



Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17th, 2023

Holy Family Church

13900 Church Place, Seal Beach, CA 90740 - (562) 430-8170
www.holyfamilysb.com / holyfamily.sb@verizon.net

Rev. Joseph Son Nguyen, Pastor

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10 a.m. & 12 Noon

Weekday Masses

Monday –Saturday: 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: Wednesdays 8:15a.m

Anointing of the Sick Sacrament: Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Mass

Bible Study: 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month 12:30 p.m.

Confessions

Saturdays: 9:00am-9:30am / First Fridays 9:00am-9:30am



The Blessing of the Bambinelli was first instituted by St. John Paul II. On the Third Sunday of Advent, the children of Rome are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from each of their Nativity sets to St. Peter's Square.

At our Parish, please bring from your family Nativity scene to Mass for a blessing. You can bring it to any weekday Mass (8:30 a.m.) this week and next Sunday to all our masses.

Around Our Diocese

✚ The Cathedral Memorial Wall, whose black granite panels are surrounded by prayer, music, cascading waters and the reflection of Christ Cathedral, provides a beautiful place to honor loved ones. At Catholic and non-Catholic locations around the country, cenotaphs like the Cathedral Memorial Wall have been erected to memorialize those whose remains are buried elsewhere or are unavailable for burial.

Christ Cathedral's wall has space for up to 3,600 names, birthdays and death dates. Visit OCCEM.org to learn more.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday: Dec. 23rd 4:00 p.m. Vigil Sunday Mass

**Sunday: Dec. 24th 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
12 Noon Sunday Mass**

Christmas 2023 Schedule

Sunday: December 24th 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Mass and Concert

Monday: December 25th

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

Note: There was a mistake on the mailing schedule, there will **NOT** be 4 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 31

Simbang Gabi

The Filipino community in LW is inviting us to participate of their traditional Mass on Thursday, December 21st, Clubhouse 4, at 5 p.m. Semi formal attire or Filipino attire. The priest celebrant will be Fr. Juan Caboboy.

Annual Christmas Dinner

St. Hedwig Catholic Church is inviting to those alone on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25th. Doors open at 12 p.m. Welcome and blessing at 1:15 p.m., dinner served at 1:30 p.m. Reserve at (562)296-9029 no later than Dec. 21.

Your Contributions- Thank you

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023: \$5,925

Retirement Second Collection: \$2,654

Online Giving: \$1029.20

Thank you for your generosity!

Change and Newness in Christ (Catholic Reflections)

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Matthew 11:2–3

Why did Saint John the Baptist send his disciples to Jesus to ask this question? Recall that John had previously stated about Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). So if John knew that Jesus was the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,” then why would he send his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the one who is to come?

The Church Fathers explore many reasons, but most arrive at the conclusion that John did this not because he didn’t know Who Jesus was, but for the sake of his disciples, so that they would come to follow our Lord once John was killed by Herod. So this was a way of trying to point his disciples to Jesus and to encourage them to embrace this new change in their life of faith.

Jesus understood the reason John sent his disciples to Him. As a result, Jesus gave these disciples what they needed so as to come to believe themselves. He points them to the works that He has done as the Christ so that they would be able to interpret these works on their own and, thus, come to the newness of faith. Jesus points out that the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. Who could argue with such miraculous signs from Heaven? But Jesus goes even further and states something very subtle. He says, “And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.” This line appears to be one way that Jesus gently reproached these disciples for what appears to be their own personal struggle with this change of spiritual leaders. Jesus identified a certain “offense” that they were dealing with. They were “offended” by the fact that Jesus was indeed increasing while John was decreasing.

In many ways, this is a common experience any time there is a change in our spiritual lives. When something is new, we often struggle with various aspects of the change and newness. But the Christian life is all about change, transformation and newness of life. And this is good. We must seek to change, be transformed, build better and new relationships, learn new ways of loving and reaching out, and become very comfortable with any and every new experience that our Lord places in our lives.

Reflect, today, upon any way that you have struggled with changes in your spiritual life. Oftentimes, those things we struggle with are actually glorious opportunities to live our Christian faith and charity on a new level. Seek out the changes God is calling you to embrace in your life and know that even if they are difficult, they are the surest pathway to a life of greater holiness for you.

Dear Lord, I know You call me to embrace the newness of life and the changes that I must endure so as to follow You more faithfully. Help me to be open to all that You call me to so that I will continually become a new creation in Your grace. Jesus, I trust in You.

The Third Week of Advent Prayer

Scripture Reflection: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:20

Advent Wreath Prayer: *Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas.*

Pastoral Services Appeal 2023 (PSA) – Update-Thank you!

Thank you for all those who has already participated. As of today, this is the update

Funds Raised: \$61,476

Funds Received: \$60,665

Donors: 155

As we are approaching the end of the year, we kindly remind you that **there is still opportunity to pledge for the 2023 PSA** and be included as a tax deductible for the year.

There are pledge cards in our church pews for your convenience or you can do it electronically thru our website at www.holyfamilysb.com. Thank you for your generosity.

Women's Silent Retreat

EL CARMELA RETREAT HOUSE located in Redlands! (a ministry of the Discalced Carmelite Friars) (Feb. 9-11, 2024) A very quiet and reflective place! 2024 Theme " The Heart of the church" "The Eucharist" If interested please call Fran Hay 714 334 4488

Prayer Intentions for the Week

Monday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 18

Lucia Nguyen, RIP

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 19

Joseph Nazimek, RIP

Wednesday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 20

Paul Lechan, RIP

Robert C. Greb, Sp. Int.

Thursday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 21

Joseph Tinh Bui and Teresa Thanh Lai, RIP

Thomas Flaviano, Sp. Int. (Bday)

Jeanine Greb, Sp. Int. (Bday)

Friday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 22

Aurelio Sanchez, RIP

Saturday 8:30 a.m. Dec. 23

Manuel and Janice Cabaysa, RIP

Florentino and Genoveva Dig, RIP

Marina Beltran, RIP

Octavio Jacinto, RIP Rick Dizon, RIP

Cedric Jones, RIP Ethan Soriano, RIP

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Dec. 23

Peter Tien Pham, RIP

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Dec. 24

Mario Gomez, RIP Al Gomez, Sp. Int.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Dec. 24

Gary Stephen Greb, Sp. Int.

Sunday 12 Noon Dec. 24

Philip Vlaic, RIP

Sunday 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Dec. 24

Steven Rush Ramelot, Sp. Int.

LAUGH OUT LOUD ☺

- What is every parent's favorite Christmas song? Silent Night!
- What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? Wait, there's myrrh.