December 2020

Dear St. John of God Parishioner,

I miss you! And I pray that you are staying safe and healthy in this difficult year.

As the restrictions imposed by the pandemic continue to drag on ... and on and on, I am feeling bored, confined and deprived. I miss family dinners and hugging my grandchildren. I miss meeting friends for a meal and a movie and a good discussion afterwards. Maybe you do, too. And I miss going to Mass at St. John of God. I have found online Zoom Masses that meet some of my spiritual needs. But the slickest Zoom worship service is a poor second to being in our lovely little chapel at 5th and Irving with a live – and lively – congregation.



Sometimes I soothe myself by imagining the day when all of the Covid-19 restrictions are behind us and we can once again celebrate Mass together at St. John of God. There will be music! And singing! And familiar faces doing the readings, delivering the homily, distributing the Eucharist. And friends sharing their personal concerns and asking for prayers. And a coffee hour after Mass with time to catch up with dear friends – in person!

One thing I know for sure: I want to be in a pew at that time – and I want you to be there, too.


That dream helps me get through some hard days. However, I have started worrying about whether our little parish will still be viable when that vision can be realized. Regular parish expenses continue during the pandemic. City guidelines limit the number of people who can attend Mass and many older parishioners (like me) are staying away to avoid the risk of infection. Collections at Mass are just not keeping pace. (See recent parish finance report here: www.sjog.net/financefy19-20.pdf.) Some parishioners who signed up for automatic online donations continue to give that way and others have mailed checks. The parish is grateful for this faithful support.

[Click here to donate to the St. John of God Year-End Appeal](#)

You probably know that our year-end raffle, begun at least 20 years ago, has been a reliable vehicle to help the parish end each year with a net gain instead of a loss. But the hard decision was made to suspend our annual Christmas raffle this year. Instead we are sending this appeal to all the parishioners for whom we have email or street addresses. ***If you want to be present at a “post-Covid celebration Mass” as described above, can you make a contribution to sustain the parish now?*** I understand you may have lost your job or suffered other economic setbacks, but if you haven’t taken a big income hit, will you consider a generous contribution before the end of 2020?

I have made my own extra year-end donation, giving the same amount I gave last year to underwrite the raffle expenses plus the amount I spent on raffle tickets. It's easy to do it online at www.sjog.net, especially if you have already established an account on the website. Just click on the link above and use the box on the top right of the screen to log in to your account. Click on "add transaction" then scroll down to reach the "year-end appeal" and enter the amount you want to give. If you don't yet have an account on the website and you'd like help to do that, feel free to contact me and I'll try to walk you through the process. Or if you prefer, just write a check and mail it to St. John of God, 1290 5th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. Please write "2020 Year-End Appeal" in the memo line on your check. ***And let us know what you are missing most about not being able to go to Mass at St. John of God.***

With love and prayers for health and strength,



Susan Fox, Member
St. John of God Fundraising Committee
415-516-1170
susanfoxcfre@outlook.com

PS If you can't send a financial contribution, ***can you say a prayer for the success of this effort?*** And I'd still love to hear what YOU miss most about St. John of God. Send me an email or give me a call to share your thoughts.

Parish Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Mass (or Masses) you usually attend _____

Check this box to be added to the St. John of God email list (SJoG-News).

This information will only be used for parish communications so we may better serve you.

Peace in Christ,

Fr Kabipi

Fill out, print, and mail this form to St. John of God Parish, 1290 5th Ave, S.F. 94122 or you can submit the information by email or online at sjog.net/contactinfo.php